

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE:

Monday, May 8, 2023

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
Mayor Pro – Tempore Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez
Adina “Dina” Santillan, Commissioner
Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo, Commissioner
Marco “Markie” Villegas, Commissioner
Rick Palacios, City Attorney

STAFF PRESENT:

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Brenda Escalante, City Secretary
Tirso Garza, Chief of Fire
Leandro Sifuentes, Interim Chief of Police
Leroy Gonzales, Finance Director
Adelaida Cordero, Director of Human Resources
Armandina Sesin, Library Director
Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks & Recreation
Monica Gomez, Asst. Director of Planning
Israel Garza, Director of Sanitation/ Public Works
Juan Carlos Martinez, Interim Director of Utilities
Mary Enriquez, Court Administrator
Greg Trevino, Public Information Officer

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:

There were no comments.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation on a Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

DISCUSSION: Adelaida Cordero, Director of Human Resources, presented the proclamation proclaiming the month of May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month. Ms. Cordero introduced Esther Lee Fuentes and Elizabeth Herrera with DHR Health, who thanked the City Commission for their support of mental health awareness. Veronica Hernandez, HR Generalist, informed the City Commission of upcoming mental health awareness events the city would be hosting for city staff. Marco “Markie” Villegas read the proclamation.

B. Presentation on a Proclamation Proclaiming May 14 - 20, 2023 as National Police Week.

DISCUSSION: Leandro Sifuentes, Interim Chief of Police, introduced the proclamation proclaiming May 14–20, 2023, as National Police Week and welcomed a couple off-duty police officers. Chief Sifuentes read the proclamation.

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C. Presentation Regarding STC Educational Fair.

DISCUSSION: Adelaida Cordero, Director of Human Resources, informed the City Commission about STC reaching out to the city regarding the possibility of offering some courses, including HVAC, the GED program, fire science, the police academy, and truck driving for CDL courses. Ms. Cordero informed the City Commission and everyone present that the educational fair would take place on May 11th. Ms. Cordero introduces Ruben Flores, Laura Requena, and Dr. Ali Esmaeli, all members of South Texas College. Dr. Esmaeli gave a brief presentation about the different degrees STC offers. Ruben Flores thanked the City Commission for the opportunity to be present to offer the course to city employees. Laura Requena thanked the City Commission. Mayor Mario Garza asked about the possibility of the city joining STC to offer GED classes. Dr. Esmaeli stated that the STC Continue and Professional Development Division is available to provide the support that the city might need in order to start collaboration and cooperation.

D. Presentation to Recognize the PSJA Lady Bears Softball Team for their District Championship.

DISCUSSION: Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the PSJA Lady Bears Softball Team as the 2023 31-6A District. Mr. Willingham congratulated and presented the team players.

E. Presentation on Upcoming 2023 Hurricane Preparedness. [Tirso Garza, Fire Chief/ Emergency Management Coordinator]

DISCUSSION: Tirso Garza, Fire Chief, informed the City Commission that the hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. A storm that blew through on April 29th and caused significant damage also gave the event an early start. He also provided a brief update on the city's reaction to clean-up and recovery from different dangers, such as downed power lines and trees. The threshold for the county was 3.9 million, and the city of San Juan was at 1.3 million, he told the City Commission, mentioning the Hidalgo County Conference Call attendance. Chief Garza stated that while they have submitted the city's number, they do not yet have a reliable figure because adjusters are traveling to several places. He went ahead and informed them that 1800 sandbags were ready and that they were looking at purchasing a piece of equipment to make the sandbagging procedure easier. Chief Garza responded to Mayor Mario Garza's request for a city damage estimate by stating that the Fire Department's estimate is \$104,000 for all three roofs. When Mayor Garza inquired about the status of construction at the Fire Department, Chief Garza said that three structures should be finished in seven days. According to City Manager Benjamin Arjona, TML should provide an estimate by Friday. Mayor Garza inquired about the city's efforts to inform citizens on how to file damage reports. According to Chief Garza, the county is using QR code technology, which would be communicated over the Internet. The directors were given a deadline to submit their numbers, Chief Garza told me. The City Commission requested that the inhabitants be informed about the QR code as soon as possible. Chief Garza requested a 7-day extension of the severe thunderstorm disaster declaration until April 29, 2023. Additionally, according to Chief Garza, the city is ready for the forthcoming storm season. The whole city staff was recognized by the City Commission for their dedication and hard work.

F. Presentation on Departmental Reports: Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Sanitation and San Juan Memorial Library.

1. Department of Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
2. Department of Parks and Recreation Monthly Report
3. Department of Sanitation Monthly Report.
4. San Juan Memorial Library Monthly Report

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo asked for an update on the canopies located on the park to which Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation stated that they were removed in order to resume with games. Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas asked to please look into cleaning up a city property that is located behind Big Boys Toys.

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

- A. Discussion and Action, if any, of the Cooperation Agreement with the Hidalgo County Urban County Program Regarding the Re-Qualification Process for Fiscal Years 2024-2026. [Daniel Tijerina, Director of Planning]**

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DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager, stated this item is just a formality to requalify for Urban County to be part of it. Monica Gomez, Asst. Director of Planning stated this was a Cooperation Agreement with Hidalgo County Urban County Program for the fiscal years thirty-seven (37), thirty-eight (38) and thirty-nine (39) which are the years of 2024-2027.

Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo. Motion Passed (5-0)

- B. Preliminary and Final Plat Approval of the Shops at Chavez, Lot 6 Subdivision, being a 2.422-acre tract of land out of Lots 4 and 5, Block 35, Alamo Land and Sugar Company Subdivision, as Requested by Halff and Associates. [Daniel Tijerina, Director of Planning]**

DISCUSSION: Monica Gomez, Asst. Director of Planning stated that this item was a preliminary and final plat approval of the Shops at Chavez lot 6 subdivision which is 2.422-acre tract into a one (1) commercial lot. Furthermore, the property is located at the Northwest corner of Frontage and Cesar Chavez Road also the proposed subdivision is in a flood zone “C” according to the FEMA Map. Water a sewer services will be provided by the City of San Juan and additional fire hydrants shall be installed as per San Juan Fire Department requirements. Mrs. Gomez stated that staff recommends approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion Passed (5-0)

- C. Discussion and Possible Action, if any, on Road Closures for the 5K For Heroes on May 27th, 2023. [Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation]**

DISCUSSION: Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks & Recreation stated this item is a 5K event sponsored by the RGV Marine Veterans Association. Mr. Willingham mentioned that they will be using our 5K route that we have developed for our city’s annual run. Furthermore, the Marine Veterans have asked us to assist them with the street closures for this event. Mayor Mario Garza recommended for the city to take care of city employees registration fee for this event.

Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion Passed (5-0)

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Mobile Food Court and the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (wine and beer) for On-Premise Consumption at 232 E. Business Highway 83, Legally Described as Lettered Blocks (San Juan) Lot 1, Block B, as Requested by Marivel Salinas. [Daniel Tijerina, Director of Planning]**

- B. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for Mixed Beverages and Late Hours Permit at 901 W. 1st Street, Suite I-Space #2, Legally Described as Lot 3, B.T. No. 1 Subdivision, as Requested by Rod Squad, LLC. [Daniel Tijerina, Director of Planning]**

- C. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Classifying Property Described as Being a 1.59 Acre Tract (69,270.55 Sq. Ft.) Tract of Land Being out of that Certain 5.85 Acre Tract out of the Southwesterly Portion, more or less, out of Lot 8, Block 35, Alamo Land and Sugar Company, Hidalgo County, Texas as "Surplus" Property and Authorizing the Transfer of that Certain Property to the San Juan Economic Development Corporation for no less than the Fair Market Value, Plus any and all Closing Costs; Providing for Codification; Providing for Severability; Providing for a Repealer Clause; and Ordaining all other Provisions Related to the Subject Matter Hereof.**

- D. Consider Approval of City Commission Meeting Minutes:
- October 26, 2022**

Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas made motion to approve all items under consent agenda and was seconded by Mayor Mario Garza. Motion Passed (5-0).

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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A. The San Juan City Commission will Convene in Executive Session, in Accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated, Government Code Chapter 551 et seq. and §551.071 Consultation with Attorney.

1. Pursuant to Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Entertainment for Fourth of July 2023.
2. Pursuant to Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Lease Agreement with Gumbo's Deli.
3. Pursuant to Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Creation of City of San Juan Noche De Paz Queen(s).

Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas made motion to enter executive session at 7:03 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion passed (5-0)

XIII. RECONVENE

Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez made motion to reconvene at 7:42 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion passed (5-0)

A. The City Commission will Reconvene in Open Session to Take Necessary Action, if any, in Accordance with Chapter 551, Open Meetings, Subchapter E, Procedures Relating to Closed Meeting 551, Requirements to Vote or Take Final Action in Open Meeting.

1. Pursuant to Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Entertainment for Fourth of July 2023.

Mayor Mario Garza made motion to move forward as discussed under executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion Passed (5-0)

2. Pursuant to Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Lease Agreement with Gumbo's Deli.

Mayor Mario Garza made motion to move forward as discussed under executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Motion Passed (5-0)

3. Pursuant to Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Creation of City of San Juan Noche De Paz Queen(s).

Mayor Mario Garza made motion to move forward as discussed under executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Motion Passed (5-0)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

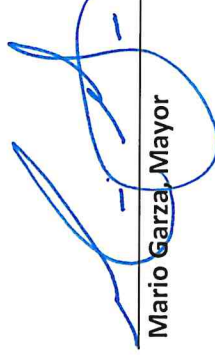
Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion passed. (5-0)

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ATTEST:



Brenda Escalante, City Secretary


Mario Garza, Mayor