

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
2nd PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING
MINUTES MAY 30, 2019

The City of Pharr's Community Development Council held a public hearing/meeting for the purpose of soliciting comments on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Citizen participation is encouraged, and comments received will be considered for the City of Pharr's 4-Year Consolidated Plan & Strategy for 2019-2022.

Thursday, May 30, 2019
Commissioners Room
118 S. Cage Blvd. 2nd Floor
Pharr, Texas 78577

- 1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call:** Chairman Rene Cantu started the hearing/meeting at 6:00 p.m. according to the published Public Hearing/Meeting Notice. There being a quorum for the meeting, the public hearing was open to the public.

Council Members present:

Jose G. Rodriguez
Ruben Solis
Belia Garcia
Romeo Robles
Trinidad Suchil
Rene Cantu
Lucio Gaitan

Council Members absent:

Marco Gonzalez
Danny Smith
Joe Hinojosa
Norma Treviño

Chairman Rene Cantu entertained a motion to excuse absent members, Ruben Solis moved to excuse the members absent seconded by Jose Rodriguez, when it came to a vote it carried unanimously.

Staff Present: Raul Garza, Director
Santiago Salinas, Program Manager
Sonia Barajas, Administrative Assistant

Public Present: No public present.

- 2. Second Public Hearing:** Citizen participation on the development and submission of the city's 4-Year Consolidated Plan & Strategy to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. Mr. Raul Garza, GMCD Director talked about the 4-Year Plan being a HUD requirement that needs to be submitted every 3-5 years, in this case the city's 4-Year submission was as a result of the substantial amendment from last year. The 4-Year Plan hearing is to collect input from residents on the community needs in housing, economic development, infrastructure thus identifying the development of the one-year action plans to follow.

Santiago Salinas, Program Manager made comments on the Cloudburst Consulting Group assisting with the development of the on the 4-Year Plan and will be submitted with the Action Plan on August 15, 2019. Additional data collection will be accomplished through a survey that is on the city's webpage. Mr. Salinas encouraged the board to have friends and family to participate in the survey and help us collecting as much data as possible. Also, we'll be having a Stakeholder Session day on June 26, 2019 along with the agencies that provide different types of services. The sessions will consist of two sessions at City Hall and South Pharr at Su Casa de Esperanza.

3. Administrative:

- A) Approval of minutes for February 27, 2019 and March 7, 2019.

Chairman Rene Cantu entertained a motion to approve minutes for both meetings Jose Rodriguez moved to approve minutes, seconded by Romeo Robles, when it came to a vote it carried unanimously.

- B) For Discussion/Approval: Action Plan 2019 Recommendations.

Mr. Romeo Robles asked how the agencies were ranked. Mr. Salinas explained, the main reason staff had the board participate in ranking the agencies was to have an input from the advisory for the consideration and decision of the award recommendations. Recommendations were as follows: (See attachment).

Mr. Raul Garza said, staff recommendations were based on previous years funding, timeliness the agencies spent the funds and their overall performance measures.

Mr. Salinas explained the distribution of the total entitlement grant for this year, \$1,150,930.00 20% for Administration, 15% (\$172,369.00) for Public Services, \$400,000.00 for the Section 108 Loan and the Non-Public services had no cap. Chairman Rene Cantu read all recommendations one by one. Councilman Robles asked about the scope of work with Downtown Assistance Program (DAP), Mr. Garza explained that HUD allows funds to be used in downtown programs for economic development. City Manager would like to revitalize the downtown by assisting with rent for a couple months to get the business started or by helping improve the inside of the building and or the front of the building as well. Those businesses will help create new jobs and will generate revenues. Also, two new boards will be reactivated, the Historical Commission and the Main Street Board will be an integral part of the DAP in providing advisory assistance on the applicants of the program.

Mr. Salinas explained the process of the Demolition Program is an in-house activity through the Development Services Department/Code Enforcement Division, they do an inventory of abandoned or dilapidated structures that needs to be demolished, CDBG provides the Waste Management bin up to \$5,000.

Mr. Lucio Gaitan made a motion to accept recommendations seconded by Mr. Solis, when it came to a vote it carried unanimously.

Mr. Salinas informed the Council that the upcoming process after this meeting the would involve for the recommendations to be presented to the City Commission and we'll be having a City Commission Public Hearing as well the second meeting in June, the 30-Day Comment Period and the final submission. The City Commission authorize the final award for the action plan.

Mr. Garza commented on the substantial amendment to the Section 108's Aquatic Park schedule. In February 2019 Parks and Recreations proposed to implement two new programs, Swimming Stroke and Water Polo session for a few weeks. The city followed its citizens participation process and HUD approved the amendment as presented. In the end, the programs never were actually implemented and the stayed the same.

- 4. Adjourn:** Chairman Rene Cantu entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Jose Rodriguez moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Lucio Gaitan, when it came to a vote it carried unanimously.



Rene Cantu, Chairman



Ruben Solis, Secretary