

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 and following is the record of attendance.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Comm. Roberto Carrillo
Comm. Ramiro Caballero
Comm. Daniel Chavez
Comm. Itza Flores

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Comm. Michael Pacheco
Comm. Ricardo Medina

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan Flores, City Manager
David Friedlein, Assistant City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, ACM/City Clerk
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Jamison Merrick, Interim 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
Melanie Cano, O.S.E. Director
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Director
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Cynthia Garza, CDBG / External Affairs Dir.
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Mayra Gomez, Purchasing Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Danny Ramirez, E.M.S. Chief
CJ Sanchez, Pharr Chamber President
Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Comm. Officer
Kenneth Ennis, Public Safety Comm. Dir.
Cynthia Gutierrez, Public Health Director

CITY ATTORNEY Michael Garza, 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 4:01 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Comm. Carrillo moved to excuse absent members. Comm. Chavez 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 APRIL 6, 2024 AS CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO COUNTY DAY

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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Pat Blum introduced Children's Advocacy Center board members in attendance. Jesus Sanchez, Executive Director of Hidalgo and Starr Counties Centers, reported the Children's Advocacy Center served as the first stop for children entering the justice system and stated 207 of children served were from Pharr. Mr. Sanchez extended an invitation to the Commission to attend their annual VINOS event on Saturday, April 6, 2024 and thanked the Commission for the proclamation.

Mayor Hernandez read proclamation proclaiming April 6, 2024 as Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County Day and presented proclamation to Children's Advocacy Center team.

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 MARCH 2024. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and briefly reported the City of Pharr showed an increase of 0.14% year to date true growth and stated Finance Director was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

B) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

Jonathan, City Manager, introduced the item and called upon Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported a Block Party by the Building and Code Compliance Department would take place on Thursday, March 21, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Valley View Apartments at 1401 W. Anaya Rd. She stated various departments would also be participating in activities and extended an invitation for the public to attend.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported a Trash Bash event would take place on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Jones Box Park at 805 W. Rosa Ln. She stated all participants were required to show proof of residency.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported the City of Pharr would be hosting an Easter Scavenger Hunt city-wide on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. She stated this was an opportunity to showcase new businesses throughout the city and reported there were cash prizes for the winners along with Easter glass-stained eggs. Ms. Gonzalez extended an invitation and encouraged the public to participate in this event. A video was presented to showcase McAllen Stained Glass business.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported an Easter Eggstravaganza event was also taking place on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Pharr Sports Complex Park located at 201 E. Moore Rd. She stated there would be games, prizes, snacks and approximately 15,000 eggs included for Easter egg hunt and extended invitation to the public.

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Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported Movies at the Park would be held on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at Pharr North Amphitheater. She stated the Parks and Recreation Department would be showing the movie Blue Beetle and snacks would be provided for those in attendance.

Lastly, Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, presented a video promo for "Night Under the Stars" event taking place on Friday, May 10, 2024.

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

ITEM 9. 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 4:19 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 10. RECONVENE

The time being 4:49 p.m., Mayor Hernandez stated the commission would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE TO REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE CITY OF PHARR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (PURCHASING)

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:

1. JUAN F. GARZA, D/B/A MUELLE 37, REQUESTED RENEWAL OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON PREMISE CONSUMPTION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A 0.073 ACRE TRACT OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 2, BROWNING COMMERCIAL AREA SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1000 NORTH CAGE BOULEVARD, SUITE A. CUP#150325 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY
2. MAURICIO JARAMILLO, D/B/A REGENCY FIESTA, REQUESTED RENEWAL OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 0.102 ACRES OUT OF LOT 1, REGENCY SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1020 WEST FERGUSON AVENUE. CUP#071271 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY

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

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

REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION

ITEM 7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

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- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PHARR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM. 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.

Resolution No. R-2024-21 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MEXICO PAYING THEIR WATER DEBT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (ADMINISTRATION)**

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-2024-22 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND THE STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES PROPOSED BY AEP TEXAS AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO INTERVENE IN THE COMPANY'S RATE CASE PROCEEDING BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 56165. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Chavez **moved** to approve. Comm. Carrillo seconded the motion.

Mayor Hernandez requested clarification on the payment fees and stated motion for approval would be contingent upon legal recommendation.

There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote and it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2024-23 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- D) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING/RE-APPOINTING FOUR (4) MEMBERS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (GMCD)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and stated Victor Alvarez, Lucio Gaitan, Norma Trevino, and Lisa Nunez wished to be reappointed.

Comm. Chavez **moved** to reappoint Victor Alvarez, Lucio Gaitan, Norma Trevino, and Lisa Nunez to Community Development Council. Comm. Carrillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2024-24 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 8. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT NO. 2 OF THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH BROWNSTONE CONSULTANTS, LLC FOR THE PHARR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE - TWIN BRIDGE EXPANSION PROJECT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE. (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.

- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT NO. 5 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 WITH HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE DONATIONS ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM (DAP) FISCAL YEAR 2016. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCUTRE (ENGINEERING)**

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.

- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PHARR AND MARIELA RUIZ, CPA, PLLC FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES (TABLED). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

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, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC., FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TESTING SERVICES FOR THE DONATION ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AT THE PHARR PORT OF ENTRY. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**

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

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

- E) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN PHARR EMS AND TRANS STARR EMS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and recommended the item to be tabled.

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

- F) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH RIO GRANDE VALLEY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT (RGV 9-1-1) AND CITY OF PHARR PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS FOR USE OF 9-1-1 SYSTEM. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY (COMMUNICATIONS)**

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.

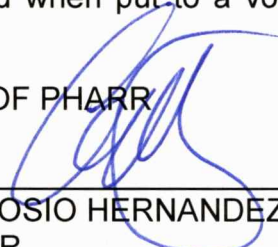
- G) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, TO RATIFY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH MUNICIPALITY OF ZITACUARO MICHOACAN, MEXICO, PHARR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION II AND THE CITY OF PHARR TO DEVOTE JOINT EFFORTS TO ATTRACT BUSINESS, INDUSTRIES AND INVESTORS AMONG OTHERS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY. (PEDC II)**

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.

ITEM 11. ADJOURNMENT

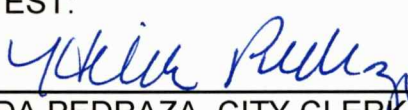
There being no other business to come before the board, Comm. Carrillo **moved** to adjourn. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR


AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 18th DAY OF MARCH 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: April 1, 2024