



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

**May 18, 2021**

On May 18, 2021, a work session meeting of the Odessa City Council was held at 3:00 p.m., Odessa, Texas. Due to the COVID-19, the meeting was teleconferenced, as allowed by the Governor's executive order. City Council was present through teleconference.

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 Sprawls gave the invocation.

**Police Department Crime Statistics.** Mike Gerke, Police Chief, reported crime statistics for 2019 through April 2020. There was no change with the murder statistics but the rape, robberies were down. There was a property increase in burglary. He reported a five-year comparison on Part I Crimes. In 2020, the crimes had lowered. The crimes were related to the populations inside the city limits. The population was higher than represented. Chief Gerke reviewed the violent crime rates and property rates five-year history. He explained the rape category which included child molestations, family issues and date rape. The sexual assaults were in the rape category. Chief Gerke stated that the police focused on the violent crime as it caused the most social harm. There were procedural changes in reports with the patrol officers following up.

**Animal Shelter construction contract award.** Chief Gerke recommended the contract award be to Onyx Contractors to construct the Animal Shelter for \$8,308,472. The cost was underbudget. The animal shelter's problems included concrete issues, inadequate sewer line slope, chain link issues, evaporative cooling, shared ventilation issues, and no fire suppression. The proposed shelter would be a modern facility that included a vet clinic. The new shelter would include dog rooms, cat rooms, playrooms and a secured sallyport. There would be a partial tear down of the current facility once the new shelter was constructed. The cost included the construction and the bulk of the equipment for the facility. He provided the capacity for animals in the new shelter. In the future, one or two staff additional personnel would be needed. There was no interest for a vet staff to be onsite. Chief Gerke stated that citizens requested a different philosophy from an euthanized shelter to a live release shelter. The new shelter provided the capabilities of 100% live release rate. He reported that the loose animals caused population growth, and many were not vaccinated which could spread diseases to domesticated animals.

Mayor Joven asked if the unspent funds could be redirected. Mr. Marrero stated that the uncommitted funds could be reprogrammed under the intent from the issuance of the debt which included infrastructure. Mrs. Muncy clarified that the funds could be used for identified categories and must fall in the criteria established in the ordinance but could be redirected to

a different identified category. Council could not consider issuing another ordinance for the uncommitted funds. It must stay within the capacity issued in the Certificates of Obligation (CO). Mrs. Muncy explained the use and the spending of the 2019 CO funds. Council member White asked that Council be cautious in finding creative financing on redirecting the CO funds as it was borrowed for specific purposes. Council member Thompson stated that the purpose of the COs was clear, and it was specific.

**Discuss professional services agreement for outside audit services.** Mrs. Muncy stated that the audit service was based on qualifications and competence. She recommended that the current auditor contract with Weaver be extended two more years then have a request for proposals. She stated that there was a change in software systems and the auditor was familiar with the transitions. She reviewed the request for proposals process. Council member Thompson agreed. Council member White was good with staff's recommendation.

**Resolution approving Downtown infrastructure grant for The House Downtown Bar, LLC.** Alexa Moulakis, Downtown Event Coordinator, stated that The House was located at 513 N. Grant and would be an upscale lounge atmosphere. The total investment was over \$86,000. The infrastructure grant would be for \$40,951.25. Mr. Marrero stated that the grant allowed items only to bring the building up to code compliance.

**Resolution approving Downtown infrastructure and façade grants for Icon Tavern.** Ms. Moulakis stated that Icon Tavern was located at 418 N. Grant with a sports bar atmosphere. The owners wanted it to be open for football season. The infrastructure total investment was \$499,079.06. The infrastructure grant would be for \$145,685.26. The façade grant request had a total investment of \$148,925. The façade grant would be the cap of \$25,000.

**Resolution approving Downtown infrastructure and façade grants for PediCardio.** Ms. Moulakis stated that PediCario was located at 520 N. Lincoln. The headquarters would be moved to Downtown. The total investment for the infrastructure was \$425,1077. The infrastructure grant was for \$161,213.50. The façade total investment was \$91,850. The façade grant was \$25,000. The ODC and the Downtown Design Committee reviewed and approved the requests.

**Remove from the table to recess for executive session: As authorized by the Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), the City Council may adjourn into executive session for proposed contract. Reconvene in open session for possible action.** Motion was made by Council member Matta and seconded by Council member Sprawls to remove from the table to go into executive session under 551.071. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Motion was made by Council member White and seconded by Council member Thompson to go into executive session under 551.071. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Motion was made by Council member Matta and seconded by Council member Thompson to return from executive session. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Joven, Matta, Thompson, White, Sprawls, Willis, and Swanner

Nay: None

Motion was made by Council member Sprawls and seconded by Council member Matta to reject the maintenance service contract agreement sent by UTPB. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Joven, Matta, Thompson, White, Sprawls, Willis, and Swanner

Nay: None

Motion was made by Council member Willis and seconded by Council member Matta 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 5:27 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC  
City Secretary

Javier Joven  
Mayor