

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 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, December 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
Cynthia Garza, Assistant City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, Assistant City Manager
Imelda Perez, City Clerk
Moises Beas, Engineering
Jamison Merrick, Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Juan Villescas, Municipal Court Judge
Juan Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Albert Gonzalez, Assistant Fire Chief
Roy Rodriguez, Code Compliance Asst. Dir.
Joe Garza, Dev. Svcs. Asst. Director
Luis Marin, Public Works Director
Keyla Jalife, O.S.E. Asst. Director
Oscar De Leon, Public Utilities Asst. Director
Sergio Alanis, Parks & Rec. Director
Adolfo Garcia, Library Director
Jose Pena, I.T. Director
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Mayra Gomez, Purchasing Dept. Director
Danny Ramirez, EMS Chief
Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Comm. Officer
Kenneth Ennis, P.S. Communications Dir.
Abel Molina, Interim Special Events Director
Elizabeth Diaz, Grants Management 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

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

ITEM 2. PROCLAMATIONS

A) PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING DECEMBER 16, 2024 AS ARBOR DAY

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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Remy Vargas, Urban Ecologist, discussed the benefits on why Arbor Day was important. Comm. Pacheco read proclamation and presented proclamation to Remy Vargas.

The time being 4:04 p.m., Mayor Hernandez left meeting.

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 DECEMBER 2024.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and briefly reported the City of Pharr showed a decrease of -0.40% 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) PRESENTATION BY LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 01, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and stated Attorney Michael Cano was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

C) TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RISK POOL: R.O.A.D READY PROGRAM CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Veronica Ramirez, Human Resources Director, introduced her staff and Johnny Vera, Texas Municipal League representative. She further stated this was a collaborative effort and thanked all departments that assisted.

Johnny Vera, Texas Municipal League Loss Prevention Specialist, presented the City of Pharr with R.O.A.D. Ready Program certification. He stated this certification was a staying safe initiative that included ongoing safety meetings and trainings. He further recognized the Human Resources department for their commitment to ensuring the safety of all city staff.

The time being 4:17 p.m., Mayor Hernandez returned to meeting.

D) CITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, presented video recaps of Winter Wonderland and Cody's Block Party events. Ms. Gonzalez also presented a promotional video on the upcoming New Year's Eve Ball Drop event.

Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, further reported the Christmas Tamalada event would take place on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at Development & Research Center located at 850 W. Dicker Rd. from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She stated there would be toy giveaways, pictures with Santa, music and delicious tamales. She further stated this was a free event and encouraged all families to attend.

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Lastly, Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported the Christmas Night at the Library event would be taking place on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at the Pharr Memorial Library from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She stated there would be Santa photos, free books and hot chocolate with cookies. She further stated this was a free event and encouraged all families to attend.

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2, 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 22.94 ACRES MORE OR LESS, BEING PART OR PORTION OF LOT 255, KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION OF PORCIONES 69 AND 70, LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF EAST JAVELINA DRIVE, APPROXIMATELY 1,700 FEET WEST OF SOUTH VETERANS BOULEVARD, IN THE CITY OF PHARR'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ) IN HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. (3RD AND FINAL READING) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY. (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**
- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PHARR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANT PROGRAM (OPSG-2024) TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION-GRANT# 3173110/OPSG 2024. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY. (POLICE)**
- D) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON REQUEST FROM PSJA ISD FOR STREET CLOSURE OF KELLY AVENUE, FROM GUMWOOD TO FIR STREET, FOR THEIR 5TH ANNUAL PSJA ISD FAMILY POSADA EVENT ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 12:00 A.M. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (ADMINISTRATION)**
- E) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:**
 - 1. **ELIZABETH REYES, REPRESENTING COMMUNITY LIFE, REQUESTED A LIFE-OF-THE-USE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A CHURCH IN A GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (C). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING THE SOUTH 198.0 FEET OF LOT 1C, PHARR SOUTH SUBDIVISION UNIT NO.1 AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED AT 1536 SOUTH CAGE BOULEVARD, SUITE 11. CUP#241125 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.**
 - 2. **STEFANO'S PIZZA EXPRESS, 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 0.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF LOT 4A, REPLAT OF VACATED CAR-MEL SUBDIVISION, VACATED EL CENTRO MALL NO. 3 & 4 SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 500 NORTH JACKSON ROAD, SUITE N-3. CUP#190961 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.**
- F) **PLATS:**
 - 1. **R. GUTIERREZ ENGINEERING CORPORATION, REPRESENTING RICHARD GOODMAN, VICE PRESIDENT, REAL ESTATE, CONSTRUCTION AND RETAIL FACILITIES OF LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, INC., A NORTH CAROLINA CORP., REQUESTED FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED LOWE'S OF PHARR SUBDIVISION. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING A 13.01 ACRE TRACT OF LAND CONSISTING OF 3.76 ACRES OUT OF LOT 15, 3.17 ACRES OUT OF LOT 16, 3.45 ACRES OUT OF LOT 17 AND 2.63 ACRES OUT OF LOT 18, PHARR**

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CITRUS ORCHARD CO. SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN THE 700 BLOCK OF SOUTH JACKSON ROAD. SUB#230308 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the consent agenda and recommended Item 6.B be tabled.

Comm. Carrillo **moved** to table Item 6.B. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, recommended approval of remaining consent agenda items.

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

Resolution No. R-2024-64 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 11. CLOSED SESSION

The time being 4:23 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 12. RECONVENE

The time being 4:36 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 RESOLUTION APPOINTING/RE-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 the reappointment of Rosana Gutierrez to Pharr Memorial Library Board.

Comm. Pacheco **moved** to reappoint Rosana Gutierrez to Pharr Memorial Library Board. Comm. Chavez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2024-65 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 8. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON CITY MANAGER'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and stated no action was needed on the item.

At this time, Commissioners Carrillo and Pacheco, and Mayor Hernandez stated Dr. Flores was doing a great job and thanked him for his leadership.

ITEM 9. PURCHASING

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE RADIOS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FROM CHICAGO, IL UTILIZING THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (HGAC) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM CONTRACT RA05-21 FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$104,752.68. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY. (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.

ITEM 10. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- A) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH CAROLLO ENGINEERS INC. FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$121,666.00 FOR ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE REDESIGN OF CLARIFIER NUMBER 1 AND 2 FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PROJECT. (TABLED) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE. (ENGINEERING)**

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

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

At this time, Jonathan Flores, City Manager, recommended denying the item.

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

- B) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAN JUAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY OF PHARR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY. (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT NUMBER 8 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,145 AND 489 CALENDAR DAYS TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED (SEA), FROM SAN ANTONIO, TX, FOR THE PHARR-REYNOSA INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE EXPANSION PROJECT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE. (ENGINEERING)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

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

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- D) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT NO. 3 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,000.00 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GARCIA INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTANTS, LLC, FOR THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND LIFT STATION 1, 29, 33 ELIMINATION PROJECT. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS IF - INFRASTRUCTURE. (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.

ITEM 13. 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 4:42 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 16th DAY OF DECEMBER 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: January 6, 2025