

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, June 22, 2021

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: San Juan Memorial Library
Multipurpose Meeting Room
1010 S. Standard
San Juan, Texas 78589

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mario Garza, Mayor
Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez, Commissioner
Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo, Commissioner
Marco "Markie" Villegas, Commissioner
Ricardo Palacios, City Attorney

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Diana Cavazos, City Secretary
Tirso Garza, Chief of Fire
Ruben Morin, Chief of Police
Leroy Gonzalez, Director of Finance
Adelaida Cordero, Director of Human Resources
Armandina Sesin, Library Director
Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks & Recreation
Roberto Escobar, Director of Planning
Roel Garza, Director of Sanitation/ Public Works
David Salinas, Director of Utilities
Mary Enriquez, Court Administrator
Pat Karr, Director of Information Technology

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Mario Garza called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager led the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mario Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Official Canvassing of Returns June 12, 2021, City Runoff Election for Mayor Place 1, Commissioner Place 2 and Commissioner Place 3.

DISCUSSION: Diana Cavazos, City Secretary read the cumulative result reports from the Hidalgo County Elections Office, "For Mayor Place 1 for the City of San Juan we had for Mr. Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez 35 absentee votes, 1183 early votes, 323 election day votes, with the total of 1541 votes. For Mayor Mario Garza we had 19 absentee votes, 1154 early votes, 301 election day votes, giving a total of 1574, total casted votes were 3115 with 17 under votes the winning candidate for Mayor Place 1 for the city of San Juan is Mayor Mario Garza. For Commissioner Place 2 for the City of San Juan we have "Neto" Coach Guajardo with 50 absentee votes, 1379 early votes, 360 election day votes, with the total of 1789 votes. For RC Flores we have 9 absentee votes, 1051 early votes, 264 election day votes, with the total of 1324 votes, a total of casted day votes of 3113 and 19 undervotes the winning candidate for Commissioner Place 2 is "Neto" Coach Guajardo. For Commissioner Place 3 for the City of San Juan we had "Dina" Santillan with 44 absentee votes, 1273 early votes, 332 election day votes, with the total of 1649 votes. For Nikki Ibarra we had 11 absentee votes, 1157 early votes, 286 election day votes, with the total of 1454 votes, the total casted day votes was 3103 with 29 undervotes, the winning candidate for Commissioner Place number 3 is Ms. Adina "Dina" Santillan. With that being said, I do need a motion for the acceptance of the numbers." Mayor Mario Garza asked "At this time is there a motion? It's been second, all those in favor say I." Everyone responded "I". Mayor Mario Garza responded "Motion carries." Commissioner Jesus "Jesses" Ramirez responded "Mayor if I may? I know I had to laugh at the canvassing of the votes and being that it was all less than 1% of the difference in our results and being that I won 4 out of the 6 Precincts I'm submitting my request for a recount."

- B. Issuing of Certificate of Election and Official Oath of Office to Winning Candidates.

**CITY OF SAN JUAN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021**

1. Mayor Place 1

DISCUSSION: Rick Palacios, City Attorney “Because a request for recount was made at this time, it doesn’t delay obviously the swearing of the other individuals in their races but in your particular race we cannot go forward with the certification of the election results in your race nor the qualification for office so at this time my advice as counsel was that we would have to delay your swearing in ceremony because of the recount. So, at this juncture obviously you remain in office because of the previous election 4 years ago but we can’t swear you in at this time until the recount is complete.” Mayor Mario Garza responds “At this time I apologize for everyone who’s here obviously you know we just need to respect what the law allows us to do but I know at the end of this recount I’m going to be successful; the citizens of San Juan have spoken and I’ll continue being their mayor and as soon as this is done, we’re going to continue the progress I guarantee you. Congratulations Ms. Dina Santillan, congratulations Mr. Guajardo, good job, you guys well deserved you worked very hard and I know you guys are going to be an asset to this City Commission, I’m looking forward to working with you and like our counsel said I’m still the mayor and I will continue being the mayor.”

2. Commissioner Place 2

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo responds “I’d like to thank god for giving the opportunity to serve you 4 more years. I know it’s a lot of work and I want to thank everybody that supported me, my family, especially one of my brothers and ex commissioner Fernando “Nando” Guajardo that was there for me all this time. It’s a big help and I greatly thank you my brother for being there with me and all the people that supported me and it’s time to get back to work, it is what it is, I’m not going to say I do this, It’s about all these gentlemen right here, we’re here to work together and let’s go forward and let’s keep our residents alive and well and ears open that’s why I would say my philosophy was always says the people’s voices.”

3. Commissioner Place 3

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Adina “Dina” Santillan responds “I do have a little speech prepared, so first and foremost I do want to thank god for this opportunity to sit before you as a newly elected city official this election wasn’t easy and when it came to deciding to run it was a very long and difficult decision for me to make. There was a lot I had to take into account at different levels and how it was going to affect my family first and foremost. But here and I am and I wouldn’t be here without Commissioner Jesse Ramirez so thank you for calling me and it was a pleasure running the race with you. When I got into politics it comes from my dad and this seat hold a very special sentimental place in my heart, my dad Jose Santillan was Commissioner Place 3, 25 years ago and he served his 3 terms with transparency, unity, and he held it at high regards and that’s where I come into to play and it’s great to have been able to elected into this seat. But I also want to thank my opponents Mr. Eddie Alaniz and Ms. Nikki Ibarra, when I decided to run, I wanted to be clean as possible and that was my stipulation when I spoke with Jesse and I’m very proud of the race that we ran because I wanted to sleep at night and I commend my opponents Mr. Eddie Alaniz and Ms. Nikki Ibarra for also doing the same, because it could have gone any way and we all know that politics is very dirty but politics is what you make it to be, you can make it dirty, you can make it clean, be respectful and I’m very honored to be her today to accept this position and I hope to represent and I plan to represent this city with integrity because we are professionals and it’s about time we got some heels up here. It was different slates to start off with three slates we ended up with two no matter where we sit it’s about working as one team and that’s what I do plan to do, to be a team, to bring all our ideas into one and make it better for this city, we have great positives in this city but I know there’s always room for improvement and that’s what we plan to do here with the city, with the commissioners, men and women for the City of San Juan. So, thank you everybody, thank you for coming out tonight, to all our supporters, everybody that helped with their actions with their prayers it was greatly appreciated and we’re moving forward from here and out so thank you so much.”

VI. ADJOURNMENT 6:20 p.m.

Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo made motion to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez. Motion passed (5-0).

CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS

Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Escalante, Interim City Secretary