

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, August 11, 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
Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez, Commissioner
Marco "Markie" Villegas, Commissioner
Rick Palacios, City Attorney

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Nayeli Guerrero, Records Manager
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 6:03p.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

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, August 7, 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 Requests Must be Received no Later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 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 Department Reports: Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Parks and Recreation, San Juan Memorial Library and Department of Sanitation.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated all department directors were available if the commission had any questions. Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez asked if there were any damages to the roof at the library to which Mr. Arjona responded the only damage was in the

mechanical room. Commissioner Ramirez asked if the department would be moving forward with the fall sports to which Mr. Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation responded they were preparing but no formal decision had been made. Commissioner Ramirez asked if the Parks and Recreation board had been having meetings to which Mr. Willingham responded no due to the pandemic but they were trying to schedule a Zoom meeting for August. Commissioner Ramirez asked for a follow up on the baseball fields that had been damaged during the hurricane to which Mr. Willingham responded the damage was on the canopies and the frames but they were already in the process of being repaired. Mr. Willingham added a claim for the damages on the field had already been submitted to TML as well as for the buildings that suffered damages. Commissioner Ramirez asked if the field on San Antonio was being rented out to which Mr. Willingham responded once the damage was cleared they would start renting them out again with limits of 10 players per coach.

Mayor Mario Garza asked in reference to damages done by the hurricane were permits still being charged to which Mr. Robert Escobar, Planning and Zoning director responded charges were the same but if any resident needed assistance they could submit a letter. Mayor Mario Garza stated if damages were due to the hurricane he felt residents should not have to pay. Mayor Garza asked for a status on the brush to which Mr. Roel Garza, Sanitation Director stated they were currently working on the North East Quadrant. Commissioner Ramirez asked if when staff moved to the next quadrant meant that what was not picked up stayed there until the next scheduled time to which Mr. Garza responded there were 3 grapple trucks, to stay on schedule 2 of the trucks moved to the next quadrant and 1 truck stayed behind for any alleys that could have been forgotten. Commissioner Ramirez asked if the Parks and Recreation Department helped with the cleaning to which Mr. Arjona, City Manager responded because of the urgency with the debris the department had gone out to help but now the crews were back to their own duties. Mayor Mario Garza asked if there would be a second round of fumigating to which Mr. Roel Garza responded the department would be scheduling something soon and the public would be notified.

VI. ORDINANCES

- A. Consider Adoption of an Ordinance Approving the Negotiated Resolution Between the City of San Juan and Texas Gas Service Regarding the Cost of Service Adjustment Filing.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated the ordinance was previously brought to the Commission because there was a money increase on tariffs dated April 3, 2020 from Texas Gas Service for the company's cost of service adjustment declaring existing rates to be unreasonable. Mr. Arjona further stated the new tariffs had been adjusted to reflect a consistent rate reasonable for the city by adopting the service clause which is determined in the ordinance if passed. Mr. Arjona added the ordinance was for all the different municipalities in the valley that have the Texas Gas Service for the reflected adjusted rate of 1.8 instead of the 1.9. Mayor Mario Garza asked if this was a standard fee across the board to which Mr. Arjona responded yes.

Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez made a motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Motion passed (4-0).

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

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Hidalgo County Elections Department Request for Early Voting/Election Day Polling Location of Fire Station# 2 (2301 N. Raul Longoria, San Juan, Texas 78589) for the November 3, 2020 General Election Day and Early Voting.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated Hidalgo County Elections Department requested the facility next to Fire Station #2 for the early voting and general election day polling location. Mr. Arjona further stated Early Voting was scheduled beginning Tuesday, October 13, 2020 through Friday, October 30, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with exceptions of Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Election day was scheduled for Tuesday November 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mayor Mario Garza asked if this was for the presidential election to which Mr. Arjona responded yes. Mayor Mario Garza stated the ordinance should be amended in regards to the amount of signage allowed at the polling location since citizens have complaint in the past. Mayor Garza further stated to include it as an item limiting signage under discussion and possible action to be discussed further by the City Commission to which Mr. Arjona responded he would reach out to the City Attorney. Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez asked if there would only be one location or if a second one could be requested due to COVID-19 recommendations to which Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas and Mayor Pro-Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez agreed. Mayor Pro Tem Sanchez stated it would be a good idea to get

a second location to which Mr. Arjona asked Ms. Nayeli Guerrero to submit the request to Hidalgo County Elections Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez made a motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Jesus “Jesse” Ramirez. Motion passed (4-0).

- B. Discussion and Consider Proposed Tax Rate for the City of San Juan for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 and Set Public Hearings.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated in accordance with property tax law the proposed tax rate of 0.6993 exceeded the effective tax rate of 0.6534 with a roll back tax rate of 0.8181. Mr. Arjona further stated a record vote must be taken and public hearings must be scheduled therefore the first public hearing would be scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and would take place at the San Juan Memorial Library Multipurpose room.

Commissioner Jesus “Jesse” Ramirez made a motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion passed (4-0).

VIII. CONTRACTUALS

- A. Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract Agreement for Architecture Services with ERO Architects for the Construction of the New City Hall/Transit Terminal building at a six percent (6%) fee from the Total Cost of the Project.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated the City Commission had previously selected the firm ERO for this project, but it was brought back to accept the 6% fee from the total cost of the total project. Mr. Arjona further stated at one point it was 8% but after negotiation an agreement was made at the 6%. Project manager Oscar Cansino and City Manager met with the firm to negotiate the fee and they were very generous to come down to a 6%.

Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez. Motion passed (4-0).

IX. RESOLUTIONS

- A. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Accepting a Voluntary Annexation Petition, Setting Dates and Times of Public Hearings and Directing the Planning Department to Prepare Service Plan for a 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, as Requested by Ricardo Cazares.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated the Planning and Zoning Department were proposing to adopt a petition therefore setting times and dates of the public hearing for the proposed subdivision being a 1.61 tract acre of land. Mr. Arjona further stated the property owner had submitted a petition for voluntary annexation to the City of San Juan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez made a motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Jesus “Jesse” Ramirez. Motion passed. 4-0

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas made motion to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. and was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez. Motion passed. 4-0

CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS

Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:


Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary