

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS  
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET  
AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

1. **Call to order and quorum call.** Mayor Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. In attendance were Mayor Pro Tem Alvarado, Alderwoman Martinez, Aldermen Repino, Coffindaffer, and Fillinger, City Attorney Casandra Ortiz, and City Secretary Katherine Yelton.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** Led by Mayor Martinez
3. **Citizens to be heard.** No citizens signed up to speak.
4. **Public Hearing** on the 2023-2043 Fiscal Year Budget. This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$65,392.41, which is a 13% increase from last year's budget, and of that amount, \$25,618.06 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. This time is provided for citizens to address the Mayor and Council on the proposed budget. Mayor Martinez opened the public hearing at 6:36 p.m. Citizen David Tremblay signed up to speak and stated he does not feel that the pay rate for an animal control officer is adequate, but later understood that the allotted \$35,000.00 is for one employee, not multiple. He also felt the \$5,000.00 for equipment and supplies is not enough to cover a year's worth of feeding the containing dogs. Mr. Tremblay there should be more funds allocated for Park & City Grounds Projects in the Public Works budget. He then asked if all the ARPA funds have been depleted. After confirming Mr. Tremblay's time was approaching three minutes and that no other citizens signed up to speak, Mayor Martinez closed the public comment portion of the public hearing at 6:41 p.m. Mayor Martinez addressed Mr. Tremblay's concerns stating it is not unreasonable to ask for additional employees for Animal Control ("AC"). He explained that AC is big on adoptions and rescues to move dogs out as soon as possible to be the most efficient with one employee. Ald. Fillinger asked if he could address Mr. Tremblay's concern and asked Mr. Tremblay if they could talk after the meeting. Regarding the ARPA funds and Public Works, Mayor Martinez said there are no major projects going on in the park, at this time, that will require significant capital, but with citizen input on what they would like to see in the park, more discussion would be had. Also, regarding street maintenance and the buzz on social media, Mayor Martinez said a fiscal budget is never going to have enough money to maintain all the streets and that is what grants and bonds are for. Ald. Coffindaffer mentioned something about the past car show (inaudible to the city secretary) and how it was not funded by the City and that maybe ARPA funds could be allotted to future car shows. At 6:46 p.m., Mayor Martinez concluded the public hearing and moved on to item 4a to discuss the budget.
  - a. Discuss and/or possible action on Ordinance 2023-224 Adopting the Proposed 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget for the City of Sandy Oaks. Mayor Martinez referred back to what Ald. Coffindaffer said during the public hearing regarding car shows and said we could incorporate some of the Park & City Grounds Projects funds into the car show. Ald. Fillinger said the car show is a private event because Council never discussed or approved it. This topic was only discussed with the park committee and, to avoid a walking quorum, Ald. Fillinger was not privy to those meetings. Ald. Fillinger said other events at the park have had City Council approval and we have budgeted funds for those events, but the car show was not one of them. Ald. Coffindaffer agreed and stated he will speak more about this with Ald. Repino as he would like to bring this back to City Council for more discussion and possibly make this an official event in the future. Going back to the proposed budget, Mayor Martinez said he needs to make an amendment to include a \$300,000.00 income and expense for the Red Mountain grant. Ald. Fillinger suggested we not include it in the budget. Ms. Yelton disagreed and said it is easier to manage the same budget instead of creating additional budgets.



Council then began reviewing the proposed budget and made the following amendments:

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Made by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Passed</b>
Add an Income and Expense line item for "Red Mountain CDBG Project" for \$300,000.00	Fillinger	Repino	Unanimously
Adjust Gross Profit from \$1,872,333.46 to \$2,172,333.46 and adjust Total Expense to \$2,275,000.00	Fillinger	Repino	Unanimously
Add the voter approval rate of \$.243303	Coffindaffer	Repino	Unanimously

Ald. Fillinger made a motion to delay the adoption of the budget until the next meeting on September 28, 2023, which was seconded by Ald. Repino and passed unanimously.

b. Discuss and/or possible action on Ordinance 2023-225 Ratifying the Property Tax Increase Reflected in the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget. Mayor Martinez postponed this item until the next meeting on September 28, 2023.

5. **Mayor & Administrator Announcements/Updates.** Mayor Martinez had no announcements.

6. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve minutes from the August 24, 2023 Regular City Council meeting.
- b. Approve Invoice No. 1326 from Kassahn & Ortiz not to exceed \$675.00 for Prosecutor services in July 2023.
- c. Approve Invoice No. 1327 from Kassahn & Ortiz not to exceed \$1,335.00 for City Attorney services in July 2023.
- d. Approve Invoice No. 8 from 6S Engineering for Project No. 2022-072-03 not to exceed \$195.00 for City Engineer services in August 2023.

Ald. Coffindaffer made a motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented, which was seconded by Ald. Fillinger and passed unanimously.

7. **Financial Report.** Ms. Yelton reported the General Fund balance as of August 31, 2023 at \$203,728.31, and the ARPA Fund balance at \$549,281.28. Ald. Fillinger made a motion to approve the financial report, as presented, which was seconded by MPT Alvarado and passed unanimously.

8. **Administration – Old Business**

- a. Discuss and/or possible action on a work order from the City Engineer related to recommendations on the City's plat application and approval process in compliance with House Bill 3699. Mayor Martinez pulled this item for a future meeting.

9. **Administration – New Business**

- a. Discuss and/or possible action on Resolution 2023-183 Rescheduling the Public Hearing on the Tax Rate for 2023 and date of adoption of tax rate. Ald. Coffindaffer made a motion to adopt the resolution, as presented, which was seconded by Ald. Martinez and passed unanimously. The Public Hearing on the Tax Rate for 2023 will be held on September 28, 2023.
- b. Discuss and/or possible action on the final invoice for the TxCDBG Drainage Improvement Project No. CDV 21-0020, and related matters. Ald. Fillinger made a motion to approve payment of the invoice for an amount not to exceed \$100,819.80, which was seconded by MPT Alvarado and passed unanimously.

10. **Police Department**

- a. Updates and Announcements from Chief Lopez with possible discussion and/or action. Chief Lopez stated that Officer Casas is in his last month of training and will be released on his own.
- b. Presentation of monthly report by Chief Lopez with possible discussion and/or action. Chief Lopez presented his monthly report for August 2023.



- c. Discuss and/or possible action on quote(s) received for the purchase of a Ford Police Interceptor. Ald. Fillinger made a motion to postpone this item until more bids are collected and an idea of the cost to outfit the vehicle. This was seconded by Ald. Coffindaffer and passed unanimously.

#### 11. Animal Control

- a. Presentation of monthly report by ACO Ashley Cunningham with possible discussion and/or action. ACO Cunningham presented her monthly report for August 2023.

#### 12. Parks & Recreation

- a. Update and Announcements from Park Advisory Committee Chair Alderman Repino with possible discussion and/or action. Ald. Repino stated the committee had a meeting on Sep 5 and thanked the mayor for attending and that the next meeting will be on October 4.

#### 13. Public Works

- a. Updates and Announcements from Public Works Director Priscilla Schmitt with possible discussion and/or action. PWD Schmitt had no discussion or action.
  - b. Discuss an/or possible action on quote(s) received for the purchase of a tractor. Ald. Fillinger made a motion to approve the purchase of a tractor not to exceed \$48,000.00 from ARPA funds, which was seconded by Ald. Coffindaffer and passed unanimously.
  - c. Discuss and/or possible action on quote(s) received for the purchase of tractor implements. Ald. Coffindaffer made a motion to approve the purchase of tractor implements not to exceed \$9,000.00 from ARPA funds, which was seconded by Ald. Martinez and passed unanimously.
  - d. Discuss an/or possible action on quote(s) received for the purchase of a Ford F250. Ald. Coffindaffer made a motion to approve the purchase of a Ford F250 from Red McCombs not to exceed \$49,500.00 from ARPA funds, which was seconded by Ald. Martinez and passed unanimously.
  - e. Discuss an/or possible action on quote(s) received for the purchase of a trailer. Ald. Fillinger made a motion to approve the purchase of a trailer not to exceed \$8,500.00 from the General Fund, which was seconded by Ald. Repino and passed unanimously.
  - f. Discuss and/or possible action on paying off the remaining balance with DLL Financial Solutions Partner for the Kioti tractor in the amount of \$9,334.46 by September 22, 2023. Ald. Fillinger made a motion to pay off the remaining balance not to exceed \$10,000.00 from the General Fund, which was seconded by Ald. Coffindaffer and passed unanimously.
  - g. Discuss and/or possible action on quote received from Dilmak Services for heating and cooling services, and related matters. Ald. Fillinger made a motion to approve the quote not to exceed \$2,400.00, which was seconded by Ald. Repino and passed unanimously.
14. **Adjourn.** Ald. Repino made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Passed and approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

ATTEST:

  
Katherine Yelton, City Secretary

  
Michael Martinez, Mayor