



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
JANUARY 2, 2024**

On Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 5:36 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	Adrian Gonzalez
	Mayor Pro Tem	Adrian Farias
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza
	Commissioner	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Greg Kerr
	Commissioner	Israel Gonzalez Jr.
	Commissioner	JP Rodriguez

ABSENT: None

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

Also present: Aida Vega, Deputy City Secretary, Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, Rebekah de la Fuente, Director of Planning and Code Enforcement, Joe Pedraza, Asst. Director Planning and Code Enforcement, Mary Carmen Garcia, Asst. Library Director, Luz Galindo, HR Director, Antonio 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 Gonzalez called the meeting to order and certified the public notice of the meeting as properly posted Friday, December 29, 2023.

B. Invocation.

Pastor Timothy Aguiar, Open Door Baptist Church led the invocation.

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 perfect attendance and a quorum present.

E. Mayoral Recognition.

1) Recognition for Janelle Medellin, Miss Galaxy 2024 International.

Mayor Gonzalez recognized Ms. Janelle Medellin on her title as Miss Galaxy 2024 and on her other titles and accomplishments achieved; thanked her for the dedication to her community, volunteerism and representing the City of Weslaco and the Rio Grande Valley.

2) Recognition of the 2023 Weslaco Royal Court.

Mayor Gonzalez recognized the 2023 Royal Court being Rachael Garcia, Miss Weslaco, Zeke Aldrete, Mr. Weslaco, Victoria Barerra, Junior Miss Weslaco, Charlotte B. Jimenez, Little Miss Weslaco and Vivian Tamez, Miss Texas Onion Fest thanking them for their commitment and service as Ambassadors for the City.

3) Recognition of Griselda Martinez, Civil Service Commission.

Mayor Gonzalez recognized Griselda Martinez on her years of service as a member of the Civil Service Commission and thanked her for serving her community.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gail Weigel Ortiz, resident, and member of the Recycling Committee voiced her concern on the recycling containers not found in their usual location, lack of information on the city's social media about recycling and voiced her displeasure on the ongoing hours of fireworks being done inside the city asking for the commission to do better in these areas of concern and hoped to see improvements.

Eileen Diaz, resident, commented on the recent events regarding her mother's dogs that may need to be rehomed as a result of some getting loose and of an ordinance that only allows a minimum of three; commented the size of her property would qualify for more than three; stated there are 11 dogs that are fenced in and well-kept and as a result of damages to the fence some became loose; disagreed with the notice given to her mom to rehome the dogs in five days and stated the dogs have never been deemed dangerous, are companions to her elderly mother and would be an emotional distress if removed; requested time to repair any damages to the fence to secure the dogs and not be forced to have them removed from her mom.

III. REPORTS

A. Weslaco Economic Development Corporation.

Jorge Lozano, Accountant EDC, reported the Mid-Valley International Industrial Park project is 94% complete, the new lift station project is 55%; Mile 9 widening project is 38% percent and a ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for January 26th at 10am; staff will be attending the International Conference of Shopping Centers in Dallas January 30 for business recruitment and will be an exhibitor to showcase the City of Weslaco; Alfresco Event in December was the biggest event yet held by expanding to 6th Street able to have 130 vendors and thanked the commission and staff for their support and stated the 2023 Annual Report was being finalized and will be brought to the commission at a later date.

B. Weslaco Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center.

Barbara Jean Garza, President/CEO, presented the destination marketing report for December 2023 that included business center operations, membership & dues, general advertising, nature tourism and staff development; total visitors in the facility was 354 that included In and Out of State and event guests; 10 facility reservations; began a door traffic tracker that had 1,991 come through the front/main entrance with 1,247 to the Chamber office; went over the upcoming events that included ribbon cuttings, networking mob lunch, working in preparations for the Texas Onion Fest; highlights of festivities included the lights at city hall and the community competition, Christmas Parade and Santa Dash that had record attendance, distributed over 100 stockings to local entities; went over the numerous ribbon cuttings and special events held October through December.

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 December 5 and December 19, 2023. (Staffed by City Secretary's Department.)

B. Approval for staff to solicit proposals for an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

C. Approval to purchase (and issue to) Honorably Retired Peace Officer Captain Gerardo "Jerry" Oliva's service weapon, a Glock Model 22 Gen 4 engraved "WESLACO PD", a used handgun with serial number WXN018 for the amount of \$255.00, as allowed under Texas Government Code Section 614.051 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Police Department.)

D. Approval to purchase (and issue to) Honorably Retired Peace Officer Sgt. Arnulfo Sandoval's service weapon, a Glock Model 22 Gen 4 engraved "WESLACO PD", a used handgun with serial number WXN019 for the amount of \$255.00, as allowed under Texas Government Code Section 614.051 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Police Department.)

E. Approval to withdraw the City of Weslaco Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan Stage 2 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement Department.)

Mayor Pro Tem Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to approve consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

V. APPOINTMENTS

A. Discussion and consideration on Resolution 2024-01 appointing a Civil Service Commission Member to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term ending July 19, 2025 as a result of a resignation and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by City Manager.)

No action.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration to approve the application for the waiver of an existing encroachment within an alley at 401 S. Texas and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Planning and Code Enforcement.)

Rebekah de la Fuente, Director of Planning and Code enforcement, stated a request for a waiver regarding the encroachment of an existing building into the city's alleyway was received; structure in question was constructed more than twenty years ago and the encroachment was recently discovered because of a survey done of the property. The owner requested consideration from the city to allow for the encroachment for as long as the building exists. Staff stated the encroachment does not obstruct access to the alleyway. Staff recommended approval based on the City Attorney review of the matter and opinion received.

Commissioner Kerr questioned if it would be considered gifting of city property. Staff stated if approved it was only to allow for the encroachment and should those improvements on the property ever be demolished, compliance of the codes would apply.

Juan E. Gonzalez, City Attorney, stated a review of the City Charter and the Texas Transportation Code found a municipality has the authority to control, regulate or remove an encroachment on a public street or alley. His legal opinion is the City has the authority, if it choose, and approve a wavier and consent to the encroachment.

Commissioner Kerr seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the application for the waiver of an existing encroachment within an alley at 401 S. Texas as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and consideration to purchase two (2) John Deere Z960M 72" ZTrak deck mowers from vendor Deere & Company/Tellus Equipment Solutions under TX BuyBoard Grounds Maintenance Contract 706-23 in the amount not to exceed \$31,940.68 as budgeted and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Parks & Recreation Department.)

Mayor Pro Tem Farias abstained from discussion and vote.

Omar Rodriguez, Parks and Recreation Director, stated the purchase of the two mowers would supplement the existing fleet for mowing of the parks and monies were budgeted. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Kerr seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the purchase two (2) John Deere Z960M 72" ZTrak deck mowers from vendor Deere & Company/Tellus Equipment

Solutions under TX BuyBoard Grounds Maintenance Contract 706-23 in the amount not to exceed \$31,940.68 as presented. The motion carried; Mayor Pro Tem Farias abstained; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

C. Discussion and consideration to modify/amend the Purchasing Policy to reflect Standard Federal contract requirements for the procurement process and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Grant Writer.)

Maggie Perez, Grant Writer, recommended approval stating the amendment would address compliance of those grants on the federal level by providing policy guidance for the procurement process for those grants under federal award.

Commissioner Kerr seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias moved to approve and modify/amend the Purchasing Policy to reflect Standard Federal contract requirements for the procurement process as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

D. Discussion and consideration to approve a Grant Application Agreement with Halff Associates for the Harlon Block and surrounding area Regional Detention Facility project and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Andrew Munoz, Asst. City Manager, stated the agreement would allow for professional services from Halff Associates to submit for two grant applications through two grant programs under the Texas Water Development Board being the Flood Infrastructure Fund and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program; grant application tasks they will assist to develop hydrologic and hydraulic study, prepare the benefit cost analysis, perform environmental assessment as well as permitting requirements. Staff recommended approval of the proposal not to exceed \$85,000 noting they have been selected for the design and construction administration of this project and will submit a proposal for these services once the scope of work and the understanding of the funding awards are better understood.

Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve a Grant Application Agreement with Halff Associates for the Harlon Block and surrounding area Regional Detention Facility as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to convene the regular meeting in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

At 7:51 p.m. Mayor Gonzalez 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 Farias moved to authorize staff and City Attorney to proceed with arbitration as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerr seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to adjourn the regular meeting of January 2, 2024 at 6:41p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**