

**PALM VALLEY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Palm Valley met in a Regular Meeting on the 16th day of November 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at 1313 N. Stuart Place Road, Palm Valley, Texas. (ZOOM videoconferencing was available for the public).

Council members present (in person)

Mayor George Rivera

Councilman Michael Galvan

Councilman Eric Hoff

Councilman Jerry Wade

City Attorney Jason Mann

Council members present: (VIA ZOOM)

Councilwoman Lisa Taylor

Councilwoman Cynthia Thompson

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 Wade.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Roberta Smith, 1801 Palm Valley Drive West, was present to speak of a major cat problem in the vicinity of her residence. She asked that the City do something to address this issue.

5. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2021

Councilwoman Taylor noted a couple of corrections on Page 2 and Page 4.

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

Councilman Hoff seconded the motion.

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

6. CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH REAL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS TO CONDUCT A WATER/WASTEWATER STUDY APPROVED

Mayor Rivera explained that the need for a study was discussed at a workshop that was held during the summer.

Both Mr. Serna and Mr. Garcia have over 40 years of experience in municipal government. Their data collection will be contingent on the information that is provided to them by City staff. They will forecast their findings over 10 years and come back with a recommendation on whether to raise the water rates now or over a period of time. RSS will review the amount of the City's water loss as well as a capital improvements analysis. This is the biggest concern—projecting capital improvements which is something that should have been done years ago.

Dan Serna commented that the City of Harlingen is going through a rate study also and will impact the City of Palm Valley. The question is as the City of Palm Valley buys water from Harlingen, is the City recouping that increase or not? The study will determine that.

Councilwoman Taylor felt that this was premature. It should be a simple matter to compare the City's rates with other cities. As for future plans, the City has already done a lot of projects and improvements in the short term. She stated that she would be against paying \$15,000 for a study.

Mayor Rivera stated that back in September there was discussion about increasing the rates but how much to increase the rates was an unknown. We need the expertise of these consultants. The question is are we charging enough to compensate for the expenses associated with running the water department and the sewer plant?

Councilwoman Taylor felt that this could be done for a lot less cost.

Councilwoman Thompson agreed with Councilwoman Taylor and stated she had concerns over paying \$15,000 just to collect data. She felt that the staff could do this just as easily.

Councilwoman Thompson felt that data compilation should be first and then see what the next step would be based on the data that is collected.

Councilwoman Taylor stated that there are accounting personnel that could do this analysis/study. It is just a matter of collecting the data and running spreadsheets. The data is needed first.

Mayor Rivera commented that the City needs to move forward with this study to get a comprehensive picture. He reminded the Council that the Water Department stands to lose money this year if nothing is done. Either the study is conducted or the City loses. He commented that he is in favor of an in-depth study.

Councilwoman Taylor commented that currently the Water Dept. is not over budget. There is time to look at a more efficient method of conducting the study instead of paying \$15,000.

Councilman Hoff made a motion to enter into the agreement with Real Strategic Solutions.

Councilman Wade seconded the motion.

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

Aye: Hoff, Wade, Galvan
Nay: Thompson, Taylor

Because of this action taken, Mayor Rivera recommended that the following items be tabled.

ITEM #7 – AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2018-3 TO INCREASE THE FEE FOR BACKFLOW PREVENTING TESTING.

Councilman Galvan made a motion to table this item.
Councilman Hoff seconded the motion.

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

ITEM #9 – AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2015-7 TO INCREASE THE ACTIVATION FEE FOR NEW WATER SERVICE.

Councilman Galvan made a motion to table this item.
Councilman Hoff seconded the motion.

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

8. ORDINANCE NO. 2016-8 AND ORDINANCE NO. 2016-9 AMENDED TO INCREASE THE FIRE SERVICE FEE FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS.

Councilman Hoff made a motion to amend the ordinances to reflect the following rates:

Single Family	\$14.00
Multi-family	\$14.00
Commercial	\$63.00

Councilman Wade seconded the motion.

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

At this time, Mayor Rivera took Item A from the Consent Agenda out of order.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT FROM CARR RIGGS INGRAM FOR THE CITY'S ANNUAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 2021

Quentin Anderson, auditor with CRI, explained that this is the usual Letter of Engagement that is necessary for them to start the audit.

10. ORDINANCE ADOPTED TO RENEW FOR ANOTHER FIVE-YEAR TERM THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY'S WATER CONSERVATION DROUGHT AND EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN PREVIOUSLY RENEWED ON OCTOBER 18, 2016.

Mayor Rivera commented that while the City does not have any drought issues, the City still must have a plan.

Councilman Wade made a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Councilman Galvan seconded the motion.

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

11. ORDINANCE ADOPTED ESTABLISHING A PLACE SYSTEM FOR ELECTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Rivera explained that doing this will make it easier for candidates to file knowing which place they wish to fill. It also makes it a lot cleaner and smaller cities have this place systems for their elections.

Councilman Hoff made a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Councilman Wade seconded the motion.

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

12. RESOLUTION APPROVED TO CAST A VOTE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE TO HOLD POSITION NINE (9) ON THE CAMERON APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A motion was made by Councilman Galvan to appoint Alan Ozuna to hold position nine (9) on the Board of Directors.

Councilman Hoff seconded the motion.

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

13. DISCUSSION HELD REGARDING BRUSH/DEBRIS PICK UP SERVICES IN THE CITY OF PALM VALLEY

Councilman Hoff initiated the discussion he had with Redfish for the possibility of providing brush/debris pickup. He commented that Waste Management will be eliminating the current type of garbage pickup and will be going to the automated side load type of pickup. Waste Management will be providing 96-gallon carts free of charge plus a second one for \$5.00 a month if necessary. There needs to be 100% participation and a franchise agreement in place. There is no Request for Proposals required. The Council can go out for bids, but it does not have to. The brush pickup would be free of charge. A dumpster could be provided for the dumping of brush at a central location. The City would do the billing in the water bill for trash, water and sewer and payments could be done with a credit card.

At this time, Mayor Rivera proceeded to take a vote on the Consent Agenda.

14. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT ACCEPTED FROM CARR RIGGS INGRAM FOR THE CITY'S ANNUAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 2021.

B. Police Monthly Report – September 2021

C. Municipal Court Report – September 2021

D. Monthly Investment Report – September 2021

E. Monthly Financial Report – September 2021

F. Monthly Check Listing – September 2021

G. Council/staff liaison reports

Councilman Wade 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.

Councilman Hoff continued stating that the contract would be a 5-year contract, initially. The commercial bins at the condos would be picked up by a different truck.

Councilman Hoff added that RedFish is also interested in providing recycling services for once-a-week pickup.

Mayor Rivera stated that this issue has come up once before and the Council at the time was not in favor of it.

Councilman Hoff stated that a contract with Redfish would have to be an exclusive contract.

The idea of conducting a survey came up as being a good idea to see what the residents would like to see as far as these types of services.

Councilman Hoff commented that the recycling service would cost the City \$150.00 a month and this would be a good service to provide to the residents of Palm Valley.

It was noted that this could go on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

John Topp commented that right now Waste Management provide twice a week pickup. Yes, the price will go down but so will the service to just once a week pickup. A lot of residents do not have a vehicle for hauling their debris/brush. A lot of residents do not have the means.

Councilman Hoff reiterated that the current service provided by Waste Management is going to be eliminated.


Mayor Rivera commented that the trash containers are not going to work for the residents because there is no way that some of the City's residents can haul their containers to the front of their homes. He stated that he would not want to see a container at City Hall for the recycling services. There will be garbage all over the place.

Again, it was suggested that a survey be conducted.


Councilman Hoff stated that he could get help getting a Request for Proposals put together to see what other services are out there.

Under the Consent Agenda, Council/staff liaison reports, Mayor Rivera informed the Council that Dilworth Road is now the City's responsibility. The City owns the right-of-way and the entire on Dilworth Road that is within the City limits of Palm Valley. This has been in effect since 2009 and was just recently brought to his attention.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m. upon a motion by Councilman Hoff and a second by Councilwoman Thompson.


George Rivera, Mayor

Attest:


Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary