



**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

On Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. 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 member's present:

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Mayor	David Suarez
Commissioner	Greg Kerr

STAFF PRESENT:

Martin Garza	City Manager
Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
Juan E. Gonzalez Jr.	City Attorney

Also present: Aida Vega, Deputy City Secretary, Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, Rebekah de la Fuente, Director of Planning and Code Enforcement, Maricarmen Garcia, Asst. Library Director, Luz Galindo, HR Director, Antonia Lopez, Fire Chief, Joel Rivera, Police Chief, David Arce, Public Works Director, Rosa Badillo, Court Coordinator, and George Quilantan, Inframark and other staff members.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Certification of Public Notice.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez called the meeting to order and certified the public notice of the meeting as properly posted Friday, November 10, 2023.

C. Pledge of Allegiance.

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

D. Roll Call.

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration to convene as the local canvassing authority to canvass the election returns and approve Resolution 2023-60 certifying the results of the November 7, 2023 City of Weslaco General Election in accordance with Texas Election Code§67.004(a). Possible action. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Farias moved to approve Resolution 2023-60 certifying the results of the November 7, 2023 City of Weslaco General Election. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez was present and voting.

Following for the record is Resolution 2023-60 certifying the General Election held November 7, 2023 that Adrian Gonzalez was elected to the position of Mayor, Josh Pedraza was elected to the position of City Commissioner Single Member District 1 and Leticia “Letty” Lopez was elected to the position of City Commissioner Single Member District 2.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-60

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF TEXAS
CITY OF WESLACO**

**AN ORDER DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE CITY
OF WESLACO GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 7,
2023 FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR, COMMISSIONER
SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 1 AND COMMISSIONER
SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 2**

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Weslaco resolved and ordered that a General Election be held on November 7, 2023 in the City of Weslaco, Texas for the purpose of electing members to the City Commission for the following positions:

**MAYOR
CITY COMMISSIONER SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 1
CITY COMMISSIONER SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 2**

WHEREAS, there came on to be considered the returns of the election held on the 7th day of November, 2023 for the purpose of electing a Mayor and two (2) members to the City Commission.

WHEREAS, the returns of said election have been duly canvassed by the City Commission, and each of the candidates in said election having received the following votes to wit:

MAYOR

ADRIAN GONZALEZ	Votes	2,715
DAVID SUAREZ	Votes	2,184

CITY COMMISSIONER SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 1

JOSH PEDRAZA	Votes	739
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CITY COMMISSIONER SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT 2

LETICIA “LETTY” LOPEZ	Votes	608
PETE GARCIA JR.	Votes	555

IT IS, THEREFORE FOUND, DECLARED AND ORDERED by the City Commission of the City of Weslaco that the above elections were duly called. The notices of said elections were duly posted and that said elections were held in accordance with the laws of the Texas Election Code. That at said General Election Adrian

Gonzalez was elected to the position of Mayor, Josh Pedraza was elected to the position of City Commissioner Single Member District 1 and Leticia “Letty” Lopez was elected to the position of City Commissioner Single Member District 2 of the City of Weslaco subject to taking their oath of office.

SECTION 1: That it is further found and determined that the results of the election as canvassed and tabulated in the preamble hereof reflect the expressed desires of those persons voting at said election.

IT IS FURTHER FOUND AND DETERMINED that in accordance with the laws of the Texas Election Code the City Secretary posted written notice of the date, place and subject of this meeting on the bulletin board located at City Hall, place convenient and readily accessible to the general public and said notice having been so posted and remaining posted continuously for at least 72 hours proceeding the scheduled time of said meeting. A copy of the returns shall be attached to the minutes of this meeting and shall be made as part hereof for all intents and purposes.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this 15th day of November 2023.

CITY OF WESLACO

/s/ David Suarez, **MAYOR, and PRESIDING
OFFICER OF THE LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITY**

ATTEST:

/s/Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/Juan E. Gonzalez, **CITY ATTORNEY**

B. Conduct Oaths of Office and file Statement of Elected Officers.

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary stated the order of business to conduct the Oath of Office would be Mayor Elect, Commissioner Elect District 1, and Commissioner Elect District 2.

Adrian Gonzalez, Mayor Elect and Commissioners Elect Josh Pedraza and Letty Lopez took their Oaths of Office and tendered their Statements of Elected Officers for public file. Each addressed the audience, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve, thanking God, their families, friends, and the constituents. Each stated they are here to work for the betterment of Weslaco and continue to move the city forward together.

C. Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem.

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary, recommended commission action to memorialize the appointment of Commissioner Farias to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to appoint Commissioner Farias as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

Mayor Gonzalez recessed the meeting at 5:35 p.m. for a brief reception.

Mayor Gonzalez at 5:59 p.m. reconvened the special meeting.

D. Discussion and consideration of a declaration of emergency status for the replacement of the existing aeration blower at the north wastewater treatment facility and authorize

the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Commissioner Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to approve.

Albert Aldana, City Engineer, stated the existing aeration blower at the North Wastewater Treatment Plant that provides oxygen to the aeration basin had become inoperative between 10-24 hours; Inframark was able to restore functional operations but concerned it could malfunction and become inoperable.

Staff recommended to declare an emergency for repairs, the blower is a vital component of operations for the treatment of wastewater; previous action approved the purchase of an aeration blower, was ordered and took 18-months for delivery and has now been received; went over the proposed plan for repairs that would have the installation of the new blower then shut down the existing blower to perform maintenance; advised a soft start equipment was not included but has now been ordered; three quotes obtained for the emergency repairs and staff recommended Sweats Mechtech Solutions in the amount of \$55,000 they specialize in repairs and installation of blowers; advised was not the lowest bid but bid included unknown extras, that if not needed the quote for repairs could be lower but staff anticipates additional items; timeline 4-5 days but could be 7-10 days as a result of a concrete base needed. Staff further advised a contingency plan was derived in the event the existing aeration blower malfunctions prior to the new one being installed that could pose a severe health threat that would have the rental of an aeration blower for standby at a cost of \$30,000 for initial start-up, mobilization, and \$10,000 monthly rent. Staff recommended approval to award for the emergency repairs and rental of equipment if necessary.

Commissioner Pedraza voiced concern on the item as well as the cost(s) being presented. Juan E. Gonzalez, City Attorney, stated by declaring an emergency, the law allows to forego the bidding procurement. Staff advised legal the city was facing violations and fines with the Texas Environmental Protection Agency, malfunctioning of the blower would cause an immediate threat to the citizens because the water quality would be put at risk, staff was advised to get quotes to ensure pricing of vendors who specialize in these types of repairs was comparable.

Commissioner Pedraza voiced concern on the lack of moving forward in obtaining the Request for Qualifications for installation and/or necessary repairs needed at the plant that was described to the commission and staff by a consultant hired who presented an assessment of the plant that included a new blower as well as other repairs; options were presented in a workshop back in July and the consensus of the commission was for staff to bring back to the commission to approve the necessary repairs to avoid getting into the situation now faced with.

Albert Aldana stated staff did not anticipate facing an emergency because of the blower becoming inoperable, staff knew repairs would need to be done along with other maintenance and repairs; staff's position was to prepare an RFQ for installation of bowler, maintenance of the aeration basin as well as replacement of diffusers and staging where the influent comes in.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Farias, the soft start equipment was not ordered as the intent was to use an existing one; Andrew Munoz, Assistant City Manager, stated the backup plan (rental) would be 48 hours and the installation of the new blower and concrete pad the timeline is 15-days.

In response to Mayor Gonzalez, the recommendation to go with the highest quote was because they specialize in blowers, refurbishing, have material in stock, included the concrete bay and quote detailed other areas of work that would be needed other quotes did not and labor warranty was 12-months, materials was manufactured warranty.

George Quilantan, Inframark, briefed the commission on the malfunction of the blower that become inoperable up to three times; the urgency to keep it operable is because the blower provides the oxygen to the aeration basin, so it does not become septic.

Martin Garza, City Manager, recommended approval for the rental of equipment, approve the soft start equipment purchase and the installation of the new blower. The subsequent agenda item would address approval for other repairs needed that were discussed at the workshop.

Mayor Gonzalez called the question for the motion on the table to approve the rental of equipment, approve the soft start equipment purchase and the installation of the new blower by Sweats Mechtch Solutions as recommended. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

E. Discussion and consideration to rescind authorization to solicit RFQs for engineering services for the proposed improvements at the north wastewater treatment facility consisting of the aeration blower, aeration basin and headworks and approval of the solicitation of an RFB to perform repairs to the aeration basin and replacement of headworks equipment and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Albert Aldana recommended approval to move forward with improvements of the aeration and headworks equipment and to approve the request for bids instead of qualifications for repairs; improvements included the aeration basin, headworks; a big component of these improvements will be the dewatering of the aeration basin, sludge removal and replacement of diffusers. Staff will bring back to the commission for the purchase of the necessary equipment and selection of a contractor for the work.

The commission voiced concerns and questioned why the city is in this position when at the workshop all these improvements were discussed, and consensus was to move forward. The City Attorney and staff stated the consultant hired was to provide the assessment of the plant, once it was determined what improvements and the course of action to take a conflict surfaced because the consultant also provides construction services and the city's position was not to allow a bid from the consultant to assure compliance with bidding requirements.

In response to concerns of why the lack of maintenance that should have been occurring, George Quilantan stated unfortunately what is involved for maintenance is extensive and requires the blower to be shut down and opened and there was no backup of equipment to allow this; moving

forward maintenance will occur more frequently with the installation of the new blower staff would have the ability to alternate the blowers and keep the aeration basins cleaned.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias, seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to approve and rescind authorization to solicit RFQs for engineering services for the proposed improvements at the north wastewater treatment facility consisting of the aeration blower, aeration basin and headworks and approval of the solicitation of an RFB to perform repairs to the aeration basin and replacement of headworks equipment. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Farias seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to adjourn the special meeting of November 15, 2023, at 8:04 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**