

STATE OF TEXAS  
CITY OF MARFA  
COUNTY OF PRESIDIO

The City Council of the City of Marfa met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, in-person at 6:00pm in the Casner Room, located in Marfa's City Hall, 113 South Highland Ave, Marfa Texas 79843. Those in attendance were Mayor Baeza, Mayor Pro Tem Salgado, Council Member Cash, Council Member Pallarez, Council Member Ballmann and Council Member Lara.

1. Call the Meeting to order and establish a quorum.

Mayor Baeza called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and established a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Citizen Comment Period.

At this time, any person may address the Council for a limited time concerning any matter and should limit their remarks to a period of three minutes. The Council is not allowed to take action on any subject presented, nor is the Council required to provide any response. As allowed in Texas Attorney General Opinion KP-0300, all public comments should be presented during this citizen comment period.

**Minutes:**

4. Adopt and approve Minutes from previous City Council Meetings.
  - June 30, 2022 – Council Member Pallarez made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mayor Pro Tem Salgado seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0. Correction to include adding proper wording to agenda item #9 of what exactly was being changed in the Board of Adjustments by-laws.

**Financial Reports:**

5. Discussion with action as appropriate to authorize Accounts Payable

Report.

- Council Member Pallarez made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Report as presented. Council Member Lara seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

6. Discussion with action as appropriate to decide whether to:
  - A. Schedule a Special Meeting on Monday, August 15, 2022, for Council to receive information from the Texas Hotel and Lodging Association (THLA) on HOT rules, regulations, and legislation; or
  - B. Schedule a Public Hearing and Special Meeting on Monday August 15, 2022, with the opportunity for public questions and comments for THLA staff on HOT rules, regulations, and legislation.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Salgado made a motion to have a Public Hearing and Special Meeting on Monday, August 15, 2022, with the THLA staff on HOT rules, regulations, and legislation with the meeting to be held at the Visitor Center / USO Building at 6:00pm. Council Member Lara seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.
7. Discussion with action as appropriate to extend swimming pool hours and use beyond the original summer schedule. (Eddie Pallarez)
  - Council Member Pallarez began by filling Council in with the concerns he'd received from citizens concerning the MAC Pool. He introduced an audience full of citizens that asked to please be allowed to express their ideas. The following citizens: Barbara Love, Beth Kerzee, Hester Ann White, Martha Bumpas, Verena Zbinden, Patrick Daly, Annette Mendoza, Hillary Summers, Jennifer Esparanza, and Genie Wright, who collectively call themselves "mermaids/mermen", all stood at individual times to

Speak to Council. The group echoed many of the same points from their personal reasons for using the MAC Pool to the major health benefits they each receive from their time in the pool, as well as some new ideas they feel the MAC Pool should be used for throughout the year rather than strictly summer months while also requesting that Council please consider extending the pool's open hours past August.

- After hearing from all who wanted to speak, City Manager Roane explained that while the current pool schedule of times and days to be open was chosen by Council to accommodate the budget, that isn't the only problem the city is facing surrounding the pool's schedule. Lifeguards were hard to find this year and the lifeguards that the city currently has are all high-school and college aged employees, meaning that they will all be returning to school in early/mid-August thus shortening this year's available times to be open.
- Annette Mendoza asked if the "mermaids" were to find and certify two adult lifeguards, could the pool stay open past August? Ultimately, all members of Council and the group of "mermaids" mutually agreed that additional hours and an extended season would likely not be something either side would be able to logistically achieve before this 2022 swim season was over. Both sides did, however, commit to each other to communicate and work together throughout the year. Genie Wright suggested to Council to possibly form a committee made up of mermaids and two council members to collaborate and come up with creative solutions or possible fundraisers.
- Mayor Pro Tem Salgado made a motion to appoint Council Member Ballmann and Council Member Pallarez to a Pool Committee to be formed with the public to do further investigations into the city opening the pool in 2023 for extended hours and trying to find adult lifeguards for extended season. Council Member Lara seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.



8. Discussion with action as appropriate to approve Resolution No. 2022-08, adding Jason Ballmann as a signatory to all City of Marfa bank accounts.
  - Council Member Lara made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-08, adding Jason Ballmann as a signatory to all City of Marfa bank accounts. Mayor Pro Tem Salgado seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.
9. Discussion with action as appropriate to work with Marfa ISD to create and fund a School Resource Officer position.
  - Marfa Superintendent Oscar Aguero addressed Council with the high concern for safety there is following the recent school shooting tragedy in Uvalde, TX. The need for a fulltime SRO is at the top of his and the School Board's list. He presented that this officer would be hired by the City/Police Department, in order to keep equal benefit coverage between all officers, but that Marfa ISD is fully prepared to reimburse the City for all benefit and salary costs incurred.
  - Council Member Pallarez made a motion to work with Marfa ISD to create and fund a School Resource Officer (SRO) position. Council Member Cash seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.
10. Discussion with action as appropriate to approve RFP for outside Financial Director Services.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Salgado made a motion to approve the RFP for outside Financial Director Services as present. Council Member Lara seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.
11. Discussion with action as appropriate to change N Gonzales St. (currently a one-way) back to a two-way street. (Mark Cash)
  - Marfa ISD Superintendent Oscar Aguero stood to address Council that he was in support of opening the street back to 2-

way traffic. The 1-way was helpful during Covid protocol times at the school, but it is no longer necessary. Council Member Cash made a motion to change N. Gonzales St, between Columbia St and Lincoln St, back to a two-way street, effective immediately. Mayor Pro Tem Salgado seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

#### **Executive Sessions:**

12. Convene into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.071 (consultation with attorney); specifically, 551.071(1)(A) (contemplated litigation) and 551.071(2) (privileged attorney-client communications) to consult with counsel regarding streets abandoned in 1999 by the Marfa City Commission in the Buena Vista Addition; reconvene into open session to take action as appropriate.

- No update. Mayor Pro Tem Salgado made a motion to Table this item. Council Member Lara seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

#### **Reports:**

13. Mayor's Report

14. City Manager's Report

- City Manager Roane announced that due to short staff at the pool, for the week of May 26-30, the pool will have to operate as shallow-end swimming only. She also mentioned that the new office software InCode is in full conversion swing and most office personnel are currently attending training classes. The water rate study is also set to kick off in the next week or two.

15. Police Chief's Report

16. Council Members' Comments

- Council Member Pallarez asked fellow Councilmembers if they had received and seen an email that was sent from Texas Tech University Health Science Center – El Paso in reference to a health initiative through walking challenges possibly coming to west Texas.
- Council Member Ballman thanked Council for his appointment to the Council.

17. Announcements

18. Adjourn

- Council Member Lara made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm. Council Member Ballmann seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.



Manuel V. Baeza, Mayor

Attest:



Amanda Roane, City Secretary