

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

DATE: Wednesday, October 25, 2017

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Raudel Maldonado, Commissioner
Rick Palacios, City Attorney
Tirso Garza, Chief of Fire
Juan Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Oscar Cuellar, San Juan EDC Director
Leroy Gonzales, Interim Finance Director
Adelaida Cordero, Director of Human Resources
Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation
Xavier Cervantes, Director of Planning
Carmen Gonzalez, Director of Sanitation
David Salinas, Director of Utilities
Mary Enriquez, Court Administrator
Robert Rangel, Director of Information Technology

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Diana Cavazos, City Secretary
Armandina Sesin, Library Director
Rene Jaime, Purchasing/Risk Management

GUEST:

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 the invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mario Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Hold a Public Hearing to solicit input from interested parties on the City of San Juan needs under the Urban County Program Fiscal Year 31 (2018).

Xavier Cervantes, Director of Planning addressed the Mayor and Commissioners stating that this was a required Public Hearing of the Urban County Program for the 2018 funds. The funds available are \$276,051 and normally a certain amount is utilized for social services and the rest for infrastructure. Therefore, a public hearing was needed to solicit input.

Mayor Mario Garza opened the item to the public for public hearing at 6:02pm.

Lupe Silva, Interim Director for CASA stated she has been Interim Director for only a couple of weeks however, she had a lot of experience with CASA. She was on the founding Board and was Interim Director three previous times. CASA of Hidalgo is an organization that provides advocacy for children in Court. They are the voice of the children that are in the court system because they have been severely abused and neglected. The process is that Child Protective Services picks up the child and then they are placed in foster care. Then the judge assigns CASA to take care of the child during the duration of the

CITY OF SAN JUAN
CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, October 25, 2017

case which is normally between 12-18 months. At the present time, CASA has 98 trained volunteers that are working on 200 cases assigned by the Court. Every child has an advocate, a trained volunteer. The volunteer goes through rigorous training, has a clean criminal background and is of good moral standards in the community. They are the voice of the children in Court and they take care of all their needs. CASA also has Volunteer Supervisors which are paid staff. Presently there are 4 Volunteer Supervisors and they are each assigned 30 volunteers. They work together on the cases, do home visits at the foster care home and they make sure the children are present in Court when needed. Ms. Silva also stated she has been an advocate for CASA for many years and knows that the program does a lot of work. She strongly urged the Commission to consider their request for funding and asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Pete Garcia asked where they were located and if it was for all Hidalgo County. Ms. Silva responded that it was for all Hidalgo County and that they were located at 1001 S. 10th Street in Edinburg, right down from the Courthouse and across the street from Ochoa's Pharmacy.

Mayor Mario Garza asked how many kids were in foster homes and Ms. Silva responded that at the present time there were 700 children and all in Hidalgo County. Mayor Garza asked for their phone number in case anyone wanted additional information and Ms. Silva stated it was 381-0346.

Jesse Ramirez, Mayor Pro-Tempore asked if the application for funding had been submitted and for what amount and Ms. Silva responded that it had been submitted and they were requesting \$8,000.

Mr. Ramirez, Mayor Pro-Tempore asked Mr. Cervantes, Director of Planning if the request was an increase from last year and Mr. Cervantes responded that it was the same amount and that the previous year CASA had served six children from San Juan and last year they had served sixteen children.

Mr. Ramirez, Mayor Pro Tempore also inquired on how the requested funds would be utilized and Ms. Silva stated that it would be for volunteer training and mileage for staff.

Mayor Mario Garza asked if the foster parents were in need of a crib, would they have to purchase one or would it be provided for them and Ms. Silva said it would be provided if they were wards of the State.

Mayor Mario Garza asked if there were any additional questions and then thanked Ms. Silva from CASA for her comments. He added that on November 14th they would be making the decision on funding for the different agencies and the infrastructure project. A recommendation would be submitted by himself and Benjamin Arjona, City Manager for the Commission to decide.

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager mentioned to Mayor Garza and Commissioners that a recommendation is presented for approval and if changes to amounts need to be done, they are done at the meeting.

Jesse Ramirez, Mayor Pro-Tempore asked how many applications had been submitted and Xavier Cervantes, Director of Planning stated that he had received a letter from Amigos del Valle, Boys and Girls Club from Alamo/San Juan, Nuestra Clinca del Valle, CASA and were pending a few others.

Mayor Mario Garza asked if all the others would have an opportunity to present and Xavier Cervantes, Director of Planning stated that that was the only opportunity they had to present their needs, but if they had presented a letter they could certainly be considered for funding.

Mayor Mario Garza asked Mr. Cervantes if he had any letters and Mr. Cervantes stated that there were a couple of agencies that were pending so he would be calling them to follow up. If they submitted the letter by November 14th they would also be considered for funding.

Commissioner Ernesto Guajardo asked if he had one from Nuestra Clinica del Valle and Mr. Cervantes confirmed that he did, as well as from Boys and Girls Club Alamo/San Juan and a letter from the new facility was forthcoming.

Jesse Ramirez, Mayor Pro-Tempore mentioned that he met with some of the board members from the Boys and Girls Club Alamo/San Juan and they were requesting monies from the General Fund instead of the Urban County funding due to the lack of staff and the paperwork that it required. Mr. Ramirez went on to say that he didn't know if that was possible or if it was something they could look into.

Commissioner Ernesto Guajardo asked who was requesting this and Mr. Ramirez responded that the board member for both Pharr/San Juan/Alamo and Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated that it would be up to the Commission if one or the other. Commissioner Pete Garcia also stated that the one in San Juan was increased to \$37,000.

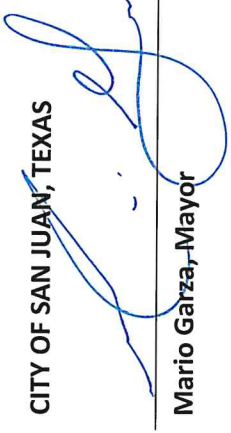
Mayor Garza closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

CITY OF SAN JUAN
CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, October 25, 2017

V. ADJOURNMENT

Commission Pete Garcia motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:13pm and seconded by Commissioner Ernesto Guajardo. Motion passed. (4-0)

CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mario Garza', is written over a horizontal line.

Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Diana H. Cavazos', is written over a horizontal line.

Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary