

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS

MINUTES OF: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DATE OF MEETING: SEPTEMBER 25, 2023  
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,  
PAUL JEROME CHAVEZ

ABSENT: JAMES WARNOCK

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

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

**Mayor Paul Casias** 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 Ruben Falcon** gave the Invocation.

**Council Member Ruben J. Bernal** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America Flag & the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

**PROCLAMATION:**

1. Proclamation Endorsing September 25-29, 2023 as "National GEAR UP Week." (**Mayor**)

**Mayor Paul Casias** presented Gear Up Outreach Coordinator Geneva Duarte-Diaz and Student Vice-President of Gear Up Yailin Fortson with a Proclamation endorsing September 25-29, 2023 as "National GEAR UP Week" after reading it aloud.

**Gear Up Outreach Coordinator Geneva Duarte-Diaz** explained she has been getting to know the students and their families. She meets with the students once a week. They have assignments through Google Classroom and she is able to communicate with the students outside the classroom. She is able to find resources to meet the student's needs.

Gear Up provides summer tours; one Fall Tour and one Spring Tour. They have taken the students as far as Austin, Corpus Christi, Galveston, and New Mexico. She took the President of Gear Up to Washington, DC where they represented the Fort Stockton High School. This summer they are hoping to take a trip to Arizona and Louisiana. These trips are very educational, the students are able to tour Universities, Community Colleges, Technical Colleges, etc. She commended everyone for their support.

**Gear Up Student Vice-President Yailin Fortson** stated she is grateful to be a part of the program. She initially didn't plan on attending college; however, after touring several places she found the school of her dreams and has since applied for college. She attributes her will to continue her education to the Gear Up Program and Gear Up Outreach Coordinator Geneva Duarte-Diaz.

**Mayor Paul Casias** Recessed from the Regular City Council Meeting to Convene into the following Public Hearing at 5:40 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

2. Application Request from Property Owners Eleno Flores and Jose Gilberto Flores to consider Annexing Approximately 0.782 Acres, being all of Lots One to Eleven (11) All in Block 15, ORIENTA PARK ADDITION to the City of Fort Stockton, Per Subdivision on file in Plat Cabinet 7B, Plat Records of Pecos County, Texas, which shall be Zoned as a "One-Family Dwelling District 1 (SF-1)" for the Procurement of Utility Services.

**Mayor Paul Casias** Closed the Public Hearing to Reconvene into the Regular City Council Meeting at 5:41 p.m.

#### **ORDINANCES:**

3. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 23-129, An Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual by Incorporating Revised Job Descriptions for Part Time/Seasonal/Temporary, Pay Grade 13; Records Manager, Pay Grade 15; Communication Supervisor, Pay Grade 20; Senior Administrative Assistant, Pay Grade 20; Information Technology Technician, Pay Grade 22; Assistant to the Finance Director, Pay Grade 22; Director of Finance, Pay Grade 32; Chief of Police, Pay Grade 32; EDC Executive Director, Pay Grade

32; Assistant City Manager, Pay Grade 32 to the Job Classification Table & Compensation Plan-Salary Scale; Repealing Job Descriptions for City Attorney, Pay Grade 15 to the Job Classification Table & Compensation Plan-Salary Scale; Repealing the Prior Job Descriptions of the City Pertaining to this Ordinance; Containing a Savings Clause; and Providing for the Publication and Effective Date Thereof. **(City Mgr./H.R. Dir.)**

**Human Resources Director Sara Mata** explained they will be making changes to the Classification Table, removing positions and reclassifying other positions on the Compensation Plan-Salary Scale. The job descriptions will also change to reflect the correct positions on the Compensation Plan-Salary Scale.

**City Manager Frank Rodriguez III** explained these changes were discussed during the previous budget meeting.

**Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 23-129, An Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual by Incorporating Revised Job Descriptions for Part Time/Seasonal/Temporary, Pay Grade 13; Records Manager, Pay Grade 15; Communication Supervisor, Pay Grade 20; Senior Administrative Assistant, Pay Grade 20; Information Technology Technician, Pay Grade 22; Assistant to the Finance Director, Pay Grade 22; Director of Finance, Pay Grade 32; Chief of Police, Pay Grade 32; EDC Executive Director, Pay Grade 32; Assistant City Manager, Pay Grade 32 to the Job Classification Table & Compensation Plan-Salary Scale; Repealing Job Descriptions for City Attorney, Pay Grade 15 to the Job Classification Table & Compensation Plan-Salary Scale; Repealing the Prior Job Descriptions of the City Pertaining to this Ordinance; Containing a Savings Clause; and Providing for the Publication and Effective Date Thereof. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

4. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 23-130, An Ordinance of the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, Adopting Budget Amendment No. 3 to the Original Budget Amendment No. 3 to the Original Budget of the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023; Providing for Supplemental Appropriation and/or Transfer of Certain Funds; Providing for Severability; and Providing for Other Matters Related to the Subject. **(City Mgr./Dir. of Fin.)**

Director of Finance Maria Rodriguez explained the Economic Development Corporation 4B is requesting \$166,000 for Community Development for of the Gene Cummings Park.

The Venue Tax has requested \$40,015 for the Audio System at the Convention Center.

The Recreation Department is requesting permission for \$24,000 for the purchase of a John Deer Gator Mower.

The EDC 4B Fund Balance as of the end of FY 21-22 was \$1,921,702. The

Venue Tax Fund Balance as of the end of FY 21-22 was \$259,738.

The Recreation Department Fund Balance as of the end of FY 21-22 was \$64,479.

**Motion was made by Ruben Falcon, seconded by Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 23-130, An Ordinance of the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, Adopting Budget Amendment No. 3 to the Original Budget Amendment No. 3 to the Original Budget of the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023; Providing for Supplemental Appropriation and/or Transfer of Certain Funds; Providing for Severability; and Providing for Other Matters Related to the Subject. . Darren Hodges, Paul Casias, Ruben J Bernal, Ruben Falcon, Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

5. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 23-131, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 Garbage and Trash\*, Article III. Charges\* 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. **(City Mgr./Dir. of Fin.)**

**Director of Finance Maria Rodriguez** explained this ordinance reflects the increase in the Sanitation Rates for the 2023-2024. It is \$1.00 for Residential and \$2.00 for Commercial.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 23-131, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 Garbage and Trash\*, Article III. Charges\* 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 Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

6. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 23-132, 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. **(City Mgr./Dir. of Fin.)**

**Director of Finance Maria Rodriguez** explained this Ordinance reflects the change in rates for Water, Wastewater and Gas.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 23-132, 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, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

#### **RESOLUTION:**

7. Discuss/Act upon Resolution No., 23-120R, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fort Stockton to File Grant Application with Apache Corporation for the 2023-2024 Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program. **(City Sec.)**

**City Secretary Marina Cantu** explained the Keep Historic Fort Stockton Beautiful Board applied for 150 trees from the Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program. She further explained the board has already been awarded the grant. This Resolution would give City Manager Frank Rodriguez III the authority to accept the trees. She explained 50 of the trees will be planted at the East Hill Cemetery and the remaining 100 will be given away at the KHFSB Trash-Off Event in April.

**Council Member Darren Hodges** inquired what type of trees the City of Fort Stockton would receive.

**City Secretary Marina Cantu** responded the trees would be Chinese Pistache.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Ruben Falcon, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution No., 23-120R, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fort Stockton to File Grant Application with Apache Corporation for the 2023-2024 Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

8. 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, 09/11/2023
- Special Meeting Minutes of Fort Stockton City Council, 09/22/2023
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Intergovernmental Recreation Board, 08/23/2023
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Economic Development 4-A Corporation, 08/17/2023
- Regular Meeting Minutes of Economic Development 4-B Corporation, 08/17/2023

**Accounts Payable Grand Total:                      \$417,047.16**

**Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Consent Agenda, as presented. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

9. Discuss/Act upon Designating a Date for the First Regular City Council Meeting for the Month of October. (City Mgr.)

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

10. Discuss/Act upon payment in the amount of \$70,659.00 to West Texas Refrigeration as per the agreement previously approved by the Fort Stockton City Council on September 12, 2022 meeting for the purchase of a Kohler 50 KW Diesel Generator, Model 50REOZK and a 208 3 Phase Service Entry Automatic Transfer Switch. (City Mgr./R.O. Plant Sup.)

**City Manager Frank Rodriguez** explained the Agreement was previously approved and the item has been delivered. The payment exceeds \$50,000; therefore, he requested permission to authorize the payment of \$70,659.00.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Ruben Falcon, and carried unanimously to approve payment in the amount of \$70,659.00 to West Texas Refrigeration as per the agreement previously approved by the Fort Stockton City Council on September 12, 2022 meeting for the purchase of a Kohler 50 KW Diesel Generator, Model 50REOZK and a 208 3 Phase Service Entry**

**Automatic Transfer Switch. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

11. Discuss/Act upon Leasing of Seven (7) 2023 Tahoes for the Police Department through Enterprise Fleet Management. **(City Mgr./C.O.P.)**

**Chief of Police Ernesto Velasquez** explained this is to lease 7 2023 Tahoes for Enterprise Fleet Management.

The vehicles are on the lot getting retrofitted.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to approve Leasing of Seven (7) 2023 Tahoes for the Police Department through Enterprise Fleet Management. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

12. Discuss/Act upon Engineer Agreement for Project Engineering and Consulting Services for Various Projects with West of the Pecos Consulting Engineers. **(City Mgr.)**

**City Manager Frank Rodriguez III** stated City Engineer Raul Rodriguez has been very instrumental in collecting data and submitting the tonnage for TCEQ. Furthermore, he has assisted in getting the City of Fort Stockton prepared for the Opening of our new Landfill. They will have a Mock Inspection on Wednesday to prepare for TCEQ. He has also helped with the Hodges Pavilion.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Ruben Falcon, and carried unanimously to approve Engineer Agreement for Project Engineering and Consulting Services for Various Projects with West of the Pecos Consulting Engineers. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

13. Discuss/Act upon Annual Evaluation & Retainer Contract for City Attorney Puja Boinpally.

**City Manager Frank Rodriguez** explained that he along with, City Secretary Marina Cantu and Assistant City Manager Jesse Gonzales, Jr. work closely with City Attorney Puja Boinpally and she has done a great job.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to approve Retainer Contract for City Attorney Puja Boinpally. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

14. Discuss/Act upon Software-As-A-Service Renewal Agreement between the City of Fort Stockton and Kologik LLC in the amount of \$58,458.37 for the Kologik SaaS Solution for the Police Department. (City Mgr./C.O.P.)

**Chief of Police Ernesto Velasquez** explained that Kologik is a Software Program that runs the Dispatch as well as the Cop-Sync for their Report Writing System.

He requested permission to extend the agreement for one year while they look at more innovative programs.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Software-As-A-Service Renewal Agreement between the City of Fort Stockton and Kologik LLC in the amount of \$58,458.37 for the Kologik SaaS Solution for the Police Department. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

15. Discuss/Act upon Solicitation of Bids for Contractual Janitorial Services for City Hall, City Hall Annex, & Police Department Buildings. (City Mgr.)

**City Manager Frank Rodriguez III** explained that its that time of year again to Solicit Bids for Contractual Janitorial Services for City Hall, City Hall Annex & Police Department Buildings.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Solicitation of Bids for Contractual Janitorial Services for City Hall, City Hall Annex, & Police Department Buildings. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

16. Discuss/Act upon Appointment, Re-Appointment, Removal of Board Members or Amendment to Board Bylaws, as needed for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Mayor/City Mgr.)

**City Attorney Puja Boinpally** explained she amended the bylaws for the Tourism Advisory Board as previously discussed, changing the amount of board members from 7 to 5. This would



change the quorum to 3. The Mayor shall be the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the board annually. There was a typo on page five, no change other than cleaning it up. The first sentence was removed on page 5.

**Council Member Ruben Falcon** recommended limiting the membership to city residents.

**Council Member Ruben J. Bernal** responded that he liked the fact that members are allowed to live within a 5-mile radius of the city limits as they would be able to contribute ideas to attract tourism to the City of Fort Stockton. The consensus of City Council agreed with Council Member Ruben J. Bernal.

**Council Member Falcon** suggested changing the bylaws to read as follows:

- Section 3, Page 3 - The City Manager or his designee and the Tourism Director shall serve as ex-officio members of the board.
- Page 5, Last Paragraph - Remove the last paragraph as it is already a law. Tourism Funds cannot be commingled with any other funds.
- Page 6, First Paragraph - Would like it to be omitted. The City Council doesn't even discipline or evaluate the Tourism Director.

**Mayor Paul Casias** explained he preferred to have 7 members on the Tourism Advisory Board, making 4 a quorum.

**City Attorney Puja Boinpally** clarified that the bylaws need to be amended with the following changes:

- amount of board members should remain as 7, making 4 a quorum.
- Clean up Tourism Director
- The Mayor shall be a Chairperson, and a Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the board annually.
- The Board of Directors may make recommendations to the City Manager who has the responsibility and authority to take any necessary and appropriate personnel action with respect to the Executive Director, including but not limited to performance review, salary, appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to approve the Tourism Advisory Board Bylaws, as amended. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

**Motion was made by Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Darren Hodges, and carried unanimously to Remove Board Member Vimal "Vic" Bhakta from the Tourism Advisory Board, as he has missed several meetings this year, only attending one meeting this past year. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Council Member Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

**Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member Ruben Falcon, and carried unanimously to Re-Appoint Vishal Chopra and Appoint Veronica Delao, Jordan Gonzales, and William Lawson Kemp to the Tourism Advisory Board . Council Member Darren Hodges, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, Mayor Paul Casias voted aye.**

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Ruben Falcon, and carried unanimously to Extend Deadline to Accept Applications for the Substandard Building Committee until October 18, 2023. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

17. Discuss/Act upon Declaring Saturday, October 28, 2023, as "Halloween". (Mayor/City Mgr.)

**Motion was made by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, seconded by Council Member Ruben Falcon, and carried unanimously to Declare Saturday, October 28, 2023, as "Halloween". Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**

18. Discuss/Act upon Constructing a Sidewalk on South Side of 5th Street from Everts to Rio, with funds from FY 2022-2023. (Council Mem. Falcon)

**Council Member Ruben Falcon** recommended continuing the sidewalk to Rio Street.

**Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez** voiced concern that the children would have to cross the street twice.

**Mayor Paul Casias** inquired what the price would be for this project.

**Director of Finance Maria Rodriguez** explained we could not commit funds from 2023 unless we had a vendor and an actual amount.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

- 19. Discuss/Act upon Creating and Painting a 3" Safe-Walking Path on the West-Side of Greasewood Street from Gallagher Street to 5th Street. **(Council Member Falcon)**

**Council Member Ruben Falcon** was looking at stripping a safe walking path.

**Chief of Police Ernesto Velasquez** explained if the 3 ft. Safe-Walking Path is created citizens would no longer be allowed to park along the line because it would narrow the street. They would be allowed to park along the curb of the other side of the street. He stated a traffic study could be done.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

- 20. Questions from Media.

There were no questions from the media.

- 21. Adjourn

**Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez, and carried unanimously to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:40 p.m. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Paul Jerome Chavez voted aye.**



*Paul Casias*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Casias, Mayor

ATTEST: -

*Marina A. Cantu*  
\_\_\_\_\_

Marina A. Cantu, City Secretary