

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, September 8, 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
Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo, 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 Segin, 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 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager led the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mario Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. 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 COVID19 Pandemic, the City has Established and 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, September 4, 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, September 8, 2020. Your Request Should Include Your Name, Address, Telephone Number and Your Comment. We Ask for Everyone's Cooperation with this Procedure.

Mr. Alfredo Mata, Chief Executive Office for the Boys and Girls Club stated a fundraiser would be taking place to provide plates of food and school supplies to our kids from Las Milpas and San Juan. Mr. Mata thanked the city commission for being part of the organization and for all the help and support when it came to grants.

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: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated that Mr. Rene Garza was available as requested in the last meeting in reference to FM495 and Stewart Road. Mr. Arjona further stated based on the ordinance for speed limit in that area from I road to Cesar Chavez it is currently 45 miles per hour the school zone was reduced to 30 miles per hour. Mr. Arjona added as you may remember on Stewart Road from North Ridge Road to Rio Bravo Street all the way to Frontage it is at 40 mph and south of that 55 mph to 45 mph all the way to Military Road therefore the speed limit was reduced about 10 mph. Mr. Arjona stated one of the questions asked was the possibility of rerouting the truck route to a different road and the expense the city would take for asphalt and base of caliche. Mr. Arjona added since Stewart Road belonged to TXDOT the maintenance of the road was handled by them. Mr. Arjona stated it was not a simple reroute but they wanted to see alternatives.

Mayor Mario Garza thanked Mr. Rene Garza for being available for the meeting and said in the past we've sat down and touch basis on to the concerns on Stewart Road with the heavy traffic coming down North and South bound lanes. Mayor Garza added he was aware of the concerns from citizens regarding the schools in the area and how he personally has experienced the heavy trucks driving through there pretty fast. Mayor Garza asked for a history of the route and the construction of the road as far as the inches of the asphalt and of the layers of concrete when it was first developed because ultimately they were the experts. Mr. Rene Garza stated that Stewart Road was a state road and access could not be denied to any truck or vehicle going through state road ways, only a City can be allowed through an ordinance if an alternative route is given. Mr. Garza further stated since the City of San Juan does not have any other route within the city and if it did pass an ordinance it would only mean that the city would be passing more heavy traffic to Alamo Road or Cage Boulevard it would have to be discussed with the cities first before adding any more truck traffic. Mr. Garza stated the pavement on Stewart Road was built on the early 2000s with an inch and a half of hot mix, which is the top layer of asphalt, 10 inches of flex base and 12 inches underneath that. Mr. Garza further stated the road doesn't last very long and had to be rebuilt two years ago with three inches of special hot mix and 10 inches of flex base treated cement with geosynthetic liner that separates flex base from the subgrade, the subgrade consist of 12 inches with a 6% added to strengthen because of the heavy truck traffic going through there. Mr. Garza further stated if the City of San Juan is considering rerouting traffic he does not believe any of the roadways are built to that type of section an engineer would have to be hired for a study on the roadways to see how much truck traffic goes through, how much weight it can stand and how long the road would last to reroute within the city. Mr. Garza added in regards to the school zone he recommends adding more patrol and have more street crossers helping the kids cross the street. Mr. Rene Garza stated a location could be given of a possible stop sign and they could certainly look into it and see what can be done do to help. Mayor Mario Garza stated that he was looking into the Hall Acres area. Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez added the Mayor is trying to get the trucks to slow down before they get to the school zone. Mayor Pro tem Sanchez asked if there was any way the speed limit could be changed to the traditional 20-25 mph versus the 45 to which Mr. Rene Garza responded the only way that can be done by law is a speed study and recently one was done on how to adjust the roadway and speed of traffic. Mr. Garza added they are scheduled this month to adjust and limit signs and hopefully that would help vehicles slow down before getting to Ridge Road. Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas stated that the overall picture that they are trying to do is everything possible and with the expertise to protect our citizens. Mr. Rene Garza stated they could look into their policies and laws to monitor the traffic and see if it warrants a stop sign and if it does they will definitely put it up. Mayor Mario Garza added that he would like to have them add a shoulder lane from Ridge Road to Sam Houston because during school hours if a heavy truck breaks down it creates chaos. Mayor Mario Garza thanked Mr. Rene Garza for the information.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Hold Public Hearing on the Adopting the Proposed Tax Rate and Levy for the City of San Juan, Texas for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2020 and Ending September 30, 2021.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Arjona, City Manager stated on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, the City Commission voted and approved the Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.6926 for Fiscal Year October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 and scheduled a required public hearing on September 08, 2020. Mr. Arjona further stated however, in accordance with property tax law, if the proposed tax rate \$0.6926 exceeds the effective tax rate of \$0.6534 of rollback tax rate public hearing on the proposed rate are required before the City Commission adopts the tax rate ordinance.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.
Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:37 p.m.

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

- B. Hold a Public Hearing for the Voluntary Annexation Petition of the Proposed Cesar Heights Subdivision being 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: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated the Planning Department was processing a residential subdivision located a quarter or a mile south of Moore Road, along the West side of Cesar Chavez Road. Mr. Arjona further stated part of the subdivision was outside city limits but within the City of San Juan extraterritorial jurisdiction. Mr. Arjona added it was the City's policy to annex subdivisions processed and approved within the city's ETJ and on August 11, 2020 the City Commission approved a Resolution 20-14 accepting petition for voluntary annexation, setting dates and times for public hearings.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo. Motion Passed (4-0).

VII. ORDINANCES

- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Amend the Personnel Policy Manual, Chapter 4: Leaves of Absence, Section 4.04 Holiday Leave and Ordinance 2005-030.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated there was a recommendation to amend the Personnel Policy Manual, Chapter 4: Leaves of Absence, Section 4.04 Holiday Leave, Subsection A, Observed Holidays and Ordinance 2005-030. Mr. Arjona further stated the City currently observes eleven holidays during the year and staff was recommending observing three additional holidays to include Martin Luther King, Columbus Day and Veterans Day. Mr. Arjona added the additional holidays would coincide with the business days of operation of other governmental agencies, which will ultimately provide a better service to our residents and anyone doing business with the City.

Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion Passed (4-0).

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

- A. Consider Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an InterLocal Agreement with the City of Weslaco for Animal Shelter Professional Services.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated for the past few years we have been entering into interlocal agreements with the City of Weslaco for Animal Shelter and they have been providing an excellent service for that reason we would like the approval to continue services.

Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion Passed (4-0).

- B. Consider Authorizing the City Manager to Declare Various Vehicles as Salvage and Surplus Property.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Arjona stated that The Parks and Recreation Department would like to declare salvage the following vehicles: PK 310, PK 309, PK 302, PK 303, PK 304, PK 307, PK 308, and a cargo van. Mr. Arjona further stated pictures were included in the packets for review. Mayor Mario Garza asked where the vehicles were located to which Mr. Arjona responded they were at the wetlands.

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

IX. CONTRACTUALS

- A. Consider Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Weslaco, Texas and the City of San Juan, Texas Regarding for provision of 911 Service.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona stated The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) had recommended the attached interlocal agreement to the city for review and approval. Mr. Arjona further stated the agreement was needed in order to continue providing 911 services to the community. Mr. Arjona added the interlocal agreement with the LRGVDC addresses planning, development, operation and provision of 911 services, the use of wire-line and wireless 911 fees and equalization surcharges. Mayor Mario Garza asked Mr. Arjona if we can please help out resident Freddy Castillo who lives on 210 West Salazar in reference to his address being the same as his neighbor.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion Passed (4-0).

X. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Rezoning Request from Neighborhood Commercial District (C1) to Single Family Residence District (RS) of a 0.36 acre tract of land out of Lot 9, Block 35, Alamo Land and Sugar Company's Subdivision, located at the Southeast corner of 4th and Morelos Street, as Requested by Luis Muro.
- B. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Rezoning Request from Neighborhood Commercial District (C1) to Single Family Residence District (RS) of a 0.50 acre tract of land out of Lot 9, Block 35, Alamo Land and Sugar Company's Subdivision, located at the Southeast corner of 4th and Morelos Street, as Requested by Margarita Aguirre.
- C. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2002012 and Chapter Traffic and Vehicles, Article 12.04 Truck and Commercial Vehicles, Section 12.04.002 Truck Routes Designated of the City of San Juan's Code of Ordinances to Amend the Routes for Truck and Commercial Vehicles.
- D. Consider an Ordinance Adopting the Proposed Tax Rate and Levy for the City of San Juan Texas at \$0.6926 per \$100 Valuation for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2020 and Ending September 30, 2020.

Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo. Motion Passed (4-0).

Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas stated he was aware there was an employee who retired but since the Director was not in nothing was planned to which Mr. Arjona responded everything initiates at the department level and in the future we need to get together and plan among everyone just like for the other retirees. Commissioner Villegas added now that we are aware I would love to recognize the employees that have retired. Mayor Mario Garza asked if Directors can be notified by email letting them know Commissioner Villegas recommendation to have it writing to which Mr. Arjona stated that he would bring it up at the staff meeting first thing in the morning.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to adjourn at 6:50 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