



**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
CITY OF ODESSA, TEXAS**

March 1, 2022

On March 1, 2022, a work session meeting of the Odessa City Council was held at 3:02 p.m., Council Chamber, fifth floor, City Hall, 411 W. 8th St., Odessa, Texas.

City Council present: Mayor Javier Joven; Council members: Mark Matta, District One; Steven P. Thompson, District Two; Detra White, District Three; Tom Sprawls, District Four; Mari Willis, District Five; and Denise Swanner, At-Large.

Others present: Michael Marrero, City Manager; Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Secretary; Natasha Brooks, City Attorney; Cindy Muncy, Assistant City Manager; Phillip Urrutia, Assistant City Manager; and other members of City staff.

A quorum being present, Mayor Joven called the meeting to order, and the following proceedings were held:

Council member White gave the invocation.

Presentation from SiFi Networks regarding fiber deployment. Mr. Marrero stated that the proposed project was beneficial to the City and discussion had been held.

Mayor Joven arrived at the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Shawn Parker, SiFi Networks Vice President of Government Affairs, stated SiFi Networks was a privately held telecommunication company that built fiber optic networks. SiFi solved the telecommunication needs, no taxpayer investment and created competition with open access network. SiFi provided planning platforms for future smart cities, planning of operations and long-term maintenance. It was backed by pension funds. Reduced rates were offered through philanthropic and government subsidy. Open access networks would be available to service providers. The platform was tailored once the development agreement was effective. The build would begin in South Odessa and then built out through the entire community. SiFi would pay for access to the City's right-of-way and invest \$100 million to build a fiber city. Odessa qualified after an analysis that included density, fiber penetration, and competition. Council member Thompson was concerned with the lack of quality of work on the street conditions after the work. Mr. Parker stated that there were stringent build standards and Texas based contractors were used for the micro trenching. Mr. Marrero stated that the concerns were discussed. The project was only for inside the city limits. There was an access to a right-of-way revenue stream. Mr. Parker explained the micro trenching process and how the fiber was installed. Mayor Joven asked for data on Wi-Fi districts, information on other cities included its revenue sources from the project. Mr. Parker stated that it was proactive not to hit any lines. The maintenance was done by contractors and employees. Council member Sprawls asked about the Internet Service Providers (ISP) accommodation. Mr. Parker stated that there would initially be three ISPs and explained the types of providers. SiFi would reach out to the school, college, and hospital. He stated that homeowners could change service providers. Mr. Marrero was continuing negotiations.

Discuss NetOps project. No discussion.

Consider authorizing the abandonment of alley right-of-way located in Block 43, Original Town. Yervand Hmayakyan, City Engineer, stated that the abandonment of a portion of alley was requested by Prosperity Bank. The City would retain utility easement and existing utilities will be re-routed. Prosperity would pay for the abandonment of \$10,237.

Consider authorizing Odessa Police Department to apply for, accept and amend budget to appropriate awarded funds and authorizing the expenditure of awarded grant funds from the Project Safe Neighborhood Program FY 2023. Mike Gerke stated that the grant was for authorization to apply and accept funds for \$134,185.56. The funds would be used to expand the camera network. An analysis would be done and cameras placed in high crime and crash hot spots. There was no cash match.

Discuss City owned property located at 221 E. 4th Street. Mr. Urrutia provided a history of the property at 221 E. 4th St. that was purchased and the structure demolished. The Master Plan identified the property for a shared parking lot. He stated that there was \$125,000 remaining in supplemental from the demolition. The proposed parking lot would include 45 – 50 spaces, landscaping, and lighting. The cost for the parking lot was \$275,000. He recommended that the needed funds of \$150,000 be used from the 2019 Certificates of Obligation issuance. There were \$7 million earmarked for downtown improvements. Council had a consensus to move forward.

Consider allocating \$1,000,000 from the reserved State and Local Hotel Occupancy Tax to Odessa College for the purpose of a downtown revitalization project. Mr. Marrero stated that \$1 million would be utilized from the State and Local Hotel Occupancy Tax reserve from the Eofficial ground lease. Eofficial would not ask for the funds to supplement the loss of operations. The funds could be used for a downtown revitalization project. The funds would be used for the Odessa College downtown project. Council had a consensus to move forward.

Motion was made by Council member Sprawls and seconded by Council member Thompson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Joven, Matta, Thompson, White, Sprawls, Willis, and Swanner
Nay: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Javier Joven
Mayor