

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021 and following is the record of attendance.

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Chavez

STAFF PRESENT: Edward Wylie, Interim City Manager
Anali Alanis, Assistant City Manager
Imelda Barrera, Assistant City Clerk
Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Andrew Harvey Jr., Police Chief
Leonardo Perez, Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Interim Dev. Services Dir.
Pilar Rodriguez, Interim Public Works Dir.
Oscar De Leon, Asst. Public Utilities Director
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Cynthia Garza, CDBG/External Affairs Dir.
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Victor Perez, PEDC Director
Ignacio Amezcua, Purchasing Director
Daniel Ramirez, E.M.S. Chief
Kenneth Ennis, Communications Director
Marcela Beas, Interim 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 4:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Comm. Medina moved to excuse absent members. Comm. Guajardo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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

ITEM 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

John E. Covell, registered to speak on Consent Agenda Item 5-A1. Mr. Covell briefly spoke about concerns regarding the engineering work to Moore Road and the new construction of Circle K convenience store being built.

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Mayor Hernandez called on Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, to address Mr. Covell's concerns on Moore Road.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, stated a Geotechnical Engineer did a study on the course of soil and engineer had recommended 3-4% lime to stabilize the sub-grade.

Mayor Hernandez thanked Mr. Covell for his commentary and education. He stated the Moore Road project would be accelerated through the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO) to hopefully be completed earlier than the expected completion year. He further stated the entire road from Jackson Road to Veterans Road would be re-done and made into a three-lane road.

Lynn Arnold, registered to speak on Consent Agenda Item 5-A1. Ms. Arnold expressed concerns regarding the new Circle K being build at the corner of Cage Boulevard and Moore Road. She asked questions to Commission regarding the heavy flow of traffic, traffic congestion, drainage, curb & gutter issues, bright lights and noise issues. Lastly, Ms. Arnold requested to the Commission they consider the change of zone to this property.

Mayor Hernandez clarified some points Ms. Arnold mentioned. He stated the use of Moore Road would not be intended for use by semi-tractor trailers, semi-tractor trailers would be utilizing Cage Boulevard. Mayor Hernandez also stated the curb & gutter would be addressed when Moore Road was re-built. He also stated the speeding issues would hopefully be addressed with the City-wide Broadband project with installation of cameras throughout the City. Mayor Hernandez asked Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, if a traffic study had been done for this area.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, stated a traffic study was not required for a convenience store, but mentioned the engineer of record, Melden & Hunt, was available in the audience for questions.

Melden & Hunt Engineer, stated there was two access areas for traffic flow, those being Cage Boulevard and Moore Road. He further mentioned the City could possibly discourage there not being an access to Moore Road but stated for a facility like this, circulation of traffic was important.

Mayor Hernandez respectfully requested Engineering company speak with property owners on prohibiting semi-tractor trailer traffic on Moore Road before moving forward with project.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, recommended access road from Moore Road with Right-in and Right-out traffic flow to prevent staggered traffic and congestion.

Melden & Hunt Engineer, stated they could definitely work with staff on these concerns.

Andrew Harvey, Chief of Police, also stated there would be high visibility on Moore Road addressing the concerns of speeding and loud noises in the area.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, opened the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

ITEM 4. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

A) SUBMISSION OF SALES TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR JUNE 2021.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He reported the City of Pharr had an increase of 23.41% for year-to-date true growth and 45.58% compared to last year.

B) SUBMISSION OF PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR MAY 2021.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He reported the City of Pharr delinquent tax had increased and everything was on track.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported the City's credit rating remained at a AA- rating from good financial management from City Commission and staff.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported the City of Pharr was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and Certificate of Recognition to Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, by the Government Finance Officers Association. City Commission congratulated Karla for managing the City's Finances and good work.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported Kenneth Ennis, Interim Public Safety Communications Director, was sworn-in to the Texas National Emergency Number Association Board as the Southern Regional Coordinator, he represents 27 counties and represents Telecommunications Officers in all 27 counties. Furthermore, Mr. Ennis is also responsible for coordinating training and facilitating career developing for this region. City Commission congratulated Kenneth for his good work and recognition.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported a third ambulance was added to the Western part of the county and stated the Emergency Medical Services department was growing. He further stated the department currently had nine (9) full-time ambulances in service throughout the county and cover 623 square miles.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported the Pharr Police Department was kicking-off their Horse Patrol unit and would be in attendance at the City's 4th of July Festival on Sunday, July 4, 2021 at Jones Box Park in South Pharr located at 1201 Rosa Lane from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He invited the public to come join us at event for food, music and rides.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported the purchase of the new Rescue truck for the Fire Department that was approved last year and would be going in service by next week. He reported this Rescue truck was desperately needed in Pharr and further explained the differences in the apparatus vehicles at the Fire Department.

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, reported Lenny Perez, Fire Chief, announced his retirement from the fire service after serving for 36+ years and stated his last day of service with the City of Pharr was July 23, 2021. Staff and City Commission congratulated him on his retirement.

Mario Lizcano and Chamber of Commerce Board members announced the new Pharr Chamber of Commerce President, Marcela Beas. Ms. Beas thanked the Pharr Chamber of Commerce Board for entrusting her to lead the organization and stated they were committed to fulfilling the mission in fostering economic growth and providing relevant services to all of the businesses within the community. City Commission congratulated her and welcomed her as Board President.

ITEM 5. CONSENT AGENDA

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:

1. MELDEN & HUNT, INC. REPRESENTING H & E TIJERINA CHILDREN'S FAMILY LTD, OWNER, HAS FILED WITH THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION A REQUEST FOR A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM AGRICULTURAL AND/OR OPEN SPACE DISTRICT (A-O) TO GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (C). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A 0.728 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, MORE OR

LESS, OUT OF LOT 220, KELLY PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED WITHIN THE 100-200 BLOCK OF WEST MOORE ROAD. COZ#210530

2. JOSE RUBEN MENDEZ, D/B/A 100% ANTOJITOS MEXICANOS, IS REQUESTING RENEWAL OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION IN A GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (C). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A 0.04 ACRE TRACT OF LAND OUT OF LOT 1, JACKSON RIDGE COURT PHASE 2 SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1201 SOUTH JACKSON ROAD, SUITE 9. CUP#140525
3. ROMMEL ORGANISTA, D/B/A KURAI CHINESE & SUSHI RESTAURANT, IS REQUESTING RENEWAL OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION IN A GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (C). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 0.05 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 1, JACKSON RIDGE COURT PHASE II SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1201 SOUTH JACKSON, SUITE 1. CUP#120424

PLATS:

1. B.I.G. ENGINEERING, REPRESENTING JAIME A RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT, FROM JAR GROUP DEVELOPMENT IS REQUESTING PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED THE CASCADES SUBDIVISION PHASE II. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A 5.44 ACRE TRACT OF LAND OUT OF LOT EIGHTY-SIX (86), KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN THE 600 BLOCK OF WEST MINNESOTA ROAD. SUB#210309

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

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

Ordinance No. O-2021-31 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

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

ITEM 10. CLOSED SESSION

The time being 4:26 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 11. RECONVENE

The time being 5:56 p.m., Mayor Hernandez stated the commission would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION

ITEM 6. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON APPROVAL OF A PLAN OF FINANCE FOR CITY OF PHARR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021. (DAP) (FINANCE)**

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated finance plans are for DAP 15 & 16 Bridge Improvements project. He recommended approval.

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

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL JUDGE. (ADMINISTRATION)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated Criselda Flores-Rincon submitted letter of resignation on June 11, 2021 for Municipal Judge. He recommended approval.

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

ITEM 7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL JUDGE. (ADMINISTRATION)

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

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

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2016-20 ADOPTING THE PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL. (1ST READING) (PURCHASING)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and briefly explained there were minor audit findings regarding the City P-Cards and how they were being used. He further stated staff was advised to use P-Cards for accrual of reward points and, also had some out of the normal expenses due to covid. Mr. Wylie stated updating the purchasing manual would bridge the gap to be more in-line with what the City was doing daily. He recommended approval.

Comm. Media **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, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF PHARR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CLOSE STATE ROADWAYS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS. (PUBLIC WORKS)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated the City would be doing one resolution listing all city events so it was placed on agenda one time instead of individually. He recommended approval.

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

Resolution No. R-2021-39 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

D) CONSIDERATION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2020-35 FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET (ADOPTION ON 1ST READING). (FINANCE)

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated the City was taking advantage of some of the good changes with sales tax growth, property tax growth and bridge revenues. He stated additional staff was hired for the opening of Deli, additional staff for Emergency Medical Services department and additional technicians

were hired for City WiFi project. Furthermore, Mr. Wylie stated due to heavy rainfall, City streets are in need of repairs and additional funds were needed for street materials. He recommended approval.

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

Ordinance No. O-2021-32 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 8. PURCHASING

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 305 S. CAGE BLVD. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,162.00. (ADMINISTRATION)**

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated the Fraternal Order of Eagles was shutting down due to low member participation. He further stated this was the last piece of land needed to re-develop entire block and mentioned the amount of \$83,162 was the appraised value of property as per appraisal district, therefore there was no need for the City to do a separate appraisal. He recommended approval.

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

ITEM 9. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE JAVELINA DRIVE MONUMENT SIGNS PROJECT (ENGINEERING)**

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated the City wants to re-negotiate with the awarding bid to go down to two signs instead of the original four signs.

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

- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PWE PRODUCTIONS, LLC FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF SPAZMATICS ON DECEMBER 31, 2021 FOR THE CITY OF PHARR NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT. (FINANCE)**

Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated this would be the first year the City would be having a New Year's event. He stated the City was planning a big ball drop, champagne for those that qualified and the City would like to have the Spazmatics perform at event. He recommended approval.

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

- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AWARD OF A SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF MID-GRADE UNLEADED GASOLINE AND ULTRA LOW SULFUR DIESEL TO GOLD STAR PETROLEUM, INC. OUT OF SPRING, TX, FOR ITEMS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10. (PUBLIC WORKS)**

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Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated Gold Star Petroleum, Inc. was the lowest bidder for both gasoline and diesel contracts. He recommended approval.

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

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Comm. Medina **moved** to adjourn. Comm. Guajardo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 21st DAY OF JUNE 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, **IMELDA BARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

ATTEST:



IMELDA BARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

APPROVED: **OCTOBER 4, 2021**