

**PALM VALLEY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 19, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Palm Valley met in a Regular Meeting on the 19th day of October 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at 1313 N. Stuart Place Road, Palm Valley, Texas. Council members attended in person. (ZOOM videoconferencing was available for the public).

Council members present (in person)

Mayor George Rivera

Councilman Michael Galvan

Councilwoman Lisa Taylor

Councilwoman Cynthia Thompson

City Attorney Jason Mann

Council members present: (VIA ZOOM)

Councilman Eric Hoff

Councilman Jerry Wade

Staff present (in person):

Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary

Jose Rivera, Support Services Aid

A.R. Garcia, Chief of Police

Rosendo Flores, Waterworks Supervisor

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** – Provided by Councilman Hoff.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Candy Divin, a local resident, asked for an update/status report on the construction work being done on Lake #3.

5. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

Councilwoman Taylor noted a couple of corrections on Page 2.

Councilman Galvan made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

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

6. RESOLUTION FAILED ENDORSING THE 'CAMERON COUNTY VENUE ARENA PROJECT TO BE LOCATED AT THE CROSSROADS OF INTERSTATE 69E AND STATE HIGHWAY 100 AS A QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF OUR AREA AND TO SUPPORT THE VOTER BALLOT INITIATIVE FOR THE SAME PROJECT.

Mayor Rivera explained that the only information available is what is in the agenda packets. There are a lot of unknowns such as how much it will cost and who is going to pay for it.

Candy Divin answered that 1/3 of the cost will come from a hospitality tax, 1/3 from the developer and 1/3 from federal and state funds.

Councilwoman Taylor expressed her concerns and questioned how the City of Palm Valley would benefit from this venue. She commented that it would be hard to vote without known facts.

Mayor Rivera stated that the County Judge was supposed to be present at this meeting but did not show up. The voting for this proposition has already started.

After some concerns expressed, Councilman Hoff made a motion to table this item.

Mayor Rivera commented if tabling the item, the ballot has been voted on at the polls already. The only option would be to approve the resolution or not. He added that there are already two other similar venues in the upper Valley.

(City Attorney Jason Mann joined the meeting at this time, approximately 6:21 p.m.)

Councilwoman Taylor commented that if the venue is being paid through hotel/motel occupancy taxes---the City of Palm Valley does not have such revenue. She was of the opinion that the money for the venue could be better spent if it would benefit all cities in Cameron County. It is not fiscally responsible without the numbers.

Mayor Rivera asked for a second to the original motion by Councilmember Hoff to table the item. There was none. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Galvan made a motion to not approve the resolution.

Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Galvan, Taylor, Hoff, Wade.

Nay: None

Abstained: Thompson

7. HALLOWEEN 2021 ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY OF PALM VALLEY

Chief Garcia explained that this will be the first full Halloween and the residents know what to do and what precautionary measures to take. Flyers will be sent out

informing them of such. He requested permission to close Bellino at East Palm Valley and Dilworth. There will be several officers on duty starting at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. As for the street closures, the residents will be notified.

Mayor Rivera commented that he would be in favor of having no restrictions of any kind and have a full-blown Halloween.

Councilman Hoff made a motion to accept the Chief's recommendation to close Bellino at East Palm Valley and Dilworth and proceed with the Halloween activities.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

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

8. MAYOR OR DESIGNEE AUTHORIZED TO UTILIZE THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN/CORONA VIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS (CLFRF) AND RECOMMEND POTENTIAL PROJECTS OR OTHER ALLOWABLE EXPENSES FOR THE USE OF THESE FUNDS.

Mayor Rivera explained that the City has received \$150,000+ out of an allocation of about \$300,000+. These funds must be spent by 2024 or be returned. He has discovered that other cities that are utilizing these funds for the purchase of police cars; building carports for their PD units; installing smart meters and stormwater drainage projects. Other cities are going to give grants to businesses within their communities. Mayor Rivera stated that he would like to utilize these funds for stormwater drainage projects, however, he would like the Council's guidance. He commented that the City is already working on the bypass drainage at Palm Valley East and Guava, which was most important. There are sewage issues and crumbled pipes; collapsed pipe at Palm Valley West; backup issues on Bougainvillea at #11 (tee) which causes flooding through the backyards. He is asking that he be allowed to start some of these projects to do all the infrastructure and it would be a good idea to have smart meters installed or consider other ideas that the Council may have.

Councilman Hoff asked who the 'designee' would be to continue these projects. Mayor Rivera replied the Mayor Pro Tem (Councilman Galvan) would be the designee.

It was the consensus of the Council that Mayor Rivera come back with a recommendation on potential projects with the associated costs.

Councilman Hoff made a motion to authorize the Mayor or his designee to come back with recommended projects for the utilization of these funds.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

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

9. ORDINANCE ADOPTED AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Mayor Rivera stated that even with this adjustment in the amount of \$17,000 the general fund is still in good standing.

Councilman Galvan made a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion.

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

10. MAYOR RIVERA WILL REMAIN AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PALM VALLEY

Mayor Rivera announced that he will be running for Representative for District 37.

Mr. Mann read from a 1972 court case that does not prohibit a Mayor from serving as Mayor while continuing to run for representative.

Mayor Rivera stated that he would like to continue to stay as Mayor because he has a lot of projects pending that he would like to finish. He would not have to resign until January 2023 when he wins the election. He stated it is up to the Council to make the decision whether he should remain or resign at this time.

He added that as Representative he would have the opportunity to get additional funds for the small cities to enhance their quality of life.

It was the consensus of the entire Council that Mayor Rivera continue to serve as Mayor of the City of Palm Valley.

No official action was necessary.

11. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Police Monthly Report –September 2021**
- B. Municipal Court Report – September 2021**
- C. Monthly Investment Report – September 2021**
- D. Monthly Financial Report – September 2021**
- E. Monthly Check Listing – September 2021**
- F. Council/staff liaison reports**

Mayor Rivera explained that the October budget entries are the final numbers and the City ended up with a surplus of \$149,356. The Water Department ended up with a surplus of \$195,608 due to the original transfer of \$200,000 from the money market accounts to pay for drainage projects. Not all the money market funds have been spent. The budget is tight but is doing OK. He referred the Council to the investment report included in the packet and he noted that those are the funds that are currently at the bank at the end of the fiscal year----\$2 million+.

Mayor Rivera added that the project on Bougainvillea got stalled for a while due to an outbreak of COVID among the working crew.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Hoff seconded the motion.

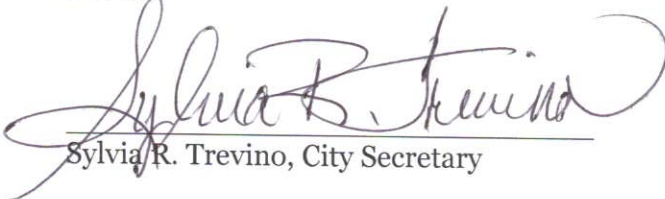
Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m. upon a motion by Councilman Hoff and a second by Councilwoman Thompson.



George Rivera, Mayor

Attest:



Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary