

**PALM VALLEY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 20, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Palm Valley met in a Regular Meeting on the 20th day of October 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at 1313 N. Stuart Place Road, Palm Valley, Texas. Attendance by the Council members was via ZOOM videoconferencing. (ZOOM videoconferencing was available for the public).

Participants via ZOOM:

Mayor George Rivera
Councilman Eric Hoff
Councilwoman Lisa Taylor
Councilwoman Cynthia Thompson
Councilman Jerry Wade
Councilman Michael Galvan

Jason Mann, City Attorney (Via ZOOM)

City Secretary: Sylvia R. Trevino (in person)

Staff present: Chief A. R. Garcia (Via ZOOM)
Elsa Guajardo, Support Services Aide (in person)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rivera.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance followed led by Mayor Rivera.
3. **LEGISLATIVE PRAYER** - The Legislative Prayer was led by Councilman Galvan.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None
5. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL** – Regular Meeting of September 15, 2020

There being no corrections, Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Hoff seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. **AGREEMENT APPROVED BETWEEN THE CITY OF PALM VALLEY AND THE CITY OF HARLINGEN FOR FIREFIGHTING PROTECTION SERVICES FOR 2020-21**

Mayor Rivera stated that the cost is still based on \$.10 per valuation of properties.

Councilman Hoff questioned how many calls had been made during this past year. Chief Garcia replied probably no more than two or three.

Mayor Rivera added that he, the Mayor of Combes, the Mayor of Primera had met with Mayor Boswell from Harlingen and looked at their budget and related expenses for firefighting services and the cities are getting a good deal although it is a large amount for a couple of incidents per year.

Councilman Wade made a motion to renew the agreement.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

7. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TABLED BETWEEN THE CAMERON COUNTRY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #5 CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS TO NORTH MAIN DRAIN FUNDING THROUGH THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD.**

Mayor Rivera recommended tabling this item until more information on the hard numbers is gathered.

Alan Moore, General Manager with CCAD#5 agreed. He added that his Board met and there is a serious commitment on their part to enter this MOU, but they need to work on acquiring the numbers on what the bond payment will be.

8. **NO ACTION TAKEN REGARDING HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES AND/OR TRICK OR TREATING IN THE CITY OF PALM VALLEY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2020**

Mayor Rivera commented that the County Judge ordered no door-to-door trick or treating, and he is recommending that the City do nothing because it would be difficult to enforce. He was of the opinion that the local citizens are wise enough to make the right decision whether to open their doors to trick or treaters or not.

Chief Garcia added that the County Judge has made it clear that there will be no door-to-door trick or treating, no handing out candy and the Judge envisions a drive through where the candy can be placed in the trunk of a vehicle.

Councilwoman Thompson stated she had viewed the County's website and listed Halloween activities as a moderate risk activity. She felt that there should be an announcement in the City's newsletter encouraging the Judge's suggestions listed on the website. The City Council does not need to take a stand on it but rather just make a recommendation. And it would be more controllable and would not be imposing extra responsibilities on the City's police officers.

Councilwoman Taylor felt that the police officers would be the ones to bear the grunt of the Council's decision on this to be sure that the County's rules are being followed.

Mayor Rivera stated that if the City chooses to do nothing, a notice would be sent out to the residents. However, the Chief will still have to stop everyone out there and he would have to do an Executive Order or an ordinance to be able to enforce the activities.

Councilman Galvan commented that the biggest issue is that the trick or treaters come from outside Palm Valley. How would this be prevented? Do we lock up the entrances?

Councilman Hoff stated that people he had spoken to did not really care, however, they do not want the entrances closed and chained up.

Councilwoman Thompson commented that for the suggested activities, her opinion is that it is considered a low to moderate risk activity.

Mayor Rivera stated that he envisions creating a handout delivered door to door and a posting on the Next Door blog asking the citizens to do the right thing and leave it up to them to make the decision and not put our officers in a situation that they don't have to be in.

Chief Garcia stated that he just wants direction, but his officers will still be doing the patrolling as usual.

Mayor Rivera asked for a motion.

There being no motion, no action on this item was taken

9. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Police Monthly Report – September 2020**
- B. Municipal Court Monthly Report – September 2020**
- C. Monthly Investment Report – September 2020**
- D. Monthly Financial Report (budget) – September 2020**
- E. Monthly Check Listings – September 2020**
- F. Council/Staff liaison reports**

Mayor Rivera informed the Council that the year-end surplus was better than what he anticipated even with unexpected expenses, Hurricane Hanna, and the pandemic.

Councilman Hoff made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.


Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Rivera asked that the Council review the investment report and because of the surplus he will be asking the Council to transfer funds to the water department but before we start receiving this year's revenues.

He added that at last month's meeting there was a discussion about imposing an impact fee, but things have changed now due to the TDWB grant. The City has now hired a financial advisor who will be coming back to provide some options at a later meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m. upon a motion by Councilman Hoff and a second by Councilman Wade.



George Rivera, Mayor

Attest:



Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary