CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Council
February 13, 2024
6:00 p.m. City Hall

City Officials Present:

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember
Councilmember
Councilmember

city Manager
City Secretary
City Attorney
Utility Clerk

Edward Adams—Not Present
Mary Speidel
Nathan Lindeman
Danny Davila
Greg Ybarra
John Hobson
Cathy Duhart
Desiree Voth
Angela Montemayor

The Sinton City Council held a City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 in the Council Chambers of the Sinton City Hall. A notice of this meeting was posted at least 72 hours in advance in accordance with Section 551, Texas Government Code. With a quorum present, the following business was transacted:

Citizens present:

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Speidel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Danny Davila, and all present recited the American and Texas pledges. Roll Call was then taken.

PUBLIC HEARING:

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE CREATION OF SOMERSET PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2.

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Speidel opened the public hearing at 6:01pm. With no public comment, the public hearing was closed at 6:01pm.

Special Reports/Presentations/Formal Announcements, Recognition, and Reports that may be discussed:

1. Sinton ISD—was not present.
2. Sinton Chamber of Commerce—was not present.

Citizens to Be Heard: None

CONSENT AGENDA:
(All of the following items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be self-explanatory by the Council and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member, staff member or citizen requests removal of the item from the consent agenda for the purpose of discussion. For removal of an item, a request must be made to the Council when the Consent Agenda is opened for Council Action.)

NEW BUSINESS:

No. 11634 Action on the City Council Meeting Minutes from the meeting held on January 16, 2024.
Councilmember Danny Davila made the motion to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from the meeting held on January 16, 2024. The second was made by Councilmember Nathan Lindeman. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11635

Action on RESOLUTION NO. 20240213, A RESOLUTION AND ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SINTON, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR BY RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO CALL A GENERAL ELECTION AS PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.01 OF THE CITY CHARTER; ORDERING A GENERAL CITY OFFICER'S ELECTION, TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF SINTON ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024; DESIGNATING THE POLLING PLACES AND APPOINTING ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR SUCH ELECTION; DIRECTING THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF SUCH ELECTION; DESIGNATING THE DATE FOR A RUNOFF ELECTION IF NEEDED; AND PROVIDING DETAILS RELATING TO THE HOLDING OF SUCH ELECTION.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 20240213, a resolution ordering the General Election on May 4, 2024. The second was made by Councilmember Greg Ybarra. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11636

Action on Resolution No. 20240213-1, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SINTON, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION ON: "THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX IN THE CITY OF SINTON AT THE RATE OF ¼% TO CONTINUE PROVIDING REVENUE FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL STREETS. THE TAX EXPIRES ON THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE OF THIS ELECTION UNLESS THE IMPOSITION OF THE TAX IS REAUTHORIZED"; TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF SINTON ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024; DESIGNATING THE POLLING PLACES AND APPOINTING ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR SUCH ELECTION; DIRECTING THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF SUCH ELECTION; DESIGNATING THE DATE FOR A RUNOFF ELECTION IF NEEDED; AND PROVIDING DETAILS RELATING TO THE HOLDING OF SUCH ELECTION.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 20240213-1, a resolution ordering the Special Election on May 4, 2024. The second was made by Councilmember Greg Ybarra. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11637

Action on RESOLUTION NO. 20240213-2, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SINTON, TEXAS FINDING THAT the statement of intent of CenterPoint energy resources corp., d/b/a CenterPoint energy Entex and CenterPoint energy to change rates FILING WITHIN THE CITY SHOULD BE DENIED; FINDING THAT THE CITY'S REASONABLE RATE CASE EXPENSES SHALL BE REIMBURSED BY THE COMPANY; FINDING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; REQUIRING NOTICE OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE COMPANY AND LEGAL COUNSEL.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 20240213-2. The second was made by Councilmember Danny Davila. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11638

Action on RESOLUTION NO. 20240213-3, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SINTON COMMITTING EXCESS FUNDS FROM THE 1990 TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT TO ANY INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED ACTIVITY TO BENEFIT LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME PERSONS.

Mr. Hobson advised that this agenda item has appeared on past audits regarding the accumulated funds from the payments being made for Sinton Affordable Housing Homes. The City had homes built that citizens applied for and they were part of the Sinton Affordable Housing, which no longer exists. The Resolution below will authorize the City of Sinton to commit the excess funds from the 1990 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Affordable Housing Grant to any infrastructure-related activity to benefit low-to-moderate income persons. The Resolution is below:

RESOLUTION 20240213-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SINTON COMMITTING EXCESS FUNDS FROM THE 1990 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT TO ANY INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED ACTIVITY TO BENEFIT LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME PERSONS.

WHEREAS, in a letter dated November 11, 1996 from Gus Garcia, Assistant Manager, Texas Community Development Program, Mr. Garcia states, "Following the completion of the 1990 Affordable Housing grant, the Sinton Affordable Housing Inc. was allowed to retain the program income earned from the payments received from the sale of homes"; and

WHEREAS, the ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE SINTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING, INC. state in Article IV, Section 10, "Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose"; and

WHEREAS, the Sinton Affordable Housing, Inc. was dissolved May 15, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SINTON, TEXAS:

1. That the foregoing recitals are hereby found to be true and correct and are fully incorporated into the body of this Resolution.

2. That the City of Sinton commits to use all existing and future program income earned from payments received from the sale of homes to serve a public purpose to benefit low-to-moderate income persons.

3. That the findings of the City and its actions approving this Resolution taken at the City Council meeting are hereby approved and adopted.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE 13th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

ATTEST:

Mary Speidel - Mayor Pro Tem

Cathy Duhart - City Secretary

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 20240213-3. The second was made by Greg Ybarra. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11639


Phil Vaughan of Armstrong, Vaughn & Associates presented the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Financial Audit. Some key points of the audit presented were:

- Sinton Affordable Housing Fund: The fund has accumulated $344,000 in cash.
- Personnel Policy: Recommends the City update its longevity policy.
- General Fund: The fund for 2023 went down mostly due to the American Rescue Plan which was spent the year before, Ending Balance is $5,658,525 (about 20 months of operating costs.)
- Water/Sewer Fund: Revenues went up a bit to $3,359,687. Expenses went up a bit to $3,069,839. Spendable Net Position is what really is available in the utility fund to cover any additional costs, Spendable Net Balance is $991,076.
- Street Improvement: Balance is $1,867,468 mostly due to the bonds issued last year.
This completed the Annual Financial Audit Presentation by Phil Vaughn.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to accept the Annual Financial Audit for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. The second was made by Greg Ybarra. The motion carried 4-0.


Police Chief Eugenio De Leon presented the 2023 Racial Profiling Report to the City Council. He explained he must submit a racial profiling report to the Councilmembers, as well as TCOLE (Texas Commission of Law Enforcement) every year before March.

He presented the following:

- Law enforcement made 1,139 contacts last year
- 77% of contacts made were with Hispanics
- 18% of contacts made were with Whites
- He gave a comparison of the school district, in which 81% of the population are Hispanic, therefore more contacts will be made with Hispanics as that is what the city is more comprised of.

The report states of the total contacts, 1,078 contacts were made on city streets, 17 contacts were made on US highways, 4 contacts were made on State highways, 5 contacts were made on County roads and 35 contacts were made on private property or other.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve the 2023 Racial Profiling Report. The second was made by Councilmember Greg Ybarra. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11641  Action on approving a resolution authorizing the Sinton Police Department to apply for Local Border Security Program 2025; designating City Manager John Hobson as the grantee’s authorized official. Presented by Chief Eugenio De Leon.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve the authorization to apply for the Local Border Security Program 2025; designating City Manager John Hobson as the grantee’s authorized official. The second was made by Councilmember Greg Ybarra. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11642  Action on approving a resolution authorizing the Sinton Police Department to apply for Operation Lonestar Grant Program for 2025; designating City Manager John Hobson as the grantee’s authorized official. Presented by Chief Eugenio De Leon.

Chief Eugenio Deleon advised this grant program is similar to the Local Border Security Program 2025 except that this grant allows law enforcement to buy equipment for their border security-related operations.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve the resolution to apply for the Operation Lonestar Grant Program for 2025. The second was made by Councilmember Danny Davila. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11643  Action on RESOLUTION NO. 20240213-4, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SINTON TEXAS DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS
AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SELL OR DISPOSE OF SAID
PROPERTY. (Sinton Police Department)

Mr. Hobson advised this is a resolution declaring (4) vehicles from Sinton Police Department as
surplus and authorizing the City to dispose of those vehicles in whatever manner, typically by
auction sites.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve Resolution 20240213-4. The
second was made by Greg Ybarra. The motion carried 4-0.

No. 11644  Action on appointing a member to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the vacancy
upon the resignation of Roger Kenne.

This agenda item was passed.

No. 11645  Action on re-appointing Lina Garcia, Cynthia Narvaez, and Wanda Phillips to the Sinton
Public Library Advisory Board and appointing Paula Arrambide, Nelda Bustamante, Sylvia
Garza, Viola Obregon, Soveida Perez, and Patty Vargas to fill the vacancies.

Councilmember Nathan Lindeman made the motion to approve re-appointing and appointing of
said people to the Sinton Public Library Advisory Board. The second was made by Greg Ybarra.
The motion carried 4-0.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Danny Davila. The second was by Councilmember Nathan
Lindeman. The motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Edward Adams

Attest: City Secretary Cathy Duhart