

Micki L. Ball
Mayor
Charles Fillinger
Alderman Place 1
Mayor Pro Tem
Gary Bricken
Alderman Place 2
Tom Repino
Alderman Place 3



John Crickmer
Alderman Place 4
Jennifer Puente
Alderman Place 5
Cassandra Ortiz
City Attorney
Charlotte Rabe
City Secretary

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
September 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
MINUTES

1. **Call to order and quorum call.** Mayor Ball called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Pro tem Fillinger, Aldermen Bricken, Repino, Crickmer and Alderwoman Puente arrived at 6:45 p.m. Chief of Police, Ray Lopez and City Secretary Charlotte Rabe were present along with City Attorney Cassandra Ortiz via Zoom.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** Mayor Ball led the Pledge.
4. **Public Hearing - VIA Metropolitan Transit's presentation regarding a proposed service plan for the City of Sandy Oaks and public hearing.** Mr. Leroy Alloway, VIA Chief Government and External Affairs Officer, introduced the VIA team. They announced they will start a 6-month pilot program called VIA Link for on-demand transit to and from Brooks Transit Center at Brooks City Base. The service will be provided Monday thru Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Scheduling for pickup can begin September 6, 2021 for service starting September 13, 2021. A coupon is available for two free round trips. There is an app to use for scheduling or you can use your phone to call and schedule. They will be out at our next Community Yard Sale on September 18, 2021 to provide information, answer questions and possibly issue ID cards for individuals that qualify for discounted fares. The fare will be \$1.30 for a 2 1/2-hour pass, with free transfers or \$2.75 for an all-day pass, with unlimited rides within the VIA service area.
3. **Proclamation of the Mayor recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month in the City.** Mayor Ball read the Proclamation observing National Hispanic Heritage Month in the city September 15-October 15, 2021.
5. **Citizens to be Heard – No one signed up to speak.**
Mayor Ball started the Public Hearing to consider the proposed tax rate to support the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 at 6:55 p. m.
6. **Public Hearing to consider the proposed tax rate to support the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.** This time is provided for citizens to address the Mayor and Council on the proposed tax rate to support the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year budget, which proposed rate is \$0.291976 on each \$100 valuation of property.
 - a) Discuss and/or possible action on Ordinance 2021-190 adopting the levying Ad Valorem Taxes for the use and support of the municipal government for the City of Sandy Oaks, Texas for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022 not to exceed \$0.291976 on each \$100 valuation of property; providing for apportioning each levy for specific purposes; providing when taxes shall become due and when same shall be delinquent if not paid; providing for a severability clause, and providing for an effective date. Mayor Pro tem Fillinger made a motion that the property tax rate increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.291976 on each \$100 valuation of property, which is effectively a 13.55% increase in the tax rate and such rate be adopted by ordinance. Seconded by

Alderwoman Puente. A record vote was called with the following aldermen voting in favor, Mayor Pro tem Fillinger, Bricken, Repino, and Alderwoman Puente. No votes against. Alderman Repino made a motion that the City Council approve an ordinance adopting a tax rate of \$0.244474 on each \$100 of valuation of property be used for the maintenance and support of the general government of the City of Sandy Oaks for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, upon all property, real, personal, and mixed, within the corporate limits of said City subject to taxation and such tax rate be adopted by ordinance. Seconded by Alderman Crickmer. A record vote was called with the following aldermen voting in favor, Mayor Pro tem Fillinger, Bricken, Repino, and Alderwoman Puente. No votes against. Alderwoman Puente made a motion that the City Council approve an ordinance adopting a tax of \$0.047502 on each \$100.00 valuation of property to be used for the interest and sinking fund and that such tax rate be adopted by ordinance. Seconded by Alderman Repino. A record vote was called with the following Aldermen voting in favor, Mayor Pro tem Fillinger, Bricken, Repino, and Alderwoman Puente. No votes against. Mayor Ball closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

8. Presentation by Alderman Crickmer and Alderman Repino regarding the Texas Municipal Retirement System. TMRS City Services Manager, Colin Davidson spoke about the retirement plan that was brought before the Council in the August 12, 2021 meeting. Mayor Ball shared that all employees were in favor of joining the system. It was decided that we would bring this back after Council had a chance to pick which plan we would use. No action taken.

11. Police Department

- a) Updates and announcements from Chief Lopez with possible discussion and/or action. There were no updates or announcements from Chief Lopez.
- b) Presentation of monthly report by Chief Lopez with possible discussion and/or action. Chief Lopez reported 86 court defendants with 152 cases. 200 traffic stops with 195 citations and 103 warnings. He had 10 arrests, along with numerous other offenses listed.

7. Consent Agenda

- a) Approve the minutes from the August 26, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.
- b) Approve the minutes from the August 31, 2021 Special City Council Meeting.
- c) Approve July Invoice #1281 from Kassahn & Ortiz not to exceed \$4,102.80.

Mayor Pro tem Fillinger made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Alderman Repino. Motion passed unanimously

9. Mayor Announcements/Updates There were no announcements or updates.

10. Financial Report – The income and expenses will be reported by City Secretary Charlotte Rabe with possible discussion and/or action. City Secretary Rabe reported that the August 2021 beginning balance was \$125,231.34, with checks and payments of \$-74,641.82 and deposits and credits of \$90,814.52, leaving a balance of \$141,404.04. Alderman Repino made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Seconded by alderman Crickmer. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Animal Control

Updates and announcements from Animal Control Advisory Committee Chair Jennifer Puente with possible discussion and/or action. Alderman Puente announced the next meeting of the ACAC would be September 13 at 6:30. Penny Paws will be at the next Community Yard Sale in the park on September 18, 2021.

Presentation of monthly report by ACO Maldonado with possible discussion and/or action. Mayor Ball pulled this, as ACO Maldonado was not present.

13. Public Works

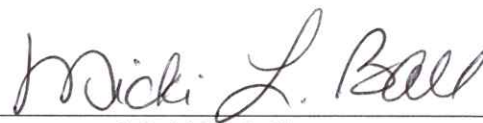
- a) Updates and announcements from Park Advisory Committee (PAC) Chair Tom Repino with possible discussion and/or action. PAC Chair Repino reported that the PAC met last Tuesday and discussed completing several projects, such as the fence behind the backstop, and the butterfly garden. The Community Yard Sale will be on September 18, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

14. Administration

- a) Discuss and/or possible action on Ordinance 2021-189 Cancelling the General Election to be held on November 2, 2021. Mayor Pro tem Fillinger is running unopposed for Place 1 along with Alderman Repino for Place 3 leaving Place 5 vacant. As such, there is no need for an election. Mayor Pro tem Fillinger made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-89 Cancelling the General Election to be held November 2, 2021. Mayor Pro tem Fillinger made a motion to approve ordinance 2021-189 Cancelling the General Election to be held on November 2, 2021. Seconded by Alderman Repino. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) Discuss and/or possible action on creating an advisory committee for use of funds received under American Rescue Plan Act. We will receive money from the government American Rescue Plan Act. We applied for these funds through TDEM (Texas Department of Emergency Management) This money can only be used for specific things. Mayor Ball is asking Council to approve creating a committee with a minimum of 7 citizens to recommend how the money should be spent and also someone to oversee all the required paperwork and deadlines. No action was taken. More information is needed.
- c) Discuss and /or possible action on a resolution prohibiting the carrying of a handgun into the room in which City Council or other City board, commission, or committee subject to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code is meeting. The State of Texas passed new laws on September 1, 2021 requiring this ordinance concerning carrying handguns into our building. Mayor explained the new laws concerning our building. Chief Lopez has placed the required signage in our lobby area. Mayor Pro tem made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-138 Prohibiting the carrying of a handgun into the room in which City Council or other City board, commission, or committee subject to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code is meeting. Seconded by Alderwoman Puente. Council vote was 4 for and Alderman Repino against. Motion passed.
- d) Discuss and/or possible action on job posting for Animal Control Officer. ACO Maldonado started his training to become a police officer in January of this year and is scheduled to graduate in December, so we need to start trying to fill his position. Mayor Pro tem Fillinger made a motion to advertise in the Wilson County News, TML and our website for 30 days, with a salary range of \$30,000-\$40,000 yearly. Seconded by Alderman Repino. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 23rd DAY OF September 2021



Micki L. Ball
Mayor

ATTEST:



Charlotte Rabe
City Secretary