

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023 and following is the record of attendance.

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan, Interim City Manager
David Friedlein, ACM
Hilda Pedraza, Interim ACM/City Clerk
Imelda Perez, Asst. City Clerk
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Juan Villescas, Municipal Court Judge
Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief
Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Code Compliance Director
Kimberly Mendoza, Dev. Svcs. Director
Luis Marin, Public Works Director
Jamison Merrick, Asst. Director of O.S.E.
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Dir.
Cynthia Garza, CDBG/External 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
Marcela Beas, Chamber President
Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Comm. Officer
Kenneth Ennis, Public Safety Dir.
Cynthia Gutierrez, Health 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

Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Carrillo called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

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

Comm. Chavez was not present at the time of roll call but arrived at 5:15 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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

ITEM 2. PROCLAMATIONS:

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A) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 AS NATIONAL IT PROFESSIONALS DAY

Comm. Caballero read proclamation proclaiming September 19, 2023 as National IT Professionals Day. Jose Pena, IT Director, and his staff received the proclamation and thanked the Commission for the recognition.

B) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 AS SHRINERS LEGION OF HONOR VETERANS DAY

Mayor Pro Tem Carrillo read proclamation proclaiming September 23, 2023 as Shriners Legion of Honor Veterans Day. Gilbert Medina and Shriners members received the proclamation. Mr. Medina extended an invitation to the Commission to attend their Military Ball honoring and saluting our veterans on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

C) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 AS NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

Comm. Pacheco read proclamation proclaiming September 25, 2023 as National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

Robert Garcia and survivors of homicide victims received the proclamation and extended an invitation to the Commission to attend their annual candlelight vigil on September 25, 2023.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Pedro Garcia, Pharr Community Theater, spoke on agenda item 9.B and thanked the Commission and the citizens for their continued support of the arts.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES

There were no comments from the public.

B) PUBLIC HEARING: SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE 2023 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF PHARR

There were no comments from the public.

C) PUBLIC HEARING: SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

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

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and briefly stated the City of Pharr showed an increase of 1.54% year-to-date true growth compared to last year and 2.68% increase compared to last September 2022 payments.

B) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

Jonathan, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and called upon Andrew Canon, RGVMPD Executive Director, for a presentation.

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Andrew Canon, RGVMPD Executive Director, provided an update on the 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) projects. He also went over on the Category 10 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and stated this program included the Pharr Bridge commercial vehicle parking site, regional signal improvements, southmost nature trail, and bus passenger loading areas and facility improvements. Lastly, Mr. Canon stated their annual charity event, Kickstands for Kids, would take place on Friday, September 22, 2023 to deliver school supplies to the kids at Carmen-Anaya Elementary.

At this time, Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, announced the Pharr Parks & Recreation Department would be traveling to Denton, Texas to place a bid on the Games of Texas for 2027-2028. A promotional video was shown.

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 REGULAR CALLED MEETING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)**
- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2006-47 OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, CHAPTER 118, SUBDIVISION, ADDING SECTION X - FIBER OPTIC (3RD AND FINAL READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**
- C) 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 A 14.88 ACRE TRACT OF LAND OUT OF LOT 5, CLOSER SUBDIVISION, GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SOUTH VETERANS BOULEVARD AND HI-LINE ROAD, IN THE CITY OF PHARR'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ) IN HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS (3RD AND FINAL READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**
- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXTEND THE SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE AND APPLICATION OF PRIME COAT AND TACK COAT WITH ASPHALT OIL EXPRESS OUT OF EDINBURG, TX. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE. (PURCHASING)**
- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,532.00 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GDJ ENGINEERING FOR THE VETERANS ROAD/HIKE & BIKE EXPANSION PROJECT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**
- F) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:**
 - 1. R.E. GARCIA & ASSOCIATES, REPRESENTING RAMIRO RIVAS, OWNER, REQUESTED A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM AGRICULTURAL AND/OR OPEN SPACE DISTRICT (A-O) TO LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (L-I). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 8.0 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF THE EAST 10.0 ACRES OF THE WEST 20.0 ACRES OF LOT 375, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1400 WEST HI-LINE ROAD. COZ#230818 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY. (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**
 - 2. RJC ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION, LLC., REPRESENTING JESUS JAVIER MONTERO-CASILLAS, OWNER, REQUESTED A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY HIGH DENSITY DISTRICT (R-MFHD) TO TOWNHOUSE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-TH). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 1.73 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 2, F. GEHLERT SUBDIVISION, OUT OF LOT 189, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 200 EAST HELMER STREET. COZ#230819 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**

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3. TAQUERIA BORREGO PINTO 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 LOT 212, VALLE DE LA PRIMAVERA SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 6615 SOUTH JACKSON ROAD. CUP#180208 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

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

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

Ordinance Nos. O-2023-43, O-2023-44, O-2023-45, and O-2023-46 are filed with the City Clerk's office.

At this time, Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Carrillo 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

The time being 4:47 p.m., Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Carrillo 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.

Comm. Chavez entered the meeting at this point of the agenda. The time being 5:15 p.m.

ITEM 11. RECONVENE

The time being 5:32 p.m., Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Carrillo stated the commission would be resuming the open meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION:

ITEM 7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING BUDGET FOR YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 (ADOPTION ON ONE READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY (FINANCE)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item. He briefly stated the budget was balanced and recommended approval.

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

Ordinance No. O-2032-47 is filed with the City Clerk's office.

- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE ADOPTING TAX RATE FOR FY 2023-2024 (ADOPTION ON ONE READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY (FINANCE)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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Comm. Carrillo moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of $\phi.7676$, which is effectively a 20.12% percent increase in the tax rate. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried by a majority vote of five (5) ayes and one (1) nay. Comm. Medina voted against the motion.

Ordinance No. O-2023-48 is filed with the City Clerk's office.

ITEM 8. PURCHASING:

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL FIBER OPTIC DATA CENTER EQUIPMENT FOR TEAMPHARR.NET FROM CALIX, INC, THROUGH SOLE SOURCE PROPOSAL IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$97,870.55. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (IT)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Chavez 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 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF PHARR AND SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TRAINING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PHARR AND THE PHARR COMMUNITY THEATRE FY2023-2024. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (LIBRARY)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF CLOUD MANAGEMENT SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES FOR TEAMPHARR.NET FROM CALIX, INC. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (IT)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Flores 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 RENEW CONTRACT WITH BILLING DYNAMICS FOR BILLING SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT. (PROJECT NUMBER: 2223-62-525-S59-01) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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Comm. Flores moved to approve. Comm. Chavez 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 TEXAS MANUFACTURING ASSISTANCE CENTER (TMAC) - UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY (UTRGV) FOR THE INVENTORY CONTROL AND STANDARDIZATION FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$41,650.00. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Flores 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. Flores moved to adjourn. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR


AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 18th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 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: October 5, 2023