

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS

MINUTES OF: SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND PECOS COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT
DATE OF MEETING: FEBRUARY 6, 2024
TIME OF MEETING: 12:00 PM
PLACE OF MEETING: PECOS COUNTY COURTHOUSE 103 W. CALLAGHAN FORT
STOCKTON, TX 79735

ROLL CALL WAS ANSWERED BY:

CITY COUNCIL: PAUL CASIAS, JAMES WARNOCK, RUBEN J. BERNAL, PAUL JEROME
CHAVEZ, RUBEN FALCON, DARREN HODGES

PECOS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT: JOE SHUSTER, TOM CHAPMAN, ROBERT
GONZALES, MICKEY JACK PERRY, NATHAN REEVES

CITY MANAGER: FRANK RODRIGUEZ III
CITY SECRETARY: MARINA CANTU
CITY ATTORNEY: PUJA BOINPALLY

County Judge Joe Shuster called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. after declaring a quorum present.

Pecos County Commissioner Mickey Jack Perry gave the invocation.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

1. City Council to Convene in Joint Special Session.

Mayor Paul Casias called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. after declaring a quorum present.

2. Public Testimony

There was not public testimony.

3. Discuss Water Solution for Rooney Park.

Council Member Jerome Chavez suggested opening the 2 existing wells located at Rooney Park to avoid utilizing R.O. Water to irrigate the park.

City Manager Frank Rodriguez III explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible water solutions for Rooney Park as the existing agreement ends December of 2025. Once this agreement ends Pecos County is subject to pay water fees for irrigating the park.

Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster explained one of the options would be for the City to continue to provide water for the Park and Pecos County would continue to maintain the Park.

He explained in exploring their options it was estimated to cost approximately \$500,000 to \$750,000 to bring in two water wells for Rooney Park. This would require Pecos County to go through the Water District to permit these wells.

He further explained it was the County's intention to keep the Small Community Hall, the Large Community Hall and the Swimming Pool on the R.O. Water. They would drill the wells to water the park.

He explained the R.O. Water is a better quality of water which would require less chemicals to treat the swimming pool.

He advised everyone that we need to start planning now to get the wells drilled by the time the Interlocal Agreement ends in 2025.

Council Member Darren Hodges voiced concern about the costly expenses the City is already incurring with the water well that will provide water for human consumption and the easement. He stated it just makes sense to water the park with untreated water which would yield less of an expense.

Pecos County Commissioner Nathan Reeves said it makes sense to have a well to water the yard and trees. He further stated he was aware that it would be costly to either re-enter the existing wells or drill new wells. He explained it is a County Park, but everyone benefits from it; therefore, he inquired if the City would be willing to contribute to the expense. He stated he did realize that the total cost is unknown at this point.

Council Member Ruben Falcon advised everyone that he would like to see water running through the canal.

Pecos County Commissioner Nathan Reeves explained the ability to have water flowing in the canal would be determined by the amount of water permitted by the Middle Pecos Groundwater District. He explained that there may not be enough water to irrigate the park and allow for water to run through the canal.

Pecos County Commissioner Robert Gonzales explained that the canal itself would have to be rehabilitated to allow water to continuously flow through it.

Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster explained that the well would be drilled further than Edwards Trinity into Trinity Sands. It is unknown how much water Trinity Sands yields; therefore it may be a hit or miss situation. He explained he would like to install an irrigation system that would allow the County to connect to the City Water as a back up plan when the well water is not available. He explained Pecos County would pay for any R.O. Water utilized should this occur.

Council Member Ruben J. Bernal inquired how deep the existing wells are.

Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster responded that the existing wells are approximately 100 – 200 feet deep.

Council Member Ruben J. Bernal inquired how deep the wells would need to be drilled to reach the desired depth.

Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster explained they would need to drill approximately 400 – 600 feet to reach the desired depth.

Pecos County Commissioner Nathan Reeves inquired if we would be able to re-enter the existing wells.

Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster explained that the wells are not big enough to produce enough water; therefore, it is recommended that new wells be drilled.

Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez inquired if a permit would need to be obtained prior to drilling the wells.

Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster explained a permit would need to be obtained prior to drilling the new wells. He further explained that option was available to the County as they have two existing wells.

He inquired if anyone has reviewed the City Charter pertaining to wells being drilled within city limits.

City Secretary Marina Cantu responded that the City Charter does not address water wells being drilled within City limits; however, our city ordinance does.

Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster requested that the City of Fort Stockton grant Pecos County permission to drill two water wells for the purpose of irrigating the park.

He inquired if the City of Fort Stockton would be willing to contribute to the project.

City Manager Frank Rodriguez and **Director of Finance Maria Rodriguez** provided everyone with information pertaining to the annual water usage at Rooney Park.

Council Member Ruben Falcon reiterated he would like water running in the canal.

Pecos County WCID #1 General Manager Billy Gonzales advised everyone if water was to run in the canal the water would need to be circulated.

Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez asked Pecos County WCID #1 General Manager Billy Gonzales if he could come up with a plan. He expressed he would like to see flowing water in the canal. However, he explained the wells being drilled was the priority and flowing water in the park was secondary.

Pecos County WCID #1 General Manager Billy Gonzales advised everyone a separate line would have to be run for the well water. He explained that well water and the City Water cannot run through the same line.

Council Member Ruben Falcon inquired who had the water rights to Rooney Park.

Pecos County WCID #1 General Manager Billy Gonzales advised everyone that Pecos County has the water rights to Rooney Park; however, the Pecos County WCID #1 has the rights to the water that flows through the canal.

The consensus of the governing bodies agreed that once numbers were gathered this project would be revisited.

4. Questions from Media.

There were no questions from the Media.

5. Adjourn.

Motion was made by County Commissioner Tom Chapman, seconded by County Commissioner Robert Gonzales and carried unanimously to adjourn the Special Joint Meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J. Bernal, seconded by Council Member Darren Hodges and carried unanimously to adjourn the Special Joint Meeting at 12:51 p.m.



Paul Casias

Paul Casias, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marina A. Cantu

Marina A. Cantu, City Secretary