

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, September 22, 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
Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo, Commissioner
Marco "Markie" Villegas, Commissioner
Rick 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 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 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. 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 16, 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 22, 2020. Your Request Should Include Your Name, Address, Telephone Number and Your Comment. We Ask for Everyone's Cooperation with this Procedure.

Mr. Eric Jimenez who lives at 305 10th street stated they have been having drainage problems for a while and would like to have the issue addressed.

V. PRESENTATIONS:

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated all Directors are readily available should there be any questions from the Commission. Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas asked what the status was on the speed bumps to which Mr. Arjona, City Manager responded that one of the things they were comparing was the cost to purchase versus the cost to build them. Commissioner Villegas asked if the speed bumps was something we were foreseeing to get to which Mr. Arjona responded yes. Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez asked what the status was on the brush pick to which Mr. Roel Garza, Director of Sanitation responded the grapple trucks were on the southeast side and alley crew was still on the southwest side. Mr. Garza added on October 1st they would be moving to the next quadrant which was the northeast side. Commissioner Ramirez asked if they were sticking to the schedule to which Mr. Garza responded that the schedule calls for them to be in the southeast side which is where they have the grapple trucks but they are behind on alleys. Commissioner Ramirez stated if the only concern right now was the alleys at this time to which Mr. Roel Garza responded yes since the alleys were covered with brush so it's taking them longer.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Hold Public Hearing and Consider Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of San Juan, Texas for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Arjona, City Manager stated that the only thing he can say was at the last meeting there was a presentation and know they were having the public hearing.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

Commissioner Ramirez asked on the budget the cost of living was not discussed to which Mr. Arjona responded no. Commissioner Ramirez stated if it was going to be done before the approval of the budget to which Mr. Arjona responded it would be discussed in executive session today. Mr. Arjona stated there was a couple of things they could do, they could both approve the budget and talk about like it was done last year. Mr. Arjona stated they could always include it at the end to which Commissioner Ramirez responded wouldn't it be better to do it before hand. Mr. Arjona stated in executive session they would explain he reasons why and they would understand.

Commissioner Ramirez stated that on the highlights that were provided one of the points that he was looking at was the sidewalk project listed as \$40,000 but on the budget book it was listed as \$45,000. Mr. Arjona, responded that a couple of years ago the proposal was between \$10,000-\$15,000 but then it went up so they were looking at the cost now for the new sidewalk. Commissioner Ramirez asked when they are to approve were they approving the highlights or the book to which Mr. Arjona responded the book. Mr. Leroy Gonzalez, Director of Finance added that the highlights have the correct amounts. Commissioner Ramirez stated that he understand that but if the highlights says the increase will be \$40,000 and on the book its listed \$45,000 what were they approving to which Mr. Leroy Gonzalez responded they were approving the book. Mr. Arjona stated that it was a typo that needed to be fixed.

Commissioner Ramirez asked about the pay for the fleet manager position which was created for \$45,000 but in the highlights it says \$54,000 to which Mr. Arjona responded it was because of all the extras: the retirement, health insurance and all the benefits. Commissioner Ramirez stated the position for public information officer was at \$65,000 to which Mr. Arjona responded that \$53,000 was the amount on the book. Commissioner Ramirez stated that looking at the numbers \$54,000 and \$65,000 were the directors making those amounts already at least \$65,000 or over or if they were under to which Mr. Gonzalez responded that there were some under \$60,000. Commissioner Ramirez asked so we are starting a new position at \$65,000 to which Mayor Mario Garza responded they were budgeting for \$65,000 but that didn't necessarily mean they have to pay \$65,000. Mr. Arjona stated that the amount was with benefits but as far as the budget book it goes for \$53,000- \$55,000 but with benefits it goes to \$60,000.

Commissioner Ramirez stated he would like to bring Director pay up to par before the approval of the budget. Mr. Arjona stated the budget could be approved and then brought up to par. Commissioner Ramirez stated that he would rather balance the budget before it was approved. Mayor Garza asked if we were going to have another meeting to finalize the budget to which Mr. Arjona responded yes. Commissioner Ramirez stated that's where I'm leading to make sure they met again before it was final approved because he understood they were approving it today. Mr. Arjona responded that it's not about approving it because it was a public hearing. Mayor Garza added that it doesn't get finalized until they met again and there he could oppose or agree or

disagree. Commissioner Ramirez asked when the next meeting was to which Mr. Arjona responded that it had to be before October 1st, next Wednesday which was the 30th.

Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:12pm.

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

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALL THE FOLLOWING MATTERS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Ratify and Authorize Staff to Solicit Proposals for the Annual Contracts to Supply Water and Wastewater Treatment Chemicals and Solids Hauling and Disposal, and Authorize the Mayor to Execute all Related Documents and Budget Amendment as Required.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated the item was for the chemicals that are used at the Utility Department. Mr. Arjona further stated they had gone out for bids and they are asking to ratify the approval and no bids were being accepted yet.

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

- B. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Budget Amendment out of the Retained Earnings Storm Water Fund for repairs of a Storm Line on the Easement of Quail Street for the amount of \$11,010.00 and to authorize City Manager to Execute all related Documents and Budget Amendment as Needed.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated this item was for a utility line that caved in by Quail Street which was dangerous for people that live in the area. Mr. Arjona further stated it was an easement that belonged to the City so they were asking to fix it. Mr. Arjona added a quote had been received from Southern Trenches which are Buy Board approved and they had given the City a very good proposal. Mr. Arjona stated the recommendation was to approve to take care of that easement which was a poor construction back in the day of a utility line which wasn't compacted properly and that's why they were having those issues.

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

- C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Hidalgo County Elections Department Request for Early Voting/Election Day Polling Location Regarding a Second Polling Location at the San Juan Memorial Library (1010 S. Standard, San Juan, Texas 78589) for the 2020 General Election.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated as you may know there was only one polling location in San Juan but due to COVID they had asked the county for a second location. Mr. Arjona further stated the county agreed to open up another location so now the county is asking for the Commission to approve this item. Mayor Mario Garza asked if the library or the commission room to which Mr. Arjona responded that it was for the multipurpose room. Mayor Mario Garza clarified that this is only for early voting because on Election Day there was going to be a total of four location Fire Station #2, Library, Sorensen and Doedyns.

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

- D. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Results of the Comprehensive Plan (Phase II) Conducted by Lauren Safranek, Consultant with Law Firm of Lynn Law, PLLC.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Arjona, City Manager asked if the item could be skipped and discussed in executive session.

- E. Discussion and Possible Action Ratifying the First Amendment to the Cares Act Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the County of Hidalgo, Texas and the City of San Juan, Texas.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated this was for the second 20 percent from the county but before the money could be received it had to be approved by the Commission

however it had to be signed off because of the time and urgency of the City receiving those monies that were already spent. Mr. Arjona further stated this was for the first amendment so we are asking to ratify this particular item. Mayor Garza asked if he knew when they would be releasing the funds to which Mr. Arjona responded at the last meeting they said checks were going to be cut on Tuesday, which was today so they are hoping they are received tomorrow or Thursday.

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

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Collection Report August 2020.

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

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo made motion to enter into executive session at 6:17 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas. Motion Passed (5-0).

- A. The San Juan City Commission will Convene in Executive Session, in Accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated, Government Code Chapter 551 (Consultation with Attorney).
1. Pursuant to Section §551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Legal Issues Concerning the Comprehensive Plan.
 2. Pursuant to Section §551.071, Consultation with Attorney; Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Legal Issues Concerning Noche de Paz Logo.

X. RECONVENE

Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas made motion to reconvene at 7:17 p.m. and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Leonardo “Lenny” Sanchez. Motion Passed (5-0).

- A. The City Commission will Reconvene in Open Session to Take Necessary Action, if any, in Accordance with Chapter 551, Open Meeting, Subchapter E, Procedures Relating to Closed Meeting 551, Requirements to Vote or Take Final Action in Open Meeting.

Item A1. Mayor Mario Garza made motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan with additional 2 percent, with seniority pay and was seconded by Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo. Motion Passed (5-0).

Item A2. No Action was taken by Mayor Mario Garza.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ernesto “Neto” Guajardo made motion to adjourn at 7:18 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