

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023 and following is the record of attendance.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Comm. Michael Pacheco
Comm. Ramiro Caballero
Comm. Itza Flores

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Comm. Daniel Chavez
Comm. Roberto Carrillo
Comm. Ricardo Medina

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 Villescascas, Municipal Court Judge
Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief
Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Code Compliance Director
Joe Garza, Asst. Dev. Svcs. Director
Luis Marin, Public Works Director
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Dir.
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Dir.
Cynthia Garza, CDBG/External Affairs Dir.
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Daniel Ramirez, E.M.S. Chief
Eloina Gonzalez, Chamber
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

Mayor Hernandez called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Comm. Caballero moved to excuse absent members. Comm. Pacheco 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. PROCLAMATIONS:

A) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 23, 2023 AS ROMEO ROBLES DAY

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Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated the family was unable to attend the meeting.

B) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2023 AS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Hernandez read proclamation proclaiming October 2023 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and presented proclamation to Cara Chapa and Ruby Tanguma, DHR Health Services.

Ms. Chapa and Ms. Tanguma went over the importance of awareness, education, research, and early detection of breast cancer diagnosis and thanked the commission for the recognition.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

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

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and reported the City of Pharr showed an increase of 2.16% year-to-date true growth compared to last year and 7.72% increase compared to last October 2022.

B) SUBMISSION OF 4TH QUARTER 2022-2023 CITY OF PHARR INVESTMENT REPORT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated the report was in the packet and questions could be entertained at this time.

C) SUBMISSION OF PROPERTY 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 reported the tax collection rate was 96%.

D) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

Jonathan, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and called upon Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief.

Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief, reported Pharr Crime Stoppers received the Productivity Award 2022 for the "Greatest Dollar Recovery" in the organization for population 75,001 to 100,000. He stated they were recognized during the award ceremony at the 34th Annual Texas Crime Stoppers Conference and congratulated them for their exceptional contribution to crime prevention and resolution in the community.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, went over upcoming events. She stated Development Services would be hosting their Developing in Pharr event on

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Friday, October 27, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Pharr City Hall and reminded the public the Trail of Terror event would take place on October 27, 28,,and 29, 2023 at Pharr Vanguard Academy Nature Center from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Lastly, she reported the Pharr Police Department would be hosting a Trunk or Treat Drive-Thru event on October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, stated the Avocado Festival event has been a great success and presented a video recap. She further presented a video recap of the signing of the MOU with the Kiowa Tribe for broadband development and strategic planning.

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2023 REGULAR CALLED MEETING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)**
- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ALLOWING, UNDER THE ACT GOVERNING THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT (TMRS) SYSTEM, "UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS" IN SAID SYSTEM ON AN ANNUAL BASIS FOR SERVICE PERFORMED BY QUALIFYING MEMBERS OF SUCH SYSTEM WHO AT THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ALLOWANCE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF PHARR; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE ORDINANCE (2ND READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (HR)**
- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL LEASE FINANCING ON THE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR FY 2023-2024. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (PURCHASING)**
- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PHARR, MCALLEN, EDINBURG, SAN JUAN AND ALAMO FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID ON INTERSTATE 2 AND INTERSTATE 69 CENTRAL AS PART OF THE TXDOT INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (FIRE)**
- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PHARR AND SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE, ALLOWING STC TO PAY THE CITY OF PHARR FOR EMS TRAINING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)**
- F) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AGREEMENT WITH PYRO SHOWS OF TEXAS FOR A FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS POSADA ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 AND THE NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL DROP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023 IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$17,500.00. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (FIRE)**

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.

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

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ITEM 11. 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 4:38 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 12. RECONVENE

The time being 5:02 p.m., Mayor Hernandez 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 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS COMBINATION TAX AND REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2023 AND LEVYING AN ANNUAL AD VALOREM TAX, WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS PRESCRIBED BY LAW, FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS; SETTING CERTAIN PARAMETERS FOR THE OBLIGATIONS; AUTHORIZING A PRICING OFFICER TO APPROVE THE AMOUNT, THE INTEREST RATES, PRICE, REDEMPTION PROVISIONS AND TERMS THEREOF AND CERTAIN OTHER PROCEDURES AND PROVISIONS RELATED THERETO; AND CONTAINING MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO. (ADOPTION ON ONE READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (FINANCE)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Ordinance No. O-2023-49 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION EXECUTING AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 TO THE ADVANCE FUNDING AGREEMENT (AFA) WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) FOR THE DOCK EXPANSION PHASE I (DRY UNITS), CONTROL SECTION JOB (CSJ) NUMBER 0921-02-424. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-63 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION EXECUTING AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 TO THE ADVANCE FUNDING AGREEMENT (AFA) WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) FOR THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PARKING AREA, CONTROL SECTION JOB (CSJ) NUMBER 0921-02-423. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-64 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION REVISING THE CITY OF PHARR INVESTMENT POLICY. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (FINANCE)

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-65 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF PHARR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TEXAS RANGE PUBLIC FUNDS INVESTMENT POOL. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (FINANCE)

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-66 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

F) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF PHARR EXPENDITURES REIMBURSEMENT ITSELF FROM THE PROCEEDS OF ONE OR MORE TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES MADE AND/OR TO BE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (FINANCE)

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2023-67 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

G) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING TWO (2) REGULAR MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item and stated staff recommended Carlos Ramirez and Andres Zuniga.

Comm. Caballero moved to appoint Carlos Ramirez and Andres Zuniga to the Board of Adjustment. Comm. Flores seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2023-68 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 8. ADMINISTRATIVE:

A) ALFREDO ALVARADO, OWNER, HAS FILED WITH THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION A REQUEST FOR A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM

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SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-1) TO RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY DISTRICT (R-MF). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING LOT 46, BLOCK 1, HIDALGO PARK ESTATES SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED AT 6621 SOUTH SAINT MARIE DRIVE. COZ#230920 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Ordinance No. O-2023-50 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 9. PURCHASING:

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE PURCHASE OF RADIOS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS UTILIZING THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (HGAC) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM CONTRACT RA05-21 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$102,699.85. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (FIRE)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE PURCHASE OF SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES UTILIZING THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (HGAC) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM CONTRACT EE08-19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$341,110.00. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (FIRE)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING PHARR PUBLIC UTILITIES TO PURCHASE A GORMAN RUPP PRIME ASSIST SILENT PUMP, TRAILER MOUNTED FROM PRECISION PUMP SYSTEMS THROUGH BUY BOARD COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT # 672-22. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (PUBLIC UTILITIES)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

ITEM 10. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS:

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CITY OF PHARR AND KIOWA TRIBE REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF BROADBAND AND STRATEGIC PLANNING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,600.00 FOR THE DOWNTOWN PARK STATUE PROJECT WITH DEEP IN THE HEART ART FOUNDRY (PROJECT #2021-01-510-P027-001). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,500.00 FOR THE DOWNTOWN PARK STATUE PROJECT WITH MATA G. CONSTRUCTION INC. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE CONTRACT WITH HOLLIS RUTLEDGE AND ASSOCIATES FOR GRANT MANAGEMENT, PLANNING AND WRITING SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PHARR EMS AND HCA GULF COAST DIVISION (RIO GRANDE REGIONAL HOSPITAL) FOR GROUND NON-EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY TRANSPORT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)**

Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Comm. Caballero moved to adjourn. Comm. Pacheco seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

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STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 23rd DAY OF OCTOBER 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: November 6, 2023

