

VOTED NAY
VOTED AYE
SECONDED
MOVED

ROLL CALL WAS ANSWERED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

RUBEN FALCON, JAMES WARNOCK, MIKE URETA, JR., &
PAM PALILEO

ABSENT: PAUL CASIAS

MAYOR: JOE CHRIS ALEXANDER
CITY MANAGER: FRANK RODRIGUEZ III
CITY SECRETARY: DELMA A. GONZALEZ
CITY ATTORNEY: PUJA BOINPALLY

Mayor Alexander called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. after declaring a quorum present.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta gave the Invocation.

Council Member Palileo led the Pledge of Allegiance & Pledge to the Texas Flag.

Mayor Alexander 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."

RETIREMENT: Commend Gas Department Utility Worker III Ruben G. Ramirez for his 22 Years of Distinguished Service to the City of Fort Stockton & Citizens.

Mayor Alexander expressed that with great sadness he was announcing Ruben G. Ramirez' retirement. He had done an outstanding job for the City and will be greatly missed.

He presented an engraved plaque to him which read with "With Upmost Appreciation & Admiration City of Fort Stockton Proudly Commends Gas Department Utility Worker III Ruben G. Ramirez for his Exceptional Commitment and Distinguished Service to the Citizens of Fort Stockton from July 14, 1997 – October 11, 2019.

PROCLAMATION: Recognize Andres Madrid as an Honorary Citizen of the City of Fort Stockton.

Mayor Alexander expressed to Andres Madrid that he was being honored that evening due to his Facebook videos. Numerous followers enjoyed his enlightening videos and he appreciated his enthusiasm and all that he did for the community.

Council Member Palileo, author of the proclamation, enthusiastically read it and presented it to Andres Madrid.

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS
 MINUTES OF: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
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 PLACE OF MEETING: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

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RECOGNITION: Commend Former City Water Attorney Mark Harral, JD, for his Professional Expertise & Support from June 26, 2018 - August 30, 2019.

Former City Water Attorney Harral was not in attendance.

RECOGNITION: Present Utility Worker II Victor Castillo with a Certificate of Recognition for his Exemplary Job Performance at the City of Fort Stockton Landfill.

Mayor Alexander presented Victor Castillo, Utility Worker II, with a Certificate of Recognition. He conveyed that Victor voluntarily trimmed and removed brush/mesquite that had grown on the road which helped to prevent potential risks. He tremendously appreciated his initiative for he made a difference in the City.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:

**1. Street Supervisor Roy Mendoza ---
 2019 Completed Street Projects**

Street Supervisor Mendoza provided an update on the various projects throughout the community:

- Silliman Park – Re-milled, chip sealed and constructed a parking lot for the new dog park;
- Chamber of Commerce – Chip sealed the parking lot but striping was still needed;
- New Police Department – Laid down asphalt for the parking lot.
- Crack Sealing of Streets – A machine was rented for approximately \$8,000 to complete this project. It took 5 weeks for a 4-man team to seal every crack on Nelson Street, Fifth Street and Main Street. This process should extend the life of the streets for an additional 5-10 years. Cost to the City = Approximately \$15,000.
- Downtown Handicap Parking – To comply with ADA requirements, handicap parking was added to Second Street - Fifth Street.
- Cemetery – To improve the appearance of the cemetery for family members when visiting loved ones, caliche was placed plus roads were fog sealed.
- Deteriorated Streets – Numerous streets needed to be rehabilitated. The City teamed up with Pecos County and used their machine which digs 3" into the asphalt and entirely mills streets. Streets included: East Eighteenth

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Street from one end to another, South Oklahoma, North Rooney, West Ninth from the 600-900 Block, West Ninth from the 2000 – 2600 Block, West Gallagher, Hickory Street, & West Twelfth Street.

- Special Crew 3-Man Team:
 - Mow: Canals and alleys throughout the city;
 - Bulk Trash: Complete one quadrant weekly plus any additional City Hall bulk trash requests from citizens; &
 - Herbicide: A 2-man team completes this throughout the community. Approximately \$42,000 was expended.
- Accela Tickets – This service is available on Facebook for citizens to report issues within the community i.e. over-grown landscape, trash, potholes, etc. Their goal is to respond within 24 hours. They responded to and completed requests on 623 tickets this year.
- Patchwork – A 2-man Crew completes 1 quadrant per week. Over 200 tons of material was used to fill potholes in the city.
- Sweeper – This is completed on a weekly basis and an attempt is made to complete the 4 quadrants in the city.
- Fog Seal – The Street Department completed 10.5 miles. An additional 2 miles are prepped that will be completed before the end of the month.
- Seal-Coat/Chip Seal – This project was completed with Pecos County; Precincts 1-4. Totaling 7 miles of city and county roads.
- Crack-Sealing – Total miles this year of road rehabilitation = 21.5 miles. Total expenditures = \$540,000.00.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:

2. Gas Supervisor Orlando Almendarez ---

⬇ Update on Highway 18 Valero Crossing

Gas Supervisor Almendarez reported that an area of concern for the Gas Department was the Valero Crossing on Highway 18/Monahans Highway & 48th Lane. This area is adjacent to Mr. Warnock's property plus Enterprise and Energy Transfer have 2 – 24" pipe that travels through his property and under the city's 4" steel line. Due to the pipe and Mr. Warnock's heavy irrigation of his field, the readings on that particular location started to decline in 2015. A reading of .825 was acceptable to the Railroad Commission.

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In 2015, a contractor was notified regarding this concern. Discovered was that one of the wires was not providing enough direct current circuit to keep that area bonded which meant that the pipe was unprotected from other interference. Within time, that area depleted.

On May 30, 2019, the 4" cast iron was exposed which revealed the condition of that pipe. The contractor's assessment was "That the pipe is in good condition. The only problem is the mis-bonding of the particular material that we have to protect the pipe itself." To correct the problem, a contractor was needed to sandblast that pipe and visually inspect it to ensure that there were not any flaws on top or the bottom of that pipe. Once assured that the pipe is in good condition, they can proceed to re-wrap and re-coat the pipe to its original state.

Their proposal was that 200' (100' north and 100' south) of that specific area be dug to expose the pipe and evaluate its condition. If well wrapped afterward, this will ensure that the 4" pipeline will be available for an additional 40-50 years.

The City lacked the personnel and equipment to complete this project. The approximate 150# of pressure traveling through the 4" line made this area extremely vulnerable and was a liability for those residing in that location. The high pressure was a safety concern for the City and its customers.

His recommendation was that the City solicit bids for a contractor to dig and expose the line to determine how many feet will truly be needed to re-do the pipe. The project will require that the area be sound blasted, pipe be re-coated, and that additional anodes be installed to entirely protect that location.

This project needed to be completed as soon as possible but they were prohibited by the Railroad Commission to shut any gas lines during the wintertime because gas was used for heating homes and for cooking. Their goal was to complete this project in spring of 2020 when the weather would begin to warm up.

Mayor Alexander inquired if it would not be more cost effective to remove the damaged section of the pipe and replace it with a new piece of pipe that is already coated, etc. instead of digging it up, sandblasting, etc.

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THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Minutes:

- Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton City Council, 09/11/2019
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Substandard Building Committee, 09/05/2019
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Keep Historic FS Beautiful Board, 09/04/2019

Accounts Payable 2018-2019 Fiscal Total: \$162,148.84

Accounts Payable 2019-2020 Fiscal Total: \$164,458.36

Accounts Payable Grand Total: \$326,607.20

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- 4. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 19-125, Rescinding the September 24, 2019, Agenda Item No. 5 Terminology only for the “Cost of Living (COLA)” and Classification Table Position titled “Director of Tourism,” and Adopting a Revised Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual for the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, that Reflects the Proper Wording for Both Items; Containing a Savings Clause; And Providing for the Publication and Effective Date Thereof.**

City Manager Rodriguez stated that City Auditor Thurman's recommendation was "The City Council has approved a 2 ½ step (approximate 5%) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Full-Time Employees hired prior to September 1, 2019."

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MOVED	X

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The COLA will be effective October 7, 2019."

Also, "Director of Convention & Visitor's Bureau" was the correct job title instead of Director of Tourism, as previously listed.

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FALCON
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Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to rescind the September 24, 2019 motion approving Ordinance No. 19-124, Adopting a Revised Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual for the City of Fort Stockton, Texas; Repealing the Prior Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual; Containing a Savings Clause; And Providing for the Publication and Effective Date Thereof.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 19-125, Rescinding the September 24, 2019, Agenda Item No. 5 Terminology only for the "Cost of Living (COLA)" and Classification Table Position titled "Director of Tourism," and Adopting a Revised Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual for the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, that Reflects the Proper Wording for Both Items; Containing a Savings Clause; And Providing for the Publication and Effective Date Thereof.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

5. Discuss/Act upon Amendment of Easement and Right-of-Way from the Original Agreement for 0.09 Acre Surface Sites revised from the original location with Salt Creek Midstream, LLC, being on Section 40, Block 50, Township 9, T&P R.R. Company Survey, Pecos County, Texas.

Assistant City Manager Gonzalez conveyed that this was merely an amendment to widen the original easement previously granted.

FALCON
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X

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Amendment of Easement and Right-of-Way from the Original Agreement for 0.09 Acre Surface Sites revised from the original location with Salt Creek Midstream, LLC, being on Section 40, Block 50, Township 9, T&P R.R. Company Survey, Pecos County, Texas.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

6. Discuss/Act upon Awarding of Proposal for the Repairs & Rehabilitation of Officers' Quarters #7. *Proposal Received: Bruce Moore Construction*

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Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta expressed that since their scheduled meeting, the cracks opened even more; 2"- 4".

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Solicitation of Proposals for Upgrade of City 4" Gas Line Cathodic Protection at Valero Crossing; Highway 18.

EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Project Director Sharlene Leurig with Meadows Center for Water and the Environment reported that their mission is to develop and promote programs and techniques for ensuring sustainable water resources for human needs, ecosystem health, and economic development.

		X	X
			X
X			X
			X

		X	X
			X
X			X
			X

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For the past 12 months, Meadows Center utilized an approximate \$100,000 grant administered through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation that allows Texas Water Trade (her organization) and Meadow Center to look at the potential for restoring a community spring to a year-round flow through voluntary cooperative efforts with groundwater users in Management Zone I; primarily the Belding area. This project was undertaken in cooperation with the MPGCD who provided data and considered opportunities that could allow them to restore flow which currently is only transpiring in the off-season/winter months when irrigation pumps are not operating in the Belding area.

Based upon groundwater modeling, they believe that it is possible for these springs to be restored to a year-round flow. The grant received from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation was depleted while exploring methods that can cooperatively be used with agricultural producers and others who hold water rights in the Belding area. Discussions had already commenced with these producers.

The \$50,000 from the CVB which will leverage the NFWF money will actually be directed toward the science aspect of the project that is in progress. These funds will allow them to obtain a contractor to complete laser-based mapping of the bottom of the natural springs/community springs pool which is on sunken stilts in a natural spring bed. This mapping is extremely important because it will help them to understand the amount of flow that will need to be maintained from the Big Chief Spring so that people can interact with non-chlorinated natural spring water in a restored community spring such as Balmorhea. This type of restoration will be the objective of this long-term restoration of Comanche Springs. It will also allow them to instrument downstream of the pool, setting a gage that will measure flow during the off-season when pumps do not operate which will grant them the ability to produce improved modeling of the groundwater surface water connections that are underway.

Also, some of those funds will be directed for a hydrogeologist who supports the MPGCD's efforts to better understand the relationship between pumping in the Belding area and the outflow of the springs. This will allow them to embark on the next phase of the study which will attempt to establish a pilot water market lease in the Belding area to determine if they can actually boost spring flow in the growing season and bring it closer to a year-round flow. They believed this was one of the most exciting restorations that could materialize in Texas &/or the United States because a spring restoration of this size had never been attempted. They trusted this was technically feasible, were excited to continue with this study, and valued the City for this funding.

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Another aspect of the study is to explore the economic return of restoring a community spring. Data from Balmorhea indicates that the pool generates several 100,000's of visitors yearly and they believed that this economic diversifier will benefit this spring restoration, as well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta inquired "What is the term of the grant; the grant period?"

Director Leurig responded that the grant was verbally discussed last October. Currently, they did not know what the term of the grant was because they were waiting on the contract language from the City. The instrumentation and groundwater modeling will be completed before the end of this calendar year. This needed to be finalized and supported by work that has already been completed from funding through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

Council Member Falcon enquired how much more the study will cost.

Director Leurig answered that they have been developing a financial model or plan for the full-scale restoration which will include a substantial amount of infrastructure research. Lacking is a final estimate on the infrastructure that will need to be completed if the surface flows are restored. She believed that they had financial resources that could be used for this purpose and for long-term maintenance. Visitation dollars or entrance fees could selectively be applied to visitors that are not from the Fort Stockton area; these are one of many resources that could be pledged against bonds to fund the infrastructure. Currently being explored is where the additional funds will come from.

Mayor Alexander asked MPGCD General Manager Edwards what his Board's view was on this project and moving forward?

Manager Edwards replied that the Directors had spoken to this organization several times and approved a Letter of Support for the project but did not commit monetarily. At the very least, a lot of science will be acquired from this and at the most our springs will be secured. He was aware that Director Leurig visited with several producers and wished her the best of luck.

Kirby Warnock, P.O. Box 193, Fort Stockton, Texas, recommended this study to determine the truth because there had been much misinformation regarding our groundwater for countless years. This item was merely asking for a study which offered an opportunity to obtain facts and measurable data.

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FALCON
 WARNOCK
 URETA
 PALILEO

MOVED	SECOND	VOTED AYE	VOTED NAY
X		X	
		X	
	X	X	
		X	

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve \$50,000 Funding via the Convention & Visitor's Bureau to Complete a Study regarding the Restoration of Comanche Springs.

NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

9. Discuss/Act upon Pay Application No. 10 for \$86,018.64 from Nelson-Lewis for the 30-Inch Water Transmission Line which includes the Change Order Work for the 18-Inch Well Field Waterline.

FALCON
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 PALILEO

MOVED	SECOND	VOTED AYE	VOTED NAY
X		X	
		X	
	X	X	
		X	

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Pay Application No. 10 for \$86,018.64 from Nelson-Lewis for the 30-Inch Water Transmission Line which includes the Change Order Work for the 18-Inch Well Field Waterline.

TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

10. Questions from the Media

Inquiries were not made by the media.

ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

11. Adjourn.


FALCON
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MOVED	SECOND	VOTED AYE	VOTED NAY
X		X	
		X	
	X	X	
		X	

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting @ 6:22 p.m.

ATTEST:


 Delma A. Gonzalez, City Secretary


 Joe Chris Alexander, Mayor