

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS

MINUTES OF: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: JULY 10, 2023

TIME OF MEETING: 5:30 PM

PLACE OF MEETING: 121 WEST SECOND STREET FORT STOCKTON, TX 79735

ROLL CALL WAS ANSWERED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT: DARREN HODGES, JAMES WARNOCK, PAUL CASIAS, RUBEN J BERNAL, RUBEN FALCON, PAUL JEROME CHAVEZ

Mayor Paul Casias called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:31 p.m. after declaring a quorum present.

Mayor Paul Casias read the Mission Statement:

"The Mission of the City of Fort Stockton Municipal Government is to Promote & Value Public Confidence and Trust by the Accountable and Responsible Use of Community Resources; to Ensure Public Safety; Improve Public Services; Promote Local Recreation and Entertainment; and Generate Economic Development.

Council Member Darren Hodges gave the Invocation.

Council Member Ruben J Bernal led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America Flag & the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Convention & Visitor's Bureau Director Cindy Melendez ----**
 - FY 2022-2023 Third Quarterly Report

Convention & Visitor's Bureau Director Cindy Melendez provided the following information:

CVB FUNDED EVENTS:

She explained CVB hosts the following events:

- Fall Fest
- Cinco de Mayo
- 4th of July

She further explained CVB funds the following events:

- Big Bend Open Road Race 2.0
- Horsehead Crossing
- Pop Warner
- Sheepdog Trials
- Comanche Springs Rodeo
- Big Bend Open Road Race
- Kairos Ministry
- District 37 Little League Tournament
- Water Carnival

These events are promoted by advertising them on the Visit Fort Stockton website, the Visit Fort Stockton Facebook Page, and the What's Happening in Fort Stockton Bulletin.

After each event a report is submitted and presented to the Tourism Advisory Board.

PRE-APPROVED UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Richard Reeves Memorial Golf Tournament - August
- Barrio Fest - September
- Fall Fest/Grand Opening Hodges Pavilion - October
- Haunted House - October
- Horsehead Crossing - October

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:

- Billboards were upgraded in Van Horn, Sonora, New Mexico and I-10
- Informative Banners were added to the local hotels, RV Parks and the Visitor's Center which contain QR codes when scanned goes to the Visit Fort Stockton webpage where you can find a plethora of information concerning Fort Stockton. It contains information such as dining, lodging, things to do, and historical tour.
- Vinyl Window Clings which also contain the QR Codes.
- Pole Banners that will be placed down Main Street, Dickinson Blvd., Front Street, Visitor's Center, and Marathon Hwy.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY:

February's Hotel Occupancy decreased a little due to the pandemic; however, it has increased since then. We were at \$134,007.60 for June, which is the highest it has been in the last 3 years.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

She manages the Chamber of Commerce Contract. She ensures that the Chamber of Commerce is running the Visitor's Center in accordance with the Contract. She also ensures the Chamber of Commerce has adequate promotional materials for our visitors.

She helps promote the performances of the Community Theater.

They receive monthly reports from the Historical Society. With the Assistance of the Director Ross Harper she oversees and manages the Fort Grounds, the Old Cemetery, and Oldest House.

Director Ross Harper is in contact with a Contractor to find a solution for either restoring the oldest house or tearing it down and creating a replica.

The Maintenance Crew that she oversees is responsible for maintaining the Convention Center, the Downtown Area, Paisano Pete.

They also assist the City with any Employee Appreciation Events hosted at the Convention Center.

Council Member Ruben J Bernal suggested placing a camera at the Paisano Pete Statue that would allow visitors to pay to have their photo taken and sent to them via email.

2. **Sales & Marketing Coordinator Brenda Delao ----**

- FY 2022-2023 Third Quarterly Report

Brenda Delao explained she is the Sales & Marketing Coordinator of the Convention Center. She oversees bookings and coordinates the events held at the facility. She promotes the building and keeps the books and assists with CVB Events as needed. She explained from October 2022-July 2023 they have had 36 Meetings, 4 Classes and 23 Private Events.

EVENTS HELD AT THE CONVENTION CENTER INCLUDE:

- Tiny Tot Learning Center Graduation
- WRTTC Retirement Luncheon
- DPS Interviews
- Lucky2Times Vaccination, Spay/Neuter Clinic
- Gun Show
- Health Fair

- Haunted House
- Hospital Appreciation Dinner
- FSISD District Dinners
- FSISD Luncheons
- Panther Pictures Luncheons
- Fort Stockton Community Theater Valentine's Event

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Grand Opening of the Hodges Pavilion
- Gun Show
- Keep Texas Beautiful Training
- Potential Hunting Expo
- Possible Vaccination Clinic
- Possible Christmas Bizarre
- Possible Tattoo Expo
- Possible Quince & Bridal Expo

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS:

- Pamphlets Advertising the Facility.

PRICING:

- Sunset Hall (Meeting Room): \$600 on weekends, \$500 during the week
- Paisano (Main Hall): \$1,000 Deposit with \$1,000 Rental Fee
- Kitchen: \$250 Deposit with \$250 Rental Fee

Most events have been catered; however, there have been a few kitchen rentals.

PROGRESS:

She presented photos of enhancements being made to the Sunset Hall, Paisano Hall and the Hodges Pavilion.

ADVERTISING:

- She explained their number one form of advertising has been their Facebook Page, which is free. One of the last posts reached 11,137 people and had 8.3K Interactions.
- She keeps up with local vendors and updates a Local Events Bulletin. This too has a QR Code that takes you to the Visit Fort Stockton Website. This bulletin is delivered to the hotels and shared on Facebook.

EXTRA TOUCHES:

- She customizes digital signage for events that are displayed on the digital screen in the Convention Center Foyer.
- Slideshows can be created and displayed on the TV's located in the Sunset Hall.

ORDINANCES:

3. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 23-114, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Stockton Titled Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II. Building Code, Sec. 6-22. Contractors; General Registration and Repealing all Other Ordinances or Portions Thereof in Conflict, a Severability Clause and Providing for an Effective Date. **(City Mgr./Bldg. Offcl.)**

City Manager Frank Rodriguez explained this ordinance would allow us to monitor any construction when it comes to roofing or re-roofing. It was shared that shingles were being disposed of on County Roads instead of being taken to the landfill. This ordinance would require a \$100 permit with a \$500 deposit. Once they provide proof that the shingles were properly disposed of at the landfill, their \$500 deposit would be returned to them.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 23-114, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Stockton Titled Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II. Building Code, Sec. 6-22. Contractors; General Registration and Repealing all Other Ordinances or Portions Thereof in Conflict, a Severability Clause and Providing for an Effective Date. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.

RESOLUTION:

4. Discuss/Act upon Resolution No. 23-117R, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fort Stockton to File Grant Application #4909301 with the Office of the Governor for the Operation Lone Star Grant Program (OLS) for FY 2024. **(C.O.P.)**

Chief of Police Ernesto Velasquez explained this Resolution was to allow the Police Department to apply for the Operation Lone Star Grant. This Grant would be utilized to

deter any criminal activity, to include smuggling of both narcotics and humans, from coming up the border from Mexico.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution No. 23-117R, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fort Stockton to File Grant Application #4909301 with the Office of the Governor for the Operation Lone Star Grant Program (OLS) for FY 2024. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.

CONSENT AGENDA:

5. All matters listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Minutes: (Mayor)

- Regular Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton City Council, 06/26/2023
- Special Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton City Council, 06/28/2023
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Historical Landmark Commission, 05/03/2023
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Keep Historic Fort Stockton Beautiful, 05/03/2023

Accounts Payable Grand Total: \$367,284.49

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Consent Agenda, as presented. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

6. Discuss/Act upon Renewal of Easement 8289 for a 20" and 30" water line located on UT Lands in Section 34, Block 21, Sections 6 & 7, Block 28, University Lands Survey, Pecos County, Texas. **(City Mgr./Asst. City Mgr.)**

Assistant City Manager Jesse Gonzales, Jr. explained this is the Easement for the 30" water line that is located on UT Lands. The line goes from Belding to the RO Plant. This was originally Pecos County's Easement; however, they signed it over to the City of Fort Stockton. UT Lands is allowing us 24 months to remove the 20" water line.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve the Renewal of Easement 8289 for a 20" and 30" water line located on UT Lands in Section 34, Block 21, Sections 6 & 7, Block 28, University Lands Survey, Pecos County, Texas. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.

7. Discuss/Act upon Rate and Damages Invoice No. 133206 for Easement 8289 for a 20" and 30" water line located on UT Lands in Section 34, Block 21, Sections 6 & 7, Block 28, University Lands Survey, Pecos County, Texas. **(City Mgr./Asst. City Mgr.)**

Assistant City Manager Jesse Gonzales, Jr. explained that the 20" water line is included as there is a portion that extends beyond the 30" water line. The portion that has been replaced has been removed. The amount due is the 10% which will be accepted the first year.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Rate and Damages Invoice No. 133206 for Easement 8289 for a 20" and 30" water line located on UT Lands in Section 34, Block 21, Sections 6 & 7, Block 28, University Lands Survey, Pecos County, Texas. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.

8. Discuss/Act upon Certification of Continued Use for Easement 8289 for a 20" and 30" water line located on UT Lands in Section 34, Block 21, Sections 6 & 7, Block 28, University Lands Survey, Pecos County, Texas. **(City Mgr./Asst. City Mgr.)**

Assistant City Manager Jesse Gonzalez, Jr. explained this is to certify that we will continue to use the Easement to transport water through the water line.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to approve Certification of Continued Use for Easement 8289 for a 20" and 30" water line located on UT Lands in Section 34, Block 21, Sections 6 & 7, Block 28, University Lands Survey, Pecos County, Texas. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.

9. Discuss/Act upon Pay Application No. 4 totaling \$169,500.00 for Work Performed by L.T. Construction, LLC on additions and buildout of the Hodges Pavilion. **(City Mgr./Dir. of Fin.)**

City Manager Frank Rodriguez III advised City Council that our City Engineer inspected the work performed by L.T Construction, LLC for Pay Application No. 4. Therefore, he requested permission to approve Pay Application No. 4 for L.T. Construction.

Council Member Darren Hodges inquired when they anticipated the Pavilion would be completed.

City Manager Frank Rodriguez III responded they anticipate the completion of the Pavilion to be the week before Labor Day.

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, and carried unanimously to approve Pay Application No. 4 totaling \$169,500.00 for Work Performed by L.T. Construction, LLC on additions and buildout of the Hodges Pavilion. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.

10. Discuss/Act upon a Retention Stipend in the amount of \$1,600 for Full-Time Employees Who were Employed before April 1, 2023 & Actively Employed and not in their Separation Period on July 21, 2023; Paid Separately. **(City Mgr.)**

City Manager Frank Rodriguez III explained the city was having trouble retaining employees; therefore, in an effort to retain staff he requested permission to approve a Retention Stipend in the amount of \$1,600 for Full-Time Employees who were Employed before April 1, 2023 & Actively Employed and not in their Separation Period on July 21, 2023; Paid Separately.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to approve Retention Stipend in the amount of \$1,600 for Full-Time Employees Who were Employed before April 1, 2023 & Actively Employed and not in their Separation Period on July 21, 2023; Paid Separately. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.

11. Discuss/Act upon appointment of City Council Member to the Intergovernmental Recreation Board to replace Joe Chris Alexander. (City Mgr.)

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to Appoint Mayor Paul Casias to the Intergovernmental Recreation Board to replace Joe Chris Alexander. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.


12. Questions from Media.

There were no questions from the media.

13. Adjourn.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, and carried unanimously to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:08 p.m. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem James Warnock, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.




Paul Casias, Mayor
JAMES B. WARNOCK, MAYOR PRO-TEM

ATTEST:


Marina A. Cantu, City Secretary