

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS

MINUTES OF: SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DATE OF MEETING: SEPTEMBER 6, 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: DARREN HODGES, PAUL CASIAS, RUBEN J BERNAL, RUBEN FALCON

JAMES WARNOCK ARRIVED AT 5:37 P.M.

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

Mayor Joe Chris Alexander called the Special City Council Meeting to Order at 5:30 p.m. after declaring a quorum present.

Mayor Joe Chris 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 Darren Hodges gave the Invocation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America Flag & the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

Mayor Joe Chris Alexander Recessed from the Special City Council Meeting to Convene into the Public Hearing at 5:33 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** On the Proposed 2022-2023 Budget & Tax Rate which will Raise Less Total Property Taxes than Last Year's Budget by \$23,711.21 (-1.56%) and of that amount

\$14,688.21 is Tax Revenue to be Raised from New Property added to the Tax Roll this Year.
(Mayor/Dir. of Fin.)

There being no comments from the public, **Mayor Joe Chris Alexander** closed the Public Hearing to Reconvene into the Special City Council Meeting at 5:34 p.m.

ORDINANCES:

2. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 22-115, Approving and Adopting the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023; Making Appropriations for the City for said Fiscal Year as Reflected in said Budget; And making Certain Findings and Containing Certain Provisions Relating to the Subject. (Mayor/Dir. of Fin.)

City Manager Frank Rodriguez explained he was presenting an unbalanced budget due to the \$500,000 donation made by Hodges Family. This budget would allow for a 5% Cost Of Living Adjustment for city employees. They will continue to find projects such as the Landfill, Public Works and Remodel of the Public Safety Building for Municipal Courts and Code Enforcement Departments. This would allow them to reclassify some entry level positions and fix the classification table to raise the pay to \$15/hr. or more depending on the position and/or experience. This would allow the City to compete with other places of employment and aid in retaining employees. These adjustments will take effect October 17, 2022.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 22-115 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, this budget will raise less total property taxes than last year's budget by \$23,711.21 (-1.56%) and of that amount \$14,688.21 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Council Member James Warnock arrived at 5:37 p.m.

3. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 22- 116, An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Use and Support of the Municipal Government of the City of Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas; Providing for the Interest and Sinking Fund & Apportioning Each Levy for a Specific Purpose for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 & Providing for Approval of Ordinance. (Mayor/Dir. of Fin.)

City Manager Frank Rodriguez asked for approval of this ordinance based on the Budget Meetings previously held.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 22-116 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, which entails that the Property Tax Rate be Decreased by the Adoption of a Tax Rate of \$0.3549, which is Effectively a 2.740% Decrease in Tax Rate. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member James Warnock voted aye.

4. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 22-117, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 Garbage and Trash*, Article III. Charges*, Section 12.72. Within the Corporate Limits., of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Stockton & Repealing all Other Ordinances or Portions Thereof in Conflict, A Severability Clause and Providing for an Effective Date. (Mayor/Dir. of Fin.)

Assistant Director of Finance Nilva Salinas explained we are increasing \$3.00 on the Residential Base Rate and \$4.00 on the Commercial Base Rate as requested by City Council during the Budget Workshop. These rates were reflected in the budget previously approved by City Council.

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member James Warnock, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 22-117, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 Garbage and Trash*, Article III. Charges*, Section 12.72. Within the Corporate Limits., of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Stockton & 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 Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member James Warnock voted aye.

5. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 22-118, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 24 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Stockton Titled Utilities*, Article III. Service Rates and Charges, Division 2. Service Rates, Section 24-51. Rates for Water, Wastewater, Gas Services and Tap Charges Within the Corporate Limits and Repealing all Other Ordinances or Portions Thereof in Conflict, A Severability Clause and Providing for an Effective Date. (Mayor/Dir. of Fin.)

Assistant Director of Finance Nilva Salinas explained this would increase the Water Base Rate by \$1.00 and increase \$0.10 on every 1,000 gallons above 10,000. This would also increase \$2.00 on the Gas Base Rate. These numbers were reflected in the revenues of the previously approved budget.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Darren Hodges, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 22-118, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 24 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Stockton Titled Utilities*, Article III. Service Rates and Charges, Division 2. Service Rates, Section 24-51.

Rates for Water, Wastewater, Gas Services and Tap Charges Within the Corporate Limits and Repealing all Other Ordinances or Portions Thereof in Conflict, A Severability Clause and Providing for an Effective Date. Council Member Darren Hodges, Council Member James Warnock, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

6. Adjourn.

Motion was made by Council Member James Warnock, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting at 5:42 p.m. Council Member Darren Hodges, Council Member James Warnock, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.



Joe Chris Alexander, Mayor

ATTEST:


Marina A. Cantu, City Secretary