

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, April 28, 2020

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 "Jesse" Ramirez, Commissioner
Marco "Markie" Villegas, Commissioner
Criselda 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 Sesin, 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 TO ORDER

Mayor Mario Garza called meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager led the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Juan Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. It is the Intent of the City Commission to Conduct this Meeting Primarily via Teleconference Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act Procedures Announced by Governor Abbott. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City has Established an Alternative for Residents to Make Public Comments During the Meeting. If you Would Like to Participate Under Public Comments, You Must Submit a Request Beginning Friday, April 24, 2020 by (1) Sending an Email to publiccomments@sjtx.us or (2) by Dropping Off the Request in the Drop Box Next to the Drive-Thru Behind City Hall at 709 S. Nebraska San Juan, Texas 78589. All Request Must be Received no Later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Your Request Should Include Your Name, Address, Telephone Number and Your Comment. We Ask for Everyone's Cooperation with this Procedure.

V. PRESENTATIONS

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

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated all Directors were available should the Commission have any questions on the reports. Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez asked what the Texas Drought Outlook was on stage II in full effect and what that meant to which Mr. Salinas, Utility Director responded for the past years the water usage has been monitored since the plant is under construction and that's the reason they are still in full effect. Mr. Salinas stated the reason it has not been rescinded is because they want to make sure there is plenty of capacity.

Mr. Salinas added notices of violation have been given to the commercial areas that over water and have water running down the streets.

Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez stated he had seen some of the police officers in the area and they were wearing new masks with the PD logo which were very nice. Commissioner Ramirez asked how everything was going so far since he knew they were very busy with COVID to which Chief Juan Gonzalez responded the facemask has a pocket so the officers can put a surgical mask for extra protection and bought the officers some caps as well. Chief Gonzalez stated the citizens of San Juan have been very supportive of their efforts and he was glad they were one of the few departments that didn't have to arrest anyone for violation of the order. Chief Gonzalez added he wanted to thank the citizens for being patient with the police officers and allowing them to do their job on the road. Commissioner Ramirez asked if there are any grants currently being used for COVID since he saw the Stone Garden grant was at zero to which Chief Gonzalez responded there were no grants. Chief Gonzalez added a noticed was received today about a new grant for \$39,108 that was jointly submitted with the Fire Department with the approval of the City Manager. Chief Gonzalez stated he had met with Chief Garza and they would be purchasing equipment for first responders, Police and Fire with new equipment. Commissioner Ramirez thanked Chief Gonzalez for his leadership and to keep up the great work. Commissioner Ramirez added he also wanted to thank Chief Garza for keeping the Commission up to date with COVID updates they sure come in handy when calls are received. Commissioner Ramirez stated he wanted to commend EMT since he knows there have been issues in the past with response times and forgot to mention they've been doing a great job.

Mayor Mario Garza asked about Thursday night cruising and if any citations have been given since he is still receiving complaints regarding that matter to which Chief Gonzalez responded he would have to check and follow up on it. Chief Gonzalez stated he knew there was minimal traffic and officers were sent out there but they would continue working on Thursday night cruise enforcement. Mayor Garza asked if he could be provided with the number of citations given in the past month since he brought it to the attention of the director a while back in reference to the warrant the warrant officer had served to which Mrs. Mary Enriquez, Court Administrator responded the only numbers she had were at the bottom of the report which were for amnesty payments, walk-ins and late notices that were sent out. Mayor Mario Garza stated he was talking about the ones that the warrant officer would physically go to houses and knock on doors to inform citizens about warrants to which Mrs. Enriquez responded she would get those numbers and provide them to the Commission. Mayor Garza asked if he could be provided with a status on how many cases each judge is hearing. Mrs. Enriquez asked if it was on the magistrates to which Mayor Garza responded yes.

VI. APPOINTMENTS

- A. Consider the Removal and/or Appointment of Board Member(s) of the San Juan Economic Development Corporation.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated a resignation was received by board member, Mr. Bob Garza as he now is employed by the city therefore the spot is available.

Mayor Garza made motion to table the item to give the opening more time on social media 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 Authorize a Mid Year Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20 by Providing Additional Appropriation in the Amount of \$123,297 to the General Fund, \$39,585 to the Utility Fund, \$32,922 to the Solid Waste Fund and \$5,595 to the Stormwater Fund.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated this amendment was for the 3% increase that was approved by the City Commission at the beginning of the fiscal year. Mr. Leroy Gonzales, Finance Director stated it was for the 3% increase received through TMRS and City Manager's contract.

Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez made motion to approve and was seconded by Mayor Mario Garza. Motion Passed (5-0).

- B. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize a Midyear Budget Amendment to the Utility Fund in the Amount of \$662,614.00 and Authorize the City Manager to Execute all Related Documents and Budget Amendments as Needed.

DISCUSSION: David Salinas, Utility Director stated this was a midyear budget amendment for all four divisions excluding administration. Mr. Salinas further stated the largest of the amendments was for \$419,850.00 for the water plant which is for the removal of the sludge that is produced there. Mr. Salinas further stated as you may recall when the plant was originally put out for bids it was over budget so it went out for rebids and a valley engineer was able to do it. Mr. Salinas added one of the things that were taken out of the plant was the solid handling capabilities for the expansion of the plant and that capability has been exceeded for the area. Mr. Salinas stated it needed to be cleaned and the company that currently has the contract has given us a proposal of \$251,750.00 just to remove the sludge, there is also \$40,000.00 in electricity that we will be short for the end of the year, there are building repairs that need to be done, repairs to the equipment and trucks.

Mr. Salinas stated the next amendment is for \$162,000.00, \$137,000.00 to the collection system and the rest for repair and maintenance which is for the motors and the pumps of the lift stations. Mr. Salinas added right now there are 8 critical lift stations and all the pumps have been there for over 10, 15 and some for 20 years when the life expectancy of each pump is 7-10 years. Mr. Salinas added the pumps needed to get repaired to have them ready for hurricane season since this year they are forecasting 17 storms. Mr. Salinas added he was also requesting \$25,000.00 increase in distribution which was also for repair and maintenance of water lines, to repair vehicles, the backhoe, and some small tools that need to be acquired. The next amendment is for \$55,000.00 to the waste water treatment plant also for repair and maintenance of equipment, the plant is under design but it needs to continue running at least for the next two years. Mayor Mario Garza asked if that was the recommendation to which Mr. Salinas responded yes sir. Mayor Garza asked if these funds were coming out of the general funds to which Mr. Salinas responded it was coming out of the retained earnings in the utility funds.

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

- C. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize City Manager to Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services on a Rotating Basis.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated as you may know we have a couple of engineers in a rotating basis and it has already been a couple of years since we went out for RFQ’s. Mr. Arjona added he believed it was time for the city to advertise. Mayor Mario Garza asked if the engineers would come out and provide a presentation for the Commission to which Mr. Arjona responded yes, just like it’s been done in the past.

Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas made motion to approve and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez. Motion Passed (5-0).

VIII. CONTRACTUALS

- A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Cooperation Agreement between the County of Hidalgo and the City of San Juan for the Thirty Fourth, Thirty Fifth, and Thirty Sixth Year’s Funding for the Community Development Grant Program.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated as you may see in your packet Urban County is requesting for the City of San Juan to re-qualify and receive Urban County designation for a period of an additional three fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Mayor Mario Garza asked if the money was mainly to construct streets to which Mr. Arjona responded primarily that’s what it’s used for.

Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas made motion to approve and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez. Motion Passed (5-0).

X. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Rezoning Request from Single-Family Residence District (R-S) to Multi-Family Residence District (R-MF) of 16.357 acre tract of land being the West 4.07 acres of Lot 7, Block 7, and 12.29 acres out of the East 14.83 acres of Lot7, Block 6, of the John Closner

Subdivision, out of Porciones 71 and 72, located approximately a quarter of a mile West of Raul Longoria Road along North Side of Eldora Road as Requested by Realtex Development Corporation.

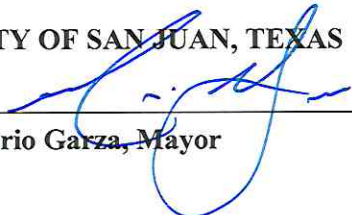
- B. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow "Meme's BBQ" Restaurant with a drive-thru window in a Neighborhood Commercial District (C-1) and the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premise Consumption at 101 Sandra Street, legally described as Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Small No. 2 Subdivision, as Requested by Manuel Gonzalez.
- C. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow "Hot Dogs El Regio" at 4404 N. Raul Longoria Road, legally described as the East 208.71 feet of the South 208.71 of the North 489.43 feet of Lot 8, Block 8, John Closner Subdivision, as Requested by Jose Luis Pedroza.
- D. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premise Consumption at the proposed "The Wings" Restaurant located at 205 W. Nolana Avenue Suites 17-18, legally described as Lot 1, San Juan Plaza Subdivision, as Requested by Jose Luis Valencia.
- E. Tax Collection Report- March 2020.

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez made motion to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Motion Passed (5-0).

CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS



Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:



Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary