

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, February 5, 2024 and following is the record of attendance.

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Comm. Itza Flores

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan, City Manager
David Friedlein, Assistant City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, ACM/City Clerk
Imelda Perez, Assistant City Clerk
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, Asst. 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
Melanie Cano, O.S.E. Director
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Director
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Danny Ramirez, E.M.S. Chief
C.J. Sanchez, Pharr Chamber President
Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Comm. Officer
Cynthia Gutierrez, Public Health Director

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. Medina moved to excuse absent member. Comm. Carrillo 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 4:02 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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

ITEM 2. PROCLAMATIONS

A) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2024 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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Mayor Hernandez read proclamation proclaiming February 2024 as Black History Month and presented proclamation to Imayo York.

Imayo York, Village In The Valley, thanked the commission for recognizing Black History Month and their continued support.

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) CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and stated Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

Mayor Hernandez asked for status on the Pharr International Bridge Project.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, briefly reported the permit from Army Corps of Engineers had been received and stated the project would start in April 2024.

B) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

Jonathan, City Manager, introduced the item.

1. PRESENTATION BY THE NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION ON NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD TO THE PHARR PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE HEALTHY BRAIN INITIATIVE

Maxine Vieyra, Program Manager for Alzheimer's Association for San Antonio and South Texas Chapter, and Greg Sciuto, Executive Director, announced the City of Pharr was the first city awarded the Healthy Brain Initiative Award by the Alzheimer's Association.

Cynthia Gutierrez, Public Health Director, stated she was very excited about the Healthy Brain Initiative Award and mentioned the City of Pharr was partnering with the Alzheimer's Association to implement public health strategies that promote and educate residents regarding brain health and supporting people with dementia. She further stated the initiatives would be monthly support group meetings and additional activities would be available to help residents cope with the diagnosis.

Mayor Hernandez stated he was very honored with everyone involved with this initiative.

At this time, Jonathan Flores, City Manager, called upon Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, for a report on city events.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported the "Walk with Your Pet" event was taking place on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at Pharr Vanguard Academy Nature and Birding Center. She stated this was part of the It's Time Texas Community Challenge and encouraged residents to come out with their pets to walk.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, also reported the "Say I Do" event would take place on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Valentine's Day, at Pharr One – French Garden exterior grounds. Ms. Gonzalez stated they would be hosting wedding ceremonies and all those wishing to participate must obtain a wedding license seventy-two hours prior to event. She further provided a video recap of last year's event.

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Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, further reported the "Night Under the Stars" concert also taking place on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. at Pharr One location. Vanessa Soto, Special Events Coordinator, added Creative Arts Studio, school of music, would have students perform with live classical and modern music and invited the public to attend this free event.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, announced the City of Pharr was hosting a Job Fair on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at Pharr EMS located at 3000 N. Cage Blvd. from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She stated this event was open to the public and encouraged anyone looking to join our organization to come out and apply. She stated there would be interviews on the spot and screenings for the various job openings.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, further reported on upcoming It's Time Texas events. She stated a "Yoga" event would take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at the P.S.J.A. North 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The "Walk with The Mayor" event on Friday, February 23, 2024 at the P.S.J.A. Stadium at 5:30 p.m. and the "Zumba" event would take place on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at The Hub Parking Lot located at 200 S. Cage Blvd. from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She further mentioned these were free events and encouraged the public to attend.

Lastly, Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, announced the 16th Annual St. Patrick's Day 5K Walk/Run would take place on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 1000 S. Fir St. with race start time at 8:00 a.m. She encouraged the public to participate and stated information could be obtained by calling the Pharr Parks and Recreation Department and provided a video recap of last year's event.

Mayor Hernandez advised the events planning departments to consider coordinating these events in the North, Central and South side of Pharr to encourage participation from all our residents.

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2, 2024 - REGULAR CALLED MEETING AND JANUARY 15, 2024 - REGULAR CALLED MEETING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)**
- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON REQUEST FROM HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO USE PHARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY AS A POLLING LOCATION FOR THE UPCOMING 2024 ELECTION DAY. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (LIBRARY)**
- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CITY'S WATER RATE STUDY. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (FINANCE)**
- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, ON REQUEST FROM ARISE FOR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE DURING THEIR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH ON FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (ADMINISTRATION)**
- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:**
 - 1. M&S GROUP, INC., D/B/A WING DADDY'S SAUCE HOUSE, REQUESTED RENEWAL OF 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 ALL OF LOT 4A & 5A, PARADISE COMMERCIAL PARK SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 601 SOUTH JACKSON ROAD. CUP#200318 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.**

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2. ROGELIO IBANEZ, JR., REPRESENTING TEYSHA GROUP, LLC., OWNER, REQUESTED A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM AGRICULTURAL AND/OR OPEN SPACE DISTRICT (A-O) TO RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY DISTRICT (R-MF). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 5.33 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 223, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1100 EAST MOORE ROAD. COZ#231103 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.
3. ELBOW'S MAC AND CHEESE TEXAS, LLC., REQUESTED RENEWAL OF 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 0.067 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT A, MEDICAL RIDGE SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1401 SOUTH JACKSON ROAD, SUITES 3 & 4. CUP#220950 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.

F) PLATS:

1. RUBEN ALFARO, P.E., REPRESENTING THE CITY OF PHARR, REQUESTED PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED PHARR HEALTH SUBDIVISION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING AN 11.227 ACRE TRACT OF LAND BEING THE NORTH 594.00 FT. OF THE WEST 823.30 FT. OF LOT 7, BLOCK 4, A.J. MCCOLL SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 4800 NORTH JACKSON ROAD. SUB#240102 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the consent agenda and recommended approval.

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

Ordinance No. O-2024-01 is 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

The time being 4:29 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 5:33 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 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2020-06 TO ADOPT NEW AND UPDATED PERSONNEL POLICIES. (1ST READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (HR)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

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- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2021-38 TO ADOPT AN UPDATED PURCHASING POLICY MANUAL. (1ST READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW PROCUREMENT CARD POLICY MANUAL. (1ST READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CITRUS VILLAGE, L.P. TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR 2024 COMPETITIVE 9% HOUSING TAX CREDITS FOR CITRUS VILLAGE APARTMENTS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION ALLOWING PARTICIPATION WITH NPPGOV. FOR COOPERATIVE PURCHASES AND/OR SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2024-06 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- F) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF CITY-OWNED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EQUIPMENT TO RGV CAREERS FOUNDATION INC. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2024-07 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- G) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF CITY-OWNED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EQUIPMENT TO CRUZ VERDE, MEXICO. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)**

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Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2024-08 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

H) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION DECLARING SURPLUS OF EMS EQUIPMENT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Resolution No. R-2024-09 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 8. PURCHASING

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 CHASSIS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM CHASTANG FORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,400.00 (BUYBOARD COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT NO. 724-23). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (FIRE)

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE FIBER AND SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO FINALIZE THE CITYWIDE FIBER PROJECT FROM GRAYBAR, INC, OUT OF FORT WORTH, TX, THROUGH OMNIA COOPERATIVE CONTRACT #EV2370 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$461,319.86. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (IT)

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Chavez **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 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)

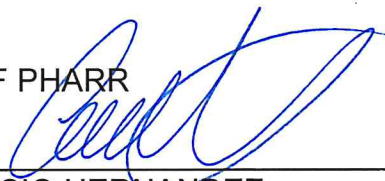
Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Chavez **moved** to approve. Comm. Carrillo 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. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

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CITY OF PHARR


AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 5th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024 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: February 19, 2024