

Nixon City Council Minutes for 1.16.2024 Special Meeting

The Nixon City Council met in a Regular Session on the 16th day of January 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall 302 E. Central Ave Nixon, TX 78140.

Members present were: Mayor Dorothy Riojas, Justin La Fleur, Maggie Gaytan, Ellie Dominguez, Patsy Scherrer, Melissa Pompa, Eddie Escobar, Tanya Torres, Jeremy Bustos, Chief Miguel Cantu, Judge Darryl Becker, Ron Gaytan, Kat Whitecotton, Virginia Pena, Bud Box, Bradley Loehr, Nick Gaytan, Lisa Gaytan, Lew Cohn, Deidra Voight, Natividad Ruiz, Charles Schnitz, Adolph Trigo, Jeff VanAuken, Deborah Bustamante, Don Finch, Gladyne Finch, Rudy Hernandez, Briana Dominguez, Jimmy Springs, Debra Springs, Beverly Millington, and Mark Mendez.

A quorum was declared present, and Madame Mayor Dorothy Riojas called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call was conducted. All the members were present.

A prayer was given by Mayor Dorothy Riojas. And the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America and the State of Texas was recited.

Virginia Pena spoke under Citizens to be Heard regarding the increases in brush fees, street fees, and increases in water rates. And what the fee increases would fund. She also mentioned that she has been asking the same questions and has not gotten an answer regarding her questions.

Gladyne Finch spoke regarding the water bill increases and the meter rates. She also spoke about the water bills not getting to residents promptly, causing her son's business to be shut off. She asked if a phone call or text would have helped with communication between the city and residents before being disconnected.

Natividad Ruiz spoke regarding the brush fees and increasing rates for revenue. He passed out handouts that he had regarding the taxation of such fees. He brought it to the attention of the council that the city, which is a general law city, did not have the authority to add mandatory non-related fees to its utility or other bills.

Deborah Bustamante spoke regarding agenda items 15, 16, and 18. She asked if the council would consider lowering the rates for the residents as it was doing for Holmes Foods. She also mentioned that a petition was collected and that it was ignored and not even a copy was made. She stated that things are not running correctly. She asked that on behalf of the citizens, the council rescind the additional fee for the water regarding charging residential citizens regarding the size of the meter they have. She also spoke regarding the tourism and development board. She stated that the city is not in the business of funding any extra activities or even festivals. She also stated that it is her understanding that the books have not been balanced in quite a while, that and pass a budget, and give five-year contracts to people who have not been evaluated with no record showing that they were doing a good job. And also under agenda item

18, regarding any necessary 2023-2024 budget amendments under items listed on the current budget. She explained that was very vague. She thanked the council for their time.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to approve the minutes of the December 18th, 2023, Regular Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Maggie Gaytan to approve the financial statements and paid bills. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Maggie Gaytan to approve the bills to be paid. Motion carried 5-0.

Officer Nicholas Gaytan was recognized for his recent deployment by Chief Mike Cantu, while Officer Charles Schnitz was commended for his professionalism and dedication to helping people.

Fire Chief Mark Mendez gave his report.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to move to approve project CDV21-0435 and award to J&K Utility Services option C for \$357,167.00. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to call on an Order the General Elections on May 4th, 2024, for the City of Nixon. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Maggie Gaytan to approve Deidra Voigt temporarily until the end of the mayoral term as our City of Nixon Municipal Judge for \$500 a month. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to sell surplus property from the Utility department on a 2009 Ford PK Vin – 1FTRF12W89K C06651 and a 2009 Ford PK Vin – 1FTRF12W19KB50035. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Patsy Scherrer on making Darryl Becker an authorized signatory at Third Coast Bank for all City of Nixon Financial Accounts. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Maggie Gaytan and seconded by Melissa Pompa to choose Option A at a 4.72% interest rate and monthly payments of \$3162.00 for the next 12 months for repayment on the City of Nixon Splash Pad. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Ellie Dominguez and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to approve the purchase of two All-in-One computers for the Nixon Public Library at \$479.99 plus shipping and handling from Office Depot. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Maggie Gaytan to move agenda item 13 executive session under Texas Government Code 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) and 551.072 (Deliberation regarding Real Property). Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to approve Resolution R-1-16-2024 regarding the approval of Nixon-Smiley CISD control of Rancho Road between Franklin Ave and N. Roosevelt Ave during the school year. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to move agenda item 15 into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.074 (Personnel Matters) and 551.086 (Deliberations regarding Municipally Owned Utility). Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to approve adding a line item for the Tourism and Development account and fund. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Maggie Gaytan and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to move the regularly scheduled meeting on February 19th, 2024, to February 20th, 2024, due to the President's Day holiday. Motion carried 5-0.

No action was taken on any necessary 2023-2024 budget amendments under items listed on the current agenda.

Police Chief Miguel Cantu gave the police report.

Utilities Director Jeremy Bustos gave the Utility report.

A motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to take an eight-minute recess before convening in Executive Session. Motion carried 5-0.

The council went into Executive Session at 7:04 pm and came out of Executive Session at 9:16 pm.

The council convened into Regular session at 9:17 pm.

No Action was taken on agenda item 13, which was the 30-foot-wide drainage easement from Emmanuel Veliz at 603 E. 9th Street and the possible purchase of an approximate 251 sq ft portion of that same property from Emmanuel Veliz.

A motion was made by Melissa Pompa and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to amend the Industrial water rate to \$4.18 per 1000 gallons contingent upon the approved budget amendment Ordinance after a scheduled Budget Workshop. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Maggie Gaytan and seconded by Justin La Fleur to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.



Mayor, Dorothy Riojas



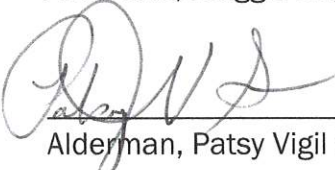
Alderman, Justin La Fleur



Alderman, Ellie Dominguez



Alderman, Maggie Gaytan



Alderman, Patsy Vigil Scherrer



Alderman, Melissa Pompa

Attest:



Tanya Torres
City of Nixon Secretary