



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
APRIL 4, 2023**

On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting at City Hall in the Legislative Chamber, located at 255 South Kansas Avenue with the following member's present:

PRESENT:	Mayor	David Suarez
	Mayor Pro Tem	JP Rodriguez
	Commissioner	Israel Gonzalez Jr.
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza
	Commissioner	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Adrian Farias

ABSENT:	Commissioner	Greg Kerr
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STAFF PRESENT:	Martin Garza	City Manager
	Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
	Juan E. Gonzalez	City Attorney

Also present: Andrew Munoz, Asst. City Manager/Airport Director, Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, Joe Pedraza, Asst. Director of Planning and Code Enforcement, Arnold Becho, Library Director, Luz Galindo, HR Director, Antonio Lopez, Fire Chief, Joel Rivera, Police Chief, David Arce, Deputy Public Works Director, Albert Aldana, City Engineer, Omar Rodriguez, Parks & Recreation Director, Martin Vela, IT Director, Rosa Badillo, Court Coordinator, Molly Vallejo, Executive Secretary and other staff members.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Certification of Public Notice.

Mayor David Suarez called the meeting to order and certified the public notice of the meeting as properly posted Friday, March 31, 2023.

B. Invocation.

Pastor Luis Rodriguez, First Baptist Church led the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Suarez led the "Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag."

D. Roll Call.

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary, called the roll noting the absence of Commissioner Kerr and a quorum was present.

E. Mayoral Recognition.

Mayor Suarez proclaimed the month of April as National Donate Life.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hollie Johnston, Valley Nature Center, stated the Valley Nature Center will be celebrating their 39 year-anniversary; have accomplished many milestones, strive to be the gold standard of education programs in the community, have formed many partnerships and relationships with various organizations. Stated in 2017 the Valley Nature Center was a recipient of the Governor's Community Achievement Awards in Environmental Excellence for community and civic commitments and now being recognized for their excellence in education and youth engagement and proud that Valley Nature Center along with Weslaco lead by example.

Melissa Krink resident commented the efforts that have begun with the commission, community and organizations need to continue and do better in working together for improvements to make a difference for animal care in Weslaco.

Dendee L. Balli, Paws for Help LLC, thanked the commission for beginning to make proactive decisions in animal care services; voiced animal welfare begins with their leadership and utilize resources in saving the lives of animals in their town and make changes.

Ivania Juarez, resident, voiced her disappointment on the lack of communities supporting the efforts of animal care welfare; need to save lives and the city should partner with rescue groups that could offer program support and grant funding.

Sylvia Sanchez Garza, voiced it was an honor to be in the Chambers that her father, Mayor Joe V. Sanchez served and thanked the commission for their service to Weslaco, stated the 2nd memorial book festival was held in memory of her dad and was a success and thanked Library staff for their help and requested favorable consideration on an agenda item to change the name of the library board to match with the name of the dedicated name of library building that honors her dad.

III. REPORTS

A. Weslaco Economic Development Corporation.

Steve Valdez, Executive Director WEDC, introduced a new staffer, Jorge Lozano Accountant, and would be doing the report. Mr. Lozano reported May 18th was the groundbreaking event for Glazers Beer and invite would follow; Mid-Valley International Industrial Park is 66% complete, staff and EDC Board members attended the VIVA Fresh Expo in Grapevine, Texas and did recruitment as well as the promotion of cold storage facilities; working with STC in promoting CDL program; meeting with AEP in expansion of electrical infrastructure on Texas Blvd to accommodate events and will be participating as sponsors with the Health Fair being coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce.

B. Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center.

Barbara Jean Garza, President/CEO, reported advertising for the month of March 2023 was \$2,800; visitors for the month totaled 366 that included event guests and in and out of State visitors (53), 18 facility reservations; networking mob luncheon continues; extended and invite to attend the Weslaco Royal Reception on April 11 and ribbon cutting for Children's Advocacy Center April 12; hosting the Weslaco Job Fair partnered with STC for use of their facility as the event has grown larger and will be on April 20, the chamber will be used for elections for the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 from April 24-May 5, Texas Onion Festival was a success with over 25,000 in attendance and strongly recommended to consider moving the 2024 event from downtown as a result of issues with businesses, the 1015 documentary will begin airing, a workshop being scheduled with Texas Hotel and Lodging Assoc to begin overview of the legislative session impact on the hotel industry and assisting with the Donna to Harlingen Marathon that is being coordinated.

Mayor Suarez changed the order of the day and introduced Appointments. There was no objection.

V. APPOINTMENTS

A. Discussion and consideration on Resolution 2023-27 appointing members to the Board of Adjustments & Appeals - Zoning and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Planning and Code Enforcement Department.)

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary, introduced for consideration the nomination for reappointment of Paul Garza by Mayor Suarez and the nomination from Commissioner Pedraza to appointment Orlando J. Villarreal for an unexpired term.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Farias moved to approve Resolution 2023-27 appointing Paul Garza and Orlando J. Villarreal the Board of Adjustments & Appeals - Zoning as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and consideration on Resolution 2023-28 re-appointing members to the Planning and Zoning Commission and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Planning and Code Enforcement Department.)

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary, introduced for consideration nominations for reappointments of Lonnie Berry by Mayor Suarez, nomination of Jim Forward by Commissioner Kerr and the nomination of Renato David Hernandez by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez moved to approve Resolution 2023-28 appointing Lonnie Berry, Jim Forward and Renato David Hernandez to the Planning and Zoning Commission as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

Mayor Suarez introduced New Business. There was no objection.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration on Ordinance 2023-19 amending Ordinance No. 417 renaming Weslaco Public Library Board to Mayor Joe V. Sanchez Public Library Advisory Board

and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. First reading of Ordinance 2023-19. Possible action. (Staffed by Library Department.)

Arnold Becho, Library Director, stated the request allows the name of the library building to match the name of the library advisory.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve Ordinance 2023-19 amending Ordinance No. 417 renaming Weslaco Public Library Board to Mayor Joe V. Sanchez Public Library Advisory Board as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and consideration to approve Ordinance 2023-20 amending Ordinance 2012-02 renaming the Animal Shelter ordinance to Animal Care Services and establishing adoption event fees and a provision to accept donations to the shelter and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. First reading of Ordinance 2023-20. Possible action. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement Department.)

Joe Pedraza, Asst. Director Planning and Code Enforcement, recommended approval stating a request from organizations to have an adoption fee for events being done outside city limits (adoption clinics); fee would be \$250 and monies would go to the animal shelter; also added the donation policy for the animal shelter was added stating this had been discussed in 2012 but not included in the ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve Ordinance 2023-20 amending Ordinance 2012-02 renaming the Animal Shelter ordinance to Animal Care Services and establishing adoption event fees and a provision to accept donations to the shelter as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

C. Discussion and consideration on Resolution 2023-29 adopting the policy for acceptance of donations and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

Luz Galindo, Human Resources Director, presented the donation policy that outlines the practice in accepting donations as well as how these resources will be used. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve Resolution 2023-29 adopting the policy for acceptance of donations as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

Mayor Suarez introduced Consent Agenda. There was no objection.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and the Governing Body has been furnished with background and support material on each item and will be acted by one motion. Any Commissioner may remove items from the consent agenda by making such request prior to a motion and voting on the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 21, 2023. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

B. Approval to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Randy Summers to be used for the purchase of equipment in remembrance of Art Cavazos and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Fire Department.)

C. Approval to accept the donation of 25 Teddy Bears from John Knox Village to be distributed to children transported by Emergency Medical Service units and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Fire Department.)

D. Approval to accept equipment (LED T-Bar light bulbs) donation from Home Depot in the amount not to exceed \$1,000 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Police Department.)

E. Approval to accept donations for the annual Clean Sweep event scheduled for April 15, 2023 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Planning and Code Enforcement.)

F. Approval to authorize solicitation of bids for existing manhole and sewer line replacement at Chelsea Park Subdivision and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Public Works Department.)

G. Approval to solicit proposals from qualified insurance carriers for Workers' Compensation and Property & Casualty Insurance and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

H. Approval to solicit proposals from qualified insurance carriers for Group Health Insurance and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

I. Approval to solicit proposals from qualified insurance carriers for 125 Cafeteria plan to include supplemental insurance products (dental, vision, short/long term disability, cancer, accident, hospital indemnity, critical illness, basic life & AD&D, and inclusion of flexible spending account) for the City of Weslaco employees at no cost to the City and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Human Resources.)

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

D. Discussion and consideration to approve and select the Architect's rankings in response to RFQ No.: 2022-23-07 for Architectural / Engineering Design Services for a new Municipal Pool, selection of date to interview the top three firms and designation of an interview format and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Parks & Recreation Department.)

Omar Rodriguez, Parks and Recreation Director, stated seven respondents were received; the committee selected reviewed, evaluated and ranked; the top three respondents were Brandstetter Carroll Brandstetter, Sam Garcia Architect and Gignac & Associates. The committee and staff recommended the top three named to be scheduled for interviews at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to approve Carroll Brandstetter, Sam Garcia Architect and Gignac & Associates for interviews as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

E. Discussion and consideration to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between South Texas College Continuing Education (CE) and Weslaco Fire Department to participate in the Firefighter Related Trainings coordinated and conducted by the City of Weslaco's Fire Department and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by the Fire Department.)

Antonio Lopez, Fire Chief, stated South Texas College has a fire division public safety training center in Pharr; the agreement would allow Weslaco Fire Department to use the training center as well as bring prompts that are mobile to the city for training to the fire department shifts and allow continuing education certificates to be issued.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Farias moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between South Texas College Continuing Education (CE) and Weslaco Fire Department to participate in the Firefighter Related Trainings as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

F. Discussion and consideration to rescind approval of the purchase of a 250 HP High Service pump station in the amount of \$26,939.36, a transfer pump in the amount of \$44,979.73, and a backwash pump in the amount of \$95,937.50 from Lewis Electric from ARPA funds and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (approved Feb 7, 2023; staffed by Finance Department.)

George Quilantan, Inframark, stated a list of equipment was prepared that would need to be replaced with the intent of using ARPA funds as they became available; three pumps were identified for the water treatment plant and requested quotes; a concern raised was having these pumps dormant because the intent of the purchases was to be prepared in the event a pump became inoperable. Staff felt a better use of the ARPA funds was to rescind the purchase of these pumps and purchase those pumps (mud, sludge, and return) needed now at the water plant, South water plant and at Lift Stations 6 and 27. The purchase of those pumps needed now would be back to the commission for approval. Staff recommended approval to rescind the previous commission action of the purchase of the high service pump, transfer pump and backwash pump.

In response to Commissioner Farias, staff stated should a pump go down quotes would be requested for repairs or replacement stating a repair could take 4-6 weeks and replacement up to 12-16 weeks and there would be no health risk so long as the pumps in place are operable. In response to Mayor Suarez the life expectancy of the equipment in place is about 2-3 years. In response to Commissioner Pedraza ARPA funds need to exhaust by December 2024 and staff

would prepare during budget process to allocate funds as necessary for replacement of equipment because ARPA funds may no longer be available.

Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to rescind approval of the purchase of a 250 HP High Service pump station in the amount of \$26,939.36, a transfer pump in the amount of \$44,979.73, and a backwash pump in the amount of \$95,937.50 from Lewis Electric approve as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:34 p.m. Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez, moved to convene the regular meeting in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

At 7:43 p.m. Mayor Suarez stated the City Commission had completed its Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting as open to the public.

VIII. POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHAT IS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel - Discussion regarding the goals, objectives, and evaluation of the City Manager for the City of Weslaco as authorized by section §551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

No action.

B. Contract Negotiations – Discussion with the City Manager and City Attorney relating to the City’s rights, duties, privileges, and obligations in connection to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fire Union (IAFF-WFFA Local 3207) FY October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2025 as authorized by section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez moved to authorize the City Attorney proceed with arbitration regarding obligations in the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fire Union (IAFF-WFFA Local 3207) FY October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2025 on the “me too clause” as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

C. Legal Consultation - Consultation with City Attorney regarding Drainage Easement matters located at Border and 18th Street as authorized by section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve an agreement be entered into with the landowner for an easement access as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

D. Legal Consultation - Consultation with City Attorney relating to legal issues with the proposed agreement for Animal Services as authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

No action.

E. Real Property - Consultation with City Attorney on the purchase, sale, exchange, lease or value of various city-owned real property to Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc., TuCasa Investments, Inc as authorized by section §551.072 of the Texas Government Code.

Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to approve staff proceed with appraisals and proceed with solicitation for public auction according to statute as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

F. Real Property - Consultation with City Attorney on the sale, exchange, lease or value of real property located at Pike and Vo-Tech as authorized by §551.072 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez moved to approve the sale of real property located at Pike and Vo-Tech in the amount as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez moved to adjourn the meeting of April 4, 2023, at 7:44 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

David Suarez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**