



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday January 26, 2021**

Present: Council Members Vera Zavala, Sophia Sotelo, Diana Castaneda, Mayor Laura Vazquez, City Attorney James Carmody, Police Chief David Marks, City Treasurer Jamison Horner, Deputy City Clerk Joshua Roberson

Absent: Council Members Arturo De La Fuente, Mark Gourneau, Fire Chief Luke Cussins, City Clerk Sylvia Sanchez

1. Call to Order Time: 7:05pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence and Roll Call

Sylvia was excused from the meeting because she was sick. It was brought up that Council was not aware that there was a meeting scheduled; meetings have been only as needed due to the COVID Pandemic. The mayor explained that since we are now able to conduct the meeting entirely via Zoom if necessary that we would return to having meetings on the regular schedule. The mayor also explained that public comment is possible they just need to let city staff know in advance so that they can have the correct confirmation to send the correct link to the citizen that would like to comment.

3. Vote on the Meeting Agenda

There was a motion by Vera and a second by Diana to approve the Meeting Agenda. Approved 3-0

4. **Consent Agenda** (The following will be enacted by one motion. There will be no discussion separate of these items unless a Council Member requests separate discussion. The item will be removed from the Consent agenda and added to New Business.)
  - A. Approve Study Session Minutes for Tuesday January 12, 2021
  - B. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes for Tuesday January 12, 2021
  - C. Approve Payroll Warrant Register January 26, 2021 Number # 11836 to #11837 & EFT in the amount of \$43,789.69

- D. Approve Claim Voucher/Payment Period 13; January 26, 2021 Number #11838 to #11841 & EFT in the amount of \$3,109.10
- E. Approve Claim Voucher/Payment January 26, 2021 Number #11835 & #11842 to #11867 & EFT in the amount of \$54,955.23

There was motion by Vera and a second by Sophia to approve the Consent Agenda. Approved 3-0

## 5. New Business

### A. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report (No Action Needed)

Jamison explained that we ended the year with a total of \$795,031.95 in our account. She explained that there were several accounts that we knew would have more Expenditures than Revenues like the Street Fund and the Cemetery Fund; this was anticipated and ended up exactly where we expected. She explained that we were concerned with the Water, Sewer, and Garbage Funds with the Pandemic; but many of the accounts that were very delinquent have gotten their balances paid and we ended up doing much better than we had originally anticipated. The mayor wanted to take a minute and elaborate on how the city was so far in debt but is doing much better this year. This is in a major part due to the General Facility Charge for new housing. The new houses coming into town are really helping the system and making up the difference in those accounts.

Sophia asked the question, "what exactly is the city doing for this charge?". She stated that in the past we would hook up to the existing water system and the new construction was in charge of connecting from the residence to the box on their property; now there the city is saying that landowners need a contractor to do the connecting. The city asked Jamin Ankney into the meeting to see if he could shed some light on where the city's charges are coming from. Jamin explained that there are two separate charges the connection fee and the General Facilities Charge. He explained that they are two separate charges.

Vera explained to Jamin that this is not really what Sophia was asking. She explained that the question was asking what the city's responsibility is for the amount of money they are paying. Jamin explained that it is typically on the city to make the connection but in certain circumstance the owner may want to do the work with city supervision. Jamison asked of Jamin if it were typical of other cities to do the water connection but would typically have the homeowner do the sewer connection; Jamin thought that sounded accurate but said that he was not sure what was typical. Jamison also said that water connection is our responsibility per our ordinance; this is something that she was going to look in to.

## 6. Staff Reports

Chief David Marks: wanted to take a minute and let everyone know that car are being stolen at a very high rate right now. He did say that out of roughly 100 total in the lower valley only 5

have been taken Mabton; he said that though we are lucky we need to make sure that we are all taking basic precautions to prevent people from taking our cars. Do not leave your cars running, do not leave anything of value in your vehicle, and make sure that your alarms are set. Chief Marks also wanted to let council know that they have already sold 2 of the cars that were surplus and there is another one up for bid this week.

City Treasurer Jamison: friendly reminder that dog licenses are due this month. She also wanted to update on the COVID accounts not paid; she said there are still 6 accounts that have not paid anything; this will be a total of 10 months behind. The Governor did extend the prohibition on shutoffs until April of 2021. The good news is that there are only 6 where there were about 20 previous. The bad news is as those ones are paying some of the others are not paying. There is a total of 30 people who have not made a payment since August \$44,000. If we look at the more recent total there is almost \$62,000 outstanding and there are 70 accounts that would be shutoff right now for non-payment as of the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. We are doing our best to make sure that everyone knows about the resources that are available.


Diana asked if these accounts were notified that they are going to have to pay this balance back. Jamison explained that the last group of letters written was in October. She is going to send out another round of letters soon to remind people that these fees are not forgiven, and the balance is still due. That people really need to pay as much as they can or find a program where they are assisting people.

## 7. Mayor's Report

The mayor wanted to let us know that Vera had donated \$500 to the city for trees. Mr. Gannon has been giving the city trees; he is charging \$100 per tree for the removal of trees that are partially grown. The mayor talked to Jamison about the city purchasing trees; and the city does not really have a fund for the purchase of trees; there is about \$1,500 in the budget for trees but it is intended for tree maintenance.

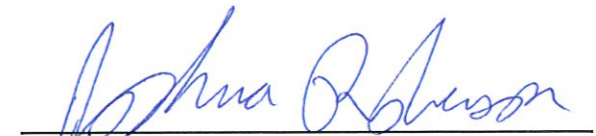
The mayor explained that her main focus this year is to finish irrigation in Governor's Park and she would like to fund a Veteran's Wall. She said that they actually got a person in town that said he would really like to help with this project. She said that she is also trying to get the money to finish the Mel Stottlemeyer memorial; she needs about \$15,000 to complete that. The mayor urged any help from the council or the citizens to keep things moving forward would be greatly appreciated.

8. Adjournment: Time: 7:43pm



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Laura Vazquez, Mayor



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Joshua Roberson, Deputy City Clerk