

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS

MINUTES OF: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DATE OF MEETING: APRIL 11, 2022
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: JAMES WARNOCK, JOE CHRIS ALEXANDER, PAM PALILEO, RUBEN FALCON, DARREN HODGES

ABSENT: PAUL CASIAS

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

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.

Council Member Hodges gave the Invocation.

Council Member Darren Hodges led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America Flag & the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Alex Gonzalez with BioCatters, LLC---**
 - Update on Blue Ridge Farms

Alex Gonzalez of BioCatters, LLC explained BioCatters, LLC was awarded the Lease for Blue Ridge Farms effective January 1, 2022. However, in order to allow the previous lessee the opportunity to remove any equipment belonging to him the lease was not assumed until March 1, 2022. The following are in progress:

- Reeves County Wells are being registered with the Reeves County Groundwater Conservation District (RCGCD)

- Negotiations with farmer willing to invest in the water infrastructure and grow crops (TBD)
- Discussions with (7) solar investment groups to establish data center/bitcoin. Power Purchase Agreement with Solar Group. (3 site visits)
- Discussions with Battery Power companies to supply night and redundant power to Data Center (2 site visits)
- Have discussed water sales with existing Oil & Gas companies in the area (Diamondback, Continental)
- Discussions with Forge Energy and WaterBridge to get a complete list of assets on the property. Surface Use Agreement (SUA) is in place. Getting details from land department.

RESOLUTION:

2. Discuss/Act upon Resolution No. 22-105R, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fort Stockton to File a Funding Appropriations Request with the Office of Congressman Tony Gonzales (TX-23) for the Community Project Funding for Fiscal Year 2023. **(City Mgr.)**

City Manager Frank Rodriguez explained Resolution No. 22-105R would allow the City of Fort Stockton to apply for Community Project Funding.

Motion was made by Council Member Pam Palileo, seconded by Council Member Ruben Falcon, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution No. 22-105R, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fort Stockton to File a Funding Appropriations Request with the Office of Congressman Tony Gonzales (TX-23) for the Community Project Funding for Fiscal Year 2023. Council Member James Warnock, Council Member Pam Palileo, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Darren Hodges voted aye.

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. 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, 03/28/2022
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton Substandard Building Committee, 03/03/2022
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Keep Historic Fort Stockton Beautiful Board, 03/02/2022

- Regular Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton Historical Landmark Commission, 03/02/2022

Accounts Payable Grand Total: \$431,302.50

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Pam Palileo, and carried unanimously to approve Consent Agenda, as presented. Council Member James Warnock, Council Member Pam Palileo, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Darren Hodges voted aye.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

4. Discuss/Act upon Authorization for an Expenditure not to exceed \$300,000.00 from the Fort Stockton Economic Development 4-B Corporation for the Improvements to the Gene Cummings Park. (City Mgr./EDC Dir.)

Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Remie Ramos explained this project began several years ago with the donation of property by the Dionne Family to extend the Gene Cummings Park with the Helen Dionne Garden.

He further explained that City Manager Frank Rodriguez identified the need for the Water Reclamation Project for the Spray Park.

He advised everyone that City Council recommended a Community Development Project, which led to the improvements of a walking path, sports pavilion that will clean up the current slab that covered up the former swimming pool, sports pavilion that will house a basketball court with LED lighting.

Mayor Joe Chris Alexander advised everyone there is a need for the water reclamation project as the area surrounding the spray park experiences backs-ups when the spray park is in use.

Motion was made by Council Member James Warnock, seconded by Council Member Pam Palileo, and carried unanimously to Authorize an Expenditure not to exceed \$300,000.00 from the Fort Stockton Economic Development 4-B Corporation for the Improvements to the Gene Cummings Park. Council Member James Warnock, Council Member Pam Palileo, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Darren Hodges voted aye.

5. Discuss/Act upon Change Order No. 3 authorizing a payment of \$69,160.00 to Colt I&E, LLC for the completion of the Cast Iron Gas Line Replacement Project. **(City Mgr./Gas Sup.)**

Assistant City Manager Jesse Gonzales advised City Council this project was completed the week before last. The remainder of the project was for the Cast Iron Gas Line Replacement on 13th Street from Butz Street to Water Street.

Motion was made by Council Member James Warnock, seconded by Council Member Pam Palileo, and carried unanimously to approve Change Order No. 3 Authorizing a Payment of \$69,160.00 to Colt I&E, LLC for the completion of the Cast Iron Gas Line Replacement Project. Council Member James Warnock, Council Member Pam Palileo, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Darren Hodges voted aye.

6. Discuss/Act Upon Fort Stockton Police Department Provider Agreement concerning Medicare Rates for in "Custody" patients between the City of Fort Stockton and the Pecos County Memorial Hospital. **(City Mgr./C.O.P.)**

Chief of Police Robert Lujan explained this is the same agreement we had last year with the Pecos County Memorial Hospital. This Agreement allows the City of Fort Stockton to pay Medicare Rates for in "Custody" patients. The only thing that changed was the dates.

Motion was made by Council Member Pam Palileo, seconded by Council Member James Warnock, and carried unanimously to approve the Fort Stockton Police Department Provider Agreement concerning Medicare Rates for in "Custody" patients between the City of Fort Stockton and the Pecos County Memorial Hospital. Council Member James Warnock, Council Member Pam Palileo, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Darren Hodges voted aye.

7. Discuss/Act Upon the Fiscal-Year 2022-2023 Budget Preparation Calendar. **(City Mgr./Dir. of Fin.)**

Director of Finance Maria Rodriguez explained the dates for the Special Budget Workshops are scheduled for August 2nd, 3rd & 4th. She further explained anything after the black line are dates dictated by statute.

She elaborated that the need for a 2nd Public Hearing would depend on the taxes.

Motion was made by Council Member Pam Palileo, seconded by Council Member James Warnock, and carried unanimously to approve the Fiscal-Year 2022-2023 Budget Preparation Calendar. Council Member James Warnock, Council Member Pam Palileo, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Darren Hodges voted aye.

8. Questions from Media

Fort Stockton Pioneer Editor Nathan Heuer inquired what amount the City would be applying for the Community Project Funding.

City Manager Frank Rodriguez explained he was still in the process of determining the amount.

Fort Stockton Pioneer Editor Nathan Heuer asked where the Fishing Pond would be located.

City Manager Frank Rodriguez explained there is currently a large retention pond located on City Property less than a mile away, off Highway 18.

Mayor Joe Chris Alexander explained the retention pond is quite large, in fact it may need to be sectioned off.

Fort Stockton Pioneer Editor Nathan Heuer inquired if there was a current water source located in this area.

Mayor Joe Chris Alexander responded there is a water well. He elaborated that the idea is to add a walking path with exercise stations, picnic areas, etc.

9. Adjourn

Motion was made by Council Member Pam Palileo, seconded by Council Member James Warnock, and carried unanimously to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:04 P.M. Council Member James Warnock, Council Member Pam Palileo, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Darren Hodges voted aye.



Joe Chris Alexander, Mayor

ATTEST:



Marina A. Cantu, City Secretary