Village of Salado, Texas
Board of Aldermen
Minutes
Regular Meeting
6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 15, 2016
Municipal Building, 301 N. Stagecoach Road
Salado, Texas

Present: Mayor Skip Blancett, Mayor Pro Tempore Fred Brown, Alderman Frank Coachman, Alderman Amber Preston Dankert, Alderman Michael McDougal, Alderman David Williams.

Others Present: Kim Foutz, Village Administrator; Mary Ann Ray, Village Secretary; Jack Hensley, Chief of Police; Linda Sjogren, Village Attorney.

I. Call to Order.

1. Mayor Blancett opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with prayer.

2. The Mayor let the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Proclamations / Special Recognition.

The Mayor presented a proclamation to Pam Baker, Betty Martin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, declaring the week of September 17, 2016, as Constitution Week in the Village of Salado.

III. Public Comments.

3. None.

IV. Reports.

Mayor's Report.
Mayor Blancett reported that striping on Main Street will start next week. Blacksmith and Van Bibber between Main and Stagecoach Road have been paved and now have smooth surfaces. The Village has received the draft permit from the TCEQ for the Stagecoach wastewater treatment plant. He reported on his weekly ride-out with the engineer from TxDOT.

Committee Reports:

Environmental/Deer Committee: Alderman Dankert reported that the deer survey is complete and shows about one deer per acre; the ratio should be about one deer per 15 acres. The Committee will bring forth a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen. The Committee also will bring forth recommendations about management of Salado Creek and Springs. The community-wide cleanup will be Saturday, with groups meeting up at the Civic Center.

ETJ/Annexation Committee: Alderman McDougal reported that the Committee will meet with the Economic Development Committee on September 20. A previously scheduled meeting with the Economic Development Committee could not take place because it was not posted properly.

Ordinance Committee: Alderman Williams reported that the Committee has been has made recommendations regarding portions of the Zoning Ordinance that will be acted upon later in the meeting. Additional chances to the Zoning Ordinance, the Interstate 35 overlay Ordinance, and the Sign Ordinance will come forth at future meetings.

Main Street Committee: Mayor Pro Tempore Brown reported plans to install butterfly benches. The Committee will solicit donations for the rock to use as bases for the benches.

Street Improvements Committee: Alderman McDougal said all street work scheduled for this fiscal year has been completed. The 2016-2017 budget will determine how much work is scheduled for next year.

Economic Development Committee: Alderman Coachman said the Committee has no report because the meeting could not take place. Mayor Pro Tempore Brown reported that he will attend a three-day event in October to meet with representatives of businesses that are planning to relocate.

Trails/Parks Committee: Alderman Dankert reported that the Committee met this week to discuss recommendations from the Environmental/Deer Committee. A report will be prepared for the BOA at the September 22, 2016, meeting. The Committee is exploring two grants that would allow the Village to install playground equipment and small pavilions in the lower part of Pace Park.

Public Safety Committee: Alderman McDougal reported that the Committee met this week and has finalized chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Police Department's General Orders. He asked Chief Jack Hensley to report on the upcoming National Night Out, a nationwide effort to reduce crime in neighborhoods that will take place October 4, 2016.

Stagecoach Wastewater Plant: Mayor Pro Tempore Brown reported that the plant is working as it should.

Village Administrator's Report:
Administrator Foutz reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission recently completed an extensive training session about platting and development. She is working on a Main Street grant through the Texas Department of Agriculture's Downtown Revitalization Program. See attached report.

Financial Report:
Administrator Foutz reported that fines and forfeitures are down about 50 percent, but property taxes are coming in nicely. The sales tax numbers are good as well, with about $39,000 extra this month. Cable franchise fees are up dramatically, but water franchise fees are down because of recent rains. The Stagecoach sewer fund shows sludge disposal up because the Village had to pay for two pump-and-hauls to empty the basins so repairs could be made.

V. Consent Agenda.

4. Consider approving the Consent Agenda item:

   a. Minutes, September 1, 2016, Regular Meeting.
   b. Minutes, September 8, 2016, Special Called and Workshop Meeting
   c. Engagement Letter with Donald L. Allman, CPA, PC, for the Annual Audit for the year ending September 30, 2016 for an amount not to exceed $9,000.00.
   d. Resolution (R-2016-149) adopting an Investment Policy for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and designating an Investment Officer for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.
   e. Resolution (R-2016-150) designating Persons with Signing Authority.
   f. A contract with GovOffice for a new website in an amount not to exceed $7,620 for setup plus $1,150 for hosting second year.

Mayor Pro Tempore Fred Brown made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Alderman McDougal seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Regular Agenda.

5. Discussion and possible action on the selection of a Mayor Pro Tem.

Alderman McDougal nominated Fred Brown as Mayor Pro Tem. Alderman Coachman seconded.

Discussion:
There was discussion about the board candidate to receive the most votes in the May election each year be selected as Mayor Pro Tempore and that the selection of the Mayor Pro Tempore be the first item of business after the swearing-in ceremony each year.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentation, public hearing, discussion, and possible action on:

   (A) Ordinance 2016.17, adopting the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Annual Budget beginning on October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017; and
   (B) Ratifying the ad valorem property tax revenue increase reflected in the adopted 2016-2017 Annual Budget – This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by $340,876 (59.62%) and of that amount, $7,743.47 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

   (A) The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. and called three times for speakers; none emerged. He closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

   Alderman Williams made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2016.17 and approve the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Annual Budget beginning on October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017, as presented. Alderman Dankert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

   (B) Administrator Foutz explained the tax rate and the difference between the Operations & Maintenance component and the Interest & Sinking Debt component.

   Alderman McDougal made a motion to ratify the ad valorem property tax revenue increase reflected in the adopted 2016-2017 Annual Budget as presented. Alderman Coachman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Presentation, public hearing, discussion, and possible action on Ordinance 2016.18, levying taxes and setting a property (ad valorem) tax rate; approving the fiscal year 2016-2017 ad valorem tax rate and levy of $0.5419 per one hundred dollars ($100) of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the corporate limits of the Village; providing for an exemption on residence homesteads; providing for exemptions for individuals who are disabled or 65 years of age or older.

   The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. and called twice for speakers.

   Tom Fleischer, 912 Cedar Park Circle, said the Village has the highest exemption allowed by state law, and that, combined with the freeze for over 65, may put the Village in financial peril.

   The Mayor made a third call for speakers at 7:24 p.m. None emerged; he closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

   Alderman Coachman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016.18, levying taxes and setting a property (ad valorem) tax rate; approving the fiscal year 2016-2017 ad valorem tax rate and levy of $0.5419 per one hundred dollars ($100) of assessed valuation as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Brown seconded.

	Yea	*Nay*	*Abstain*
Alderman Williams	X		
Mayor Pro Tempore Brown	X		
Alderman Dankert	X		
Alderman Coachman	X		
Alderman McDougal	X		

8. Presentation, public hearing, discussion, and possible action on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, (Ordinance 2013.08): Section 5.2, Landscape Requirements; Section 5.3, Residential Fencing, Walls, & Screening Requirements; and Section 2.2B(6), Planning & Zoning Commission, frequency of meetings.

   Administrator Foutz explained that these amendments were workshopped by the BOA as well as reviewed by the Ordinance Committee and recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

   The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m. and called three times for speakers; none emerged. He closed the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.

   Mayor Pro Tempore Brown made a motion to approve amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, (Ordinance 2013.08): Section 5.2, Landscape Requirements; Section 5.3, Residential Fencing, Walls, & Screening Requirements; and Section 2.2B(6), Planning & Zoning Commission, frequency of meetings as presented. Alderman Coachman seconded.

   Discussion:
   There was discussion that increasing the frequency of P&Z meetings to twice a month would speed up the process for developers and citizens who have project to complete.

   The motion carried unanimously.

   The Mayor closed the Regular Session at 7:30 p.m. and announced that the Workshop Session would start at 7:40 p.m.

VII. Workshop Session

The Mayor opened the Workshop Session at 7:38 p.m.

9. Update on Wastewater System Improvements, Rick Kasberg, Kasberg, Patrick & Associates.

   Rick Kasberg gave an overview of the timeline for the wastewater treatment plant and reviewed the various agency requirements involved in renewing the permit. The Texas Historical Commission ordered additional surveys. There was discussion about the acquisition of easements and the bidding process.

10. Training on platting and zoning (presentation by Village Administrator).

    Administrator Foutz shoed a PowerPoint on the platting process.

11. Discussion on the Resolution (R-2016-.148) designating an Official Newspaper and an Alternate Official Newspaper for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

    Administrator Foutz explained that the Village does not have to name an alternate, but because the Salado Village Voice is a weekly publication, having a daily named as alternate can help the Village when it is on a tight publication schedule. The Appraisal District publishes the Truth in Taxation notice in the Temple Daily Telegram. This item will be discussed again at the September 22, 2016, BOA meeting.

    The Mayor closed the Workshop Session at 8:33 p.m. and announced that the BOA would go into Executive Session.

VIII. Executive Session.

The Board of Alderman entered into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

12. Conduct an executive session as authorized by Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 and Section 551.071 to discuss Personnel Matters with and/or without attorneys on the evaluation of the Village Administrator.

13. Conduct an Executive Session for consultation with Attorney under Section 551.071 regarding Village Administrator's Employment Contract.

The BOA emerged from Executive Session at 9:54 p.m.

IX. Regular Session

The Mayor convened the Regular Session at 9:54 p.m.

14. Take appropriate action through a motion regarding Village Administrator's contract.

    Alderman McDougal made a motion to place Village Administrator Kim Foutz on administrative leave with pay for a period not to exceed thirty days under terms set by the Mayor, in order for the Mayor or his designees to conduct an investigation into complaints against the Administrator and to determine if the Administrator's employment contract should be terminated for Good Cause. Alderman Coachman seconded. The motion carried by a 4-1 vote (Alderman Williams).

The Mayor announced that Alderman McDougal and Mayor Pro Tempore Brown would conduct the investigation.

X. Adjourn.

Alderman Dankert made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tempore Brown seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Skip Blancett, Mayor

ATTEST:

~~Mary Ann Ray~~, Village Secretary
Chrissy Lee