



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

**May 9, 2023**

On May 9, 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: 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 Vasquez gave the invocation.

**Discuss leasing old fire station #6.** Karais Oruc stated that Peace Academy was about education on culture and getting involved with the community. He stated that there were 76 active volunteers and more than 2,345 people attended the programs. Peace Academy's vision was to cultivate friendship, promote understanding, establish bridges, encourage dialog and contribute to global peace. He reviewed the educational activities, charitable activities, and social service activities. Peace Academy wanted to have had scientific activities but did not have space for the activities. Peace Academy had community outreach. Outreach included law enforcement, food bank, and street dinners. Peace Academy had fundraising that included benefiting Yeman, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Pakistan. He requested leasing the old fire station #6 for a community center. Peace Academy would upgrade the facility for up to \$300,000. He would allow the use to other nonprofit organizations. Mayor Joven stated that it be available to the community, no religious items, and the lease could be done mirrored to Gertrude Bruce Center. There was no community center in that area. Council member Thompson heard that the building would be used as a storage facility. Mayor Joven stated that the fire station could not be sold, and an asbestos study may be needed. Mr. Oruc stated that they did not budget any funds for the asbestos. Jason Cotton, Fire Chief, stated that the parking lot to the East was the fire station's parking lot only. Mr. Jones would prepare a lease contract for Council review. The Council had a consensus to move forward.

**Discuss the renewal of contract for school crossing guard services. Agreement with Ector County ISD and the Odessa Police Department for sharing cost.** Michael Bara, Purchasing Manager, stated that the contract renewal was for shared services of school crossing guard services with ECISD. The total cost was \$529,471.80 with the City's cost of \$238,481.10. The cost increased from last year. The City did not pay for services outside the city limits. Mr. Bernal stated that police officers would cover the crossing guards if a substitute was needed.

**Discuss the contract renewal for auctioneering services.** Mr. Bara stated that renewal of contract with Rene Bates Auctioneers was for auction services. The rate was 5% commission of sales.

**Discuss approval of purchasing 22 new sets of bunker gear for the suppression staff at OFR.** Cody Ritchie, Assistant Fire Chief, stated that 22 bunkers would be purchased and ensured compliance. The Lifeline funds would be used.

**Discuss Ratliff Ranch golf course priorities, problems, and solutions.** Council member Thompson stated that mussels were going through the water that were from the lakes. Matt Christman, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed the Ratliff Ranch golf course priority list in order to correct problems. The priority list included fixing the greens and get the zebra mussels under control and out of the irrigation system with a purchase of a filtration system. Fix the main line gate valves, irrigation head replacement, a new control panel for the irrigation system, new bulkhead in pump station, and tee box rebuild were on the priority list. It was suggested to use PVC pipe for the bulkhead replacement. Council member Hanie suggested to substitute the discontinued valves and use if possible. Council member Thompson recommended to level the tee box. Other items on the list included desert landscape, install parking lot lights and replace the wood banisters with metal railing. He had supplemental funds available to cover the filtration, gate valves and a portion of the irrigation heads. Mayor Joven was disappointed with the issues that were not addressed over the years. Council member Hanie stated that the course needed to be improved or there was no need to have a course. The Council agreed the golf course needed to be fixed. Mr. Christman stated that funds were needed for the control panel and the bulkhead. Mayor Joven stated that there needed to be a committed percentage of revenues for operation and maintenance.

**Discuss amending Section 12-1-8 Impoundment of Vehicles in the City of Odessa Code of Ordinances.** Council member Hanie stated that there was a problem in Odessa with people driving with no insurance. It was an expense to citizens that have insurance. He asked that an amendment be made to the ordinance to impound vehicles with no insurance. He spoke to the Police Chief and the Citizens on Patrol would wait by the vehicle for the towing truck. He stated that there were too many accidents with drives with no insurance. Council member Thompson stated that there needed to be public education. Council had a consensus to move forward.

**Discuss creation of a new industrial district around the old General Tire plant, 2000 E Pool Rd., Odessa.** Mr. Jones stated that an Industrial District was created and did not believe it was dissolved. There were a lot of acres and there was one area that could not be used. Council member Matta stated that each area would be customized as to the interest of the land use. The area had a railroad spur.

Motion was made by Council member Swanner and seconded by Council member Thompson 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 4:39 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC  
City Secretary

Javier Joven  
Mayor

