



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

January 24, 2023

On January 24, 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: Agapito Bernal, Interim City Manager; Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Secretary; Dan Jones, Interim City Attorney; Aaron Smith, 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 Thompson gave the invocation.

Discover Odessa quarterly report. Monica Tschauner, Discover Odessa Director, reported the quarterly report from October – December 2022. She reported that there were 39 groups assisted with 27,567 attendees and 2,263 hotel nights. She reviewed the groups assisted in sports, events and meetings. She highlighted the upcoming groups and events for the year. Mrs. Tschauner stated that the blog was generating website traffic. Texas Monthly would be marketing the Odessa Christmas events. There were 312 sales calls and 39 event attendances for the quarter. The Sports Event Recruitment Program has award \$17,000 from the \$80,000 budget. The awards help incentivized sporting events.

The Salvation Army. Major Luis Melendez, Salvation Army, stated that The Salvation Army facility was temporarily closed due to needed renovations. It does not have the necessary funding to open and operate the Emergency Shelter daily. He had challenges in hiring the full-time staff and volunteers. The Salvation Army functions as an Emergency Inclement Temporary Shelter. He reported that there was a need for volunteers and asked for a partnership with the City in any assistance or with other churches, or organizations. Mayor Joven stated that there was a need and wanted to bring awareness of the need. Major Melendez invited the Council to tour the facility. Major Melendez stated that single moms receive assistance with utilities. Mayor Joven thanked Major Melendez and commended his work at The Salvation Army.

Discuss approving the decision to extend the warranty of Stryker cots and power loads. Daniel Chavez, Assistant Fire Chief, stated that the warranty would be extended for two years. The cost was \$61,881.40 which would be paid out of the Lifeline umbrella account. He explained the cots and power loads.

Discuss authorizing the City of Odessa Police Department to apply for and accept; amending the fiscal budget to appropriate awarded funds as additional revenue and authorizing the expenditure of awarded grand funds from the 2024 STEP Speed, Occupant Protection, Intersection Traffic Control, Distracted Driving and Driving While Intoxicated Grant. Mike Gerke, Police Chief, stated that the acceptance of the

STEP grant funds would pay for overtime costs for officers that work high accident areas. The grant was for \$39,623.98 and a cash match of \$10,389.65.

Discuss a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendation to pursue the development of a sports complex. Steve Patton, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that the Parks Advisory Board recommendation was to develop a sports complex for the youth and promote tourism. There was a need for a sport complex and the cost of a study was \$15,000 unfunded. The study would have community involvement, determine a location, and cost. Matt Christman, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, stated that it would be a project of a public and private partnership and a possible use of Chapter 380 agreement and not raise taxes. Council member Swanner stated that there was a Master Plan from Halff regarding the sports complex but was geared toward certain sports. She stated a sports venue was needed. The feasibility study would look at every sport and stakeholders' meetings would be held. Mayor Joven stated different groups wanted it at different locations. He would not commit to Certificates of Obligation but supported a bond issuance. He stated that there was little to no community input from town hall meetings. He stated that a 380 agreement did not generate sales tax. He stated that the City would take on the maintenance and wanted to know the cost. He asked how there would be community input. Mr. Christman stated that a management company could operate and maintenance the complex. The study would address the financing. Council member Thompson stated that there was an option of a 2% occupancy tax to help with the maintenance and there was the ODC funds which was economic development. He did not favor the I-20 property for the complex. He suggested that oil companies step up for the complex naming rights. Local corporations could help fund the sports complex. Mr. Christman stated a third party could find the best location for Odessa. Mayor Joven agreed to the study if it was paid out of the Parks Department budget. He suggested technology be used for community input and another method for those citizens that don't use technology. Council member Hanie supported the I-20 location as it would be a great advertisement location. The City owned the land at the I-20 location. The study would take four to six weeks. Mayor Joven stated to look for the funds from the Parks Department or request from ODC. Council member Connell suggested a mailed post card with questions. Council had a consensus to move forward.

Discuss the acceptance of a future developed park site in the Desert Ridge Subdivision as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Patton stated that there was a partnership with Larry Lee for development of a 3.8 acre park site. Mr. Lee would develop the park that included a dog park and a walking trail. The Parks Foundation would fund the playground. The maintenance cost was \$18,000. Council member Thompson expressed appreciation for Mr. Lee's generosity. Council member Vasquez thanked Mr. Lee for his offer. Council had a consensus to move forward.

Discuss ARPA funds and presentation on Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds overview of the final rule. Seth Boles, Controller, provided an overview of the program for the Coronavirus Recovery Funds. He outlined the uses for replacing lost public sector revenue, responding to public health and economic impacts of COVID-19, and negative economic impacts. He outlined the uses of wages and hire public sector employees, worker retention incentives, capital expenditures and premium pay. The uses included water and sewer infrastructure and broadband infrastructure. He outlined what the funds could not be used. There was a reporting, compliance and recoupment that was required. He provided the Council with the Department of the Treasury overview of the final rule for the funds. Mr. Boles provided the budgeted line items that were obligated, the amount to be re-obligated and the balance of the fund. The second tranche of \$10,161,480

was available to be obligated. Mayor Joven asked about the ORMC \$1 million of funds that was obligated. He stated that ORMC would not be requesting the funds but asked if a release document was needed since the funds were not released. Mr. Boyles stated that the FEMA report had the funds obligated to ORMC. A status update would be given on the ORMC funds. Council member Thompson stated that the rules were different from the private hospital and the funds were not loaned out. Mr. Jones reported that there was no finalized loan from ORMC. Council member Vasquez thanked Mr. Boles as the information was very educational. Mayor Joven suggested a workshop in February or March for Council direction on the funds. Mr. Boles stated that the budget did not include the recent public safety raises. He stated that the rules had on-going changes.

Receive the direction from Council for the Forensic Audit RFP. JoAnn Samaniego, Director of Purchasing, stated that two RFP samples were provided for a forensic audit and asked for direction on the scope of work. In the past, Mayor Joven has requested information including funds on game rooms and training but didn't receive the information. The funds going into the General Fund was broad. He stated that ODC sales tax funds were in the General Fund, co-mingled. Council member Hanie asked about the budgeted unfilled positions funds. Larry Fry, Director of Finance, stated the funds remained in the General Fund and was rebudgeted in the next budget. There were many revenue sources in the General Fund and were budgeted out through departments. Council member Thompson disagreed with the forensic audit. He stated that the projects had contingencies and change orders were within the budget. Council member Matta stated it would be checks and balances. Mayor Joven stated to use the Conroe sample RFP for Odessa's RFP.

Motion was made by Council member Swanner and seconded by Council member Hanie 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 4:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Javier Joven
Mayor