

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, February 20, 2023 and following is the record of attendance.

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez

STAFF PRESENT: Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager
Ed Wylie, Deputy City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, City Clerk
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Juan Villescas, Municipal Judge
Juan Gonzalez, Interim Police Chief
Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Code Compliance Director
Kimberly Mendoza, Dev. Svcs. Director
Luis Marin, Public Works Director
Melanie Cano, OSE Director
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Dir.
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Adolfo Garcia, Library
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Mayra Gomez, Purchasing Director
Ben Martinez, Asst. E.M.S. Chief
Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Comm. Officer
Kenneth Ennis, Public Safety Dir.

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

Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Carrillo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez was not present at the time of roll call but arrived at 4:05 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Kimberly Mendoza, Dev. Services Director, led the pledge of allegiance and said the invocation.

ITEM 2. PROCLAMATIONS:

A) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 20, 2023 AS PHARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY DAY (LIBRARY)

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Adolfo Garcia, Library Director, introduced Library staff and board members that were present. He further announced the Municipal Library received the 2022 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association. He stated of the 542 public library systems in Texas, the Pharr Memorial Library was one of only 73 that have earned this prestigious award.

At this time, Olga Cardoza, Library Board Member, extended an invitation to everyone to attend the Dr. Seuss Birthday Party on March 2, 2023 and thanked the Commission for the recognition.

Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Chavez read proclamation proclaiming February 20, 2023 as Pharr Memorial Library Day and encouraged all residents to visit the library and enjoy the many programs and services offered. Library Director Adolfo Garcia, Library board members and staff received the proclamation.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Esteban Cardenas spoke on agenda item 8.A and voiced his concerns with the use of automatic license plate readers. He also provided some recommendations for police use.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES

The public hearing was opened. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

ITEM 5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

A) SUBMISSION OF SALES TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2023. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and briefly stated the City of Pharr was ranked number 8 and showed an increase of 2.11% year-to-date true growth compared to last year. She further stated report was in their packet and questions could be entertained at this time.

B) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, announced the City of Pharr and UTRGV will co-host the 2023 Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Swimming and Diving Championships on February 22-25, 2023 at the Pharr Natatorium. She stated this was a ticketed event and it was the second time it would take place in the Rio Grande Valley.

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, reported the building and Code Compliance Department would be hosting a block party on Thursday, February 23, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Jones Box Park. She extended an invitation to the public to attend to learn more about different departments in the City of Pharr and how each can help them resolve issues.

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, further reported the Grater Pharr Chamber of Commerce and Fazoli's would be hosting the National Strawberry Day Market on Saturday, February 25, 2023 next to Costco in Pharr from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She further reported the Walk with the Mayor event would take place on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the PSJA Stadium and extended an invitation to everyone to attend.

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Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, also reported the Dr. Seuss Birthday Party would take place on Thursday, March 2, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Development and Research Center. She stated there would be a raffle, story time, free books, crafts, and snacks.

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, reminded the public about the Pharr Warrior Race on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at the Pharr Natatorium, and the 17th Annual St. Patrick's 5K run/walk on Saturday, March 18, 2023

Alani Alanis, Interim City Manager, announced the HOLI Pharr festival of color would take place on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Allen & William Arnold City/School Park at 615 W. Eldora Road in Pharr. She stated the recommended dress code was white attire because they would be doing their ritual of colors.

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, also reminded the public about the upcoming Community Police Academy beginning Tuesday, March 21, 2023 and the Youth Community Police Academy beginning on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2023 REGULAR CALLED MEETING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)**
- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PRESENT CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS AND ANNEXING NEW TERRITORY INTO THE CITY OF PHARR CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 17.425 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOTS 6 AND 7, OUT OF THE RE-SUBDIVISION OF CLOSER SUBDIVISION, GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SOUTH VETERANS BOULEVARD AND EAST MILITARY HIGHWAY, EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS. (3RD AND FINAL READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**
- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO VACATE, ABANDON, AND CLOSE A 30 FT. BY 633.97 FT. STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY, CONSISTING OF 0.437 OF AN ACRE (19,019.10 SQUARE FEET) LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF LOT 1, PHARR LOGISTICS CENTER PHASE I SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS (2ND READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**
- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2019-42 RENTAL OF CITY FACILITIES (2ND READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (ADMINISTRATION)**
- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON REQUEST FROM ARISE ADELANTE FOR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS' ASSISTANCE DURING THEIR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH AND CELEBRATION ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (ADMINISTRATION)**
- F) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE SOUTH REGIONAL DETENTION FACILITY. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**

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

1. CHIPOTLE TEXAS, LLC., REQUESTED 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 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF REPLAT OF VACATED CAR-MEL SUBDIVISION, VACATED EL CENTRO MALL NO. 3 AND 4 SUBDIVISIONS, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 500 NORTH JACKSON ROAD, SUITE N-1. CUP#160942 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

2. STEFANO'S PIZZA EXPRESS REQUESTED 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 0.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 4A, REPLAT OF VACATED CAR-MEL SUBDIVISION, VACATED EL CENTRO MALL NO. 3 & 4 SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 500 NORTH JACKSON ROAD, SUITE N-3. CUP#190536 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Guajardo moved to approve consent agenda items. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. O-2023-07 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF CITY-OWNED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EQUIPMENT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES TO THE BEN BOLT-PALITO BLANCO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAM. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-11 is filed with the City Clerk's office

ITEM 8. PURCHASING

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING PHARR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE FOUR (4) LICENSE PLATE READER (LPR) TRAILERS TO INCLUDE VIGILANT SOFTWARE AND TRAINING FOR POLICE STAFF UNDER OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANT PROGRAM #3173107. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (POLICE)

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Guajardo moved to approve. Comm. Carrillo seconded the motion.

Comm. Medina asked staff what the negative impact was. Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief, briefly explained the item was a homeland security grant to enhance enforcement efforts along the ingress and egress leading from the US Mexico border and into the interior of the United States. He further stated these would be used to monitor criminal activity and follow up with investigations.

Comm. Carrillo voiced his concern with adverse impact and called upon Esteban Cardenas. Mr. Cardenas approached the podium and went over recommendations on

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the implementation of automatic license plate readers. He stated law enforcement should periodically conduct audits to protect against disparate treatment on communities and insure effective safeguards.

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

- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING PHARR PUBLIC UTILITIES TO PURCHASE TWO (2) NEW SUBMERSIBLE PUMPS FROM LEWIS ELECTRIC MOTORS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$53,581.50. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (PUBLIC UTILITIES)**

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

ITEM 9. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$598,863.20 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH COBB FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE CITY-WIDE FIBER OPTIC PROJECT, TEAMPHARR.NET FOR ADDITIONAL SCOPE OF WORK (TABLED). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (IT)**

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and recommended the item be untabled.

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

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, stated no action would be taken at this time.

- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH ASAGO CONSTRUCTION, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,677.44 FOR THE PSJA TRI-CITY SIDEWALK SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PHASE I (CSJ# 0921-02-391). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,610.00, RELEASE OF FINAL PAYMENT AND RETAINAGE \$132,611.70, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE CITY OF PHARR NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER PHASE I & II AS COMPLETE (PROJECT #1920-01-510-C012-001). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HIDALGO COUNTY AND THE CITY OF PHARR FOR LIBRARY SERVICES FOR COUNTY CALENDAR YEAR 2023. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (LIBRARY)**

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Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BARTON-GARCIA ADVISORS, LLC. FOR CONSULTING, MANAGEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE OF TEAMPHARR.NET METHODIST HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES AWARDED TRAINING PROGRAM GRANT WITH OUTSIDE PARTNERS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (IT)**

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- F) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF PHARR AND THE CITY OF SAN JUAN FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (ADMINISTRATION)**

Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

At this time, Mayor Pro Tem Chavez stated they would go into closed session. There was no objection.

ITEM 10. 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 4:25 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Chavez 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 4:46 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Chavez stated the commission would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT

At this time, Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager, called upon Mayra Gomez, new Purchasing Director. Ms. Gomez introduced herself and thanked the City of Pharr for the opportunity.

Maria Rangel, Assistant City Engineer, briefly reported a second survey for the pedestrian safety and wellness project was available. She stated the City was seeking community feedback and encouraged residents to take part and voice their opinions.

There being no other business to come before the board, Comm. Guajardo **moved** to adjourn. Comm. Carrillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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CITY OF PHARR



DANIEL CHAVEZ
MAYOR PRO TEM

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023 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: March 6, 2023