

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

DATE:

Monday, April 30, 2018

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
Pete Garcia, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Lenny Sanchez, Commissioner
Jesse Ramirez, Commissioner
Ernesto Guajardo, Commissioner
Rick Palacios, City Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Juan Gonzalez, Chief of Police

STAFF PRESENT:

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Diana Cavazos, City Secretary
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
David Salinas, Director of Utilities
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 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. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Motorcycle Awareness Month May 2018.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager presented the item and Andrew Cannon, president of the Biker Association, McAllen Chapter.

Mr. Cannon stated that he appreciated the City, Mayor and Commissioners for hearing the presentation on Motorcycle Awareness month. He added that this was done every year to inform the public throughout the cities as well as through the County Commissioner’s Court raising motorcycle awareness in Hidalgo County in all of South Texas. He stated they appreciated the support because there were too many motorcycles on the road and too many people were losing their lives on motorcycle accidents. He appreciated the City of San Juan for its support with the Proclamation. Robert Tony with Bikers for Christ was also introduced and concurred with Mr. Cannon. He mentioned that there would be a motorcycle safety presentation with the assistance of TXDOT and an awareness ride with former State Troopers with weather permitting on Saturday. TXDOT also distributed “Look twice save a life” signs for the City.

Mayor Garza thanked them for the Book that was given to him and for promoting motorcycle awareness. He mentioned that when he is on the road he notices vehicles get too close to motorcycles and agrees that the public needs to be educated on being aware. He added that the Commission was there to help in any way possible. Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia suggested a picture be taken so they could post it on the City’s Facebook page.

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stated he was amazed at all the components that went into making a fire hydrant. The videos would educate the community in the process and in the reasons for the cost. Commissioner Guajardo included that with the training it helped to repair instead of replace old fire hydrants with new ones. Mayor Garza thanked David Salinas, Utilities Director for the information and for his Department's participation in the event.

Commissioner Jesse Ramirez asked Carmen Gonzalez, Director of Sanitation why there were two employees on the brush trucks and Ms. Gonzalez was glad she was asked because the public also needed to know why it was done. She stated it was because one employee would be driving and the other would be picking up the brush. It saves half the time and it makes a lot of sense when we are running behind with the pickups. Commissioner Ramirez then asked when the process had started with two employees and Ms. Gonzalez responded that it was about two years ago and it is working well because the brush occasionally got behind. Mayor Garza asked what quadrant they were in right now to which Ms. Gonzalez responded they were finishing the Southwest and they would proceed to the Southeast area. The Northwest should have been finished but unfortunately due to the latest rain it is still incomplete and we have only five employees that can use the grapple since a CDL license is required. Mayor Garza then asked what we were doing with the residents that were dumping brush again because he noticed the brush was being picked up and a few days later there was brush again. He asked if those individuals were being cited or if there was a code enforcement officer knocking on their doors. We are using all this manpower, energy to clean up our city and it was not working. Ms. Gonzalez, Sanitation Director agreed and stated she did not have a dedicated code enforcement officer. Commissioner Guajardo asked how many code enforcement officers we had and Ms. Gonzalez responded that we had two. Mayor Pro-Tem Garcia stated that a workshop was coming up next fiscal year and hopefully we could have a code enforcement officer that only handled the brush or possibly one for each quadrant. Commissioner Sanchez agreed and suggested that we also need to educate the residents through mail outs. By doing so, no one could say they were not informed of the consequences. Commissioner Sanchez asked if there was a system in place to check if a resident had gotten a citation or a warning and Xavier Cervantes, Planning Director stated that they were hoping to get a program to modernize the software where it would be accessible on laptops. It is going to be a budget request because it is expensive software. The software that we presently have now is obsolete.

Commissioner Guajardo then asked Ms. Gonzalez when we would be getting more trash cans and she responded they were scheduled to arrive May 4th. Ms. Gonzalez, Sanitation Director stated that overall the situation would be assessed and she would get together with Mr. Arjona, City Manager and Mr. Cervantes, Planning Director to come up with a solution to the pending needs.

Commissioner Sanchez thanked Mr. Cervantes for the Easter Egg Hunt which was sponsored by the San Juan Lions Club. It was a successful event and hopefully next year more residents can be involved.

V. PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCES

- a. Consider Ordinance Amending the Budget for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year by Providing Additional Appropriation to the General Fund, Utility Fund and the Solid Waste Fund.

Leroy Gonzales, Finance Director stated that the Ordinance was to amend the 2017-2018 budget by moving \$177,000 of additional appropriations to the General Fund of \$27,439.00 to the Solid Waste and \$36,118 to the Utility Fund. This was to cover the 3% increase that was received in October. Mr. Arjona, City Manager added that it was being brought before the Commission for approval so that we could do the budget amendment.

Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez Motioned to Approve and Seconded by Commissioner Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion Passed (5-0)

VI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

- a. Consider Entering into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the City of San Juan and Hidalgo County to Provide Efficient and Effective Free Library Services to County Residents.

Ben Arjona, City Manager stated that this was an Item that was done yearly in connection with Hidalgo County and with the City on the services that are listed. Ms. Sesin, Library Director added that it is a yearly agreement with the County and the money that is provided is the same amount each year. Mr.

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Mr. Ben Arjona, City Manager then stated he would like to take the items out of order so they could go into Executive Session since Judge Garcia was there.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:09pm

- a. The San Juan City Commission will convene into Closed Session pursuant to the Provision of the Chapter 551, subchapter D, exceptions to Requirements that Meetings be Open, Texas Code 551.071 (consultation with Attorney) as follows:

1. Consultation with Attorney and Possible action regarding pending litigation concerning City of San Juan v. Melden and Hunt, Inc., pertaining to the Water Tower, Cause No. 7170-13-G (Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071; Closed Consultation with Attorney; Closed Session)

Mayor Garza stated that under Executive Session No Action was taken for Item a1.

2. Consultation with Attorney and possible action regarding Legal Issues concerning City's Employment Policies and Procedures (Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551. Consultation with Attorney; Closed Session)

Mayor Garza stated that under Executive Session No Action was taken for Item A2.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia Motioned to Approve and Seconded by Commissioner Ernesto Guajardo. Motion Passed (5-0)

X. RECONVENE at 6:52 pm

- 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia Motioned to Approve and Seconded by Commissioner Lenny Sanchez. Motion Passed (5-0)

- b. Presentation of Departmental Reports: Department of Finance, Police Department, Fire Department, Municipal Court, and Department of Utilities.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager presented the item and stated Department Directors were available for any questions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia stated they had attended a Conference at the Island and requested one of the Directors give a summary. He also stated in summary that the Conference they had attended in San Antonio was very informative and it gave them an idea of where our water facility should be, noting the improvements are needed. He thanked the Utilities Department for inviting them to the Conference.

Commissioner Ramirez stated that he had learned about conserving water utilizing mulch on the flower beds and he had done it hoping it would pay out. He added that he was applying what he had learned. David Salinas, Director of Utilities stated that the City was still on Stage II Water Conservation so to please continue conserving water. Ben Arjona, City Manager congratulated the Utilities Department for attending the Conference for the first time and participating in putting the fire hydrant together in about three minutes. Even though we didn't score but it was a great experience and something to look forward to in the future. Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia added that the City of San Juan was the only one that represented the Valley and they were competing against people from San Antonio, Dallas, Bastrop and Seguin where there is more money to spend – our Department did well! Commissioner Lenny Sanchez commented he had seen it on Facebook and suggested employees get more involved with events like these. Mr. Arjona, City Manager mentioned there were other events, including the Water Tap event. David Salinas, Utilities Director agreed and stated that there were seven different events, yet the Fire Hydrant was a national one. He also mentioned that other Departments wanted to get involved so hopefully next year we will be able to participate in more events. We can also look into forming a regional team to represent the Valley from McAllen down to Brownsville. Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia

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Arjona, City Manager then inquired if we needed to do a budget amendment since the monies were not budgeted and Ms. Sesin replied that it was budgeted for next fiscal year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia Motioned to Approve and Seconded by Commissioner Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez. Motion Passed (5-0)

VII. CONTRACTUAL / RESOLUTIONS

- a. Preliminary and Final Plat Approval of the Kings Apartments Subdivision being a 0.905-acre Tract of Land out of Lot 6, Burg Subdivision, Located Approximately 450 feet south of U.S. Business 83 Along the West side of King Road as Requested by Barrera Infrastructure Group Engineering.

Xavier Cervantes, Director of Planning stated that the developer is proposing to subdivide .9 acres into one lot in order to build a two story apartment complex with an entrance along King road. It is a Multi-Family district and the developer is proposing to build 24 apartments at the site, also through the subdivision process it was discovered that there is a 5 foot right of way easement that needs to be abandoned. The subdivision plat is approved by the Planning and Zoning Board and that he will submit an Ordinance for the Commission’s consideration in the near future to properly abandon the easement that is needed by the City. The abandonment of the right-of-way easement is critical for the development of this project. This went before the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 19th and they recommended approval unanimously.

Commissioner Jesus “Jesse” Ramirez Motioned to Approve and Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia. Motion Passed (5-0)

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consider an Ordinance in Second Reading for a Conditional Use Permit for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premise Consumption at The Vudoo Lounge Bar Located at 1618 N. Veterans Boulevard, Legally Described as the West 335 feet of the North 440 Feet of Lot 12, Block 5, John Closner Subdivision, as Requested by Marena A. Trevino.
- b. Consider an Ordinance in Second Reading for a Conditional Use Permit for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premise Consumption at New Rancho Grande Restaurant Located at 101 S. Nebraska Avenue, Legally Described as Lots 1 through 12, Block 3, San Juan Original Townsite Subdivision, as Requested by Robert Acosta.
- c. Monthly Collection Report –March 2018.
- d. Budget Expenditure: March 2018

Mr. Ben Arjona, City Manager stated that there were four Items and any Item could be pulled out to make an adequate decision.

Mayor Garza then asked if there was anything to pull out or amend under the Consent Agenda and if not was there a Motion for approval.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia Motioned to Approve and Seconded by Commissioner Ernesto Guajardo. Motion Passed (5-0)

XI. ADJOURNMENT 7:16 p.m.

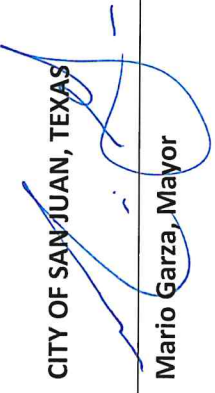
Commissioner Jesse Ramirez Motioned to Adjourn and Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia. Motion Passed (5-0)

ATTEST:



Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary

CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS


Mario Garza, Mayor