

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, January 9, 2024

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: San Juan Memorial Library
1010 S. Standard St.
San Juan, Texas 78589

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mario Garza, Mayor
Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez, Commissioner
Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo, Commissioner
Adina “Dina” Santillan, Commissioner
Criselda Palacios, City Attorney

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Brenda Escalante, City Secretary
Tirso Garza, Fire Chief
Leandro Sifuentes, Chief of Police
Leroy Gonzalez, Director of Finance
Adelaida Cordero, Director of Human Resources
Christina Perez, Interim Library Director
Daniel Tijerina, Director of Planning
Israel Garza, Director of Sanitation/ Public Works
Juan Carlos Martinez, Director of Utilities
Mary Enriquez, Court Administrator
Pat Karr, Director of Information Technology
Ruben Guajardo, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation. PAL Director

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 public comments.
- Mayor Mario Garza wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for their hard work. He stated that he’s excited for all the things that will be coming in 2024 and appreciates what everyone does for the community.
- V. PRESENTATIONS**
- A. Presentation on Departmental Reports: Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Sanitation, San Juan Memorial Library, Department of Finance, Fire Department, Police Department, Municipal Court and Department of Utilities.**
- 1. Department of Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.**
- November 2023 Report.
December 2023 Report.
- 2. Department of Parks and Recreation Monthly Report.**
- November 2023 Report.
- 3. Department of Sanitation Monthly Report.**
- November 2023 Report.
December 2023 Report.
- 4. San Juan Memorial Library Monthly Report.**

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November 2023 Report.
December 2023 Report.

5. Department of Finance Monthly Report.

November 2023 Report.

6. Fire Department Monthly Report.

November 2023 Report.
December 2023 Report.

7. Police Department Monthly Report.

November 2023 Report.
December 2023 Report.

8. Municipal Court Monthly Report.

November 2023 Report.
December 2023 Report.

9. Department of Utilities Monthly Report.

November 2023 Report.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Mario Garza asked Benjamin Arjon, City Manager to add an agenda item under executive session during the upcoming City Commission Meeting to discuss the delinquent accounts from the Sanitation Department and review them with Israel Garza, Director of Sanitation/Public Works and Leroy Gonzales, Finance Director.

VI. APPOINTMENTS

A. Consider the Nomination and Appointment of Board Member(s) Related to the San Juan Library Advisory Board.

DISCUSSION: Brenda Escalante, City Secretary, stated staff is recommending the appointment of three (3) board members to the San Juan Library Advisory Board. The following members were no longer active: Celina Hoglund, Jorge Rodea, and Nadia Baughman. Ms. Escalante stated the acceptance of applications was advertised on the city's website and social media, but no applications had been received.

Commissioner Adina "Dina" Santillan made motion to appoint Sara Guerra, Ellie Santillan and Janella Pena to the San Juan Library Advisory Board and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion Passed (4-0)

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

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Hidalgo County Elections Department's Request for Early Voting/Election Day Polling Location of the San Juan Fire Station No. 2 for the 2024 Election Cycle.

DISCUSSION: Brenda Escalante, City Secretary, stated the Hidalgo County Elections Department is requesting the use of San Juan Fire Station No. 2 for early voting and election day for the upcoming 2024 election cycle. The Elections Department is working on maintaining a consistent list of locations based on what was used in the 2022 election cycle. Staff recommended authorizing the use of the facility.

Commissioner Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez made motion to approve and was seconded by Adina "Dina" Santillan. Motion Passed (4-0).

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

A. Consider Resolution Authorizing the City of San Juan to Submit and Accept an Application for Funding to the Office of the Governor, Operation Lonestar-FY2024 for the City of San Juan.

DISCUSSION: Leandro Sifuentes, Chief of Police, stated this is a resolution authorizing the City of San Juan to submit and accept an application for funding to the Office of the Governor, Operation Lonestar, FY2024 for the City of San Juan. Chief Sifuentes stated that the city will get \$128,152.18, with which it would like to purchase a self-sufficient surveillance mobile tower.

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion Passed (4-0).

- B. Consider Resolution Authorizing the City of San Juan to Submit and Accept an Application for Funding to the Office of the Governor, Local Border Security Program (LBSP) for the City of San Juan.

DISCUSSION: Leandro Sifuentes, Chief of Police, indicated that this is a resolution authorizing the City of San Juan to submit and accept an application for funds from the Office of the Governor's Local Border Security Program (LBSP). Chief Sifuentes claimed that the \$20,000 will be used to pay overtime for police officers and dispatchers. Furthermore, with these funding, the department will be able to effectively target crime by increasing the number of officers patrolling this jurisdiction during each shift, focusing on problem areas, and discouraging future crime by a visible police presence. Chief Sifuentes claimed that they will engage with local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities to combat illegal activities.

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion Passed (4-0).

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider Approval of the Budget Expenditure Report for the Months October and November 2023.

Commissioner Adina "Dina" Santillan made motion and approve and was seconded by Commissioner Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion Passed (4-0).

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 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 §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).

1. Pursuant to Section §551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS: Discuss the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Interim Director of Parks and Recreation).
2. Pursuant to Section §551.0714 PERSONNEL MATTERS: Discuss the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Interim Director of Library Services).
3. Pursuant to Section §551.071 Consultation with Attorney Regarding Legal Issues on Consulting Services Assisting the Interim Parks and Recreation Director.

Mayor Mario Garza asked Christina Perez and Ruben Guajardo for their consent to discuss items 1 and 2 publicly, to which they both agreed.

XI. RECONVENE

- 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 Meetings, and Requirements to Vote or Take Final Action in Open Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager, announced that Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation, resigned last week; as a result, he would want to appoint Ruben Guajardo as Interim Director of Parks and Recreation. He would want to appoint Christina Perez as interim director of library services in lieu of Ms. Armandina Sesin, who retired. Mayor Mario Garza remarked that he intended to ensure that they were rewarded if these proposals were adopted by the panel, and that Mr. Arjona speak with them directly.

1. Pursuant Pursuant to Section §551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS: Discuss the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Interim Director of Parks and Recreation).

Mayor Mario Garza made motion to appoint Ruben Guajardo as Interim of Parks and Recreation Director and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion passed (4-0).

2. Pursuant to Section §551.0714 PERSONNEL MATTERS: Discuss the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Interim Director of Library Services).

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to appoint Ms. Christina Perez as Interim Director of Library Services and was seconded by Mayor Mario Garza. Motion Passed (4-0).

3. Pursuant to Section §551.071 Consultation with Attorney Regarding Legal Issues on Consulting Services Assisting the Interim Parks and Recreation Director.

No action

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez made motion to adjourn at 6:16 p.m. and was seconded by Mayor Mario Garza. Motion Passed (4-0).



CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS



Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda Escalante, City Secretary