



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

**February 28, 2023**

On February 28, 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. 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Connell gave the invocation.

**Aqua Texas Presentation.** Troy Hill, Aqua Texas, provided background information on Aqua Texas, a private utility provider. John Andrews, Vice President of Business Development Aqua Texas, stated that Aqua Texas served 57 wastewater treatment plants. Aqua Texas had a heavy focus on customer service, reliability and emergency response, provided capital investment and was in regulatory and environmental compliance. The company also had community engagement within the city by hiring employees from the city and support in scholarships and charities. Aqua Texas offered a fair market price and partnered with cities. He stated that the City sets and approved the rates. A buyback provision was in the contract. Mr. Hill reviewed the next steps that included an analysis of the water treatment plant at no cost to the city. He explained the process. There would be a ten year rate plan identified. He explained how there could be a decrease in rates. Mayor Joven stated that the Bob Derrington Plant needed to be assessed. An evaluation needed to be made to consider options. He was concerned with personnel. Mr. Andrews stated that recruiting was made through internship throughout universities.

Michael Perrin stated that the City had a good system and it owned part of CRMWD. He stated it was not sensible to own the water system, sell it and then purchase the water. He stated that private companies were in to make a profit. He reported that the company was fined by the State of Texas with TCEQ violations. Mr. Hill stated that the company purchased distressed assets and worked to upgrade for a better run facility. Council member Thompson stated that the city needed to do its due diligence and more information was needed for options. Council had a consensus to move forward with Aqua Texas to provide an assessment. The findings will be reported at a future Work Session.

**Discuss entering into a letter of agreement with JSA Architects to provide architectural services pertaining to the Odessa Police Department pedestrian bridge.** Scott Anderson, Director of Building Services, stated that the City would go into an agreement with JSA Architects to provide a professional services study for the Police walking bridge. An assessment was needed for the bridge as it had water damage. The

bridge was closed off. The agreement was for \$5,000. Council had a consensus to move forward.

**Discuss extending the yearly contract for preventative maintenance and warranty with our ZOLL Medical cardiac monitors.** Daniel Chavez, Assistant Fire Chief, stated that an extension of warranty for the ZOLL monitors would be for one year. He explained the ZOLL monitors' purpose. Council had a consensus to move forward.

**Discuss adoption of the revised Master Thoroughfare Plan (MTP).** Hal Feldman, Traffic Engineer, stated that Scenario 3 was favored from the last Work Session. The update would eliminate Dawn south of Yukon to 61<sup>st</sup> St. and change 61<sup>st</sup> St. west from an arterial to a collector street. The change would allow flexibility. Council had a consensus to move forward and have 61<sup>st</sup> St. to a three lane road.

**Discuss the purchase of 100 facemasks for OFR Firefighter PPE equipment.** Cody Ritchie, Assistant Fire Chief, stated that 100 face masks and 50 ID tags would be purchased for \$40,850. Council had a consensus to move forward.

**Presentation and discuss identified roadway projects for future Council consideration of prioritization.** Tom Kerr, Director of Public Works/Utilities, reviewed the funding background for roadway projects. He reviewed the five year street maintenance master plan map. A list of proposed prioritized projects was identified with a cost of \$91 million. Mayor Joven asked if 1) the projects could be separately bid out for road and utilities, 2) if it would allow for a more competitive bid process, and 3) if money could be saved if done as two separate bid packages.

Mr. Kerr provided his resignation with two weeks' notice. He was under stress and was trying to help as he loved the city and worked hard. Mayor Joven appreciated Mr. Kerr's work and was a valued employee. Mr. Kerr explained bidding the package separately as there was different aspects of the projects. The process could be reviewed. Council members Vasquez and Connell asked Mr. Kerr to rescind the resignation notice. Mr. Bernal stated that Mr. Kerr was important to the organization and appreciated his work. Mayor Joven recognized Mr. Kerr's work and was not asking for him to leave.

Council member Thompson stated that the Faudree project worked well with the one contractor handling the road and utilities. Mr. Kerr reviewed the roadway improvements project list with a cost of \$263 million. Council member Thompson stated Representative Landgraf was supporting Texas Strong with supporting funds to municipalities for infrastructure.

**Tabled - Presentation on Impact Fees.** Motion was made by Council member Swanner and seconded by Council member Matta to table the impact fees item until the March 14 Work Session meeting. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Motion was made by Council member Thompson and seconded by Council member Swanner 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 4:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC  
City Secretary

Javier Joven  
Mayor