

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

OATH OF OFFICE

DATE: Monday, January 29, 2018

TIME: 5:30 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
Leonardo Sanchez, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Salinas, Director of Utilities

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Diana Cavazos, City Secretary
Reynaldo Casarez, Captain
Tirso Garza, Chief of Fire
Leroy Gonzales, 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
Mary Enriquez, Court Administrator
Robert Rangel, Director of Information Technology

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Mario Garza called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager led the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mario Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Official Canvassing of Returns of January 20, 2018, City Election for Commissioner Place 4.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated that the first item under presentation is the Official Canvassing of Returns of January 20, 2018, City Election for Commissioner Place #4. Ms. Diana Cavazos.

Ms. Diana Cavazos, City Secretary stated that on the Canvass Report for Mr. Rolando “Rolly” Casas there were 57 votes at Carmen Elementary, 47 votes at the Fire Station #2 for Election Day. For Early Voting Mr. Casas received 158 votes giving him a total of 262 votes.

For Mr. Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez there were 155 votes at Carmen Elementary and 83 votes at Fire Station #2 for Election Day. For Early Voting he received 684 votes giving him a total of 922 votes.

Commissioner Pete Garcia motioned to approve and Commissioner Ernesto Guajardo seconded. Motion passed. (4-0)

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Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated that before they moved to the next item, Mr. Raudel Maldonado wanted to say a few words before saying goodbye to the excellent work he had done at the City of San Juan.

Mr. Maldonado started with first of all congratulating our newest Commissioner, Mr. Lenny Sanchez. He went on to say that he had enjoyed serving as Commissioner for the past three years learning how the City was run, learning about infrastructure, monies coming in and out and learning about to day to day operations. It was a priceless experience for him as well as being able to work with elected officials, attorneys, engineers and vendors across the Valley. There have been ups and downs throughout but in this line of work you must have a thick skin and continue moving forward. He added that it is funny but now he catches himself driving through the streets of San Juan and he notices all the aspects of the City. I did not get to complete my term as Commissioner due to an opportunity for me and my family to run for office at the county level but it has cost us the ultimate sacrifice, my job. With this decision, other doors will open and other people are affected. I think Commissioner Sanchez owes me a lunch because when I decided to take on this challenge at the next level, I think I changed Lenny's life forever. Congratulations again Lenny for a job well done running a race. I was impressed by going to the polls and having both candidates campaigns act with respect and integrity towards each other. I was proud of both of you and my model when I ran was always to unite and not divide and for the most part that is what I tried to do in the time I was here. I want to finish with thanking all of our Directors, Police and Fire Chief, our City Manager and City Employees for a job well done. In addition, I also enjoyed working with Commissioner Guajardo, our newest Commissioner as well as Commissioner Pete Garcia even though we weren't always on the same side, but he always treated me and my family with respect. Mayor Garza and I go back a long way, I didn't always agree with his decisions when he was Commissioner but the last couple of years have been great. As my Mayor, I will always respect you and your title and cherish our friendship. To Mayor Pro-Tem Ramirez, thank you for being there since the beginning. To City Attorney, Rick Palacios thank you for your words of wisdom and to all the previous attorneys, Gilbert Vasquez and Javier Villalobos. I will continue to be involved with our local leaders and community and I will always be there to help in any way possible. God bless all of you and God bless the City of San Juan.

Benjamin Arjona thanked Commissioner Maldonado for his words.

Commissioner Garcia then wished Commissioner Maldonado well. He enjoyed working with him even though at times they did not agree on the same thing. There was mutual respect and in disagreements would always walk out from a meeting with everything staying there and it was always for the better of the City. Commissioner Maldonado thanked him for his words.

Mayor Garza stated that it was true, he grew up with Commissioner Maldonado and his family, his brother was his best friend. Being in this seat is work and I know that it is the grace of God that guides us and like the Commissioners said, we might not always agree on things but at the end of the day we are here for the people of San Juan and what we do is improve the quality of life of everyone here. With that being said, Commissioner I want to thank you for your line of work and God will bless you.

Commissioner Guajardo said that they also had their ups and downs but they learned to work together and he added to keep it up and keep them proud. Commissioner Ramirez also stated he had always been there and would continue to be there.

- b. Issuing of Certificate of Election and Official Oath of Office to Winning Candidate.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager invited Mr. Lenny Sanchez to the front for the Oath of Office.

Commissioner Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez took the official oath of office.

“I, Leonardo Sanchez do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of the Office of the City of San Juan Commissioner of the State of Texas and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States and of the State so help me God”

Ricardo Rodriguez, District Attorney stated he would like to congratulate Lenny. He has known him and his family for a long time. He is a good man, not only as a citizen but as a law enforcement officer. He has 20+ years in law enforcement so that says something about Lenny. He added that he was proud to say that Lenny had done good throughout his years.

Commissioner Sanchez stated he wanted to thank everyone for their support, when running it was hard to get to the community, yet he got through several obstacles. When he would contact the community the greatest concerns were the conditions of San Juan and that is what I am going to do. Setting the priorities in getting the roads fixed which are very much needed. He added that along with his colleagues we could get it done and he will be looking over the welfare and concerns of the City. He would also find solutions to leverage partnerships to fix the issues and he was ready to work. He thanked everyone.

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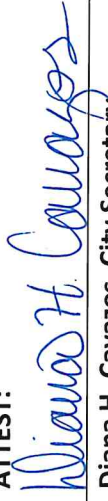
V. ADJOURNMENT 5:47pm

Commissioner Guajardo motioned to adjourn and seconded by Commissioner Maldonado.
Motion passed (5-0)

CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS

Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:


Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary