



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

August 22, 2023

On August 22, 2023, a work session meeting of the Odessa City Council was held at 3:00 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; Gilbert Vasquez, District Three; Greg Connell, District Four; Chris Hanie, District Five, and Denise Swanner, At-Large.

Staff present: Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Secretary; John Beckmeyer, 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.

Aqua Texas update. Troy Hill, Aqua Texas, introduced staff from Aqua Texas, Chet, and Cameron Alden. He provided an overview of the project. Aqua Texas' customer satisfaction was rated high and reliable. The capital investment was spent in the system. It complied with regulatory and environmental regulations. Aqua Texas was a community partner and was active and supported local charities. He stated that the Water Treatment Plant was needed to be rebuilt. Mr. Alden provided a plant overview which needed a major rehab. The plant had an active reuse program. He reviewed the challenges and addressed the conditions of the system. There were safety concerns and quality of concrete in the plant. Mr. Hill stated it was more cost effective for Aqua Texas to rehab the plant which would relieve the burden on Council and staff. Aqua Texas would take on the liability issues. Aqua would operate the plant for less and it had staff expertise and saved taxpayer money. The City would control the water rates and Aqua negotiated with the City. He stated that the City could buy back the system. The formula was explained for the buyback sale. Odessa's water rates were lower than other Texas cities, Aqua has not had any buy backs. Options to consider were exclusive negotiate the purchase price, have a subcommittee to discuss a proposal or have an RFP. Mayor Joven stated that there were a lot of questions but the issues at the plant must be addressed and due to the growth. He suggested a committee of Billing and Collection, Public works, Utilities, Deputy City Manager, Mayor, Finance, and Council members Hanie, Connell and Vasquez. Council member Connell wanted to look closely at the financials. The entire system needed to be assessed that included lift station, valves and pipes. The Council had a consensus that the committee meet to address the questions.

Discuss purchase of eleven Bullard thermal imaging cameras. Cody Ritchie, Assistant Fire Chief, stated that 11 Bullard thermal imaging cameras would be purchased to be used to locate victims in structure fires. There would be cameras at every station to cover all the fleet.

Discuss and consider options to bring fuel back under the control of the City. Chris Adams, Director of Equipment Services, reviewed the history's fuel cost. He proposed to bring the fuel back under the control of the City with tanks at Pool Road and at three other strategic locations of the city. Ratliff Ranch Golf Links would have a tank. The advantages included cost savings, avoiding theft and misuse of fuel. Mr. Adams provided two options. Option 1 was to purchase the system for \$729,585.01. Option 2 was to purchase the fuel through a vendor and pay \$0.10 per gallon to cover the cost of equipment which allowed hedging. He reviewed the fuel control systems. Mayor Joven asked to research to include cameras.

Discuss the Odessa Development Corporation (ODC) Budget for FY 2023-2024. Kris Crow, ODC President, stated that highlighted the ODC budget. Council member Thompson asked about the reserves in the business incentives which reduced the fund balance. Seth Boles, Interim Finance Director, stated that \$50 to \$58 million was needed to be available in the line item.

Discuss the Odessa Development Corporation contractor agreements. Mr. Crow stated that there were six contractor agreements with ODC. He reviewed each agreement. There were no changes with MOTRAN, Black Chamber of Commerce, UTPB-SBDC, and the City. Current Media provided a new website and targeting areas in advertising that included workforce expansion. The Chamber contract had not been reviewed since 1998. He wanted to have due diligence as many economic development corporations do not have a Chamber contract. He stated it was time to review which would take about three to six months. The Chamber budget increased and the ODC board approved the budget but approved a quarterly contract. He wanted to evaluate the contract to see if there was a better an efficient way of doing economic development. The ODC board hired an outside legal counsel and changed its advertising vendor. Council member Thompson stated that there was no reason for a quarterly contract. He supported the annual contract. The Chamber and other contractors received its payments quarterly. Any unused funds were returned to ODC. An RFP was sent out and posted on the website to promote economic development. Financial reporting was required from the contractors.

Discuss Code Enforcement's role, responsibilities and policy procedures. Merita Sandoval, Director of Community Development, explained the process for code enforcement that included field observations. There were about 200 complaints a month and were checked for violations. She stated that the Street Department had back up work orders due to the short of staffing. She explained the court process with the code violations. Mayor Joven stated that Council heard issues on the lack of code enforcement and wanted to help find solutions to the issues. Naira Enriquez, Senior Legal Assistant, explained the probable cause citations and the process from the prosecutor's office. Mrs. Sandoval suggested hiring a contractor to mow the lots, but allocation of funds was needed. Mayor Joven asked to research a liaison to assist with the process. Mr. Beckmeyer stated that efficiency was needed and to streamline the process. The ordinances must be addressed.

Discuss the ARPA funds and the uses for allocation. The ARPA funds would be reviewed at the September 12 work session.

Discuss the opioid funds and allowable uses. The opioid funds would be reviewed at the September 12 work session.

Discuss Council work session and Council meetings times. Mayor Joven suggested the work sessions at 2 p.m. He asked to consider the work sessions and meetings in the morning. He would like to have a November meeting in the morning. Staff would have a normal workday and people would attend if they were interested on an agenda item. Council member Hanie had a regular job and was free after 5:00 p.m. Mayor Joven stated that the council meetings were the only mandatory meetings. The work sessions were optional.

Discuss the role of the IT Department during Council meetings and other public meetings. Tony Flores, IT Director, stated that IT staff would be at the Council meetings, work sessions and ODC meetings.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Javier Joven
Mayor