

## Nixon City Council Minutes for 12.18.2023 Regular Meeting

The Nixon City Council met in Regular Session on the 18th day of December 2023 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, Briana Dominguez, Emmanuel Veliz, Adolph Trigo, James McGar, Shawn Shaw, Juanita Vigil, Lew Cohn, Donald Hoffman, Patricia Dingler, Gilbert Serna, Mark Soto, Mark Mendez, Michael Martinez, Nona Bruce, Kelly Roberts Cooper, Joseph Cooper, Nancy Amaya, Angela Alvarado, Lupe Deleon, Jimmy Newman, Don Finch, Gladys Finch, Kat Whitecotton, Phil Hartung, Gilbert Soto, Chad Emmel, Christi Fullilove, Fred Barlow, Judge Darryl Becker, Virginia Pena, Jessica Smith, Nancy Pawelek and Deborah Bustamante.

A quorum was declared present, and Madame Mayor Dorothy Riojas called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Roll call was conducted. All 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.

Deborah Bustamante spoke under Citizens to be heard regarding agenda item #21 appointing/hiring of an interim City Manager. She offered her services to the Nixon City Council and consideration for the position.

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to approve the minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Meeting, the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special Meeting and the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to approve the financial statements and paid bills. Motion passed 5-0.

Fire Chief Mark Mendez gave his report.

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to approve the purchase of a new command vehicle for the Fire Department from allocated ESD #2 funds. Motion passed 5-0.

A brief presentation was given by Holmes Foods on the increase of water/sewer rates.

A motion was made by Ellie Dominguez and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to go over what was presented to them so that they can make a decision on what needs to be done on the Holmes Foods water/sewer rates. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Melissa Pompa to put Holmes Foods on the agenda for the next meeting in January to decide one way or the other. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Maggie Gaytan to approve the CDBG-MIT lift station improvements project parts 3&5 as pertains to GLO Contract No. 22-085-071-D330 and award the bid to J&K Utility Services for 1,039,568.00. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Maggie Gaytan that the city council gives our Chief of Police, Municipal Judge, and Public Works Director directive to seek and secure landowner easements from the Lee Street Drainage project and give permission to Kat Whitecotton with Langford services the ability to contact the title company and act on the City's behalf. Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Virginia Pena spoke regarding the brush fees, street fees, water/sewer rates, and dump fees. She said that she as well as many citizens were never notified. She produced a petition with about 250 signatures and stated she had more at home. The fees have caused some citizens to be put in bad situations because the cost is too high.

Mrs. Gladys Finch spoke regarding brush pick up at Finch Funeral Home. She stated that she had hired someone to pick the brush up, however, they did not do what they said. So, they hired another person to pick up their brush, it was never the intention of the business to leave it for the city to pick up. She also spoke regarding the purchasing of police vehicles. She would like the council to consider Caraway Ford when looking to purchase new police vehicles.

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to authorize the city attorney to draft a resolution between the City of Nixon and the Nixon-Smiley CISD for having control of Rancho Road from Roosevelt to Franklin. Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Valerie Vasquez was not present for agenda item.

Motion was made by Ellie Dominguez and seconded by Justin La Fleur that No Action be taken on rescinding the brush fees of \$10.00 on the city utility bill. Motion passed 4-1 with Patsy Scherrer voting nay.

Motion was made by Ellie Dominguez and seconded by Justin La Fleur that No Action be taken on revisiting the City dump fees for residents. Motion passed 4-1 with Patsy Scherrer voting nay.

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to remove former City Manager Harold Rice as the authorized signor on the safe deposit box and add Councilwoman Ellie Dominguez. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Melissa Pompa and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to accept the bid from P&C Construction for \$43,841.70 on the Franklin/Texas sewer line project. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to approve the Joint Election Agreement and Election Service Contract between Gonzales County, Texas, and the City of Nixon. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Patsy Scherrer to approve the Rancho Development Subdivision upon approval with BEFCO the City of Nixon engineering firm and any fees associated with that approval be paid by the Rancho Development Subdivision. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Maggie Gaytan allowing Ms. Kelly Roberts Cooper to have the Juneteenth Celebration at the non-profit rate. Motion passed 5-0



Motion was made by Maggie Gaytan and seconded by Justin La Fleur to take No Action regarding Compensation time for the Nixon Police Department for the years 2022 and 2023 and be put on the agenda for January. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Melissa Pompa and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to attempt to search for another third-party auditor. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Maggie Gaytan and seconded by Justin La Fleur to go into executive session under section 551.074 (personnel matters). Adolph Trigo also spoke regarding the appointing/hiring of an interim City Manager. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Patsy Scherrer and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to approve the renaming of the Nixon Area Memorial Park to Nixon Area Veterans Park. Motion passed 5-0

No action was taken on agenda item #23. (Rescheduling the January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Meeting)

No action was taken on agenda item #24 (Any necessary 2023-2024 budget amendments under items listed on the current agenda)

Police Chief Mike Cantu gave the police report.

Council came out of the Regular session at 7:37 pm and convened in the Executive session at 7:48 pm.


Council came out of the Executive session at 8:50 pm and convened in the Regular session at 8:53 pm.

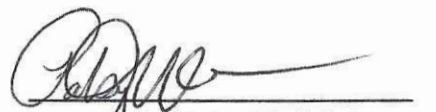
Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Maggie Gaytan moved to appoint the City of Nixon Interim City Manager Darryl Becker to be a part-time employee with a W2 and a part-time salary of \$45000.00 a year with no healthcare or retirement benefits and to offer him a city truck to use to his full capacity as city manager and for this to become effective December 20, 2023. Motion passed 5-0

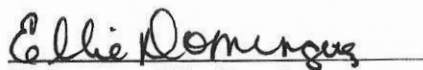
Motion was made by Justin La Fleur and seconded by Ellie Dominguez to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0

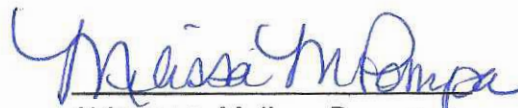
  
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Mayor, Dorothy Riojas

  
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Alderman, Maggie Gaytan

  
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Alderman, Justin La Fleur

  
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Alderman, Patsy Vigil Scherrer

  
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Alderman, Ellie Dominguez

  
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Alderman, Melissa Pompa

Attest:

  
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Tanya Torres  
City of Nixon Secretary