MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
MARCH 5, 2025

On Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 5:32 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	Israel Gonzalez Jr. (via zoom)
	Commissioner	JP Rodriguez
	Commissioner	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Pete Garcia Jr.
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza
ABSENT:	Commissioner	Adrian Farias
STAFF PRESENT:	Martin Garza	City Manager
	Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
	Eric Flores	Interim City Attorney

Also present: Xavier Salinas, Asst. City Manager, Aida Vega, Deputy City Secretary, 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, Armando Espinoza, Interim Police Chief, David Arce, Public Works Director, Omar Rodriguez, Parks and Recreation Director, Rick Mendoza, IT Director, Rosa Badillo, Court Coordinator, Lily Alvarez, Airport Director, 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, February 28, 2025.

B. Invocation.

Pastor Manuel Portillo, The Way of the Reemed 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 noted the absence of Commissioner Farias and a quorum present.

E. Mayoral recognition.

1) Recognition of Juan J. Serrano for his service on the Weslaco Economic Development Corporation Board.

Mayor Gonzalez and the City Commission recognized and thanked Juan J. Serrano for his service on the Weslaco Economic Development Corporation.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Mayor Gonzalez changed the order of the day and introduced New Business item A. There was no objection.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and action on the confirmation and swearing in of the Weslaco Chief of Police. (Staffed by City Manager.)

Martin Garza, City Manager, thanked all in attendance for the confirmation in honoring and swearing in on the selection of Robert Lopez, who has over 25 years of law enforcement, as the new Police Chief for the City of Weslaco.

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Commissioner Garcia Jr. moved to confirm the appointment of Robert Lopez, Police Chief.

Samuel Sanchez, Municipal Court Judge, administered the oath of office to newly appointed Police Chief Robert Lopez.

Robert Lopez, Police Chief, thanked his family and all in attendance in supporting him on this occasion.

III. REPORTS

A. Weslaco Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center.

Barbara Jean Garza, CEO, reported the destination marketing report for March 2025 expenditures was $12,614.99; reported on upcoming events for a ribbon cutting at Gibson Park, milestone 1 year anniversary for Senor Barbas; planning activities for Onion Fest beginning; reported on a major event being the Weslaco Royal Pageant that crowned six new ambassadors; presented the visitors center data and facility reservations; reported an International billboard in Mexico that states “Visit Weslaco” and submitted an application to “Keep Texas Beautiful” for a provisional affiliation license that will allow the city to be called “Keep Weslaco Beautiful” and have this affiliation requirements will need to be met.

B. Weslaco Economic Development Department.

Jorge Lozano, Weslaco EDC stated the month of February was a record breaking local sales tax collection of $2.3million for the city that is considered taxable sales of $118million; staff and

Board President, Sandra Charlton, traveled to Austin for RGV Day to promote regionalism and attended Weslaco Day at the Capital where city leaders met with state officials regarding current and future projects for the city; a new marketing grant available from WEDC for retail and commercial businesses inside city limits and encouraged business to go to their website and apply; an initiative with UTRGV CIC for a program called "Coffman Fast Track Program" to help give key skills to businesses and is a seven week program to begin in May; the new Walmart Fuel Station opened and the financial audit was completed.

C. Boys & Girls Club of Weslaco - Programs and Expansion Fundraising.

No report.

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 Regular Meeting on February 4, 2025. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

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

1) Ordinance 2025-03 creating the Weslaco Beautification Committee. (First reading held February 19, 2025; staffed by City Manager.)

2) Ordinance 2025-04 to amend Chapter 82, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinance to include Sections 82-224 through 82-232 to be titled "Naming of Donated Property" and establish authority to name such donated properties at the City's discretion. (First reading held February 19, 2025;staffed by City Manager.)

C. Approval to accept the 2024 Racial Profiling Report submitted by the Weslaco Police Department to the State of Texas. (Staffed by Police Department.)

D. Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Weslaco Fire-EMS Department and Axon Education to provide field and clinical internship for students in the EMS Training Programs. (Staffed by Fire Department.)

E. Approval of the educational affiliation agreement between Weslaco Fire Prevention-EMT Program and Knapp Medical Center for emergency medical technician (EMT) students to participate in field education experience rotations. (Staffed by Fire Department.)

F. Approval of the education affiliation agreement between Weslaco Fire Prevention-EMT Program and South Texas Health Systems to provide clinical learning experiences to advance training and education. (Staffed by Fire Department.)

G. Approval of Resolution 2025-26 designating authorized signatories for contractual documents pertaining to Local Hazard Mitigation Plans Program (LHMPP) General Land Office (GLO) State Contract Number 22-130-073-E794. (Staffed by Grant Manager.)

H. Approval to renew affiliation agreement with Southern Careers Institute for a period of two (2) years, unless terminated earlier. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

I. Approval to ratify the acceptance of a Grant Award from the Stanton Foundation in the amount of $80,000. Funding will be utilized for the purchase of a 2024 Ford Transit Cargo Van for the Animal Care Services Division. (Staffed by Grant Manager.)

J. Approval for payment to Hidalgo County Elections Department in the amount of $50,551.15 for the General Election held November 5, 2024. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

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

Following are the captions for the Ordinance(s):

ORDINANCE 2025-03

AN ORDINANCE CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE WESLACO BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE; SPECIFYING THE TERMS OF OFFICE; SPECIFYING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTER WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT MATTER HEREOF.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WESLACO, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO NAME PROPERTY DONATED TO THE CITY AT THE CITY'S DISCRETION; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

PASSED AND APPROVED on first reading at a regular meeting of the City Commission this 19th day of February 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED on second reading at a regular meeting of the City Commission this 5th day of March 2025.

V. APPOINTMENTS

A. Discussion and consideration on Resolution 2025-27 appointing a member to the Weslaco Economic Development Corporation. (Staffed by City Secretary/Weslaco EDC.)

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary, stated the nominee was from Commissioner Pedraza to appoint Robert S. Donalson to the Weslaco Economic Development Corporation.

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve Resolution 2025-27 appointing Robert S. Donalson to the Weslaco Economic Development Corporation. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Discussion and consideration to approve the renewal of Microsoft Office 365 suite in the amount of $77,638.38; Contract#: DIR-CPO-5237. (Staffed by Information Technology Department.)

Rick Mendoza, IT Director, stated this was a renewal of Microsoft suites that included Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook and included the licenses for servers and databases that hold the entire data for all city departments. Staff recommended approval and is budgeted.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve renewal of Microsoft Office 365 suites in the amount of $77,638.38 Contract#: DIR-CPO-5237. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

C. Discussion and consideration to authorize the purchase of two (2) John Deere Z960M ZTrak mowers through BuyBoard Contract #724-23 with Vendor Deere & Company for an amount not to exceed $32,608. (Staffed by Parks & Recreation Department.)

Commissioner Rodriguez abstained from discussion and vote.

Omar Rodriguez, Parks and Recreation Director, stated the purchase will replace existing equipment and recommended approval.

Commissioner Pedraza questioned if the equipment being purchased from the vendor was a sole sourcing purchase that could prohibit repairs when needed to be done from a third party.

Omar Rodriguez stated this situation had occurred in the past, but this equipment (John Deere) is serviced locally as well as other locations across the Valley and if repairs are necessary the in-house mechanics will do and if unable the equipment would go to a local John Deere vendor.

Commissioner Garcia Jr. seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the purchase of two (2) John Deere Z960M ZTrak mowers through BuyBoard Contract #724-23 with Vendor Deere & Company for an amount not to exceed $32,608 as presented. The motion carried; Commissioner Rodriguez abstained; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

D. Discussion and approval of Allowance Expenditure Authorization No. 1 New Library Project for removal of existing foundation in an amount not to exceed $27,787. (Staffed by Parks & Recreation Department.)

Omar Rodriguez stated the expenditure would demolish and remove the existing concrete foundation of the drive-through bank by the contractor; work was not included as part of the project because it was going to be done in-house. Staff recommended the contractor do the demolition, do the required back-fill and compaction for the new parking lot and stated the City will haul-off and dispose of the debris.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve Allowance Expenditure Authorization No. 1 in an amount not to exceed $27,787 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

E. Discussion and consideration to negotiate and enter into a contract with Green, Rubiano & Associates, for RFQ #2024-25-11 Engineering Services for Metal Canopy Design. (Staffed by Public Works Department.)

David Arce, Public Works Director, stated commission action approved solicitation of request for qualifications for the design and engineering of a metal canopy at public works; two responses were received, evaluated and ranked. Staff recommended approval to negotiate with the highest ranked firm Green, Rubiano & Associates and if negotiated fee is in the threshold allowance to approve the contract be awarded as well.

In response to Mayor Gonzalez, Martin Garza, City Manager, stated because this was a small project with only two respondents, a committee from the different Directors evaluated and ranked the qualifications; no presentations were done and recommended the commission accept staff recommendation based on review and rankings of the two firms.

In response to Commissioner Garcia Jr. the item was only to select a firm based on their statement of qualifications and negotiate a fee with approval to the City Manager to award if within the allowable threshold ($25,000) and if not back to the commission for approval.

Commissioner Garcia Jr. seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve negotiate with Green, Rubiano & Associates for engineering services and award contract if applicable. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

F. Discussion and consideration to approve final payment to CB3, LLC in the amount of $60,713.28 for the North Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin Rehabilitation Project. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Homer Rhodes, Purchasing Agent, stated this was final payment for the North Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin Rehabilitation Project in the amount of $60,713.28. Staff recommended approval and noted contractor has submitted necessary documentation and was in order; project cost was $725,662 and the city had a cost savings to the project of $69,533.28.

In response to Commissioner Rodriguez, Steven Cruz, CB3, stated there were potential repairs noted that were not part of this project and were addressed to David Arce and Inframark.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve final payment to CB3, LLC in the amount of $60,713.28 for the North Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin Rehabilitation Project as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

G. Discussion and consideration accepting and adopting the City Of Weslaco Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan. (Staffed by Planning and Code Enforcement Department.)

Joe Pedraza, Asst. Planning and Code Enforcement Director, stated Randy Winston, Sigler, Winston Greenwood, was in attendance.

Randy Winston, addressed the commission and went over the importance of a Water Conservation Plan and stated it is mandated by TCEQ and TWDB; went over the Drought Contingency Plan importance is to properly conserve available water supply in times of drought and water supply shortages and mandated by TCEQ; last adopted plan was in 2009 and went over key items used to update the plan such as population, water demands and analysis of water rights were a few; presented existing conditions of the Amistad/Falcon reservations and when water stages are triggered and stated Weslaco and other valley cities are implanting Hidalgo County's standards for water shortage stages; lastly overviewed surcharge fees would be established by the City that would occur if Stage 4 is triggered; the proposed plan would need final review from the Engineering Department, incorporate and changes, final plan approved by the Commission and then submitted to TCEQ for review.

Martin Garza voiced that the city was in the process of selecting a consultant to conduct a water rate study for recommendations on rates and questioned if the rates, fees, surcharge can be updated into the plan based on the outcome of the water rate study. Randy Winston recommended the current base fee be submitted and amend accordingly once the water rate study is completed and would be acceptable to the TCEQ.

Joe Pedraza recommended approval and the proposed surcharge would be amended accordingly based on the water rate study.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to accept and adopt the City Of Weslaco Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

<u>H. Discussion to accept and file the Economic Development Corporation of Weslaco Audit Fiscal Year 2024. (Staffed by Economic Development Corporation of Weslaco.)</u>

Jorge Lozano stated Garcia & Pena, CPA, were selected to conduct the independent audit report for Weslaco Economic Development Corporation fiscal year 2024.

Manuel Garcia, CPA, stated the audit included the financial statements of WEDC FY2024 and conducted in accordance with auditing standards and fairly represented; went over the comparative net position for FY23 and FY2024; FY2024 total assets were $37,086,899, liabilities $8,546,424 and a net position of $27,766,204; presented the 5-year summary of revenues and expenditures and sales tax used for promotion and development from FY 2020 to FY2024.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to accept and file the Economic Development Corporation of Weslaco Audit Fiscal Year 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

<u>I. Discussion and consideration regarding the purchase of a 2024 Ford Transit Cargo Van for the Animal Care Services Division through BuyBoard Contract #724-23 with Sam Pack's Five-Star Ford, at a total cost of $70,814.22. (Staffed by Grant Manager.)</u>

Commissioner Rodriguez abstained from vote and discussion.

Gabriel Perez, Grant Manager, stated a grant award in the amount of $80,000 was received from the Stanton Foundation Grant for Animal Care Services; proceeds would be used to purchase 2024 Ford Transit Cargo Van equipped with an HVAC system and custom vehicle wrap; vehicle would be used to transport canines and staff to adoption events; two quotes were received and staff recommended approval to purchase through BuyBoard Contract #724-23 with Sam Pack's Five Star Ford at a total cost of $70,814.22. Staff noted the vehicle will also have a 360-degree camera, shelving and partition operational equipment not offered with the lower quote and the Stanton Foundation has approved.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the purchase of a 2024 Ford Transit Cargo Van for the Animal Care Services Division through BuyBoard Contract #724-23 with Sam Pack's Five-Star Ford, at a total cost of $70,814.22 as presented. The motion carried; Commissioner Rodriguez abstained; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Garcia Jr. moved to convene the regular meeting into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez 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. 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) 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 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.

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

No action.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 5, 2025, at 7:52 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

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Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

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Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**