

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, July 17, 2023 and following is the record of attendance.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Chavez
Comm. Michael Pacheco
Comm. Ramiro Caballero
Comm. Roberto Carrillo
Comm. Ricardo Medina
Comm. Itza Flores

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan, Assistant City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, City Clerk
Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Juan Villescascas, Municipal Judge
Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief
Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Code Compliance Director
Kimberly Mendoza, Dev. Svcs. Director
Luis Marin, Public Works Director
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Dir.
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Cynthia Garza, CDBG/Ext. Affairs Dir.
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Mayra Gomez, Purchasing Director
Daniel Ramirez, E.M.S. Chief
Melanie Cano, Director of O.S.E.
Marcela Beas, Chamber President
Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Comm. Officer
Kenneth Ennis, Public Safety Dir.

CITY ATTORNEY Ricardo Rodriguez, 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. Chavez was not present at the time of roll call but arrived at 4:01 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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

ITEM 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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A) PUBLIC HEARING ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 4. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

C) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

At this time, Jonathan Flores, Assistant City Manager, called upon Yuri Gonzalez for a presentation.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, introduced State Representative Terry Canales and Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and presented a video on the International Bridge Trade Corridor (IBTC) project.

Terry Canales, State Representative and Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, stated the Texas Transportation Commission allocated \$150 million to the IBTC project in the Rio Grande Valley as part of the Unified Transportation Program. The IBTC would expedite the movement of goods and freight by providing direct interstate access to several international ports of entry.

Senator Hinojosa also recognized the importance to facilitate the efficient passage of goods through our region and thanked Mayor Hernandez and the Commission for their support and leadership.

Jose Pena, IT Director, announced the City of Pharr was a recipient of the Smart Cities Connect Award for the TeamPharr.net Project. He stated this award recognizes cities for innovative projects such as energy, infrastructure, and networks.

Jonathan Flores, Assistant City Manager, went over upcoming events. He reported Building and Code Compliance would be hosting a Block Party on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at the Development and Research Center at 7:00 p.m. He stated this was a free event and invited the public to attend.

Jonathan Flores, Assistant City Manager, further reported Parks and Recreation Theater program would present the Lion King, Jr. at PSJA North High School Auditorium on Thursday, July 20, 2023. He stated the show would start at 7:30 p.m. and tickets were on sale at the Parks and Recreation office.

At this time, Jonathan Flores, Assistant City Manager, called upon Yuri Gonzalez for a quick report. Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported the City of Pharr would host a Pink Paradise Pool Party at the Pharr Aquatic Center on Saturday, July 22, 2023 and tickets would be free but limited. She invited the public to join and wear pink. A video promo was presented.

Jonathan Flores, Assistant City Manager, further reported the Back to the Phuture Festival would be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in downtown Pharr. Marcela Beas, Chamber President, invited the community to attend.

Lastly, Jonathan Flores, Assistant City Manager, announced the Pharr Police Department would be hosting their annual Pharr Night Out event on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Pharr Town Center. He stated this was a family-friendly event for the entire community to create awareness against crime and drugs. Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief, stated they would be partnering with local agencies to give out school supplies.

ITEM 5. CONSENT AGENDA

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 5, 2023 REGULAR CALLED MEETING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)

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- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2022-36 MUNICIPAL FIBER OPTIC FEE SCHEDULE (3RD AND FINAL READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY (IT)
- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CITY-WIDE ON-CALL ELECTRICAL AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (PURCHASING)
- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR GRANT MANAGEMENT, PLANNING AND WRITING SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PURCHASING)
- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:
 - 1. GUILLERMO FLORES IBARRA, REPRESENTING RUTH IDALIA SALINAS PRADO, OWNER, REQUESTED 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 2.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 252, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 3310 SOUTH CAGE BOULEVARD. COZ#230605 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY. (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

F) PLATS:

- 1. R.E. GARCIA AND ASSOCIATES, REPRESENTING JENE BYROM AND JONATHAN BYROM, OWNERS, REQUESTED FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED RANCHO BLANCO ESTATES SUBDIVISION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A 1.83 ACRE TRACT OF LAND BEING A PORTION OF LOT 249, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN THE 900 BLOCK OF WEST JAVELINA DRIVE. SUB#221240 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)
- 2. RIO DELTA ENGINEERING, REPRESENTING JOSEPH HOLAND, OWNER REQUESTED FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED JUST A CLOSET #7 SUBDIVISION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A 22.88 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, SAME BEING OUT OF THE SOUTH 24.19 ACRES OF LOT 5, BLOCK 4, A.J. MCCOLL SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN THE 3800 BLOCK OF NORTH JACKSON ROAD. SUB#210722 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY. (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

Jonathan Flores, Assistant City Manager, introduced the item and recommended approval.

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

Ordinance Nos. O-2023-33 and O-2023-34 are filed with the City Clerk's Office.

At this time, Mayor Hernandez stated they would deviate from the agenda and 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

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The time being 4:40 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 5:43 p.m., Mayor Hernandez stated the commission would be resuming the open meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION:

ITEM 6. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING/REAPPOINTING FIVE (5) MEMBERS TO THE KEEP PHARR BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item. Jonathan Flores, Assistant City Manager, stated staff recommended reappointment of Mari Caballero and Romeo Robles, Jr., and appointment of Mildred Escobedo, Rolando Perez, and Laura M. De la Garza.

Comm. Carrillo moved to reappoint Mari Caballero and Romeo Robles, Jr. and appoint Mildred Escobedo, Rolando Perez, and Laura M. De la Garza to the Keep Pharr Beautiful Committee. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2023-41 is filed with the City Clerk's office.

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION SUSPENDING THE AUGUST 23, 2023 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE STATEMENT OF INTENT OF TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY TO INCREASE RATES WITHIN INCORPORATED AREAS OF ITS SERVICE TERRITORY. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (LEGAL)

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-42 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION DECLARING TWENTY-FOUR (24) VEHICLES FROM THE PHARR POLICE DEPARTMENT FLEET AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID VEHICLES, VIA ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT INC. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (POLICE)

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-43 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION DECLARING SURPLUS ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE PHARR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SUCH ITEMS VIA GOVDEALS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (POLICE)

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Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-44 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 7. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON REQUEST FROM IRADIER ADAN HERNANDEZ, REPRESENTING HDZ HOLDINGS, LLC., FILED WITH THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-1) TO A RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY DISTRICT (R-MF). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS 5.275 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 129, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 3155 NORTH VETERANS BOULEVARD. COZ#230606 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

Comm. Medina moved to deny in accordance with city ordinance. Comm. Carrillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, APPOINTING CITY MANAGER. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)**

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item and clarified the item was to appoint Interim City Manager.

Comm. Carrillo moved to appoint Jonathan Flores as Interim City Manager. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 8. PURCHASING:

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING PHARR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE TWO (2) 2023 FORD TRANSIT 15 PASSENGER VANS USING OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANT #3173108 FUNDS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (POLICE)**

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

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

ITEM 9. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2023/2024 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER POLICING AGREEMENT BETWEEN VANGUARD ACADEMY AND THE PHARR POLICE DEPARTMENT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (POLICE)**

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

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

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- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT NO. 3 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00 FOR TIME EXTENSION AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEE FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF PHARR CITYWIDE FIBEROPTIC BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROJECT THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (PURCHASING)**

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

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

- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTING FOR PROFESSIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE LOBBYING SERVICES IN MEXICO. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (BRIDGE)**

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

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

- D) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE CITY OF PHARR FIBER OPTIC NETWORK PHASE V-A PROJECT TO STX UNDERGROUND LLC. FROM BROWNSVILLE, TX THROUGH THE INTERLOCAL PURCHASING SYSTEM (TIPS) COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NUMBER 211001 FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$3,320,354.33 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (PURCHASING)**

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

Comm. Medina **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 AWARD A SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE 5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN OF GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITY OF PHARR TO CLOUDBURST CONSULTING GROUP, INC. FROM LANDOVER, MD FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,964.00 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE. (PURCHASING)**

Mayor Hernandez introduced the item.

Comm. Carrillo **moved** to approve. Comm. Chavez 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. Carrillo **moved** to adjourn. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

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STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 17th DAY OF JULY 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: August 7, 2023