**Village of Salado Municipal Building**

**301 North Stagecoach Road**

**Salado, Texas**

**Minutes of Special Called Meeting of Board of Aldermen**

**August 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

The Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Henry.

*The meeting was conducted in person and on YouTube.*

Mayor Henry gave the Invocation, and the Board of Aldermen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Board Members Present: Mayor Bert Henry, Mayor Pro-Tem Rodney Bell, Alderman Zach Hurst, Alderman D. Jasen Graham, and Alderman Michael MacDonald.

Staff Present: Village Administrator Manual De La Rosa, City Secretary Debra Bean, Police Chief Allen Fields and Marketing and Tourism Manager Deanna Whitson.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sam Morris spoke regarding the things that have transpired with the past administration and how we work through them. He said good faith is important. We must think about whether or not we have the money to take care of items now. He says the question is what the Village is going to have to sacrifice.

Brian Sunshine thanked John Newman for covering the meetings for the last few years. He acknowledged meeting King Copeland through Darlene Walsh. Mr. Sunshine said he thought Mr. Copeland would be pleased with the new McDonalds. He suggested various avenues to help fix the deficit.

Jim Boynton spoke in support of the items Brian Sunshine stated. He also spoke of projects being killed and corruption in the past.

Linda Reynolds suggested adding paid parking to help raise money for the Village.

1. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
   1. DISCUSS AND RECONSIDER POSSIBLE ACTION ON SETTING THE DATES, TIMES, AND PLACE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025 OPERATING BUDGET AND THE 2024 AD VALOREM TAX RATE.

Motion by Alderman Graham to schedule a Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2025 Operating Budget for Thursday, August 22, 2024 and the 2024 Ad Valorem Tax Rate on Monday, August 26, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building located at 301 N. Stagecoach Road. Seconded by Alderman Hurst. All approved and motion carried by a vote of four in favor, none opposed.

* 1. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVING THE PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX RATE TO SUPPORT FUNDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 VILLAGE OF SALADO OPERATING BUDGET.

Mr. De La Rosa explained the process for creation of the proposed budget. He stated it was as lean as possible. Mayor Henry stated that he would not accept cutting police protection and gave examples of how the need for protection was there. Alderman Graham asked about looking at other potentials for revenues and if they had been identified. Mr. De La Rosa explained how this process was underway. He explained that he is not changing the rules but only enforcing the ordinances that are already in place but were not being followed. Alderman Graham inquired about the engineering bill possibly being less next year and revenue gained as a result of that. Mr. De La Rosa stated he is hoping the bills will be the same because that tells us that the activity is the same or more, but that we will not be subsidizing developments. Alderman Hurst addressed how much money we had left on the table in the past and also spoke in support of the police department. Alderman MacDonald spoke on the fact that we had cut back in many areas and that he believes the budget is as tight as it can be. He acknowledged that a lot of work has gone into this budget. He encouraged the community to reach out if they had any questions about the budget. Mayor Pro Tem Bell asked about a transfer to wastewater. Mr. De La Rosa suggested a sewer rate analysis and restructuring in the fall. He believes wastewater should be self-sustaining. Mayor Pro Tem Bell would like to see this transfer done on an accrual basis. He also inquired about a transfer to Interest and Sinking Funds. Mr. De La Rosa said this was to cover issued debt payments if needed.

Mayor Henry opened the floor for Public Comments.

Linda Reynolds said we should not be afraid of Tex DOT. She doesn’t think there will be any repercussions. Daryl Street asked what percentage of the budget is salaries. Mr. De Las Rosa said it is not appropriate to discuss this at this meeting but could be discussed at the future Public Hearing. Brian Sunshine expressed frustration that the Public Hearing is on the same date that the budget and tax rate are adopted. He also suggested we look at itinerant vendors and sales tax. Mayor Henry urged the public to reach out and also to attend meetings. Alderman MacDonald asked about the possibility of fixing an item on the budget before it is adopted. Mr. De La Rosa explained that the budget can be changed before it is adopted and can be amended after it is adopted.

Motion by Alderman Hurst to publish a proposed ad valorem tax rate of .1841 debt services rate and .3019 maintenance and operations for a total of .4860. Seconded by Alderman MacDonald. Call for votes results as follows; Alderman Graham yes, Alderman Hurst yes, Alderman MacDonald yes and Mayor Pro Tem Bell no. Motion approved by a vote of three in favor, one opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Henry called the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Approved:

Bert Henry, Mayor

Attest:

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Debra Bean, City Secretary