

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

DATE: Monday, March 01, 2021

TIME: 12:00 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
Marco "Markie" Villegas, Commissioner
Rick Palacios, City Attorney

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Diana Cavazos, City Secretary

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Mario Garza called meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALL THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

- A.** Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Quotes for the Upcoming General Election on May 1, 2021 for Mayor Place 1, City Commissioner Place 2 and Place 3.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Diana Cavazos, City Secretary stated as you may recall this item was tabled at the last meeting because we were missing a quote. As stated, before Hart Intercivic is no longer lasing equipment therefore attached you may find the quotes from ES&S and Hidalgo County. The quote received from ES&S is \$23,088.65 for lease of equipment only and the quote received from Hidalgo County is for \$29,111.69, which includes equipment, supplies, mail & ballots services, advertisements payroll for election workers which includes training, payroll for ballot board, insurance and cell phones. She further added attached you may find the comparison requested of both. Ms. Cavazos stated I did ask the hidalgo County Elections Department the questions that were brought up at the previous meeting regarding the quote which is attached. I also asked about the appointment of judges to which the responded they were willing to take recommendations and work with the City Commission, as far as for the approval of the polling locations they responded that the department needed to know the latest by tomorrow if the polling locations can be used.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez made motion to approve the Hidalgo County contractor and was seconded by Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez. Motion Passed (4-0).

- B.** Consider Appointment of Election Judges and Setting Maximum Number of Election Clerks for the Upcoming City's Special Municipal Election for Place One (1), Two (2) and Three (3) to be Held on May 1, 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez made motion to un tabled item and was seconded by Mayor Mario Garza. Motion Passed (4-0).

DISCUSSION: Ms. Diana Cavazos, City Secretary stated as mentioned earlier for the upcoming May 1st, 2021 General Election for Place 1,2 and 3 there must be two presiding judges and two alternate judges to be appointed for election day and one presiding judge and one alternate judge for early voting and as stated previously Hidalgo County said we could recommend and they are willing to work with the City Commission. Mayor Mario Garza asked if for early voting 1 judge and 1 alternate were needed to which Ms. Cavazos responded yes of which can also serve for election day. Mayor Mario Garza asked if the judges appoint the clerks to which Ms. Cavazos responded yes. Mayor Mario Garza stated he had noticed there was no list of names who actually have experience and certified to be an election judge to which Ms. Cavazos responded I have a list of the last judges that were used for the 2018 election and the 2016 election. Ms. Cavazos added the list was not included because it had been received that morning. Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez stated that the names didn't have to be approved only the number to which Mayor Mario Garza stated it was to approve the names to which Ms. Cavazos responded yes. Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas asked if we have sufficient time if we tabled the item for the next meeting to which Ms. Cavazos responded yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez made motion to table the item and was seconded by Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez. Motion Passed (4-0).

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- C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Hidalgo County Election Department Request of Polling Locations for the May 1, 2021 Cities/School Election.

Mayor Po Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez made motion to untable the item and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion Passed (4-0).

DISCUSSION: Ms. Diana Cavazos, City Secretary stated as mentioned previously the Hidalgo County Elections Department is requesting the use of the San Juan Memorial Library and the Fire Station No.2 for the May 1, 2021 Election for early voting and election day. Ms. Cavazos added in the past the City Commission has approved for the County to use the facilities. Mayor Mario Garza stated early voting polling location would be at the San Juan Memorial Library and Election Day polling locations would be at the San Juan Memorial Library and Fire Station No.2.

Mayor Po Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez made motion to untable the item and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion Passed (4-0).

III. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. Consider Approval of Resolution Acknowledging the Findings and Approving Proposed Contingent Fee Legal Services Contract with O'Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo PC and Raizner Slania, LLP, Requesting for Expedited Review and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute All Documents Related Thereto.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated this item was discussed in executive session in reference to the Hannah storm and to his understanding insurance monies had been received, but since staff are not experts with the visual pictures on the damages, they were looking into hiring a company to come over and do an assessment of the buildings that could have been affected and assets as well. Mr. Arjona further stated there could be more adequate findings submitted to the insurance for insurance purposes and claims. Mr. Ricardo Palacios, City Attorney stated the agreement needed to be vetted and forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for approval and they would have 90 days to respond. Mr. Arjona stated there was a new law that was implemented in December to which Mr. Rocio Garcia, Attorney with O'Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo responded back on 2019 the legislative passed a law stating any governmental entity signing a contingency contract needed to be approved by the Attorney General first. Attorney Garcia further stated in the past with other localities they've had the resolution approved first, then a contractor would be available tailored to San Juan specifically along with a notice that was provided as well. Mr. Rico Garcia added the law wants all elected officials to know exactly what they are getting into since in the past there were agreements municipalities all over the state would enter into without fully knowing everything therefore this process is intended to have more transparency between the public and the elected officials.

Mayor Po Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez made motion to untable the item and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion Passed (4-0).

IV. ADJOURNMENT 12:21 p.m.

Mayor Po Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez made motion to adjourn at 12:21 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Jesus “Jesse” Ramirez. Motion Passed (4-0).

CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS

Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Escalante, Interim City Secretary