

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, July 13, 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
Criselda Rincon, Municipal Court Judge
Andrew Harvey Jr., Police Chief
Leonardo Perez, 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 12:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

At this time, Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, asked a moment of silence for the two McAllen Police Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Mayor Hernandez spoke about the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and stated the City of Pharr was taking pro-active measures due to the spike in numbers of cases. At this time, he called upon Daniel Ramirez, Communications Director and Deputy Emergency Management, for a report.

Danny Ramirez, Communications Director and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, gave a report on the number of positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in Hidalgo County. He stated hospitals were overwhelmed and they continue to work with ambulance providers.

Mayor Hernandez stated two new orders would be issued in the best interest and safety for the community. The new orders would suspend residential and commercial construction and the Live Safe, Work Safe plans would be implemented. Mayor Hernandez also stated all Pharr school face-to-face classes would be closed until further notice and until the City develops a plan that would follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. He emphasized this was to protect students, teachers, staff, and the entire population. Mayor Hernandez further stated ongoing construction within the city was not in compliance with the safety measures and the City of Pharr would be taking stricter measures and halt all construction projects to have better control and make sure everyone was in compliance with (CDC) guidelines.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, stated a survey had been done and people were not following the Governor's order for face coverings and one of the biggest populations within the City was construction. He stated all construction businesses and/or site managers would be mandated to submit a Work Safe Plan and the order would be effective 11:59 p.m. on July 13, 2020 and continue through August 15, 2020.

Comm. Flores stated it was difficult for children to leave their masks on and follow safety measures. She stated the Texas Education Agency (TEA) had asked that every school district submit a plan to ensure the safety of the children and the schools were responsible to educate and ensure their safety.

Comm. Caballero stated hospitals were at capacity and medical staff was overwhelmed. He asked everyone to be safe, practice safety measures and be cautious of their surroundings.

Comm. Chavez stated the closing of construction projects was in the best interest of the employees and for everyone to follow the guidelines.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There were no comments from the public.

REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION

ITEM 3. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE O-2019-50 RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS WITHIN THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS (2ND AND FINAL READING) (ADMINISTRATION)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and recommended approval.

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

Ordinance No. O-2020-20 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 4. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, TO CONFIRM THE CITY MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT OF A DEPARTMENT HEAD FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO 143.013(1) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE (ADMINISTRATION)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and requested confirmation in the appointment of Andrew Harvey Jr. as Chief of Police for the City of Pharr.

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

Andrew Harvey Jr., Police Chief, thanked the City Commission for their confidence and support in leading the Pharr Police Department into a future-focus department. He stated he was honored and humbled to be appointed as the new Police Chief and was looking forward to working with everyone.

Mayor Hernandez and the City Commission welcomed Chief Harvey and his family to the great City of Pharr.

ITEM 5. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR CHIEF OF POLICE (ADMINISTRATION)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated this was a standard employment contract for Andrew Harvey Jr. and recommended approval.

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

ITEM 6. CLOSED SESSION

None.

ITEM 7. RECONVENE

None.

ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT

At this time, Mayor Hernandez called upon the new Municipal Court Judges for a brief introduction. Criselda Rincon-Flores, Municipal Judge, and Rodolfo Martinez, Alternate Municipal Judge, introduced themselves and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve the City of Pharr.

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 12:23 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

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

ON THIS THE 13th DAY OF JULY 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, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

ATTEST:



HILDA PEDRAZA, CITY CLERK

APPROVED: July 20, 2020