

**Village of Salado  
Salado Municipal Building  
301 North Stagecoach Road  
Salado, Texas  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Aldermen  
October 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Mayor Skip Blancett.

Mayor Blancett gave the Invocation and the Board of Aldermen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Board Members Present: Mayor Skip Blancett, Mayor Pro-tem Michael Coggin, Aldermen Amber Preston Dankert, and John Cole. Aldermen Rodney Bell and Frank Coachman were absent.

Staff Present: Village Administrator Don Ferguson

### **1. Citizens Communications**

Mayor Pro-tem Coggin called for communications from citizens about items not on the agenda.

Salado resident Darrell Street voiced his concerns about the recent decision of Bell County election officials not to appoint Salado resident Eldon Miller as an Election Judge for the upcoming November General Election. Mr. Street said the decision was reportedly made without consulting with Mr. Street in advance. He added nobody contacted Mr. Street afterward to let him know about the decision. Mr. Street said Mr. Miller has been an Election Judge for Village and County elections for years and the decision to remove him makes no sense.

Mayor Pro-tem Coggin asked the Village Administrator to investigate the removal and report to the Board on his findings.

### **2. Consent Agenda**

Approval of minutes of the Regular Board of Aldermen meeting of September 17, 2020.

Mayor Pro-tem Coggin introduced this item and Village Administrator Ferguson requested that the Board postpone action until a later meeting as the City Secretary, who is responsible for preparing the minutes, is currently on leave.

### **3. Village Administrator's Report**

- Wastewater Project Update

Village Administrator Ferguson reported the wastewater system is functioning within the parameters of the operating permit.

- Main Street Improvement Project

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that the contractor on the Main Street Improvement Project is currently working on “punch list” items, in hopes of completing the project by the end of October. He said the decorative lights should be working by the end of October.

- Salado Stroll

Village Administrator Ferguson reported the Chamber of Commerce has announced that Christmas Stroll will take place this year with COVID-19 precautions in place. He said the Chamber will not be doing the parade this year due to concerns regarding COVID-19. However, he indicated the Lions Club is considering organizing the parade.

- Restroom Trailer

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that the restroom trailer acquired by the Village is expected to be shipped in late November. He said the trailer is on back order due to COVID-19 and the recent hurricanes.

- Economic Development Advisory Board

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that the Economic Development Advisory Board is beginning to work with commercial development prospects while, at the same time, is also working on the development of an action plan for the Board.

#### 4. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action regarding those properties within the initial service area of the Village of Salado Wastewater System that are not yet connected to the system.  
(*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson said the wastewater system came on-line more than a year ago and most properties within the initial service area have been connected to the System. He said approximately twelve (12) properties are not yet connected to the System.

He presented a plan to get the unconnected properties connected to the wastewater system. The plan involves giving the subject property owners a deadline of November 9<sup>th</sup> to connect to the system. If they fail to meet the connection deadline, he said the Village will connect the subject properties to the System and take the necessary legal action to recover any costs incurred, including administrative costs.

He noted that money from the General Fund Balance would be used to fund the private contractor secured by the Village to connect those properties whose owners fail to meet the connection deadline.

Village Administrator Ferguson said the plan allows for the property owner to enter into an agreement with the Village to utilize the Village's contractor to make the connection and pay the Village for the work. He said a short-term payment plan would be available.

Alderwoman Amber Dankert said she does not want to see a payment plan any longer than six (6) months.

Mayor Pro-tem Coggin said it is important that the Village's administrative and legal costs are recovered in the process, not just the cost of the Village's contractor.

Alderman Cole made the motion to approve the connection plan as presented, with the option of a six-month payment plan for those opting to use the Village's contractor. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

B. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposal to address odor control at the Village of Salado Wastewater System Lift Stations. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson presented the proposal from Environmental Group Southwest (EGSW) for the installation of chemical distribution systems at the Royal and Church Street lift stations. Discussion addressed the Village's upfront cost of \$7,500 to install the system, which will be monitored for effectiveness throughout the 3-month project. If deemed successful, it was noted that the remaining cost of \$11,184 will be due to EGSW, and if deemed unsuccessful, EGSW would collect its equipment, and there would be no additional cost owed to EGSW. Discussion continued regarding the type and quality of monitoring; estimated annual chemical costs dependent on certain variables; and successful use of EGSW's system in other cities with higher volume systems.

Alderman Cole moved to approve the proposal from EGSW, as presented. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

C. Discuss and consider possible action authorizing the Village Administrator to proceed with the development of engineering plans to allow for the extension of wastewater service to select properties on Salado Plaza Drive, North Stagecoach Road, and North Robertson Road. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson reviewed the Board's September 17<sup>th</sup> discussion supporting exploration of expanding service. Discussion addressed the Board's previous discussion focusing on extension to commercial properties and possible consideration of residential properties on the south side of Salado Plaza Drive.

Alderman Cole moved to approve authorizing the Village Administrator to proceed with the development of engineering plans to extend wastewater service to the subject select properties, as presented. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

D. Discuss and consider possible action approving the Amended Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget for the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson explained Board action is required to amend various Fiscal Year 2020 Budgets to account for anticipated differences in actual expenditures and revenues compared to budgeted expenses and revenues. He highlighted specific amendments and noted surplus Hotel-Motel funds helped to offset the significant decrease in projected revenue due to COVID.

Mayor Pro-tem Coggin moved to approve the amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget, as presented. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

- E. Discuss and consider approving the Fiscal Year 2021 Village of Salado Employee Holiday Schedule. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson recommended approval of the following holidays:

<i>Designated Holiday</i>	<i>Date</i>
Columbus Day	Monday, October 12, 2020
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26, 2020 Friday, November 27, 2020
Christmas	Thursday, December 24, 2020 Friday, December 25, 2020
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2021
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2021
Presidents Day	Monday, February 15, 2021
Good Friday	Friday, April 2, 2021
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31, 2021
Independence Day	Monday, July 5, 2021
Labor Day	Monday, September 6, 2021

Discussion addressed Salado Police Department's holiday pay policy, as this holiday schedule applies to all Village employees.

Alderman Cole moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Employee Holiday Schedule, as presented. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

- F. Discuss and consider issues relating to the fiscal impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator; this is not an action item*)

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on receipt of approximately \$23,000 in grant funding from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) to be used for pandemic-related purchases such as handwashing and thermal temperature check stations. Discussion addressed concerns about temperature reading accuracy; protocols for back-up procedures; availability of grant funding for businesses through Bell County; and possible additional federal pandemic assistance funding in the future. No action was taken on this item.

- G. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the continued use of the virtual meeting format for Salado Board of Aldermen meetings. (*Village Administrator*)

Discussion addressed the current maximum capacity for Board of Aldermen meetings; video broadcasting of future meetings; and ability of the public to call in comments during virtual meetings. No action was taken on this item,

- H. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the possible acquisition of real property for public purposes. (*The Board will retire into Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551.072 of the Texas Government Code to discuss this item prior to any action being taken on this item; Village Administrator*)

Mayor Pro-tem Coggin adjourned Open Session and convened into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. pursuant to Chapter 551.072 of the Texas Government Code for discussion of real estate acquisition.

Mayor Pro-tem Coggin adjourned Executive Session and reconvened Open Session at 7:50 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Mayor Pro-tem Coggin moved to direct Village Administrator Ferguson to notify the realtor that the Village is not going to pursue acquisition of the subject real property. Alderman Cole seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

### Adjournment

Alderman Cole moved to adjourn. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Mayor Pro-tem Coggin called the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Recorded by:

Don Ferguson

These minutes approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 2020.

APPROVED:

  
Skip Blaneett, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Cara McPartland, City Secretary

