MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 and following is the record of attendance.

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:
Edward Wylie, Interim City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, ACM / City Clerk
Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Criselda Rincon, Municipal Court Judge
Andrew Harvey Jr., Police Chief
Leonardo Perez, Fire Chief
Melanie Cano, Development Services Dir.
Pilar Rodriguez, Interim Public Works Dir.
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Director
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Ignacio Amezcua, Purchasing Director
Daniel Ramirez, Communications Director
Lisa C. Salinas, Chamber President
Michelle Lopez, Chief Comm. Officer

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 4:02 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, led in the pledge of allegiance and said the invocation.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 3. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

A) CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated City Engineer was available for any questions.

Mayor Hernandez asked staff for an update on I-69 Interchange improvements.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, stated there had been an improvement design constraint but it has been solved. He stated a braided ramp exit was added to the area by Pappadeaux Restaurant and explained this would be a separate contract to the interchange improvements project.

B) SUBMISSION OF 1ST QUARTER 2020-2021 CITY OF PHARR INVESTMENT REPORT

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported the City of Pharr had $65 Million in investments and everything was on track and stated questions could be entertained at this time.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported the City of Pharr Parks & Recreation Department would be hosting Movies in the Park on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Dr. Long Park located at 1000 E. Eldora Road. He stated the featured movie would be Disney's Beauty and the Beast and invited the public to attend.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, also reported the Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce would be hosting The Hub Market Days on Saturday, February 13, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.at the Hub Downtown Park. He stated there would be food, music and local vendors and invited the public to come out and show their support for small businesses.

At this time, Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced Michelle Lopez as the City's new Communications Officer.

Michelle Lopez, Chief Communications Officer, introduced herself and thanked the City Commission for the opportunity to serve the City of Pharr.

ITEM 4. CONSENT AGENDA

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 18, 2021 REGULAR CALLED MEETING (ADMINISTRATION)

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING CONSULTING SERVICES TO UPDATE OUR EXISTING LAND USE REGULATIONS TO A UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE (UDC) (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

C) PLATS:

1. **MELDEN & HUNT INC., REPRESENTING ZAED VIRGEN, MANAGER FOR FLAG POLK, L.L.C., A TEXAS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, REQUESTED FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED BGRR MIDTOWN SUBDIVISION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A RE-SUBDIVISION OF 7.906 ACRES OUT OF LOTS 2 AND 3, BLOCK D, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 601 WEST POLK AVENUE. SUB#191227**

2. **MELDEN & HUNT, INC., REPRESENTING ERICKSON CONSTRUCTION, LLC., OF WEST OAK VILLAGES DEVELOPMENT, LLC, REQUESTED FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED WEST RIDGE ESTATES PHASE 3 SUBDIVISION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A 19.091 ACRES OUT OF LOT 91, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT THE 500 BLOCK OF WEST MINNESOTA ROAD. SUB#190717**

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

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

REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION

ITEM 5. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2006-47 STANDARDS MANUAL CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDE (ENGINEERING)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated this was an update to the drainage policy to include residential drainage and would require residential owners to dedicate an easement for drainage when homes are built. He further stated this would include the widening of street from 34' feet to 40' feet street to provide sufficient space for emergency vehicles to get through neighborhoods. Mr. Wylie stated the cost was approximately $1,500 per every 100' feet and recommended approval.

Comm. Guajardo **moved** to approve as recommended. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion.

Mayor Hernandez stated the issues in south Pharr and the north-west side of Pharr were due to not having drainage measures in place and were created at time of land development. At this time, he called upon City Engineer for an update on the area of Sugar Road and Egly.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, stated this area was very challenging but the City was looking for a cost-effective solution. He stated the cost to resolve the issue would be approximately $10 to $15 Million.

Mayor Hernandez assured the residents the drainage issues within the City of Pharr were being addressed.

There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote and it carried unanimously.

Comm. Caballero entered the meeting at this point of the agenda. The time being 4:12 p.m.

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED CITY FISCAL POLICIES (FINANCE)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and briefly stated fiscal policies were updated every year for new law revisions and as recommended by the auditor. Mr. Wylie further stated minor revisions were being made to budget adjustments and recommended approval.

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

Resolution No. R-2021-04 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION EXECUTING AN ADVANCE FUNDING AGREEMENT (AFA) WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) FOR THE AG LAB, CSJ: 0921-02-433 (ENGINEERING)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated this was for the Ag Lab at the Pharr International Bridge and the total project cost was approximately $13.5 million. He further stated the City received Rider funding in the amount of $8 million therefore the project would cost the City approximately $4.7 million.

Mayor Hernandez asked Bridge Director, Luis Bazan, for an update on this project for public knowledge.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated this was for a state-of-the-art regional Ag center and laboratory as 70% of the nation's produce was crossed through the Pharr International Bridge. He stated federal agencies such as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) would be working in this facility to assure we have cargo release authority. Lastly, Mr. Bazan elaborated on how this Lab would assist the bridge by expediting the process and handling of produce crossings in Pharr.

Mayor Hernandez further stated the City had not decided what school district the City would be partnering with to augment their Agricultural Department. However, UTRGV would be assisting with hands-on studies to prevent contamination issues into the United States.

There being no further comments, Comm. Chavez **moved** to approve as recommended. Comm. Carrillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2021-05 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF PHARR TO PARTICIPATE WITH CITIES AS A PARTY IN AEP TEXAS, INC.'S FILING, PUC DOCKET NO. 51671 (ADMINISTRATION)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated American Electric Power (AEP) was looking into recovering approximately $13.8 million in advance metering to monitor the electricity usage. Mr. Wylie stated the City of Pharr would like to be part of this incase and recommended approval.

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

Resolution No. R-2021-06 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 6. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECT ROTATION LIST FOR ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS (ENGINEERING)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated this was to add Method Architecture out of Houston to the professional architect rotation list 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 7. PURCHASING

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ACQUISITION OF HIDALGO COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO. 2 EASEMENT (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated the City had purchased some property at Sioux Road and 281 which had a 30' by 606' easement from Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2 and was no longer being used. He stated the City was proposing an offer in the amount of $16,200 and recommended approval.

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

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE PURCHASE OF AN MX908 HANDHELD CHEMICAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FROM FARRWEST OUT OF SCHERTZ, TX THROUGH BUY-BOARD CONTRACT # 603-20 FOR A PRICE OF $65,018.25 FROM A STATE HOMELAND SECURITY SHSP GRANT (FIRE)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated this was a handheld chemical identifier that would be purchased through grant funds at no cost to the city and recommended approval.

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

C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE PURCHASE OF A PIERCE CUSTOM ENFORCER PUMPER AND A SKEETER FORD F 550 TYPE 5 BRUSH TRUCK FROM SIDDONS-MARTIN EMERGENCY GROUP, LLC OUT OF DENTON, TX USING BUYBOARD # 571-18 FOR A TOTAL PRICE OF $801,161.15 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT (FIRE)

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

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

Comm. Caballero left the meeting at this point of the agenda. The time being 4:24 p.m.

ITEM 8. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE (STC) TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO STAFF DURING PHARR UNIVERSITY 2021 (HR)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated this was for training for all staff during Pharr University 2021 on Professionalism in the Workplace and Customer Service. He stated the amount was $3,450 and recommended approval.

Comm. Carrillo **moved** to approve as recommended. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion.

Veronica Ramirez, HR Director, clarified amount for training cost as per Comm. Medina observation in agenda memorandum information provided in agenda packet.

There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote and it carried unanimously.

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE CITY OF PHARR VARIOUS PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (ENGINEERING)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated several bids were received but were too high for the project therefore the materials were segregated and purchased in-house. He further stated the contract was for labor only and recommended RDH Site & Concrete LLC. in the amount of $616,150.50.

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

C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JAVIER HINOJOSA ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOUTH REGIONAL DETENTION FACILITY AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (ENGINEERING)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated this was for the twenty-three (23) acres of land purchased by City of Pharr for the detention facility and drainage improvement project.

Mayor Hernandez explained this project would also include a dog park in addition to the intended purpose of holding water.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, stated the PSJA Southwest High School students would be assisting on the design concept and the area would include park amenities as well as an upgrade to storm pipe infrastructure.

There being no further comments, Comm. Guajardo **moved** to approve as recommended. Comm. Carrillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COBBFENDLY FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY WIDE FIBER OPTIC PROJECT (ENGINEERING)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated this was for design and project administration. He further stated groundbreaking would take place sometime in April 2021 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 9. CLOSED SESSION

None.

ITEM 10. RECONVENE

None.

ITEM 11. 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 4:30 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR

AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 1st DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021 the Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas convened in a **REGULAR 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: February 15, 2021