

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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
Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Jesus “Jesse” Ramirez, Commissioner
Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo, Commissioner
Marco “Markie” Villegas
Ricardo Palacios, City Attorney

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Diana Cavazos, City Secretary
Tirso Garza, Chief of Fire
Juan Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Leroy Gonzalez, Director of Finance
Adelaida Cordero, Director of Human Resources
Armandina Sesein, Library Director
Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks & Recreation
Roberto Escobar, Director of Planning
Roel Garza, Director of Sanitation/ Public Works
David Salinas, Director of Utilities
Mary Enriquez, Court Administrator
Pat Karr, 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. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presenting Cleanup Groups (Murphy Middle School Students).

DISCUSSION: City Manager Benjamin Arjona presented the cleanup group from Murphy Middle School for participating and donating their time to the City of San Juan. Mr. Roel Garza, Director of Sanitation stated there were 25 participants in the cleanup effort and thanked the participants for a successful event. Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo stated these kids that participated are from the North side on Sioux Road; they reside in San Juan and attend Murphy Middle School. Mayor Mario Garza thanked Mr. Roel Garza for the good work getting students involved in the cleanup events and asked how often we would the cleanups get done to which Mr. Garza responded there have been clubs and organizations that contact the department for community service therefore the plan is to do it monthly throughout the school year and every two months in the summer. Commissioner Jesus “Jesse” Ramirez asked if the individuals that were interested in participating from Doedyn’s Elementary had been contacted to which Mr.

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Garza responded three groups had contacted him with a total of 80 kids, but due to the weather it was canceled at the last minute.

B. Presentation on the Children's Center, Inc.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Anna Sanchez stated the Children's Center Inc. was a non-profit organization that works with runaways and homeless youth the services they provide are emergency sheltering/posthomes which are very similar to Foster Homes. Ms. Sanchez further stated the difference is they are strictly volunteer basis, people who open their doors and have youth come into their homes. They do go through similar process like foster homes such as: criminal background check, inspection of home and are voluntary so they do not get compensated. Ms. Sanchez added another service they provide is a drop center where the youth may come in for a meal, shower, clothes and a pantry. Ms. Sanchez stated the agency is relatively new to the Rio Grande Valley and the parent Agency is located in Galveston, Texas currently they branched out to Corpus Christi, Houston and the Beaumont area. Ms. Sanchez presented on Safe Place during this time they are trying to recruit staff from libraries, fire departments, and police departments that can provide a safe site to provide training. Mayor Garza asked what ages they provided services for to which Ms. Sanchez responded youth under the age of 17. Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas asked where they were located to which Ms. Sanchez responded they were located in Pharr, Texas. Commissioner Villegas asked for an opinion from Police Chief to which Mr. Gonzalez responded it's a relatively new program and they would get with them to provide support and work together. Mayor Garza advised Ms. Sanchez to contact our Crime Victims Liaison and to reach out to City Manager to coordinate with Chief Gonzalez.

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

DISCUSSION: Mayor Garza asked if there was a judge the came in on the weekends to which Mrs. Enriquez, Court Administrator responded Judges are available when they call them on the weekends to do arraignments. Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez asked if people were coming for the amnesty program to which Ms. Enriquez responded they are and believed there would be more in March coming in to clear fines. Commissioner Ramirez asked why on January 2019 there were 139 citations but only 69 in January 2020 if they have more patrol officers on the road to which Chief Gonzalez responded he would have to check the status and get with the officers to make sure they are out there since they don't have a quota. Mayor Garza stated he met with Mr. Campos from PSJA ISD School District in reference to the speed limits signs on Stewart and 495. Mr. Campos mentioned he spoke to TX Dot and apparently TX Dot is supposed to reach out to the city and receive a letter asking the city for a resolution to decrease the speed limit. Mr. Arjona, City Manager stated at the last meeting he discussed the letter with Mr. Escobar and they are currently working on a resolution to lower the speed limit. Mayor Garza asked if a unit can be placed throughout the morning school hours on Stewart and 495 to which Chief Gonzalez responded he would have a unit patrolling due to fatal accidents in the area. Chief Gonzalez added he would work with Mr. Roel Garza to post slow down and kids ahead signs that are visible to enforce the speed limit. Commissioner Villegas asked for a status on the assessment speed bumps to which Chief Gonzalez responded yes a general assessment of areas that have speed bumps and the area that need speed bumps was still going on and would be deciding where they would be more effective. Commissioner Guajardo thanked Chief Gonzalez for having a patrol unit out on Stewart and 495.

Mr. Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation came forward to give a presentation on Noche De Paz report. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated as you recall this event was huge and had a great economic impact. Mr. Arjona further stated even though the event shows negative at the end of the day it was made up on sales tax. Mr. Arjona added on the report you can see the participation of the sponsors and the revenues that were collected throughout the whole year; the total budget was \$164,740.00 with total expenditures of \$170,820.00 with a total of -\$6,080.00. Mr. Arjona stated there was over 15,000 people visiting that night and if you look at the sales tax comparison \$345,570.00 received December 2018 to \$451,030.00 received December 2019 there was an economic impact with the festivity. Mayor Mario Garza asked if the numbers provided where from the state comptroller to which City Manager responded yes. Commissioner Ramirez asked what the total sponsorships where to which Mr. Willingham, Parks and Recreation Director responded that it was Lone Star National Bank. Commissioner Ramirez asked for the expense on the Christmas tree to which Mr. Arjona responded it was the city's expense and the EDC of \$33,000 for the tree and ornaments. Mayor Mario Garza asked if the sponsors were aware that sponsorship was only for one year to which Mr. Willingham responded yes. Commissioner Villegas stated he believed that after the outcome of the events he was sure everyone saw it had been tremendous and because of that we would get more sponsor participation. Mr. Arjona stated

Mr. Gonzalez and I came up with the idea of showing the economic impact that was attributed to the event. Commissioner Ramirez asked if there was an additional expense for the security to which Mr. Willingham responded it was all volunteered. Commissioner Ramirez asked how the promoter got paid to which Mr. Willingham responded it was about 12% which was included in entertainment.

Juan Gonzalez, Police Chief introduced the new officers that are out in the road that started this past week Officers: Travis Flores, Lucio Vasquez, Christopher Marines, Diego Rocha, Aaron Salazar and Felipe Herrera, who couldn't attend because he worked last night. Mr. Gonzalez stated all officers were young and eager to help the citizens of San Juan. The Mayor and Commissioner welcomed the officers on board.

VI. ORDINANCES

- A. Consider Adoption of an Ordinance in First Reading of the Voluntary Annexation of the Proposed Cesar Heights Subdivision being 1.61 acre tract of land out of Lot 4, Block 27, Alamo Land and Sugar Company's Subdivision, as per map recorded in Volume 1, Pages 24 thru 26, Map Records, Hidalgo County, Texas located approximately a quarter of a mile South of Moore Road, along the West side of Cesar Chavez Road.

DISCUSSION: Roberto Escobar, Director of Planning and Zoning stated this was a voluntary annexation that was submitted back in November 2019 and was the first reading. Mr. Escobar added the ordinance shows three exhibits which are the maps, bounds and the service plan agreement that was agreed with the property owner.

Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Motion passed (5-0)

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

- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Following Budget Amendments out the Series 2019 and 2019 A Proceeds for the Improvements Lift Station 13 and Phase 2 Improvements of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Authorize the Mayor to Execute all Related Documents and Budget Amendments as Needed.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated as you may recall these are surplus monies for the work on the lift station and the phase II improvements of the waste water treatment plant, which was presented to the Water Development Board back in October/November of last year.

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Motion Passed (5-0).

- B. Discussion and Possible Action to Approved a Budget Amendment out Series 2018 Bond Proceeds for the Phase 1 Improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Authorize the Mayor to Execute all Related Documents and Budget Amendments as Needed.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated this is pretty much the same thing but for phase I.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez. Motion Passed (5-0).

- C. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Budget Amendment from Series 2007 and 2014 Bond Proceeds for the Water Treatment Plant No. 1 Equipment Replacement and Authorize the Mayor to Execute all Related Documents and Budget Amendments as Needed.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated the bond money had already been set aside for the purpose of the water treatment plant.

Mayor Mario Garza made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion Passed (5-0).

- D. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Budget Amendment out of the Retained Earnings Storm Water Fund for repairs on Citrus Street from I Road to Alameda for the amount of \$14,300 and to Authorize City Manager to Execute all Related Documents and Budget Amendments as Needed.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated as you recall this specific street is in dire need of cleaning the manhole was replaced however there are some pipes that need to be jetted. Commissioner Guajardo asked what the status on Citrus is to which Mr. Roel Garza responded the process includes jetting and vacuuming the line with a backer. Mr. Garza added once that is done a camera would be placed through the pipe to find out the repairs that are needed from I road all the way to Alameda.

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Motion Passed (5-0).

- E. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Final Pay Application from Guarantee Company of North America for the 3.5 MGD Expansion and Rehabilitation in the Amount of \$550,000.00 and Authorize the City Manager to Execute all Related Documents and Budget Amendments as Needed.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated the reason this company was chosen is because at this point we do not have the equipment although the process of acquiring our own equipment has begun it may take up to 6 months. Mr. Arjona added this would be the final payment to call it a complete project.

Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion Passed (5-0).

VIII. CONTRACTUALS

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

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated this year the San Juan Memorial Library would receive \$14,959 to serve the patrons of the city. Mayor Mario Garza asked if it was the same amount each year to which Mrs. Armandina Sesin, Library Director responded it varies by a couple of dollars more or less each year.

Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez made motion to approve and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion passed (5-0).

IX. RESOLUTIONS

- A. Consider Authorizing the City Manager Adopting a Lessee Resolution for the Lease Purchase Agreement with Municipal Emergency Services (MES) a State Contract Vendor Under the Buy Board Program, for a total of 46 Complete Sets of Structural Fire Bunker Gear.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated this item was presented a couple of months ago for the purchase of bunker gear and a resolution was needed to authorize the purchase through lease.

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to approve and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion passed (5-0).

- B. Consider City Manager to Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Development for Affordable Multi-Family Dwelling in the City of San Juan.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated the resolution was regarding a Foxtail Cottage presentation given a few weeks ago. Mayor Mario Garza asked for the location of the development to which Mr. Robert Escobar, Planning Director responded it was on El Dora Road between Raul Longoria and I Road on the Northside of town.

Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion Passed (5-0).

X. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow "My Party Venue" Event Center in a commercial area located at 654 E. Nolana Avenue Suite 2, legally described as Lots 4A and 4B, Wolverine Subdivision, as Requested by Ricardo Sanchez.
- B. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow "Sebastian's Event Center" in a commercial area located at 2211 S. Veterans Boulevard, Suite 10, legally described as Lot 3, Hacienda Palms Subdivision, as Requested by Paola Guzman.
- C. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow "The Hall Event Center" in a commercial area located at 502 N. Veteran's Boulevard Suite E, legally described as Knights South 125.50 feet, of the West 196.00 feet of Lot 15, Block 5, SJ TR and West 196.00 feet of Lot 1, as Requested by Maria L. Santos.
- D. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow "Gala Events" in a commercial area located at 905 W. 1st Street, Suites A and B, legally described as Lot 2, B.T. No. 1 Subdivision, as Requested by Veronica Cortez.
- E. Budget Expenditure Report- January 2020
- F. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the City's Code of Ordinance to Repeal Article 5.04 Fire Department of Chapter 5 fire Prevention and Protection and Amend Chapter 9 Personnel, Article 9.03 Police Department.

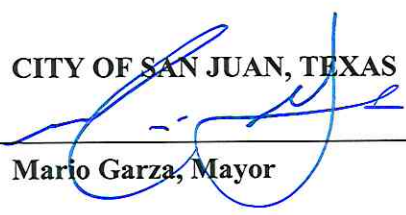
Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to approve and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion Passed (5-0).

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to adjourn at 6:07 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez. Motion Passed (5-0).



CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS


Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:


Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary