



MINUTES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
PUBLIC MEETING
JUNE 28, 2018 HEARING/MEETING

The City of Pharr's Community Development Council held a public hearing/meeting for the purpose of on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the City of Pharr's One Year Action Plan for the 2018-2019 CDBG Program Year.

1. **Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call:** Chairman Danny Smith started the meeting at 6:00 p.m. by following the published Public Meeting Notice: There being quorum for the meeting, public meeting continued.

Council Members present:

Jose G. Rodriguez
Ruben Solis
Rene Cantu
Danny Smith
Lucio Gaitan
Norma Treviño (late)

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

Public Present: see attached roster

2. **Public Comments:**

Raul Garza, GMCD Director said since there is no quorum the meeting will continue for public comments only and no action on the items will be taken (the minutes reflect on five (5) members present, Ms. Norma Treviño came in a few minutes late and a quorum was present). The meeting proceeded with action items addressed. Comments were as follow:

Mr. K. C. Fletcher introduced himself and said he reside at 504 Diplomat, Pharr Texas. Mr. Fletcher thanked the board for showing up and asked if there was a quorum, Mr. Garza said no, there's no quorum. Mr. Fletcher continued by saying it was a similar circumstance of the last meeting on May 24, 2018 and he believes we cannot hold a meeting if there's no quorum but still he is allowed to speak something the Attorney needed to advise staff on. Mr. Fletcher continued by saying on the public comments, it's important to have public participation in this process especially for federal government, even thou the speakers addressed the action plan and advise the council to use caution in awarding the budget, the public comments lack of positive intent of the public participation because speakers do not voice their needs, demands and concerns. He said he was very concerned about having lack of due process, really concerned with official oppression and not being able to use the swimming pool and was really concerned how \$2.8 million was diverted from one project of the Section 108 Loan to the natatorium without any accountability for it, "those people that were in charge of fiscal responsibility are still here". He commented that other non-compliance monetary things were done like the \$1,922,00 in change orders with federal CDBG monies and there was no public participation or public hearing, which is the finding number one on the letter to the City of Pharr. Mr. Fletcher concluded his comments by stating he doesn't think the May 24th hearing/meeting shouldn't have been held since there was no quorum. He suggested the CDBG office have another hearing to replace the May 24th hearing and for CDBG staff to consult with the city attorney on the matter.

Lorena Singh introduced herself and thanked the members for the opportunity to speak. Ms. Sing read her concerns, about the recent flooding, that she wrote (see attachments).

Raul Garza, Director said, referred the council to addressing the agenda items of action since there had been a quorum with the late arrival of one of the council members. Chairman Danny Smith entertained a motion to excuse members absent, Mr. Ruben Solis approved in favor the motion, seconded by Mr. Rene Cantu, motion carried unanimously

3. Public Hearing:

- A) Public participation and comments concerning community needs and priorities for the development of the One Year Action Plan 2018. Comments were as follow:

Kenneth C. Fletcher started by reiterating his previous concerns stating them as being a part of the action plan development. He stated that the CDBG office did not publish the May 31st meeting that was held after the May 24th hearing that there was no quorum.

He commented on the action plan's 15% for social services, and his concern that an agency not listed for awards is Mujeres Unidas, and encouraged to reach out to them because they can use funds for domestic violence. And for Part B encouraged to keep up with the good work.

Lorena Sing referring back to the event that happened with the flooding, (see attachment). She also mentioned the comments she made on the May 24 meeting, regarding a letter from HUD to the City on the audit of the Section 108 Loan \$5.4M that was supposed to be for the Aquatic Center and for paving of the streets which was not done.

- B) Public participation and comments on the Substantial Amendment on the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan 2013-2017 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Comments were as follow:

Kenneth C. Fletcher mentioned about how many years Mujeres Unidas were funded and when they stopped getting funds. He said he noticed that same agencies get funds even if they're not present to answer questions and suggested to be more careful and pay more attention who gets the funds.

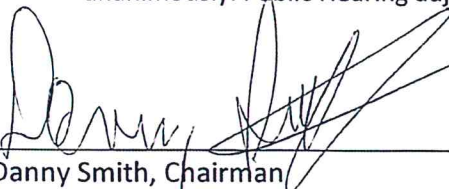
Lorena Singh encouraged the board to do more research on the agencies, they are an asset to the community, as a social worker she refers those agencies to the clients and residents of Pharr to use these agencies and they need more money to service all of them, not enough money to provide services. She encourage the board to give more money to Meals on Wheels, Silver Ribbon and Area Agency on Aging.

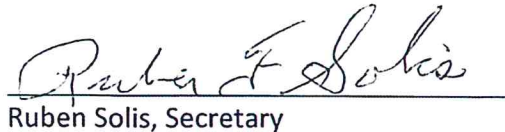
4. Administrative:

Approval of minutes for March 6, 2018 Meeting; May 24, 2018 meeting; and May 31, 2018 Meeting. Mr. Danny Smith entertained a motion to approve minutes for the three (3) meetings at once. Mr. Gaitan moved to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Solis and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Adjourn:

There being no other business, Chairman Danny Smith entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gaitan moved to adjourn Rene Cantu seconded the motion and when to put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Public Hearing adjourned at 6:25 p.m.


Danny Smith, Chairman


Ruben Solis, Secretary

CITY OF PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

CDBG PUBLIC WORKSHOP JUNE 28, 2018

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