

**THE PHARR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION II
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
COMMENCING AT 3:00 PM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

Present: Board Member Comm. Ricardo Medina
Board Member Comm. Dr. Ramiro Caballero
Board Member Reynaldo Perez
Board Member Mario Lizcano
Board Member Efrain Matamoros

Absent Board Member Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez
Board Member Marty Moore

Staff Present: Victor Perez, PEDC Executive Director
Ed Wylie, City Manager
Karla Moya, Finance Director
Adriana Sarmiento, PEDC CFO
Karina Lopez, PEDC Manager
Maribel Garcia, Executive Administrative Assistant

City Attorney: Terry Canales

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Vice President, Commissioner Ricardo Medina, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Board member Commissioner Ramiro Caballero moved to excuse the absence of Board member Mayor Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez and Board member Marty Moore motion was seconded by Board member Mario Lizcano. Motion Carried unanimously.

(B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Executive Director, Victor Perez, led in the pledge of allegiance and Board Member Mario Lizcano to the invocation.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up at this time.

ITEM 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Executive Director, Victor Perez, introduced the item Economic Development Manager, Karina Lopez Informs the Board about the upcoming PEDC II events, she stated that on November 18, 2021, at 11 a. m. The Pharr EDC is partnering alongside Persistence in Adversity and other community organizations to be a collection and distribution site for the annual Spread the Warmth Blanket Drive. Ms. Lopez also invited the Board of Directors to our Thanksgiving Luncheon November 18, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. Ms. Lopez further invited the Board to the Pharr EDC annual Christmas Celebration December 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. an appreciation event for Pharr business community and partners.

Executive Director Victor Perez informed the Board about the Sales Tax Report. He stated that the November sales tax report for month-to-month Pharr came positive of 24.85% which puts on number three compared to other cities in a month-to-month comparison and number three in year-to-date growth. He further stated that loans and leases reports were in their binders for review. Mr. Victor Perez introduced our new PEDC Property and Business Manager Mrs. Juanita Cavazos.

Mrs. Cavazos thanked the Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve the City of Pharr.

Karina Lopez, Economic Development Manager, stated through the recent funding released through the EDA under the American Rescue Plan, the Pharr EDC has partnered alongside UTRGV's Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Center, LRGVDC as well as other Economic Development organizations in the region to increase funding access. Through this initiative, the EDC will focus on developing an industry specific incubator that will cater to our international business community for business development and expansions. Ms. Lopez further introduced Mrs. Linda Ufland, Director of the UTRGV Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Commercialization Center.

Mrs. Ufland presented the following details regarding the Build Back Better Regional Challenge. This funding opportunity (BBCR) is designed as a two-phase competition to (1) help regions develop transformational economic development strategies and (2) fund the implementation of those strategies that will create and grow regional growth clusters. These cluster-focused entrepreneurial centers will be developed in collaboration with several RGV EDC's to provide shared services and meet specific needs of entrepreneurs, create jobs, startups, expansions, and grow our economic region. The city of Pharr space will provide local, regional, and international entrepreneurs the resources necessary to create, grow or land their venture. A feasibility will be conducted to identify the needs of our international community, manufacturing and logistics network, small business community, our startup community, and our sole entrepreneurs. UTRGV ECC will provide oversight and management of programming and staff for the space with the support of the EDC and serve as a bridge to create businesses that can scale and move into spaces available in areas identified by the EDC. Phase one of the grant will be awarded by December 2021 and will consist of technical assistance funds to support three to eight projects for regional clusters. No match will be required. Phase two will consist of funding from \$25mil to \$75mil, and up to \$100mil to implement those projects. This entry deadline is set for March 15, 2022 and will be awarded by September 2022. A 20:80 match will be required.

ITEM 4. CONSENT AGENDA:

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES- OCTOBER 18, 2021, REGULAR CALLED MEETING.

Board Member Mario Lizcano moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Board Member Reynaldo Perez Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 5. REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION:

Vice President Commissioner Ricardo Medina requested to deviate from the agenda and enter into a close session. There was no objection.

ITEM 6. CLOSED SESSION:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH CGAPTER 551 TEXAS, GOVERNMENT CODE, VERNON'S TEXAS CODE ANNOTATED (OPEN MEETING ACT), THE PHARR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION II BOARD WILL MEET IN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

Vice President Commissioner Ricardo Medina stated pursuant to Sections 551.071 thru 551.087 of the Texas Government Code, the PEDC II Board of Directors would be entering a closed session the time being 3:23 p. m.

ITEM 7. RECONVENE:

Vice President Commissioner Ricardo Medina stated that the time being 3:51 p.m. the board will be resuming meeting, into Regular Session, and consider action, if necessary, on any item(s) discussed in closed session.

A) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OD A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF PROJECT AND RIGHT TO PETITION AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Staff recommended approval as discussed in executive session.

Board Member Mario Lizcano moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Board Member Reynaldo Perez Motion carried unanimously.

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROJECT CHED.

Staff recommended to deny as discussed in executive session.

Board Member Mario Lizcano moved to approve denial. Motion was seconded by Board Member Reynaldo Perez Motion carried unanimously.

C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROJECT CIP.

Staff recommended approval as discussed in executive session.

Board Member Reynaldo Perez moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Board Member Commissioner Ramiro Caballero carried unanimously.

D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROJECT ARTIC.

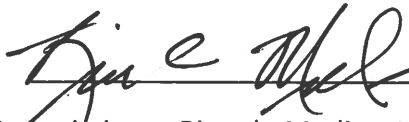
Staff recommended approval as discussed in executive session.

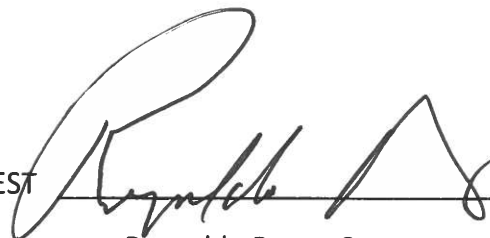
Board Member Mario Lizcano moved to approve. Motion was seconded by Board Member Reynaldo Perez Motion carried unanimously.

E) UPDATE ON PROJECT MAGIC AND WATER

ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Board member Mario Lizcano moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Board member Reynaldo Perez and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.


Commissioner Ricardo Medina, Vice President

ATTEST 
Reynaldo Perez, Secretary

APPROVED:

January 17, 2022