

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, September 16, 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
David Friedlein, Assistant City Manager
Cynthia Garza, Assistant City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, Assistant City Manager
Imelda Perez, City Clerk
Edwin Manrique, Project Engineer
Fabiola Sanchez, Asst. Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Juan Villescas, Municipal Court Judge
Juan Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Albert Gonzalez, Assistant Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Code Compliance Director
Kimberly Mendoza, Dev. Svcs. Director
Luis Marin, Public Works Director
Keyla Jalife, Asst. O.S.E. Director
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities Director
Cynthia Castro, Asst. Parks & Rec. Director
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Ben Martinez, Assistant EMS Chief
Dulce Herrera, Video Journalist
Sara Salinas, Asst. Public Safety Comm. 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 4:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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

ITEM 2. PROCLAMATIONS

A) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 AS NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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Robert Garcia thanked the Commission for their continued support and partnership.

Comm. Carrillo read the proclamation proclaiming September 25, 2024 as National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims and presented proclamation to Robert Garcia and murder victim families.

B) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Mario Lizcano thanked the Commission for allowing DHR Hospital bring awareness to the public on the importance of prostate cancer awareness.

Dr. David Alonzo also thanked the Commission for the proclamation and encouraged all men to get screened and stated if caught early, this disease could be treated and cured.

Comm. Caballero read the proclamation proclaiming September 2024 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and presented proclamation to Mario Lizcano and Dr. David Alonzo.

C) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 23 - 31, 2024 AS RED RIBBON WEEK.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Rolando Garcia, PSJA ISD Police Chief, thanked the Commission for proclamation and extended an invitation to all to attend their upcoming Red Ribbon Week parade to be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024 in Alamo. He stated the parade was to spread the message of staying away from drugs and being drug-free.

Juan Gonzalez, Pharr Police Chief, thanked the Commission for the proclamation and advised the Pharr Police department would also be working with other school districts in the Pharr area to bring awareness and educate the kids on being drug-free.

Comm. Pacheco read the proclamation proclaiming October 23 – 31, 2024 as Red Ribbon Week and presented proclamation to PSJA ISD Police Chief Rolando Garcia and Pharr Police Chief Juan Gonzalez.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Pedro Garcia and Dalia Bouchée, Pharr Community Theater, spoke on Item 8.B. They thanked the City of Pharr for its continued support throughout all these years and extended an invitation to all on their two upcoming events.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES

There were no comments from the public.

B) PUBLIC HEARING: SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE FY 2024-2025 PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF PHARR. (FINANCE)

There were no comments from the public.

C) PUBLIC HEARING: SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025. (FINANCE)

There were no comments from the public.

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ITEM 5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

A) SUBMISSION OF SALES TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and briefly reported the City of Pharr showed an increase of 3.89% year to date true growth. He further stated Jamison Merrick, Finance Director, was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

B) ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION - WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

Maxine Vieyra, Alzheimer's Association, thanked the Commission for allowing the Alzheimer's Association the use of Pharr One to host their monthly workshops. She further went over their upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer's event to be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024.

Laura Valdez, Alzheimer's Association Community Chairperson, also thanked the City of Pharr for their relentless dedication to the Walk to End Alzheimer's Association event and educational efforts to the community on this devastating disease.

C) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, called upon Dulce Herrera, Video Journalist, for a report on upcoming city events.

Dulce Herrera, Video Journalist, presented a promotional video on upcoming Avocado Festival stated the Avocado Festival would be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024 in downtown Pharr She further extended an invitation for all to attend.

D) RECOGNITION OF FIRE CHIEF PILAR RODRIGUEZ FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and called upon Fire Chief Pilar Rodriguez. He stated Chief Rodriguez was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Rio Grande Valley Women's Chamber and congratulated for his leadership and continued service to the city.

Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief, thanked the Commission for the recognition and stated it was an honor to serve the City of Pharr as the Fire Chief. He further thanked the men and women from the Fire Department for their service to the Pharr community.

E) RECOGNITION OF RAUL ESCAMILLA FOR THE NATIONAL BEHIND THE SCENES AWARD.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and called upon Ben Martinez, Assistant EMS Chief for an employee recognition.

Ben Martinez, Assistant EMS Chief, introduced members from the Texas Emergency Nurses Association as well as all Pharr EMS staff. He thanked all Pharr EMS professionals for always seeking excellence everyday while treating patients or collaboratively working with hospitals to improve patient care.

Assistant Chief Martinez further stated the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Nurses Association nominated Raul Escamilla for the National Behind the Scenes Award which recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions behind the scenes to promote the mission of advancing emergency nursing.

Chris Chizek, Rio Grande Valley Emergency Nurse Association 2023 President, stated they were proud of Raul Escamilla and his work was a reflection of Pharr EMS leadership. She further stated the mission of the Rio Grande Valley Nurse Association was to provide education and each member represented a different hospital in the

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community. Ms. Chizek also stated Captain Escamilla assisted by training the recent nursing graduates and assisted in various other areas in the community and hospitals. She congratulated Raul Escamilla for being selected number one on an international level for this award.

Aaron Salinas, Texas Emergency Nurses Association Board Member, recognized Pharr EMS and Raul Escamilla for helping the nursing students and for being the type of leader and medic Captain Raul Escamilla was.

Raul Escamilla, Training and Compliance Captain, stated he was grateful and extremely honored to receiving the award. He thanked the Pharr EMS leadership and the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Nurses Association for their nomination and recognition and looked forward to future accomplishments.

Mayor Hernandez and the Commission congratulated Captain Escamilla for his outstanding hard work and dedication to the community.

F) RECOGNITION ON ACCREDITATION FOR THE PHARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY FROM THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and called upon Adolfo Garcia, Library Director for their recent accreditation from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Adolfo Garcia, Library Director, stated the library had been receiving this accreditation from for several years and thanked the Commission, City Management, and library staff for their continued support on making this accomplishment possible.

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 - REGULAR CALLED MEETING. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (ADMINISTRATION)**
- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO SERVICE CONTRACT FOR A FIREWORK DISPLAY FOR VETERANS DAY, WINTER WONDERLAND, AND NEW YEARS EVE 2024 WITH PYRO SHOWS OF TEXAS FROM FORT WORTH, TX FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$52,500. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (PURCHASING)**
- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:**
 - 1. JOSE R. MENDEZ AND NIEVES M. MENDEZ D/B/A CARNICERIA MENDEZ, LLC., REQUESTED A 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 LOT 1, DE ALBA SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 902 SOUTH CAGE BOULEVARD. CUP#240818 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.**
 - 2. EDUARDO BARRERA, OWNER, REQUESTED A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (C) TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (H-C). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 2.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 252, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 3310 SOUTH CAGE BOULEVARD. COZ#240722 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.**

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3. MELDEN & HUNT INC., REPRESENTING GARCIA-REYNA FAMILY LTD., OWNER, REQUESTED A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (C) TO RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY HIGH DENSITY DISTRICT (R-MFHD). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 0.74 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOTS 32 AND 33, L.R. BELL DEVELOPMENT "E" SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 700 BLOCK OF NORTH VETERANS BOULEVARD. COZ#240824 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the consent agenda. He briefly stated staff recommended denial of agenda item C.2 and recommended approval of the remaining items.

Comm. Chavez **moved** to approve. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried by a majority vote of six (6) ayes and one (1) abstention. Comm. Pacheco abstained from voting on Item 6-C.3.

Ordinance No. O-2024-29 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION

ITEM 7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION , IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE ADOPTING TAX RATE FOR FY 2024-2025 (ADOPTION ON ONE READING).THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY. (FINANCE)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Medina **moved** that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of $\phi.7676$, which is effectively a 4.25% percent increase in the tax rate. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. O-2024-30 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING BUDGET FOR YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 (ADOPTION ON ONE READING). THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY. (FINANCE)**

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.

Ordinance No. O-2024-31 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY ON ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE O-2022-01 RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS WITHIN THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS. (1ST READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY. (HR)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

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- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE HIDALGO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2025-2027. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and recommended nomination of Albert Cardenas.

Comm. Carrillo **moved** to nominate Albert Cardenas as candidate to the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2024-52 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING ONE (1) MEMBER TO THE PHARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (LIBRARY)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and recommended appointment of Dahnya Trejo to the Pharr Memorial Library Board.

Comm. Carrillo **moved** to appoint Dahnya Trejo to the Pharr Memorial Library Board. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2024-53 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 8. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO AGREEMENT ON LETTER OF INTENT FROM CITRUS BAY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION ON DONATION OF GREEN AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Medina **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 ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE PHARR COMMUNITY THEATER FY 2024-2025. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (LIBRARY)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS (ICE) FROM CORPUS CHRISTI, TX FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF PHARR URBAN FORESTRY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$469,700 **(TABLED)**. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

Comm. Carrillo moved to approve. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried by a majority vote of six (6) ayes and one (1) abstention. Comm. Chavez abstained from voting.

- D) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT NO. 5 OF THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH BROWNSTONE CONSULTANTS, LLC FOR THE CITYWIDE FIBER OPTIC BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE. (IT)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- E) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VIDEO SURVEILLANCE WITH RELATED EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, AND ACCESSORIES WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. FROM SCOTTSDALE, AZ. THROUGH BUY BOARD CONTRACT NO. 648-21. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY. (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- F) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A TERM CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF HMAC, COLD MIX, AND CALICHE WITH SYNOLO MATERIALS, LLC. FROM EDINBURG, TX 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.

- G) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RELEASE OF FINAL PAYMENT AND RETAINAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$432,396.73 TO INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2015 (DAP FY 15) AS COMPLETE. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE. (ENGINEERING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Comm. Carrillo moved to approve. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried by a majority vote of six (6) ayes and one (1) abstention. Comm. Chavez abstained from voting.

- H) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AND SERVICE CONTRACT FOR A CLOUD-BASED TELEPHONE VOIP SYSTEM WITH GOTO COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOSTON, MA THROUGH THE INTERLOCAL PURCHASING SYSTEM (TIPS) NO. 221003 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SE - SERVICE EXCELLENCE. (PURCHASING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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Comm. Chavez **moved** to approve. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried by a majority vote of six (6) ayes and one (1) abstention. Comm. Carrillo abstained from voting.

I) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH SKY ELEMENTS LLC FOR THE DRONE SHOW FOR THE NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL DROP EVENT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (ADMINISTRATION)

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

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

ITEM 9. CLOSED SESSION

None

ITEM 10. RECONVENE

None

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 5:02 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR


AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 16th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 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, **IMELDA PEREZ, CITY CLERK**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

ATTEST:


IMELDA PEREZ, CITY CLERK

APPROVED: October 7, 2024