

MINUTES OF REGULAR
CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD
APRIL 17, 2024

The City Council of Olmos Park, Texas held a regular meeting on April 17, 2024 commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Deanna Rickabaugh presided and Council members present were Erin Harrison, Will Brooks, Sharon Plant and Juliana Dusek. Councilmember not present was Kenyon McDonald. Staff present were City Manager, Celia DeLeon, City Secretary, Hilary Pickard; Fire Chief, Michael Goodreau; Police Chief, Fidel Villegas; Director of Public Works, Gilbert DeLeon; Reserve Officer, Sandy Atherton; Police Officer. Also present was Planning and Zoning Chairman, Adam Harden; City Attorney, Adolfo Ruiz; Brian Thompson, business owner at 4223 McCullough Ave, Tom Marks and Tiffany Covington with VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority; and resident Chris Pal Freeman.

Mayor Rickabaugh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Rickabaugh.

Citizens to be heard: This time is provided for citizens to address the Council on issues and concerns. No action can or will be taken on issues raised under this portion of the meeting. Please state your name and address for the record and limit your remarks to a period not to exceed three minutes.

Mr. Brian Thompson, who owns the Edward Jones at 4223 McCullough Ave in Olmos Park, introduced himself and explained that he has served as an Efficiency Expert for Wells Fargo and JP Morgan for the past 15 years. He also stated that as he has heard concerns regarding the revenue cuts from tax changes that have taken place or have been proposed by the City, he would like to extend an offer to provide the services that Edward Jones offers in regard to finding opportunities to increase revenue and decrease waste. Mr. Thompson stated that he would like an opportunity to speak further with City leaders to determine how his company may be of assistance to the City as a whole.

Discussion and possible action on a request from VIA Metropolitan to repeal the exemption of sales tax for telecommunications services within the City as allowed under Texas Tax Code 321.210

Mr. Tom Marks, Chief Government and External Affairs Officer with VIA Metropolitan, introduced himself and explained that he has met with Mayor Rickabaugh and City Manager, Celia DeLeon, to discuss the goal that VIA has to create a closer relationship with the City of Olmos Park. Mr. Marks provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the benefits of public transportation within the City of Olmos Park and the potential repeal of sales tax for telecommunications services within the City. Councilwoman Plant asked how much VIA's figures have increased since the center for illegal immigrants was established on San Pedro Ave and Mr. Marks stated that they charge a fare of \$1.30 to riders. Mr. Marks went on to explain that there are currently 14 stops within the City and that currently, only one of them is sheltered, and that VIA will be replacing the existing stops with NextGen covered shelters along the McCullough

corridor. He also stated that there are currently 50 registered active VIAtrans members in Olmos Park and that this service is especially beneficial to the elderly and disabled. Mr. Marks also provided a breakdown of revenues and expenses generated within the City, as well as how VIA transit is funded in Texas. Mr. Marks explained that the state code allows the removal of the sales tax exemption, and that if the City chose to do so, it would allow VIA to collect a half cent. He also stated that in order for the City of San Antonio to completely remove exemptions as a whole, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority requires at least seven founding cities to remove the existing exemption in place. After further discussion among Council, it was decided that this item be tabled and discussed in greater detail before a decision is finalized.

Councilwoman Dusek made a motion to table the request from VIA Metropolitan to repeal the exemption of sales tax for telecommunications services within the City.

Councilwoman Harrison seconded the motion.

The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Discussion and possible action on implementing residential and commercial garbage monthly fees to include the survey results

Mayor Rickabaugh provided a summary of the survey results and stated that a total of 122 responses were received, with 58% of participants in opposition of implementing monthly garbage fees and 41% in favor of implementing the fees. Mayor Rickabaugh then asked Director of Public Works, Gilbert DeLeon, about the specifics of what is included in garbage pickup, and what percentage of the work day is taken up by garbage pickup. Mr. DeLeon explained that about ¼ of the work day is used for garbage pickup, and that aside from regular trash and recycle collection, bulk items such as water heaters, refrigerators, etc. have been and will continue to be collected by Public Works as well. There was brief discussion among Council. Councilwoman Dusek expressed that she feels that the residents are concerned about whether the implementation of this fee will directly affect the job status, salaries of or service provided by the Public Works department members, and are not perceiving the fact that these fees will solely be utilized to increase revenue stream for the City. After further discussion, it was the decision of Council to continue discussion on this item. No action was taken.

Consent Items:

- a. Approve Cash Disbursements March 2024;
- b. Approve regular City Council minutes of March 20, 2024;
- c. Excuse Councilwoman Plant from the May 15, 2024 regular Council meeting
- d. Building Safety Month Proclamation COSA
- e. Excuse Councilman McDonald from attending the April 17, 2024 regular meeting

Councilwoman Harrison asked about item D and City Manager DeLeon explained that the City of San Antonio requested that the City do a proclamation to honor and recognize Building Safety Month.

Councilwoman Dusek made a motion to approve Consent Items A-E.

Councilwoman Harrison seconded the motion.

The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

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Councilwoman Harrison seconded the motion.
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Councilwoman Dusek made a motion to approve Consent Items A-E.
Councilwoman Harrison seconded the motion.
The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Departmental Reports: (Written reports submitted to City Council, no further discussion required, unless requested by City Council.)

- a) Police:
 - (1.) Incidents, arrests and activity during the prior and current months.

- b) Fire:
 - (1.) Fire and other service calls, activity and training activities during the prior and current months.

- c) Streets and Sanitation:
 - (1.) Monthly Report

- d) Administration:
 - (1.) Financial reports for March 2024;
 - (2.) Monthly overtime, CT, vacation, sick leave report;
 - (3.) Building Department Report;
 - (4.) Municipal Court Report
 - (5.) City Engineer Report

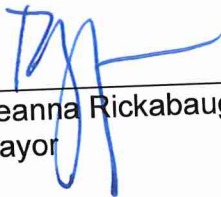
- e) Manager's report:
 - (1.) Discussion of written reports (if needed).

Police Chief, Fidel Villegas, provided an update on the new bikes that were recently purchased by the Police Department and explained that the community would like to see more engagement from the Officers, and that he believes that this initiative will be beneficial in increasing visibility of the department. Councilwoman Plant asked if the Police Department purchased new uniforms to be worn while Officers are riding the bikes, and Chief confirmed that they had. Councilwoman Harrison stated that the Meet and Greet with the Police Chief that took place on April 16th was very successful and feels that the community enjoyed it. Chief Villegas went on to provide an update on the drones that the Police Department are in the process of implementing, and explained that they have done several demonstrations and will have another one at the Fiesta Frolic on April 21st. Chief also stated that the drones will be beneficial in providing assistance with locating criminals, locating missing people, traffic visibility, officer safety and generally improve the safety of the City overall. He also explained that the drones have the capability of being controlled on a desktop or with a hand-held remote. Chief said that he will continue to provide updates to Council as the department gathers more information. Fire Chief, Michael Goodreau, added that after several discussions with Chief Villegas, he believes that the drones could benefit the Fire Department in many ways as well and feels that this could become a joint effort. Councilwoman Plant made a request to add Future Agenda Items back onto City Council Agendas going forward.

Councilwoman Dusek made a motion to approve Departmental Reports A-E.
Councilwoman Harrison seconded the motion.

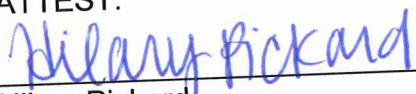
The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



Deanna Rickabaugh
Mayor

ATTEST:



Hilary Pickard
City Secretary