

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, December 28, 2017 and following is the record of attendance.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Comm. Eleazar Guajardo
Comm. Roberto "Bobby" Carrillo
Comm. Ramiro Caballero
Comm. Daniel Chavez
Comm. Ricardo Medina

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Comm. Mario Bracamontes

STAFF PRESENT: Edward Wylie, Deputy City Manager
Imelda Barrera, Assistant City Clerk
Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer
Karla Moya, Finance Director
Rodolfo Martinez, Municipal Court Judge
Bea Fuentes, HR Coordinator
Edward Chavez, Interim Asst. Police Chief
Leonardo Perez, Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Asst. Dev. Services Director
Rick Pedraza, Public Works Director
Jose Villescass, Public Utilities Director
Roel Garza, Asst. Parks & Rec. Director
Raul Garza, CDBG Director
Adolfo Garcia, Library
Jose Pena, IT Director
Fred Brouwen, Asst. Bridge Director
Veronica Gutierrez, Purchasing Coordinator

CITY ATTORNEY John Rigney, City Attorney

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hernandez called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

A) ROLL CALL AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EXCUSING OF ANY ABSENT MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

Comm. Guajardo moved to excuse the absent member. Comm. Carrillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 2. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) PRESENTATION BY HIDALGO COUNTY JUDGE (ADMINISTRATION)

Honorable Judge Ramon Garcia stated he was visiting all cities in Hidalgo County to explain the need of a new county courthouse. He stated the present courthouse was built in 1954 and back then, there were only 3 courts and 160,000 residents living in the county. Now Hidalgo County has 24 courts with an additional court needed in 2018. Judge Garcia presented a video on safety issues, health hazards, financial advantages, and renovations vs. construction.

Mayor Hernandez thanked Judge Ramon Garcia for his presentation and briefly stated the City of Pharr wanted to see this project succeed and was prepared to make that investment as well to assist the county.

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Comm. Medina asked if the courthouse would be in the same location. Judge Ramon Garcia replied by stating yes, it would be in the same area. Comm. Medina also asked about parking. Judge Ramon Garcia stated they had a map that addressed the parking but unfortunately, it was not included in video. However, he stated the county did own two and a half blocks adjacent to courthouse that they would be utilizing for parking. He further stated the City of Edinburg had discussed the idea of a parking garage. Comm. Medina questioned the price of project. Judge Ramon Garcia stated they were trying to keep the project below \$150 million with no increase of taxes.

Comm. Carrillo asked how committed the City of Edinburg was to this project. Judge Ramon Garcia stated the previous administration was fully committed to the project but the present administration was currently conducting their own evaluation and will be providing Hidalgo County with a response in January.

Comm. Guajardo thanked Judge Ramon Garcia for providing information and stated City of Pharr was willing to help in this project. Judge Ramon Garcia stated Hidalgo County was committed to the City of Edinburg at this time, but things could change and hopefully, they would get a response by January.

Comm. Caballero asked if there were other areas considered for the project or if it was something they would need to strategize about. Judge Ramon Garcia stated there were no other areas considered and if need be, they would re-evaluate the project and consider a secondary option.

Ed Wylie, Deputy City Manager, asked Judge Ramon Garcia how many acres they would need for this project. Judge Ramon Garcia stated a minimal of 20 acres.

At this time, Mayor Hernandez, stated they would deviate from the agenda and go into closed session. There was no objection.

ITEM 3. CLOSED SESSION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOV'T. CODE, THE PHARR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY GIVES NOTICE THAT IT MAY MEET IN A CLOSED (NON-PUBLIC) EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

The time being 4:18 p.m., Mayor Hernandez stated the commission would be entering into closed session in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Govt. Code to discuss agenda items listed in the public portion of the agenda and Pursuant to Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.084 and 551.087.

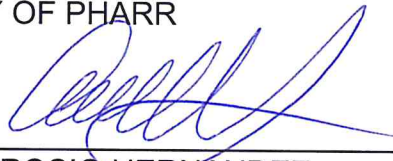
ITEM 4. RECONVENE

The time being 4:53 p.m., Mayor Hernandez stated the commission would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Comm. Carrillo moved to adjourn. Comm. Guajardo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

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**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR**

ON THIS THE 28th DAY OF DECEMBER 2017 the Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas convened in a **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING** at the Commissioner's Room located at 118 S. Cage, 2nd Floor, Pharr, Texas. The meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting, giving the date, place, subject, hereof, having been posted in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code (Open Meetings Act) and there being present a quorum, I, **HILDA PEDRAZA, CITY CLERK**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

ATTEST:


HILDA PEDRAZA, CITY CLERK

APPROVED: January 15, 2018