

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS

MINUTES OF: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: OCTOBER 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: DARREN HODGES, PAUL CASIAS, RUBEN J BERNAL, RUBEN FALCON

ABSENT: JAMES WARNOCK

MAYOR: JOE CHRIS ALEXANDER

CITY MANAGER: FRANK RODRIGUEZ III

CITY SECRETARY: MARINA CANTU

CITY ATTORNEY: PUJA BOINPALLY

Mayor Joe Chris Alexander called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:31 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.

PROCLAMATION:

1. Discuss/Act upon Endorsing October 17-21, 2022 as "Chamber of Commerce Week."
(Mayor)

Mayor Joe Chris Alexander presented the proclamation endorsing October 17-21, 2022 as Chamber of Commerce Week to the Ambassadors of the local Chamber of Commerce.

PRESENTATIONS:

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

Alex Gonzalez with BioCatters, LLC presented a sample of the water that was produced from the well located at the Blueridge. He advised everyone that the water is being tested and a report will be provided to the City Manager. He stated it is high quality water. Their objective is to let people know that there is a municipal entity that has nearly 8,000 acres in the 95th percentile of the solar areas located in the United States with over 30 water wells with exceptional water quality. There is an 8-billion-dollar Grant Matching Fund Opportunity through the Department of Energy to build a Hydrogen Hub. People have been trying to move to hydrogen as an energy source. The idea is to take water and hit it with electricity to separate the hydrogen and the oxygen. The hydrogen is captured and used as a fuel source. Bit coin miners have difficulty with the quality of water and are interested in the hydrogen facility. Fort Stockton is in an optimal location for this type of project.

Solar makes the Electricity, Electricity makes the Hydrogen, Hydrogen would run the Turbines, the Turbines would run the Electricity, Electricity would feed to the Bit Coin Miners. Shortly after that the grid would be connected to us.

There is a year and a half wait to get on the grid.

The property has been quiet. The is extremely fertile land. There is one rancher that has 60 head of cows minus one. He lost a bull due to Forge taking down a fence. The rain filled the containment in that SWD which is oil and grease. The bull went in there and drank. The bull died 1 1/2 days later. Forge was notified and they agreed to pay for the bull.

Reeves County is paving the road from 285 all the way to the entrance of Blueridge.

City Manager Frank Rodriguez inquired if Forge would be paying to replace the bull.

Alex Gonzalez of BioCatters, LLC explained they would be paying for the loss of the bull.

He stated an audit would be coordinated in the future.

He added that Siemens is a possible bidder for the hydrogen hub.

He explained BioCatters, LLC would need to respond to the Department of Energy with the conceptual proposal by the 12th of November.

3. **Chief of Police Robert Lujan with Fort Stockton Police Department----**
- School Resource Officer (SRO) Activity Report for September 2022

Fort Stockton High School:

Officer Assigned: Rosalie Acosta
Calls For Service: 20
Traffic Contacts: 9
Investigations: 1
Unsecured doors reported: 12

Fort Stockton Middle School:

Officer Assigned: Javier Soto
Calls For Service: 7
Traffic Contacts: 17
Investigations: 1
Unsecured doors reported: 3

Fort Stockton Intermediate School:

Officer Assigned: John Aguilera
Calls For Service: 1
Traffic Contacts: 2
Investigations: 0
Unsecured doors reported: 0

Fort Stockton Alamo Elementary School:

Officer Assigned: Alexis Olivares
Calls For Service: 4
Traffic Contacts: 0
Investigations: 1
Unsecured doors reported: 5

Fort Stockton Apache Elementary School:

Officer Assigned: Jessica Sherrell
Calls For Service: 0
Traffic Contacts: 2
Investigations: None
Unsecured doors reported: 2

Misc. Info:

5 SRO's worked the football game no issues reported

Council Member Ruben Falcon inquired who checks the doors.

Chief of Police Robert Lujan responded the School Resource Officer is the one who checks the doors. If a door is found unsecure, an email is sent to the campus administrator.

Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias inquired if the issue of the unlocked doors has gotten better?

Chief of Police Robert Lujan responded that the issue has been better.

Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias suggested requesting someone stand in that area during peak hours to ensure the doors remain secure.

Mayor Joe Chris Alexander inquired if the cameras are reviewed to see who left the door unlocked.

Chief of Police Robert Lujan stated they try to work with staff.

There was an email sent from the State advising us that a security audit will be conducted during the month of October.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. 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, 09/26/2022

Accounts Payable 2021-2022 Fiscal Total:	\$251,728.51
Accounts Payable 2022-2023 Fiscal Total:	<u>\$202,057.15</u>
Accounts Payable Grand Total:	\$453,785.66

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Council Member Darren Hodges, and passed to approve Consent Agenda, as presented. Council Member Darren Hodges, Council Member Ruben Falcon, Council Member Ruben J Bernal voted aye. Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias abstained from this item.

ORDINANCES:

5. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 22-129, An Ordinance of the City of Fort Stockton Titled Finance*, Article I. In General, Section 9-1. Payments of Fees, Fines, Court Costs or Other Charges by Credit Card and Repealing all other Ordinances or Portions Thereof in Conflict, A Severability Clause and Providing for its Publication and Effective Date. **(City Mgr./City**

Atty.)

City Attorney Puja Boinpally explained Ordinance No. 22-129 is to allow the City to charge a Credit Card Fee of 3%.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, and carried unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 22-129, An Ordinance of the City of Fort Stockton Titled Finance*, Article I. In General, Section 9-1. Payments of Fees, Fines, Court Costs or Other Charges by Credit Card and Repealing all other Ordinances or Portions Thereof in Conflict, A Severability Clause and Providing for its Publication and Effective Date. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

6. Discuss/Act upon Appointment, Re-Appointment, Removal of Board Members or Amendment to Board Bylaws, as needed for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. (Mayor/City Mgr.)

Animal Control Advisory Board:

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias and carried unanimously to Re-appoint Willie Celaya and Alexis Olivares to a 2-Year Term. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Board of Adjustment:

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben Falcon, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias and carried unanimously to Re-appoint Ruben J. Bernal, Darren Hodges and James Warnock to a 2-Year Term. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Cemetery Advisory Board

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, and carried unanimously to Re-appoint Leslye Curnutt and Appoint Donna Bryant, Amanda Leyva, Adam Marler and Lucy Marler to an Indefinite Term. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Fort Stockton Economic Development 4-A Corporation:

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, seconded by Council Member Darren Hodges, and carried unanimously to Re-appoint Betsy Briscoe to a 3-Year Term and Paul Gollither to a 1-Year Term as the Alternate Member. Council Member Darren

Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Fort Stockton Economic Development 4-B Corporation:

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Darren Hodges, and carried to **Re-appoint** Betsy Briscoe, Ruben Falcon and Paul Gollither to a 3-Year Term and **Appoint** Sonya Vick to a 1-Year Term as the Alternate Member. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal voted aye.

Historical Landmark Commission:

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to **Amend** the bylaws to reduce the number of members to nine (9). Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Council Member Darren Hodges, and carried unanimously to **Re-appoint** Ruben Gonzales, Ross Harper, David Neyland, Ember Renteria and Dulcia Warren to a 2-Year Term Eligible for Indefinite Re-appointment. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Housing Authority Board:

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to **Re-appoint** Letricia Slater and Christiana Valadez to a 2-Year Term. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Intergovernmental Recreation Board:

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to **Re-appoint** Joe Chris Alexander and Paul Casias to an Indefinite Term. Council Member Darren Hodges, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Keep Historic Fort Stockton Beautiful Board:

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to **Amend** the bylaws to reduce the number of members to nine (9). Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, and carried unanimously to Re-appoint Harry Gandhi and Mike Stallard to a 2-Year Term eligible for Indefinite Re-appointment. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Planning & Zoning Commission:

Motion was made by Council Member Darren Hodges, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, and carried unanimously to Re-appoint Joe M. Espino, Gilray Madrid and Appoint Ramsey Ramos to a 2-Year Term. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Substandard Building Committee:

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to Appoint Holly Lambert to a 2-Year Term as the Alternate Member. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Tourism Advisory Board:

Motion was made by Paul Casias, seconded by Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to Amend the bylaws to reduce the number of members to seven (7). Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, seconded by Council Member Ruben Falcon, and carried unanimously to Remove Sera Ramirez as a Member, due to attendance. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

7. Discuss/Act upon Agreement between the City of Fort Stockton and Electric Supply Source (ESS) for the Replacement of Wastewater Plant Aeration Pond Control Panel and Aeration Motors. (City Mgr./Wastewater Sup.)

City Attorney Puja Boinpally explained this is the agreement for the Replacement of Wastewater Plant Aeration Pond Control Panel and Aeration Motors bid for \$233,785.00 that was approved during the last City Council Meeting.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, and carried unanimously to approve Agreement between the City of Fort

Stockton and Electric Supply Source (ESS) for the Replacement of Wastewater Plant Aeration Pond Control Panel and Aeration Motors. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

8. Discuss/Act upon Letter of Engagement between the City of Fort Stockton and Smith & Rives, PC for Audit Services for the year ended September 30, 2022. **(City Mgr./Dir. of Fin.)**

Director of Finance Maria Rodriguez explained Smith & Rives, PC was awarded the bid for Audit Services in Fiscal Year ending 2020. Year ending 2020 and an additional 3 additional years were approved.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to approve Letter of Engagement between the City of Fort Stockton and Smith & Rives, PC for Audit Services for the year ended September 30, 2022. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

9. Discuss/Act upon scheduling the Fall Clean-Up for the City of Fort Stockton from October 31, 2022 - November 10, 2022. **(City Mgr./P.W. Dir.)**

City Manager Frank Rodriguez explained since the street paving season was coming to an end he requested permission to schedule the Fall Clean-Up for the City of Fort Stockton from October 31, 2022 - November 10, 2022.

Motion was made by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, and carried unanimously to approve Scheduling the Fall Clean-Up for the City of Fort Stockton from October 31, 2022 - November 10, 2022. Council Member Darren Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, Council Member Ruben J Bernal, Council Member Ruben Falcon voted aye.

10. Questions from Media

Fort Stockton Pioneer Editor Nathan Heuer inquired if he could obtain a list of the newly appointed board members.

City Manager Frank Rodriguez replied he would get him a copy of the list.

Fort Stockton Pioneer Editor Nathan Heuer inquired if the list of accepted items for the Fall Clean-Up would remain the same.

City Manager Frank Rodriguez responded that the list of accepted items for the Fall Clean-Up would remain the same and he would provide a copy of the list as well.

11. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Casias, seconded by Council Member Ruben J Bernal, and carried unanimously to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:25 p.m. Council Member Darren Hodges, 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