

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE:

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

TIME:

6:00 p.m.

PLACE:

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jesus Ramirez, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Ernesto Guajardo, Commissioner
Pete Garcia, Commissioner
Raudel Maldonado, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mario Garza, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT:

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Palmira Cepeda, Interim City Secretary
Rick Palacios, City Attorney
Leroy Gonzalez, Interim Finance Director
Adelaida Cordero, Director of Human Resources
Armandina Sesin, Library Director
Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation
Xavier Cervantes, Director of Planning
Carmen Gonzalez, Director of Sanitation
Rene Jaime, Purchasing/Risk Management
David Salinas, Director of Utilities
Mary Enriquez, Court Administrator

GUEST: Eduardo Cantu, Commissioner PCT.2 , Mark Alaniz Board President of Parks and Recreations,
Arnold Mata, Tri-City Leadership Program

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tempore Jesus Ramirez called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager led the invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pro-Tempore Jesus Ramirez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Presentation on Departmental Reports: Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Parks and Recreation, San Juan Memorial Library, Department of Sanitation.
(Benjamin Arjona, City Manager)

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager presented the item and stated that Directors were available if the Commission had any questions. Mayor Pro-Tempore Jesus Ramirez asked Xavier Cervantes, Director of Planning if the software his department used for permits is only used by one employee. Mr. Cervantes replied that other employees assist when needed. Mayor Pro-Tempore Ramirez stated that he had received phone calls from residents complaining about having to wait too long to get a permit. He also asked how the public safety building construction was going and Mr. Cervantes replied by saying he was the project manager and that they were on schedule with the construction to be completed August 21st. Mr. Cervantes also mentioned that there were four houses that were unsafe structures and were ready for demolition, that project would be completed within a month or two.

Commissioner Pete Garcia asked for the status of the streets that were being paved. Mr. Cervantes stated that Phase I improvements had begun on Puerto Vallarta and Cancun street and one of the issues was the

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curb and gutter. He mentioned that some spots were lower than others but the issue was getting fixed and he had a pre-construction meeting for the neighborhood off of 495 and it was a project together with Urban County.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Ramirez asked Carmen Gonzalez, Director of Sanitation if there was a charge to replace trash cans. Ms. Gonzalez replied that there is a charge only if the resident damages the container as in putting burning charcoal. Mayor Pro-Tempore Ramirez stated that he was going to ask the resident to call again because the resident had complained the City was charging for the new trash can. Commissioner Pete Garcia also asked Ms. Gonzalez if her Department was patching the potholes and she replied that at the moment they were not able due to the rain but would start again soon.

Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation gave presentation on teams attending the PONY Baseball and Softball attending the World Series. Commissioner Pete Garcia asked how the City was helping the teams financially and Mr. Willingham replied by saying Parks and Recreation Department was covering 50% for the room, some money for meals and money for gate fees for parents. Mr. Mark Alaniz, Board President of Parks and Recreation presented the teams with a bat signed by the players to the teams and coaches as a token of gratitude.

- b. Tri-City Leadership Program (Benjamin Arjona, City Manager)

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager presented the item and Arnold Mata spoke about Tri-City Leadership program that in the past the City of San Juan and City of Pharr had leadership programs under the Chambers of Commerce. He stated several City employees have gone through the program and that they connect people from the community with the leaders in our city government, school and county level. It is a 9 month program and they had a class that they were recruiting for the month of August. It is a very successful program and they are trying to recruit all three cities. The fee is \$395 per member and Mr. Mata asked the Commission if they can consider paying the fees for employees that were interested in participating. Commissioner Raudel Maldonado stated that he had been part of the program in 2004 and it was a great program and learned a lot. Mayor Pro-Tempore Jesus Ramirez asked Mr. Arjona if there were funds available and Mr. Arjona replied that the City should be able to cover a couple of employees. Mr. Mata stated that the classes meet on the second Wednesday of the month from noon to 6:00 p.m.

VI. CONTRACTUALS/RESOLUTIONS

- a. Consider an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between Hidalgo County, Texas, Precinct 2 and the City of San Juan, Texas, Concerning Improvements to Hall Acres Road from Veteran's Boulevard to Stewart Road. (Xavier Cervantes, Director of Planning)

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager presented the item and stated that the county was willing to repave Hall Acres Road and the City's contribution towards the project would only be \$10 thousand. Mayor Pro-Tempore thanked PCT.2 Commissioner Eduardo Cantu for all the help he has given to the City of San Juan. Commissioner Pete Garcia asked if this project would include San Antonio Street. Mr. Arjona replied that at the moment it was only the street mentioned. Commissioner Cantu commented that he was happy to work together with the City and that it was a busy street that was in bad shape. Commissioner Garcia suggested that in the future they could work together to fix San Antonio street.

Motioned made by Commissioner Pete and seconded by Commissioner Raudel Maldonado. Motion passed. (4-0)

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2017.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager presented the item and Mayor Pro-Tempore Jesus Ramirez asked for a motion.

Motion made by Commissioner Pete and seconded by Commissioner Raudel Maldonado. Motion passed. (4-0)

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VIII. ADJOURNNMENT

DISCUSSION: Mayor Pro-Tempore asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Raudel Maldonado motioned to adjourn meeting and seconded by Commissioner Pete Garcia. Motion passed. (4-0)

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Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:


Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary