



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

May 23, 2023

On May 23, 2023, a work session meeting of the Odessa City Council was held at 3:01 p.m., Council Chamber, fifth floor, City Hall, 411 W. 8th St., Odessa, Texas.

City Council present: Mayor Javier Joven; Council members: Steven P. Thompson, District Two; Gilbert Vasquez, District Three; Greg Connell, District Four; and Chris Hanie, District Five.

City Council absent: Council members Mark Matta, District One and Denise Swanner, At-Large.

Staff present: Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Secretary; Agapito Bernal, Interim City Manager; Dan Jones, City Attorney; 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 Connell gave the invocation.

Discuss renewal of franchise agreement with Atmos Energy. Mr. Jones stated that the Atmos franchise agreement to maintain the gas system in the city was up in June. The renewal was for five years but could be up to 15 years.

Discuss bid award to Hawkins Construction for light renovation at Woodson Park Aquatic Center. Matt Christman, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that the bid was for light renovation at Woodson Park. There was a light pole that fell over. Three poles would be replaced at a cost of \$151,870. Mr. Jones stated that the City was self-insured. A temporary lighting would be used until the poles were replaced. The poles would be replaced after pool season.

Discuss sprigging project for Sherwood Park and Slator Dog Park. Mr. Christman stated that the purchase was for sprigging at Sherwood Park for 14 acres and at Slator's dog park for four acres. The total cost was \$156,816. There was no quote for sod. Council member Thompson stated it would not solve the problem as the acreage needed to be cleaned up as there was Bermuda grass at Sherwood. Mayor Joven stated that the Soccer Association was using Sherwood Park for athletic games but was designed as a green space. He asked if the Association was reinvesting in the fields. Council member Thompson explained the sprigging process. He asked a quote for sod. Mr. Christman did not go to the advisory board for this project. Council had a consensus to provide sod cost for Sherwood Park of the 14 acres. Mr. Christman stated that the Association was open to grade the field. Council had a consensus to move forward with sprigging at Slator's dog park for the four acres.

Discuss authorizing the Odessa Police Department to utilize awarded funds from the 2023 Bullet Resistant Shield Grant Program. Mike Gerke, Police Chief, stated that the bullet resistant shield grant of \$33,000 would be used to purchase 60 shields.

Discuss prohibiting minors access to parks during school hours without a legal guardian present. Mayor Joven has received calls regarding kids at parks during school hours. The Mayor's Drug & Crime Commission addressed the issue. Mr. Jones stated that Section 1-13-19 of the City Code of Ordinances allowed to post a notice on park property. He spoke with ECISD Police Chief Jeff Daniels and would collaborate with the City to address the issue. Mayor Joven asked if it could be enforced. Council member Hanie suggested to close the parks with set hours. Mr. Jones stated that it could be closed during school hours. Council member Vasquez stated that kids would congregate at Crump Park many years ago. He stated that minors must be defined. Council member Connell suggested researching other cities.

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

Aye: Joven, Thompson, Vasquez, Connell, and Hanie
Nay: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Javier Joven
Mayor