

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS
MINUTES OF: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 24, 2020
TIME OF MEETING: 5:30 P.M.
PLACE OF MEETING: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

ROLL CALL WAS ANSWERED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: PAUL CASIAS, MIKE URETA JR., JAMES WARNOCK & RUBEN FALCON

PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE: PAM PALILEO

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

Mayor Alexander called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. after declaring a quorum present.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta gave the Invocation.

Council Member Warnock 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."

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

- Regular Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton City Council, 03/10/2020
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton 4-A EDC Corporation, 02/20/2020
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton 4-B EDC Corporation, 02/20/2020
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Intergovernmental Recreation Board, 02/19/2020
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Downtown Association, 02/18/2020
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Animal Control Board, 10/08/2019

Accounts Payable Grand Total: \$505,667.10

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

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:

2. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 20-101, Issuing a Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency, COVID-19 for the City of Fort Stockton.

VOTED NAY
VOTED AYE
SECONDED
MOVED

FALCON
WARNOCK
URETA
PALILEO
CASIAS

X
X
X
X
X

MOVED
SECONDED
VOTED AYE
VOTED NAY

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Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta explained that the Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency, COVID-19 for the County was issued yesterday, March 23, 2020.

The Declaration will be reviewed during their second meeting scheduled for April.

a) Cancellation or postponement of events;

Mayor Pro-Tem advised everyone that several events such as the BBQ Cook-off, Big Bend Open Road Race.

City Manager Rodriguez explained that the Downtown Association postponed their events to include Mr. Terrazas Celebration and the Autism Walk.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta explained that it is a fluid like situation with the COVID-19 virus. Several changes may need to be addressed as the virus progresses. He recommended any events scheduled for the near future be postponed until May 31st.

Mayor Alexander advised everyone that events such as weddings and funerals were being discussed.

Mayor Pro-Tem stated the County Clerk Chapman previously advised the public that the County is bound by law to continue issuing marriage licenses.

Weddings and Funerals are considered social gatherings therefore they have to abide by the 10-person limit.

b) Office Closure or Work Hour scheduled and changes;

City Manager Rodriguez explained that non-essential staff will have their work schedules modified. They will have to be able to return to work if necessary, within 1 hr. They will not be able to travel outside of town to those affected areas.

The city will have to process payments and make payments; therefore, the appropriate department heads have been asked to modify work schedules as needed.

The Public Works Department has identified additional CDL Drivers to assist in

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MOVED
SECONDED
VOTED AYE
VOTED NAY

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ensuring there is no overflow with Residential and Commercial Customers.

They are working on Emergencies and suspending other duties.

Permits are still being issued.

There is a plan in place to assist those affected by the COVID-19. However, they do have to meet certain criteria to qualify for that type of assistance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta assured the community that the City is doing everything in their ability to abide by the guidelines set forth by the CDC to safeguard the employees while continuing to provide essential services.

c) Employee leave and mandated leave at the discretion of a supervisor and compensation for same;

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta advised the community that the County allowed Department Heads to modify schedules as they see fit. He emphasized the importance of documenting any leave associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Alexander emphasized that the City does not have non-essential jobs...every job is essential.

d) General procedures and protocols to reduce the risk of infection or the spread of infection;

City Manager Rodriguez advised the community that the Police Department has implemented the use of Personal Protective Equipment.

The Recycle Center is not currently open as viruses can remain on those materials for an extended amount of time.

If an individual is requesting an accident report they can do so at the Police Department, Open Records Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem reiterated the need to frequently sanitize work areas, wash hands and practice social distancing.

e) Temporary restrictions on the use of city facilities including rental

	MOVED	SECONDED	VOTED AYE	VOTED NAY
FALCON			X	
WARNOCK		X	X	
URETA	X		X	
PALILEO			X	
CASIAS			X	
FALCON			X	
WARNOCK		X	X	
URETA	X		X	
PALILEO			X	
CASIAS			X	

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facilities;

City Manager Rodriguez advised the community the City is not renting out city facilities.

f) Limitations on the number of people permitted together in a location;

City Manager Rodriguez explained that the Public Works Department has adjusted their hours so there are no more than 10 people in the same place at the same time.

g) Requesting that all persons having business within the City of Fort Stockton attempt to conduct such business by telephone when possible; and

City Manager Rodriguez stated it is recommended that all persons having business within the City of Fort Stockton attempt to conduct such business via telephone when possible; however, the lobby is open those Senior Citizens needing assisting.

h) Authorizing the Mayor to amend, modify or waive changes made pursuant to this action.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta advised the community that in accordance with the Emergency Management Statute Mayor Alexander is Authorized to amend, modify or waive changes pursuant to this action.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to Approve Ordinance No. 20.101, Issuing a Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency, COVID-19 for the City of Fort Stockton.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS:

3. Discuss/Act upon Resolution No. 20-102R, Authorizing the City of Fort Stockton to File Grant Application #3002506 to the Office of the Governor for the Local Border Security Program (LBSP) for 2020-2021.

City Manager Rodriguez requested permission to File a Grant Application.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to Approve Resolution No. 20-102R, Authorizing the City of Fort Stockton to File Grant Application #3002506 to the Office of the Governor for the Local Border Security

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Program (LBSP) for 2020-2021.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

4. Discuss/Act upon Order of Postponement of the City of Fort Stockton's General Election to the November 3, 2020 Uniform Election Date.

Mayor Alexander explained that Governor Abbott has granted permission to postpone the May 2, 2020 General Election for the City of Fort Stockton until the November 3, 2020 Uniform Election Date. He expressed that it would be in the best interest of the community, considering the severity of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to Approve the Postponement of the City of Fort Stockton's General Election to the November 3, 2020 Uniform Election Date.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

5. Discuss/Act upon establishing policies, practices, rules and/or guidelines (together "measures") to address the Coronavirus also known as COVID-19, Such measures to include:

- a) Cancellation or postponement of events;
- b) Office closures or work hour scheduled and changes;
- c) Employee leave and mandated leave at the discretion of a supervisor and compensation for same;
- d) General procedures and protocols to reduce the risk of infection or the spread of infection;
- e) Temporary restrictions on the use of city facilities including rental facilities;
- f) Limitations on the number of people permitted together in a location;
- g) Requesting that all persons having business withing the City of Fort Stockton attempt to conduct such business by telephone when possible; and
- h) Authorizing the Mayor to amend, modify or waive changes made pursuant to this action.

Please refer to the Second Order of Business.

VOTED NAY
 VOTED AYE
 SECONDED
 MOVED

FALCON
 WARNOCK
 URETA
 PALILEO
 CASIAS

X
 X
 X
 X
 X

	MOVED	SECONDED	VOTED AYE	VOTED NAY
FALCON			X	
WARNOCK		X	X	
URETA	X		X	
PALILEO			X	
CASIAS			X	
FALCON			X	
WARNOCK			X	
URETA	X		X	
PALILEO			X	
CASIAS	X		X	

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SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

6. Discuss/Act upon Implementing a Temporary Curfew for all citizens of Fort Stockton from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.

Council Member Falcon requested implementing a Temporary Curfew to reduce the risk of spreading the Corona Virus to the community. Nothing is open after this time so there isn't a reason that anyone should be out and about at those hours.

City Manager Rodriguez explained that an exception to the Curfew be made concerning working hours.

City Attorney Boinpally assured City Council that the Temporary Curfew is allowed. She stated there is not a certain

Item is addressed in the Second Order of Business:

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

7. Discuss/Act upon 2020 Consumer Price Index Adjustment to Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates from the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to take no action on this item.

EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

8. Discuss/Act upon the Fiscal-Year 2020-2021 Budget Preparation Calendar.

Director of Finance Rodriguez pointed out there would be a meeting every Tuesday for the month of September.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to Approve the Fiscal-Year 2020-2021 Budget Preparation Calendar.

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NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

9. Discuss/Act upon Contract for Pest Control Service Between the City of Fort Stockton & Brockman Pest Control.

City Manager Rodriguez explained that the Bid for Pest Control Services had previously been awarded to Brockman Pest Control and this was the approval of the Contract itself.

Exterminator James Ponder increased his monthly payment request by \$50 as the New Police Department Building was added to his Service Locations.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to Approve the Contract for Pest Control Service Between the City of Fort Stockton & Brockman Pest Control.

TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

10. Discuss/Act upon Renewing Lease Agreement with Xerox for new copiers.

Director of Finance Rodriguez explained that this Interlocal Agreement needed to be renewed in order to lease a new copier.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to Renew the Interlocal Agreement between Region 8 Education Service Center and the City of Fort Stockton.

ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

11. Discuss/Act upon the Pecos County Civic Center as a "Project" of the Fort Stockton 4-B Fort Stockton Economic Development Corporation.

Economic Development Director Ramos explained the Coliseum Project was cancelled; therefore, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) agreed to split the cost of the Pecos County Civic Center Project.

EDC would contribute \$136,000, while CVB would pay \$100,000.

	MOVED	SECONDED	VOTED AYE	VOTED NAY
FALCON		X	X	
WARNOCK			X	
URETA	X		X	
PALILEO			X	
CASIAS			X	
FALCON			X	
WARNOCK			X	
URETA	X		X	
PALILEO			X	
CASIAS		X	X	

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FALCON
 WARNOCK
 URETA
 PALILEO
 CASIAS

VOTED NAY
 VOTED AYE
 SECONDED
 MOVED

X
 X
 X
 X
 X

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to Approve the Pecos County Civic Center as a "Project" of the Fort Stockton 4-B Fort Stockton Economic Development Corporation.

TWELFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

12. Discuss/Act upon the \$136,000 Expenditure from the Fort Stockton 4-B EDC to Pecos County for the Pecos County Civic Center Remodel.

FALCON
 WARNOCK
 URETA
 PALILEO
 CASIAS

X
 X
 X
 X
 X

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the \$136,000 expenditure from the Fort Stockton 4-B EDC to Pecos County for the Pecos County Civic Center Remodel.

THIRTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

13. Discuss/Act upon Appointment of New Member to the Animal Control Advisory Board due to the Resignation of Paul Casias. Applicants: Elizabeth Lynn, Alexis Olivares

FALCON
 WARNOCK
 URETA
 PALILEO
 CASIAS

X
 X
 X
 X
 X

Motion was made, seconded and carried to Appoint Alexis Olivarez as the new Animal Control Advisory Board Member.

FOURTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

14. Questions from the Media.

Fort Stockton Pioneer Publisher Steve Fountain inquired what the grant money for the Local Border Security Program (LBSP) for 2020-2021 would be utilized for.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta explained that the grant money is utilized to pay Patrol Officers overtime.

Fort Stockton Pioneer Publisher Fountain inquired if postponing the Election would extend the current City Council's term.

Mayor Alexander confirmed that postponing the Election would extend the current City Council's term.

Publisher Fountain inquired if the daycare fell into the 10-people limit

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VOITED NAY
VOITED AYE
SECONDED
MOVED

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City Attorney Boinpally responded that they would have to implement the 6-foot social distancing rule.

FIFTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

15. Adjourn.

There being no further business Mayor Alexander adjourned the Regular Meeting @ 6:45 p.m.


Joe Chris Alexander, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marina A. Cantu, City Secretary