



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 1, 2024**

On Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 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	Adrian Gonzalez
	Mayor Pro Tem	Adrian Farias
	Commissioner	JP Rodriguez
	Commissioner	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Israel Gonzalez Jr.
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza

ABSENT:	Commissioner	Greg Kerr
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STAFF PRESENT:	Martin Garza	City Manager
	Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
	Eden Ramirez, Jr.	City Attorney

Also present: Edna Silva, Interim 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, Albert Aldana, City Engineer, Antonio Lopez, Fire Chief, Joel Rivera, Police Chief, David Arce, Public Works Director, Omar Rodriguez, Parks and Recreation Director, Lily Alvarez, Airport Director, Rosa Badillo, Court Coordinator, 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, September 27, 2024.

B. Invocation.

Pastor Manuel Portillo, from The Way of the Redeemed Church led the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance.

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

D. Roll Call.

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary, called the roll and noted at the time of roll call the absence of Commissioner Kerr and a quorum present.

E. Mayoral recognition.

1) Proclamation - Economic Development Corporation Manufacturing Week

Mayor Gonzalez along with the City Commission recognized the month of October as “Economic Development Corporation Manufacturing Week”.

2) Proclamation - Domestic Violence Awareness month

Mayor Gonzalez along with the City Commission recognized the month of October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month”.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Randy Hall voiced objection regarding the tax rate increase, stating it received news through local media and Facebook, stated that the city was trying to hide the tax rate from the people, by saying “no tax rate increases over and over”. Presented a few comments from city of Weslaco citizens made on social media.

III. REPORTS

A. Weslaco Economic Development Corporation.

Michelle Garcia, Digital Communications Manager, presented the destination marketing report expenditures for September 2024 that totaled \$17,791; visitors totaled 289 and door tracking had 2,039; went over upcoming ribbon events; invited the commission to a networking lunch at Olive Garden tomorrow at 11:30am; WSS Shoes would be having their 40th Anniversary on October 19th and would be having a little pop up at their new location located at the Shops at North Bridge from 12pm – 2pm., Cold Stone Creamery was contacted by their corporate office to give away free ice cream and they chose to donate it to the Boys & Girls Club. The Shops and North Bridge traffic update about 64,000 visitors monthly according to Placer AI. Dutch Bros coffee sees about 32,000 visitors each month. Business recruitment efforts have been ongoing with the Industrial Park. There are currently 3 business interested as per ongoing discussions. During the Alfresco events between the months of August and September there were about 5,000 attendees. A new construction of a 10,000 square foot warehouse at the Mid-Valley Industrial Park will begin construction in November. An EDC mixer will take place on October 10th at Glacier’s Beer and Beverage, the event is to target investors of industrial, realtors, developers etc. The EDC is currently looking into signage so citizens would be able to see the industrial park off International Highway 1015, this will be presented to the Board on October 16th, this would be a momentum

sign. EDC are hoping to also create a plaque to thank board members and elected officials who have helped in the Industrial Park project.

B. Weslaco Chamber of Commerce.

Barbara Jean Garza, President/CEO, presented the destination marketing report as stated by the Economic Development Corporation, the Weslaco Candidate Forum will take place October 2nd at 6pm for commissioners and 7:15pm for the Weslaco ISD School Board, the chamber hosts this event on an annual basis to be able to provide an opportunity for candidates to share their platform with the business community and the community at large. Ribbon Cutting for Rio Family Dental will be on October 21st. Knapp Medical Center will do a celebration to promote a new device called the Davinci on October 29th. Ms. Garza also mentioned that they would be celebrating a variety of programs during Chamber of Commerce Week from October 14th – 18th. Other events mentioned were the Cancer Awareness Walk sponsored by the city of Weslaco and David Fuentes office, Precinct 1 to take place October 5th, National Night Out October 5th and Frontera Fest October 19th.

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 and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, the item(s) will be removed from the consent agenda by the Mayor, a Commission member or the City Manager and will be considered separately.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting on September 23, 2024 (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

B. Approval on second and final reading of the following:

1) Ordinance 2024-28 adopting a speed limit change on Westgate Drive between Sugarcane and Mile 10N Road and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (First reading held September 17, 2024; staffed by Engineering Department.)

2) Ordinance 2024-29 adopting a speed limit change on Westgate Drive between 18th Street and 6th Street and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (First reading held September 17, 2024; staffed by Engineering Department.)

C. Approval of a request from Valley Nature Center to close Gibson Park to the public on November 9, 2024, for the Brew in the Woods annual fundraiser and allow to serve alcohol during the event and authorize City Manager to execute any related documents. (Requested by Valley Nature Center.)

D. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Weslaco Police Department and South Texas HIDTA for use of Juvenile Justice Jeopardy (JJJ) games and associated licenses(s) and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Police Department.)

E. Approval on Resolution 2024-68 to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$10,885 no match required to purchase police scheduling software and authorize the Mayor to execute any related items. (Staffed by the Police Department.)

F. Approval to authorize staff to solicit bids to purchase a used Broom Sweeper and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. (Staffed by Public Works Department.)

Commissioner Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr moved to approve consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

For the record following is the caption of Ordinance 2024-28 and Ordinance 2024-29.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-28

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 134 – TRAFFIC, ARTICLE II OPERATION OF VEHICLES, SECTION 134-58 SPEED LIMITS OF THE WESLACO CODE OF ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE SPEED LIMIT ALONG WESTGATE DR FOR 0.75 MILES BETWEEN COVEY DR AND MILE 10 N RD AS 45 MPH; AND ALONG WESTGATE DR BETWEEN SUGARCANE DR AND COVEY DR FOR 0.25 MILE a SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MPH AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTER SWITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT MATTER HEREOF.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-29

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 134 – TRAFFIC, ARTICLE II OPERATION OF VEHICLES, SECTION 134-58 SPEED LIMITS OF THE WESLACO CODE OF ORDINANCE TO DECREASE THE SPEED LIMIT ALONG WESTGATE DR FOR 1.0 MILES BETWEEN 18TH ST AND 6TH ST TO 35 MPH; AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT MATTER HEREOF.

CITY OF WESLACO
/s/Adrian Gonzalez, MAYOR

ATTEST:
/s/Norma A. Cantu, CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
/s/ Eden Ramirez, Jr., CITY ATTORNEY

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration on the renewal of a Public Purposes Services Contract with Weslaco Bicultural Museum, d.b.a. Weslaco Museum of Local History and Cultural Art in an amount not to exceed \$90,000 effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, stated the Weslaco Museum Director Crystal Rodriguez requested the annual contribution; the city budgeted \$90,000 with \$69,100 budgeted from the General funds and \$20,900 from hotel/motel fund. Staff recommended approval and stated this is the same amount budgeted as last fiscal year.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias moved to approve the renewal of a Public Purposes Services Contract with Weslaco Bicultural Museum, d.b.a. Weslaco Museum of Local History and Cultural Art in an amount not to exceed \$90,000 effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and Consideration of Special Services Agreement on Hotel/Motel Room Occupancy tax proceeds between City of Weslaco and the following:

1) Weslaco Chamber of Commerce for \$304,825;
2) Frontera Audubon Society for \$53,000; and
3) Lower Rio Grande Valley Nature Center for \$72,560 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos stated presentations were made from the listed agencies at workshop on August 20, 2024 for consideration of funding from the Hotel/Motel Room Occupancy tax proceeds. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr moved to approve Special Services Agreement on Hotel/Motel Room Occupancy tax proceeds between City of Weslaco and the following: 1) Weslaco Chamber of Commerce for \$304,825; 2) Frontera Audubon Society for \$53,000; and 3) Lower Rio Grande Valley Nature Center for \$72,560, as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

C. Discussion and Consideration on the renewal of a Public Purposes Services Contract with the Boys and Girl Club of Weslaco in the amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the public purpose's services and activities in this contract, effective October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos stated the agreement outlines services the Boys and girls Club will provide to help promote recreational programs for the city; this is an annual request and budgeted. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve the Public Purposes Services Contract with the Boys and Girl Club of Weslaco in the amount not to exceed \$75,000 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

D. Discussion and consideration on Resolution 2024-69 to adopt the annual Investment Policy for the City of Weslaco and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos stated annual review of the investment policy is required; the investment policy has been reviewed with no changes to its present structure at this time. Staff recommended approval of Resolution 2024-29 to adopt the annual Investment Policy.

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias moved to approve Resolution 2024-69 to adopt the annual Investment Policy for the City of Weslaco, as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

E. Discussion and consideration to award the best qualified, most advantageous respondent to the Request for Qualifications for the creation of a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos stated two responses were received; ABHR, LLP and TXP were evaluated and ranked by the committee that was composed of the City Engineer, Public Works Director, Planning/Code Enforcement Director and the Finance Director. The committee ranked TXP, Inc as the best qualified and most advantageous respondent and recommended to negotiate a contract with TXP, Inc.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to award the best qualified, most advantageous respondent to the Request for Qualifications for the creation of a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ), as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

Martin Garza stated for the record that he did not have a recommendation for this item.

F. Discussion and consideration to purchase a John Deere compact excavator from Sourcewell vendor Doggett Heavy Machinery (#011723-JDC) for an amount not to exceed \$62,462.10 from Water Fund budget and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Public Works Department.)

David Arce, Public Works Director, stated the mini excavator was for the water distribution division, this is an open cab unit as requested by staff because it would have better communication than a closed cab unit. Staff had requested an attachment but after further review will wait because for the attachment a trailer is needed. Requested approval for the purchase of the John Deer mini excavator at a cost of \$53,607.10 and noted it is a Sourcewell vendor. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to purchase a John Deere compact excavator from sourcewell vendor Doggett Heavy Machinery (#011723-JDC) for an

amount not to exceed \$53,607.10 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

G. Discussion and consideration to purchase a New TYMCO Model 600 Street Sweeper from Industrial Disposal Supply Co., sourcewell contract #111522 for an amount not to exceed \$357,320 from streets budget and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Public Works Department.)

David Arce, Public Works Director, stated the equipment was a broom sweeper to clean curbs daily and should not be confused that it is a street sweeper; the New TYMCO Model 600 Street Sweeper will supplement the fleet, delivery time is within 30 days of approval, a position budgeted for the operation of equipment, operators and mechanic staff will attend training to maintain sweeper. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to purchase a New TYMCO Model 600 Street Sweeper from Industrial Disposal Supply Co., sourcewell contract #111522 for an amount not to exceed \$357,320 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

H. Discussion and consideration of accepting donations of area rug, lamp, TV stand, two swivel chairs, throw pillows, wall art, and mirror by Martinez Furniture & Appliance (Ramon Martinez and family) in the amount of \$6,749.39 for the soft interview room at the Weslaco Police Department. Possible action. (Staffed by the Police Department.)

Armando Espinoza, Assistant Police Chief, recommended approval to accept the donations; would be used specifically to have an area for those victims of violence and violent crimes to feel safe and help encourage victims to report the crimes.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to accept donations from Martinez Furniture & Appliance in the amount of \$6,749.39 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

I. Discussion and consideration of proposed Change Order #1 for the North Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by the Engineering Department.)

Albert Aldana, City Engineer, stated previous commission action awarded CB3, LLC; staff met with CB3 regarding the scope of work and contractor was in agreement with Change Order #1 that would reduce original contract price from \$785,662 to \$685,662. Staff recommended approval.

Martin Garza stated the decrease resulted because the dewatering scope of work would be done inhouse.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr moved to propose Change Order #1 for the North Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project, as presented. The motion carried; Commissioner Lopez against; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:18 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to convene the regular meeting in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

At 6:58 p.m. Mayor Gonzalez stated the City Commission had completed its Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting as open to the public.

VII. 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. Legal Consultation – 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.

No action.

C. Legal Consultation – 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 Weslaco Municipal Police Union (WMPU) as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

No action.

D. Legal Consultation – Consultation with City Attorney regarding Liquid Environmental as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

No action.

E. Legal Consultation - Consultation with City Attorney regarding potential litigation relating to prescriptive easement legally described Lots 22-25, Block 8, L.D. Morgans Addition, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

No action.

F. Legal Consultation - Consultation with the City Attorney regarding the status of City of Weslaco vs CDM as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

No action.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to adjourn the regular meeting of October 1, 2024, at 6:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**