



**GIDDINGS CITY COUNCIL-SPECAIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY MARCH 29, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 118 E RICHMOND, GIDDINGS, TEXAS**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Dowell at 7:00 p.m. with the following present:

Members Present: Mayor John Dowell, Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez, Council Members Frank Castro, Alan Casey, Jake Horne, Not Present Linda Pruitt.

Staff Present: City Manager Ricky Jorgensen, City Secretary Andrea Ray, Director of Public Works Spencer Schneider, Director of Finance Heather Garner, Police Chief Haril Walpole, Police Captain Steve Spencer, Municipal Court Clerk Rachel Grube, Judge Robert Lee.

**2. PLEDGES TO THE US AND TEXAS FLAGS-** Pledges were said.

**3. INVOCATION AND WELCOME-** City Manager Ricky Jorgensen gave the invocation and Mayor John Dowell welcomed all in attendance

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS-**City Manager Ricky Jorgensen introduced the new City of Giddings Finance Director Heather Garner.

**5. PUBLIC HEARING**

**PUBLIC HEARING WAS OPENED AT 7:04 P.M.**

- a. Discussion for expenditure of GEDC funds of up to \$500,000.00 as a match for a \$1,800,000.00 grant by the Economic Development Administration pursuant to the 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance CARES act; and an expenditure of up to \$55,000.00 in grant management fees to be paid to Goodman Corporation.**

**No Citizens requested to speak at this time.**

**PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED AT 7:05 P.M.**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discuss and take possible action to approve the Resolution No.464-2021 for the expenditure of GEDC funds of up to \$500,000.00 as a match for a \$1,800,000.00 grant by the Economic Development Administration pursuant to the 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance CARES act; and an expenditure of up to \$55,000.00 in grant management fees to be paid to Goodman Corporation. This is the first reading.**

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN THIS AGENDA ITEM**

**b. Discuss and take possible action to approve the reappointment of Judge Robert Lee as Municipal Court Judge for a two-year term.**

A motion was made by City Council Member Alan Casey and seconded by City Council member Jake Horne for approval of the reappointment of Judge Robert Lee as Municipal Court Judge for a two-year term.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez

Nays: None

**c. Discuss and take possible action to approve the Resolution No.463-2021 CenterPoint Gas will be making Interim Rate Adjustment or "GRIP" filings with the cities in their South Texas division. The Company is seeking recovery of \$44,723,636.00 The current filing will increase rates to residential customers by \$2.33 per month. This will increase the current residential customer charge from \$22.59 to \$24.92 per month. The increase is currently scheduled to go into effect on May 3, 2021. This Resolution will suspend the effective date of the rate to increase by 45 days.**

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen presented this agenda item to Giddings City Council. This is a new rate grip adjustment from CenterPoint. With the Resolution passed this will suspend the effective date by a 45-day delay.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez and seconded by City Council member Alan Casey for approval of the Resolution No.463-2021 CenterPoint Gas will be making Interim Rate Adjustment or GRIP" filings with the cities in their South Texas division. The Company is seeking recovery of \$44,723,636.00 The current filing will increase rates to residential customers by \$2.33 per month. This will increase the current residential customer charge from \$22.59 to \$24.92 per month. The increase is currently scheduled to go into effect on May 3, 2021. This Resolution will suspend the effective date of the rates to increase by 45 days.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez

Nays: None

**d. Discussion and take possible action regarding The City of Giddings Communications (Radio's).**

Director of Public Works Spencer Schneider presented this agenda item to City of Giddings Council. The City Manager Ricky Jorgensen, Police Chief Haril Walpole and myself had a meeting about up dating and purchasing the new radios for the City of Giddings Police Department and City Supervisors. The system now with the radios are outdated. The Director of Public Works Spencer Schneider had to give the Police Department the City's radios we use for our supervisors to update some communications, these radios are not working well with the new Broad System for the dispatchers. Spencer showed how much the cost is for the radios and different payment options the City will have. The purchase consists of 24 hand handle radios 16 for the Police Department and 8 for the City Supervisors and 20 new mobiles.

A motion was made by City Council Member Alan Casey and seconded by City Council Member Frank Castro for approval of the City of Giddings Communications (Radio's).

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez

Nays: None

- e. Discuss and take possible action to approve the Resolution No.464-2021 for the expenditure of GEDC funds of up to \$500,000.00 as a match for a \$1,800,000.00 grant by the Economic Development Administration's pursuant to the 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance CARES act; and an expenditure of up to \$55,000.00 in grant management fees to be paid to Goodman Corporation. This is the second and final reading.**

Alan Casey presented this item to City Council. Alan stated the City of Giddings has been awarded a \$1,800,000.00 grant by the Giddings Economic Development Assistance CARES ACT. This grant will help with the economic development for the City. The GEDC was able to provide up \$500,000.00 to meet 20% match and provide up to \$55,000.00 grant management fees paid to The Goodman Corporation.

The grant funds will cover three projects (1) the installation of water lines to the GEDC Business Park on East Highway 290, (2) extension of water and sewer utilities to the Sterling Theatre, located at the Depot Complex Downtown Giddings, and (3) the paving of a parking lot owned by the GEDC located at the Depot Complex Downtown Giddings.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jake Horne and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez for approval of Resolution No.464-2021 for the expenditure of GEDC funds of up to \$500,000.00 as a match for a \$1,800,000.00 grant by the Economic Development Administration's pursuant to the 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance CARES act; and an expenditure of up to \$55,000.00 in grant management fees to be paid to Goodman Corporation.

This is the second and final reading.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez

Nays: None

- f. Discuss and take possible action on the Memo of Understanding between Giddings Economic Development Corporation and The City of Giddings regarding the grant by the Economic Development Administration pursuant to the 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance CARES act.**

The Memo of Understanding was presented to City Council. This would be between GEDC and City of Giddings. The GEDC would serve as a co-applicant regarding the grant and agrees to provide up to \$500,000.00 as a match to \$1.8 million. GEDC commits to provide the match as well. The Goodman Associates would be retained and paid \$55,000.00 by the GEDC. The City of Giddings would be responsible for selecting the engineer for the grant project, outlining the scope of work, and entering into a contract with a selected engineering firm. The GEDC will consult regarding the grant project to contract award. The City of Giddings would be responsible for contracting with the contractor to construct the

grant projects. Zochnet desires to install a fiber optic line within the waterline easement for the business park. The City of Giddings shall be responsible for entering into a contract with Zochnet. The GEDC Director stated if, the City Council would like to make changes this is time to do so on the Memo of Understanding between the City of Giddings and the GEDC.

**NO ACTION AT THIS TIME THIS AGENDA ITEM**

**City Council Member Jake Horne stated the Memo of Understanding will need to go in front the Giddings Economic Development Corporation the come back to City of Giddings City Council.**

**7. RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Dowell closed the Regular Session at 7:46 p.m. to convene into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Section 551.071- Consultation with the City Attorney.

- a. As authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Title 5 Open Government; Ethics, Subtitle A. Open Government; Chapter 551. Open Meetings; pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney regarding GEDC contract for services with Certified Public Accountant and related financial matters.**
- b. As authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Title 5 Open Government; Ethics, Subtitle A. Open Government; Chapter 551. Open Meetings; pursuant to Section 551.087, Texas Government Code, 551.087 – Economic Development Negotiations (SB 1851) and pursuant to Section 551.072, Texas Government Code, 551.072 –Project Value Retailer.**

Mayor Dowell adjourned the Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Session, stating that no final actions, decisions, or votes were had during the Executive Session.

**8. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION**

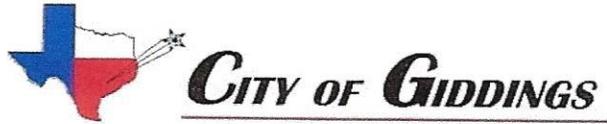
- a. Discuss and take possible action on Consultation with Attorney regarding GEDC contract with Certified Public Accountant and related financial matters.**

**NO ACTION AT THIS TIME ON THIS AGENDA ITEM**

- b. Discuss and take possible action on Economic Development Negotiations, Project Value Retailer.**

**NO ACTION AT THIS TIME ON THIS AGENDA ITEM**

John Dowell, Mayor  
Frank Castro  
Alan Casey



Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez  
Linda Pruitt  
Jake Horne  
Ricky Jorgensen, City Manager

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at Monday, March 29, 2021 at 8:54 p.m. by Mayor John Dowell**

ATTEST:

  
Andrea Ray, City Secretary

  
John Dowell, Mayor

