

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025
118 SOUTH CAGE 2nd FLOOR

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, January 6, 2025 and following is the record of attendance.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Comm. Michael Pacheco
Comm. Roberto Carrillo
Comm. Ramiro Caballero
Comm. Ricardo Medina
Comm. Itza Flores

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Comm. Daniel Chavez

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
Maria Rangel, City Engineer
Jamison Merrick, Finance Director
Veronica Ramirez, HR Director
Juan Villescas, Municipal Court Judge
Juan Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Pilar Rodriguez, Fire Chief
Roland Gomez, Code Compliance Director
Kimberly Mendoza, Dev. Svcs. Director
Luis Marin, Public Works Director
Keyla Jalife, O.S.E. Asst. Director
Ruben Rosales, Public Utilities 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.
Victor Perez, PEDC Director
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.

Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Carrillo called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

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

Comm. Pacheco was not present at the time of roll call but arrived at 4:09 p.m.

Mayor Hernandez was not present at the time of roll call but arrived at 4:10 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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

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ITEM 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 4. CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

A) CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item. He stated Maria Rangel, City Engineer, was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

B) IT'S TIME TEXAS COMMUNITY CHALLENGE PLEDGE

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Abel Molina, Interim Special Events Director, and Vanessa Soto, Special Events Coordinator, invited the City Commission to accept the Healthier Texas challenge. They stated there would be several free community events throughout the City that would promote wellness and invited the community to join us at these events.

C) RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES FROM THE CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGER PROGRAM

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item. He recognized David Friedlein, Assistant City Manager; Hilda Pedraza, Assistant City Manager; Albert Gonzalez, Assistant Fire Chief; and Alessandra Garcia, Assistant City Clerk for obtaining their Certified Public Manager certification. He stated this was a fourteen (14) month nationally accredited program that helps with leadership and management skills. He further congratulated them for their hard work and dedication to this program.

All staff thanked City Management and the City Commission for allowing them the opportunity to attend program and stated they would apply the skills learned to better assist the community of Pharr.

D) RECOGNITION OF PHARR EMS FIRST ON-SCENE BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item.

Danny Ramirez, EMS Chief, stated EMS staff responded to a medical call on December 9, 2024 regarding a female with severe bleeding and stated the quick action and treatment to this patient saved her life. He presented EMS staff Vanessa Gurrola, Andrew Gonzalez and Elsa Castillo with Clinical Excellence Commendations Award for their response to medical call that required a blood transfusion.

Danny Ramirez, EMS Chief, further stated the City of Pharr had just implemented the Whole Blood Transfusion Program and they had already used it to save a life and it was a great accomplishment for the department.

E) 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 of EMS Press Conference, Winter Texan Tamaladas, and New Year's Eve Ball Drop event.

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Lastly, Yuri Gonzalez, Chief Communications Officer, reported the City of Pharr would be celebrating its 116th birthday and the celebration would take place on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 200 S. Cage Blvd. from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She stated there would be cake, a piñata, music and games for the entire family and extended an invite for everyone to come join us in celebrating.

ITEM 5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 16, 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) (TABLED) THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY. (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**
- C) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PHARR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SOUTH TEXAS AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY. (POLICE)**
- D) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CENTER FOR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING SERVICES. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS QL - QUALITY OF LIFE. (ADMINISTRATION)**
- E) **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CASES:**
 - 1. **MARIO GUERRA, REPRESENTING ZONA MRRP LLC., OWNER, REQUESTED A CHANGE OF ZONE FROM OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL DISTRICT (O-P) TO RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY HIGH DENSITY DISTRICT (R-MFHD). THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 65, BEAMSLEY SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 1215 WEST TRUMAN STREET. COZ#241131 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.**
 - 2. **RED ROBIN 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 LOT 2, PARADISE COMMERCIAL PARK PHASE II SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 409 SOUTH JACKSON ROAD. CUP#030747 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.**
 - 3. **7-ELEVEN INC. DBA 7-ELEVEN CONVENIENCE STORE'S AND STRIPES STORES, 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 1, P&T SUBDIVISION, PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS IS 2710 NORTH CAGE BOULEVARD. CUP#231031 THIS ITEM SUPPORTS EV - ECONOMIC VITALITY.**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the consent agenda and recommended Item 5.B remain tabled and approval of remaining consent agenda items.

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

Ordinance No. O-2025-01 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

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REGULAR AGENDA - OPEN SESSION

ITEM 6. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING/RE-APPOINTING ONE (1) MEMBER TO THE GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (PARKS)**

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

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

- B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING/REAPPOINTING TWO (2) MEMBERS TO THE KEEP PHARR BEAUTIFUL BOARD. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (PARKS)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and recommended the reappointment of Romeo Cantu and Marisa Oliva to the Keep Pharr Beautiful Board.

Comm. Carrillo moved to reappoint Romeo Cantu and Marisa Oliva to the Keep Pharr Beautiful Board. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2025-01 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

- C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION APPOINTING/REAPPOINTING FOUR (4) MEMBERS TO THE PHARR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION II BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SG - SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY. (ADMINISTRATION)**

Jonathan Flores, City Manager, introduced the item and recommended the reappointment of Comm. Michael Pacheco, Reynaldo Perez, Mario Lizcano and the appointment of Romeo Cantu to the Pharr Economic Development Corporation II Board.

Comm. Carrillo moved to reappoint Comm. Michael Pacheco, Reynaldo Perez, Mario Lizcano and appoint Romeo Cantu to the Pharr Economic Development Corporation II Board. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-2025-02 is filed with the City Clerk's Office.

ITEM 7. PURCHASING

- A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE PURCHASE OF HYDRAULIC RESCUE TOOLS FROM SIDDONS-MARTIN EMERGENCY GROUP UTILIZING BUYBOARD COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT NUMBER 698-23 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$172,748.40. THIS ITEM SUPPORTS SSC - SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY. (FIRE)**

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.

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ITEM 8. CLOSED SESSION

None

ITEM 9. RECONVENE

None

ITEM 10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Comm. Carrillo **moved** to adjourn. Comm. Medina seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 6th DAY OF JANUARY 2025 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 21, 2025