

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, May 6, 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
Comm. Itza Flores

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan Flores, City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, ACM/City Clerk
Imelda Perez, Assistant City Clerk
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Jamison Merrick, Interim Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Michael Rodriguez, Deputy Police Chief
Alberto Gonzalez, Assistant Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Code Compliance Director
Kimberly Mendoza, Dev. Svcs. Director
Luis Marin, Public Works Director
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Director
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Mayra Gomez, Purchasing Director
Daniel Ramirez, EMS Chief
CJ Sanchez, Pharr Chamber President
Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Comm. Officer
Kenneth Ennis, Public Safety Comm. Dir.
Cynthia Gutierrez, Public Health Director
Victor Perez, P.E.D.C. 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.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Adolfo Garcia, Library Director, led the pledge of allegiance and said the invocation.

ITEM 2. PROCLAMATIONS

A) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MAY 6, 2024 AS AGE FRIENDLY CITY DAY

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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Dr. Sudershan Pasupuleti, professor at UTRGV School of Social Work, thanked the Commission for the proclamation. He stated the age friendly community was an advocacy project that would be used to promote a friendly environment for the elderly people in the communities of the Rio Grande Valley.

Comm. Pacheco read proclamation proclaiming May 6, 2024 as Age Friendly City Day and presented proclamation to Dr. Sudershan Pasupuleti.

B) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MAY 12-18, 2024 AS PHARR POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Michael Rodriguez, Deputy Police Chief, thanked the Commission for the proclamation. He briefly stated the proclamation memorialized all fallen police officers who died in the line of duty.

Comm. Carrillo read proclamation proclaiming May 12 – 18, 2024 as Pharr Police Memorial Week and presented proclamation to Deputy Police Chief Michael Rodriguez and staff.

C) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MAY 19-25, 2024 AS NATIONAL EMS WEEK

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Daniel Ramirez, EMS Chief, thanked the Commission for the recognition and stated the purpose was to recognize the EMS staff for their hard work and introduce new younger people that would like to pursue the EMS field type of work.

Comm. Caballero read proclamation proclaiming May 19 – 25, 2024 as National EMS Week and presented proclamation to EMS Chief Ramirez and staff.

D) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MAY 2024 AS NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Mario Lizcano, DHR Health Director, and DHR staff members thanked the Commission for the proclamation. He stated the proclamation was to raise awareness in stroke prevention to the community and introduced DHR staff members present.

Dr. Patricia Fernandez thanked the City of Pharr for joining forces with DHR Hospital. She briefly explained a stroke was the main cause of disability or death in the state of Texas and highlighted the importance of knowing the symptoms of a stroke to better help the community, friends, and families.

Irene Lares, Vice President Neuroscience at DHR, thanked the Commission for their support and stated stroke prevention awareness was important because based on data collected only 17% of the population within our region was arriving to the hospital within the first hour. Ms. Lares stated so many lives were lost due to a stroke and educating our community was very important.

Comm. Chavez read proclamation proclaiming the month of May 2024 as National Stroke Awareness Month and presented proclamation to Mario Lizcano and DHR staff members.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Esteban Cardenas spoke on agenda item 6.I and stated he was in favor of the request for qualifications for the item.

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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. He stated Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

B) SUBMISSION OF SALES TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR APRIL 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 1.95% year to date true growth. He stated Jamison Merrick, Interim Finance Director, was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

C) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, presented video recaps on Paint the Park Event, Mayor's Prayer Luncheon, and Pharr Warrior Race.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, further reported the Night Under the Stars Mother's Day event would take place on Friday, May 10, 2024 at Pharr One Amphitheater at 1121 E. Nolana Loop. She stated there would be live music performances, photo-ops, and surprise gifts for moms in attendance.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported the Pharr Police Memorial Ceremony event would take place on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at EMS Headquarters at 3000 N. Cage Boulevard from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. She stated this event was to honor fallen officers and extended an invitation to the public to attend.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, further reported the Pharr Police Memorial Service would take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at Calvary Christian Center located at 1700 N. Jackson Rd. from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, also reported the Meet Our Pharr Public Safety Dispatch Team event would take place on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at Public Safety Communications building at 100 W. Ferguson Avenue at 5:30 p.m. She stated this would be a great opportunity for the community to come meet the Communications staff and extended an invitation to the public to attend.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported the Mind Matters Health Fair event would take place on Friday, May 17, 2024 at Pharr One – French Garden located at 1121 E. Nolana Loop from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Gonzalez stated this event was being hosted by the Pharr Police Department and was focused on mental health awareness. She further stated there would be informational booths, vendors, food and music and extended invitation to the public to attend.

Lastly, Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported Pharr EMS would be hosting Stop the Bleed free classes on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at Pharr EMS Headquarters located at 3000 N. Cage Blvd. She stated there was a total of five classes being held starting from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and encouraged the public to register for one of these classes.

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1. RECOGNITION FOR AWARDS OBTAINED BY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, recognized Carlos Avendano, Public Safety Telecommunicator, for the Silent Hero Award and Kenneth Ennis, Public Safety Communications Director, for the Operational Professional of the Year Award and Presidential Award received during the Public Safety Conference. He congratulated both for their efforts and leadership and for representing the City of Pharr well.

Kenneth Ennis, Public Safety Communications Director, thanked the Commission for the recognition and stated the awards received were accomplished by his entire staff. He further recognized Carlos Avendano for his award and stated the award was presented to a select group of individuals that go above and beyond the normal requirements and never seek recognition for their efforts.

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 1, 2024 REGULAR CALLED MEETING AND APRIL 15, 2024 REGULAR CALLED MEETING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)**
- B) 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 6.154 ACRE TRACT SITUATED IN PORCION 71, NARCISO CABAZOS SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 30, BEING A PORTION OF SOUTH VETERANS BOULEVARD AND EAST HI LINE ROAD, SAID PORTION BEING OUT OF PARCELS 70B, 70C, AND 70D, AND A 79.022 ACRE TRACT SITUATED IN PORCION 71, NARCISO CABAZOS SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 30, BEING OUT OF LOTS 47 THROUGH 55, AND A PORTION OF A 40 FT. ROAD (NOT IN USE), AS SHOWN ON THE RE-SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 1 AND 5 TO 32 INCLUSIVE OF THE SAN JUAN PLANTATION SUBDIVISION LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SOUTH VETERANS BOULEVARD AND EAST HI LINE ROAD, IN THE CITY OF PHARR'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ), IN HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. (2ND READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**
- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2023-33 MUNICIPAL FIBER OPTIC FEE SCHEDULE (2ND READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (IT)**
- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO RE-ADVERTISE THE PSJA TRI-CITY PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PHASE II (CSJ 0921-02-432). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**
- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PARKING AREA (CSJ# 0921-02-423). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE (ENGINEERING)**
- F) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ'S) FOR PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PURCHASING)**

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- G) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ'S) FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PURCHASING)**
- H) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ'S) FOR PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PURCHASING)**
- I) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ'S) FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PURCHASING)**
- J) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:**
 - 1. **ALDO MARQUEZ, DBA MULA CANTINITA, REQUESTED A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 0.070 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT A, MEDICAL RIDGE SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED AT 1401 SOUTH JACKSON ROAD, SUITES 7 & 8. CUP#240305 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY**
 - 2. **RAUL CORREA, DBA TINY CANTINA, REQUESTED A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 0.040 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT A, MEDICAL RIDGE SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED AT 1401 SOUTH JACKSON ROAD, SUITE 2. CUP#240407 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY**
 - 3. **FUERA DE LUGAR, LLC, D/B/A FUERA DE LUGAR RESTAURANT, REQUESTED RENEWAL OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS 0.071 OF AN ACRE TRACT OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF PLAZA SPORTS CENTER PHASE 1 LOT 1 SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1101 EAST NOLANA LOOP. CUP#150101 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY**
 - 4. **RAUL FONG, D/B/A D'S PARADISE LOUNGE, REQUESTED RENEWAL OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 14, BLOCK 1, J. T. DOSTER SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 107 EAST PARK AVENUE. CUP#040213 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY**
 - 5. **JOSE ALBERTO HERNANDEZ, D/B/A DOC'S BILLIARDS & SPORTS BAR, REQUESTED RENEWAL OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND LATE HOURS PERMIT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING THE SOUTH 150 FT. OF LOTS 17, 18 AND 19, BLOCK 1, SAN PATRICIA ACRES SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 917 WEST FERGUSON AVENUE. CUP#130630 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY**
 - 6. **TAQUERIA BORREGO PINTO, 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 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**

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7. **CHIPOTLE TEXAS, LLC., 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 0.05 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF THE REPLAT OF VACATED CAR-MEL SUBDIVISION, VACATED EL CENTRO MALL NO. 3 AND 4 SUBDIVISIONS, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 500 NORTH JACKSON ROAD, SUITE N-1. CUP#160942 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

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING ONE (1) MEMBER TO THE PHARR INTERNATIONAL TOLL BRIDGE BOARD. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and recommended Roberto Garza Ramos to the Pharr International Toll Bridge Board.

Comm. Carrillo **moved** to appoint Roberto Garza Ramos to the Pharr International Toll Bridge Board. Mayor Hernandez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2024-29 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 8. PURCHASING

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF NEW FURNITURE FOR THE PHARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY FROM LIBRARY INTERIORS OF TEXAS, LLC. FROM LAKEWAY, TEXAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$67,810.76 (BUY BOARD COOPERATIVE PURCHASE CONTRACT NO. 667-22). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, 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, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO FEE NEGOTIATIONS AND SCOPE OF SERVICES WITH CAPEX RESOURCES GROUP FROM FRISCO, TEXAS TO CONDUCT THE WATER RATE STUDY. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Comm. Chavez asked for additional information regarding the water study. Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Director, briefly stated the water rate study was for all future projects related to water and wastewater.

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

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- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT NUMBER 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,430.22 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RRP CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR THE HI-LINE WEST ROAD PROJECT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE - IF (ENGINEERING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Mayor Hernandez asked for additional details regarding the amendment. Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, briefly explained there were additional requirements by the Texas Historical Commission for additional testing to obtain environmental clearance.

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

- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DRISCOLL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL FOR GROUND EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY (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 by a majority vote of six (6) ayes and one (1) abstention. Mayor Hernandez abstained from voting.

- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE COLLECTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND LIFT STATION ELIMINATION PROJECT (TWDB) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE (ENGINEERING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and recommended awarding the project to MOR-WILL LLC.

Comm. Medina moved to approve as recommended. Mayor Hernandez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 10. CLOSED SESSION

None

ITEM 11. RECONVENE

None

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 5:01 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

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STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 6th DAY OF MAY 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: May 20, 2024