

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, December 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
Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez, Commissioner
Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo, Commissioner
Marco "Markie" Villegas, Commissioner
Ricardo Palacios, City Attorney

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Diana Cavazos, City Secretary
Tirso Garza, Chief of Fire
Albino Rodriguez, Interim 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 6:00 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 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, December 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, December 8, 2020. Your Request Should Include Your Name, Address, Telephone Number and Your Comment. We Ask for Everyone's Cooperation with this Procedure.

No public comments.

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentation on Re-Opening the City of San Juan Recreation Program - Men's Softball League.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager greeted the Mayor, Commissioners, staff and community and stated under presentations there will be the reopening of the City of San Juan recreation program, beginning with the Men's Softball League. Patrick Willingham, Director of Parks and Recreation Department stated due to COVID-19 all programs were stopped for the last seven months. Mr. Willingham further stated after the holidays the plans are to reopen programs slowly in the packet I included the rules for the men's leagues. Mr. Willingham added the goal was to stay cautious so the participants have a safe environment and for that the general public will not be allowed in the fields.

Mr. Willingham stated additional staff would be present for dugs to be sanitized, ensuring there's only team members, empires and officials inside the fenced area. Mr. Willingham further stated there would be 15 minute gaps between games and temperatures would be checked at the gate. Mr. Willingham added the Parks Department is hoping to start the spring sports of softball and baseball since some other cities are also starting. Mayor Mario Garza asked if the same rules mentioned would be implemented to all sports to which Mr. Willingham responded some rules would be different depending on the age group but the limits on games and amount of spectators would be implemented. Mr. Willingham added the department was continuously working on the details to maintain CDC guidelines and also to get the kids out and exercise. Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo agreed with only having 2 games a day to help with the crowd and reminded everyone COVID-19 cases are still rising.

Mr. Willingham stated he has been meeting up with staff to come up with a plan and decided on starting with outdoor sports for now. Mayor Garza asked if there would be a need for additional staff to which Mr. Willingham responded the department was getting in contact with staff as needed. Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez asked if contact had been made with the school district in regards to using their facilities to which Mr. Willingham responded contact had not been made with them but a meeting would be planned soon. Mr. Willingham added summer sports were the focus since children missed a whole school year of sports.

VI. APPOINTMENTS:

- A. Consider the Removal and/or Appointment of a Municipal Court Judge.

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated attached as part of the packet a resignation letter from Judge De Luna was included making the position available.

Mayor Mario Garza made a motion to appoint Karina Garza de Luna for Municipal Court Judge and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez opposed. Motion Passed (4-0).

Mayor Mario Garza asked if this position was on a voluntary basis to which Mr. Arjona responded yes. Mayor Garza asked if there was any compensation for hearing court cases to which Mr. Arjona responded not at all. Mayor Garza then asked if it was zero cost to the city to which Mr. Arjona responded yes. Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez asked if the resignation letter had to be approved by the Commission to which Mr. Ricardo Palacios responded the resignation became effective immediately so there was no need to approve it.

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

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

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated before you is the agreement on the Cares Act that was submitted to Hidalgo County. Mr. Arjona further stated the agreement would allow for the moneys that were given as an additional protector of \$18.00 to the \$114.00 per person to be spent allowing the city to tap into the additional protector given per capita. Mr. Arjona added he spoke to Ms. Brenda Guzman who is in charge of our City at Hidalgo County and mentioned the City should be getting reimbursements at the end of the month. Mayor Pro-Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez asked if reimbursements were still pending to which Mr. Arjona responded yes. Mayor Pro Tem Sanchez asked if the reimbursements are getting paid to which Mr. Arjona responded as far as he knew yes.

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

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Consider Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Conditional Use Permit to allow "La Valentina Snacks" at 3705 N. Raul Longoria Road, legally described as Lot 1, Vega Subdivision, located approximately 200 feet North of Nolana Avenue, along the East side of Raul Longoria Road, as Requested by Oscar Corral.
- B. Meeting Minutes
 - June 9, 2020
 - June 23, 2020

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager stated any item could be discussed if there were any questions on an item.

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

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 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 Approval on Schematic Design Initial Renders on City Hall/Transit Terminal Building.
 - 2. Pursuant to Section §551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS; Discuss the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Chief of Police).

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to enter executive session at 6:13 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villega. Motion passed (5-0).

X. RECONVENE .

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to reconvene at 7:04 p.m. and was seconded by Mayor Mario Garza. Motion passed (5-0).

For item A1 there was no action taken.

For item A2 Mayor Mario Garza made motion to accept City Managers recommendation to negotiate the employment and salary of Ruben Morin and was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez. Motion passed (5-0).

Mayor Pro-Tem Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez asked if this was the last meeting in December to which Mr. Arjona responded yes. Mayor Mario Garza informed if anything needed to be approved a Special Called Meeting could be held. Mayor Leonardo "Lenny" Sanchez wished all the citizens of San Juan a Merry Christmas and New Year and reminded everyone to continue practicing the CDC recommendations and stay safe.

Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas wished everyone well wishes with their families and Happy Holidays for everyone. Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo reminded everyone that the city hall display was still up for Christmas pictures and welcomed everyone to stop by to visit while maintaining social distance.

Commissioner Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mayor Mario Garza wished all the citizens and staffs a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Just like his colleagues he asked everyone to stay safe as well as asking for prayers for anyone that might be struggling due to the pandemic.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ernesto "Neto" Guajardo made motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas. Motion passed (5-0).

CITY OF SAN JUAN
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020



Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:



Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary