



**A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017**

On Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 5:38 PM the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas convened in a Special Meeting at City Hall in the Legislative Chamber, located at 255 South Kansas Avenue with the following members present:

Mayor Pro-Tem	Gerardo “Jerry” Tafolla
Commissioner	Leo Muñoz
Commissioner	Greg Kerr
Commissioner	Olga Noriega
Commissioner	Letty Lopez
Commissioner	Josh Pedraza
City Manager	Mike R. Perez
City Attorney	Juan E. Gonzalez
City Secretary	Elizabeth Walker

Also present: Mary Barrera, Finance Director; Veronica Ramirez, Human Resources Director; Jose Pena, Information Technology Director; Antonio Lopez, Fire Chief; Mardoqueo Hinojosa, Planning and Code Enforcement Director/City Engineer; David Arce, Parks and Recreation Director; Andrew Munoz, Airport Director; Stephen Mayer, Police Chief; Pete Garcia, Public Works Director; Arnold Becho, and other staff members and citizens.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Certification of Public Notice.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla called the meeting to order and certified the public notice of the meeting as properly posted Wednesday, August 16, 2017 and addendum notice as properly posted on Friday, August 18, 2017.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-Tem led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag.

C. Roll Call.

Elizabeth Walker, City Secretary, called the roll, noting the absence of Mayor Suarez and a quorum present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Noriega, seconded by Commissioner Muñoz, moved to open the public hearings concurrently. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

- A. To solicit input from the public regarding the City of Weslaco ad valorem property tax rate, proposed the same as last year's rate of \$0.6667/\$100.00 valuation, pursuant to Texas Tax Code Section 26.05(d).

Mary Barrera, Finance Director, stated this was the second public hearing of two required; the proposed tax rate results in larger tax levy due to increases in property values. This hearing was advertised August 9 with vote on tax rate scheduled September 5 and September 19.

- B. To solicit input from the public regarding the City of Weslaco proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, pursuant to Local Government Code 102.007.

Mary Barrera, Finance Director, stated the budget is on file with the City Secretary's Office and on the city's web site as of July 31, 2017. There were no other comments.

Commissioner Noriega, seconded by Commissioner Muñoz, moved to close the public hearing at 5:37 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and consideration after Public Hearing to schedule a record vote September 5 and September 19, 2017 regarding the City of Weslaco proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Possible action. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Mary Barrera, Finance Director, stated that Local Government Code 102.007 reads, "shall take action;" accordingly, she recommends the Commission take action to schedule votes by ordinance on the proposed tax rate September 5 and September 19. The final budget workshop wrap up session is this Thursday, August 24.

Commissioner Lopez, seconded by Commissioner Pedraza, moved to schedule a record vote September 5 and 19, 2017 for the City of Weslaco proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

- B. Discussion and consideration to extend or solicit proposals for health insurance policy and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Human Resources.)

Commissioner Noriega moved to extend the health insurance policy. Motion failed for lack of second.

Commissioner Kerr, seconded by Commissioner Muñoz, moved to solicit proposals.

The City Manager stated Blue Cross Blue Shield, which purchased Allegiant, indicated a 30% increase to renew health coverage; they negotiated down to 15% with the possibility of reducing to 5% with a formal request from the Commission.

Commissioner Noriega stated her motion was based on negotiation of a 5% increase as she feels it may be difficult to get a better rate and larger network for the employees. The City Manager stated when proposals are solicited, there is risk rates may come in higher or lower.

In response to Commissioner Kerr, Veronica Ramirez, HR Director, stated October 1, 2015 the City contracted with Allegiant for 1 year with option to renew two more years; last year there was a 3.8% increase to the HMO plan and 16.2% to PPO plan.

The motion to solicit proposals for health insurance policy carried with Commissioner Noriega against (5-1); Mayor Pro-Tem was present and voting.

C. Discussion and consideration to extend or solicit proposals for the following:

1. Worker's Compensation Insurance Third Party Administration Services for Self-Funded or Fully Funded program; Excess reinsurance for Self-Funded Workers' Compensation
2. Commercial Package (General Liability/Professional, Law Enforcement Liability, Errors & Omissions Liability, Auto Liability, Auto Physical Damage, Aviation, Real & Personal Property, Flood & Earthquake, Mobile Equipment, Ocean Marine, Crime, etc.) and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Human Resources).

Commissioner Muñoz, seconded by Commissioner Noriega, moved to solicit proposals for Worker's Compensation Insurance and Commercial Package as presented. The motion carried; Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

D. Discussion and consideration to extend or solicit proposals for the Supplemental Insurance, including 125 Cafeteria plan (short/long term disability, vision, and cancer, accident, hospital indemnity, critical illness, with inclusion of flexible spending account, dental & basic life & AD&D for the City of Weslaco employees for an additional year at no cost to the City, effective October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018, and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Human Resources).

The City Manager stated the supplemental plans do not expire until April; however, staff recommends approval to solicit now to align with renewal of health insurance.

Commissioner Noriega, seconded by Commissioner Muñoz, moved to solicit proposals for the Supplemental Insurance including 125 Cafeteria plan (short/long term disability, vision, and cancer, accident, hospital indemnity, critical illness, with inclusion of flexible spending

account, dental & basic life & AD&D. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

ADDENDUM ITEM A.

Discussion and consideration to authorize staff to advertise the P3 Project 40 apartment unit for UTRGV and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by the City Manager's Office).

Commissioner Lopez, seconded by Commissioner Kerr, moved to discuss.

The City Manager stated he has been working with University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) to move its doctoral PHD program to Weslaco. Fifty (50) students need housing and he would like to consult with legal in executive session.

Commissioner Kerr, seconded by Commissioner Pedraza, moved to table and convene in executive session at 5:51 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:27 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla announced the City Commission had completed its Executive Session and reconvened the special meeting as open to the public.

V. POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHAT IS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Pedraza, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, moved to remove the item from the table. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

Commissioner Kerr, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, moved to authorize the City Manager to solicit, discuss, or negotiate proposals on public/private partnership or 380 incentive agreement with private developers on UTRGV project as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Muñoz, seconded by Commissioner Kerr, moved to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro-Tem Tafolla was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

ABSENT

MAYOR, David Suarez

ATTEST:

Minutes of Special Meeting on August 22, 2017

CITY SECRETARY, Elizabeth Walker

MAYOR PRO-TEM, Gerardo “Jerry” Tafolla

COMMISSIONER, Leo Muñoz

COMMISSIONER, Greg Kerr

COMMISSIONER, Olga Noriega

COMMISSIONER, Letty Lopez

COMMISSIONER, Josh Pedraza