

**MINUTES  
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

The Civil Service Commission met in a Regular Called Meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at the Commissioners' Room located at 118 South Cage Blvd., 2nd Floor, Pharr, Texas. The following is the record of attendance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson, Dolores Rodriguez  
Vice-Chairperson, Mario Lizcano  
Board Member, Vittorio Puente

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Hilda Pedraza, Asst. City Manager/CS Director  
Bea Fuentes, HR Coordinator/CS assistant  
Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief  
Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief

**ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER**

**A) ROLL CALL AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EXCUSING OF ANY ABSENT MEMBER**

Chairperson Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call established a quorum.

**ITEM 2 PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

There were no comments from the public.

**ITEM 3 REGULAR AGENDA – OPEN SESSION:**

**A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 2023. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG- SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Chairperson Rodriguez introduced the item.

Vice-Chairperson Lizcano moved to approve minutes as submitted. Board Member Puente seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

**B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, TO APPROVE AND UPDATE THE PHARR POLICE AND FIRE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (HR)**

Chairperson Rodriguez introduced the item.

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Hilda Pedraza, Civil Service Director, stated as per US HB3782, the age maximum for Police Officers had been removed from and Firefighters age limit remains unchanged.

Board Member Puente asked if there was a particular reason for removing the age set maximum for Police Officers.

Vice-Chairperson Lizcano briefly stated there was a need for more Police Officers in the state of Texas and the age limit had been removed during the last legislative session. He further stated there was a lack of police officers that met that criterion in places with low population.

There being no further discussion, Vice-Chairperson Lizcano moved to approve. Board Member Puente seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it was carried unanimously.

**ITEM 4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Chairperson Rodriguez introduced the item.

Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief, briefly reported the department had a series of promotions during the month of December. He stated the fire department had seven (7) firefighters that completed their probationary period and were sworn in as Civil Service Firefighters. He added five (5) Firefighters were promoted to the rank of Engineer and four (4) from Engineer to Lieutenant. He further stated the fire department had two (2) vacancies, in which one applicant will be hired from the existing eligibility list, exhausting the current list; therefore, entry level exam test date to follow.

Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief, reported the Pharr Police Department recently promoted officers to the positions of Deputy Chief, Lieutenant, and Sergeant. He stated the current eligibility for entry level officers had been exhausted and they would be requesting to schedule a test soon. Chief Gonzalez extended his appreciation to the sponsors and donors for the Tips for Toys campaign that was held to raise money to purchase toys for the community kids. He stated Tips for Toys event was scheduled for Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Pharr Events Center. Lastly, he reported Police Department partnered with an entity for a second event called 1000 smiles which was scheduled for Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

**ITEM 5. CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

Chairperson Rodriguez introduced the item.

Hilda Pedraza, Civil Service Director, stated she had no reports at this time.

**ITEM 6. CIVIL SERVICE COMMENTS**

Chairperson Rodriguez introduced the item.

Ms. Rodriguez wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Member Vittorio Puente also wished everyone a Happy Holiday and safe New Year and extended caution towards the use of alcohol during the holidays.

**ITEM 7. CLOSED SESSION**

None

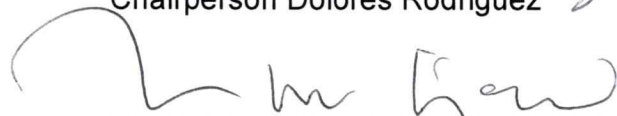
**ITEM 8. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION, AND CONSIDER ACTION, IF NECESSARY, ON ANY ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

None

**ITEM 9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before, Vice-Chairperson Lizcano moved to adjourn. Board Member Puente seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it was carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

  
Chairperson Dolores Rodriguez

  
Vice-Chairperson Mario Lizcano

  
Board Member Vittorio Puente

APPROVED: BF