

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Special Called Meeting on Friday, June 12, 2020 and following is the record of attendance.

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Edward Wylie, Interim City Manager
Anali Alanis, Assistant City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, ACM/City Clerk
Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Gary Rodriguez, Events Center Director
Marissa Hernandez, Municipal Court Judge
Jose A. Luengo, Police Chief
Jacob Salinas, Assistant Fire Chief
Pilar Rodriguez, Interim Public Works Dir.
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Raul Garza, CDBG Director
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Ignacio Amezcua, Purchasing Director
Daniel Ramirez, Communications Director
Karina Lopez, Interim Chamber President

CITY ATTORNEY Patricia Rigney, City Attorney

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

At this time, Mayor Hernandez, stated there was some confusion and misinformation regarding a social media post and a comment made by Comm. Ricardo Medina. Mayor Hernandez stated he spoke with Comm. Medina regarding the comment and was told by Comm. Medina that he had made an honest mistake by misunderstanding the content of the post. Mayor Hernandez explained the City of Pharr would not tolerate acts of violence, racial remarks, police brutality, nor allow damages to businesses or the community as discussed during the City Commission meeting on June 1, 2020. Mayor Hernandez further stated this was the Commissioner's own comment did not represent the entire City Commission.

Comm. Medina stated his comment was solely by him and had nothing to do with the City of Pharr, the City Commission, or the Mayor. He expressed he has served this community in several capacities as a public servant, elected by the residents of Pharr and he was very grateful to have been elected all this time. Comm. Medina further

stated he believed in the freedom of speech granted by the Constitution and he himself grew-up in a time where Hispanics faced discrimination and injustices. He mentioned that he believes the destruction of businesses or property is unacceptable and admitted he was not aware of all the ins and outs of social media; therefore, he jumped to a conclusion and made a mistake. Comm. Medina stated supports the business community and had reacted in support of what he thought was the business owner protecting his property. He later discovered that he made an oversight because he did not watch the video in its entirety and after making that realization, he mentioned he deleted comment off social media. Comm. Medina expressed his most sincere apologies and mentioned he would be more mindful of understanding the complete picture before sharing and commenting on social media.

At this time, City Commissioners commented on social media post and expressed support towards Comm. Medina and stand together to bring the City of Pharr positive change to its citizens and the community.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Margarita Gonzalez, resident from Donna, Texas, was not present.

Hunter Sturgis, resident from McAllen, Texas, spoke about item 3.B and voiced her concern with Comm. Medina's social media post.

Delores Smith, resident from Weslaco, Texas, was not present.

Sarah Southey, resident from Edinburg, Texas, spoke about item 3.B and voiced her concern with Comm. Medina's social media post.

Andres Bernal, resident from McAllen, Texas, spoke about item 3.B and voiced his concern with Comm. Medina's social media post.

Guadalupe Pardo, resident from La Feria, Texas, spoke about item 3.B and voiced her concern with Comm. Medina's social media post.

Ismael Melendez, resident from Pharr, Texas, was not present.

There being no further comments, the public testimony was closed.

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

Comm. Chavez entered the meeting at this point of the agenda. The time being 4:31 p.m.

ITEM 5. 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 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING BELOW

The time being 4:31 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 6. RECONVENE

The time being 4:57 p.m., Mayor Hernandez stated the commission would be resuming the open meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON SUBMITTALS/REIMBURSEMENTS TO HIDALGO COUNTY FOR CARES ACT FUNDING AND FINDING ALL SUBMITTALS REASONABLE AND NECESSARY FOR THE INTENDED USE (ADMINISTRATION)**

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly explained all submittals were in the agenda packet and pre-clearance was done with the county. He stated a formal submittal would take place next week and recommended approval.

Comm. Guajardo moved to approve as recommended. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

- B) DISCUSSION WITH CITY COMMISSION ON FUTURE GOALS, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES OF THE CITY OF PHARR (ADMINISTRATION)**

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated no action was necessary.

ITEM 4. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH HIDALGO COUNTY FOR CARES ACT FUNDING (ADMINISTRATION)**

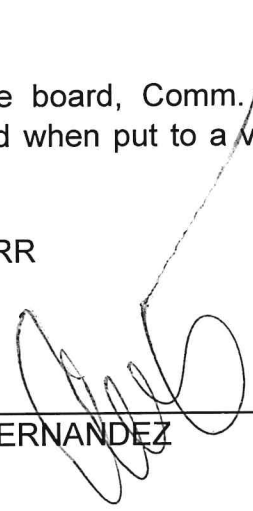
Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated this was the proposed Interlocal Agreement with Hidalgo County but there might be some changes. He further requested permission to negotiate and accept those changes on behalf of the City.

Comm. Carrillo moved to approve as recommended. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Comm. Carrillo moved to adjourn. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

MINUTES: SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
June 12, 2020

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

ON THIS THE 12th DAY OF JUNE 2020 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, Teas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

ATTEST:



HILDA PEDRAZA, CITY CLERK

APPROVED: July 6, 2020