A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2018

On Tuesday, July 24, 2018, at 7:23 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 members present:

Mayor	David Suarez
Mayor Pro-Tem	Gerardo "Jerry" Tafolla
Commissioner	Greg Kerr
Commissioner	Jose "J.P." Rodriguez
Commissioner	Letty Lopez
Commissioner	Josh Pedraza
City Manager	Mike R. Perez
City Secretary	Elizabeth Walker
City Attorney	Juan E. Gonzalez

Also present: Mary Barrera, Finance Director; Veronica Ramirez, Human Resources Director; Leo Gonzales, Information Technology Director; Joel Rivera, Police Chief; Mardoqueo Hinojosa, Planning and Code Enforcement Director and City Engineer; Arnold Becho, Library Director; Pete Garcia, Public Works Director and other staff members and citizens.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Certification of Public Notice.

Mayor Suarez called the meeting to order and certified the public notice of the meeting as properly posted Friday, July 20, 2018.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag.

C. Roll Call.

Elizabeth Walker, City Secretary, called the roll, noting the absence of Commissioner Muñoz and a quorum present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Shires, Sandra Reyna and Randy Hall voiced concerns regarding drainage.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration to approve the Final Plat for Westgate Estates #2 Subdivision, being a 24.92 acres land out Farm Tract 664 & 665, Westgate Estates #2 Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas located approximately 1,370 feet North of 18th Street and authorize the

Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (This item was tabled on July 17, 2018; staffed by Planning and Code Enforcement.)

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Kerr, moved to remove the item from the table. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Kerr, moved to approve.

Mardoqueo Hinojosa, City Engineer and Director of Planning and Code Enforcement, stated staff met with Commissioner Muñoz and the developer concerning storm calculations. Mayor Suarez suggested to change to a 50-year drainage calculation; Mr. Moore, on behalf of the developer, clarified that the project already is retaining to 50-year and is widening and stair-stepping the ditch themselves. However, he noted Commissioner Munoz had indicated in the earlier meeting that the City may be able to participate to expand the capacity to 100-years.

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Kerr, rescinded the motion and moved to approve the Final Plat for Westgate Estates #2 Subdivision contingent on 100-year storm calculations and alternate bid so that City may participate in that cost. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and consideration of short-term solution to drainage issues. Possible action. (There was no action on this item July 17, 2018; Staffed by City Manager's Office.)

Mike Perez, City Manager, stated discussion from the workshop for short-term solutions include the following: 1) developing a schedule of culverts cleaned with reports every three (3) months; 2) changing to a 50-year detention with final approval by the Commission directly; 3) borrowing $4 million through a 1.5 cent increase by certificate of obligation; and 4) creating a committee to look at proposed improvements; and 5) cleaning the drainage ditch at Leisure World.

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Pedraza, authorized to prepare for future Commission agendas 1) revisions to the Ordinance calling for 50-year storm retention and final plat approval by City Commission directly, 2) issuance of a Certificate of Obligation in approximate amount of $4 million by 1.5 cent increase; 3) creation of a citizen committee to review and recommend drainage improvements. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

C. Discussion and consideration to create a media relations staff position or department. Possible action. (There was no action on this item July 17, 2018; Requested by Commissioners Rodriguez and Munoz.)

There was no action.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration to authorize the Request for Qualifications #2017-18-21 Civil Engineering Services Stormwater Improvements Plan. Possible action. (Staffed by City Manager's Office.)

The City Manager requested authorization to solicit qualifications for civil engineering services to prepare a study for storm water improvements and 2-D modeling; he added the Commission can always reject proposals. In response to Commissioner Kerr, the City Manager stated the firm's qualifications must include extensive experience in drainage and 2-D Modeling. In response to Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Mardoqueo Hinojosa explained the Master Drainage Plan recommends a 2D study to tweak the assumption on pipe sizes.

Commissioner Kerr, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, moved to authorize the Request for Qualifications #2017-18-21 Civil Engineering Services Storm water Improvements Plan. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and consideration to seek Requests for Proposals for Professional, Technical and Expert Services for the Development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Possible action. (Staffed by City Manager's Office.)

The City Manager stated the City is not part of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, which FEMA requires for grant funding and reimbursements.

Andrew Munoz stated the County, Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) and Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) have a Hazard Mitigation Plan which is good for five years; however, the County plan is 2½ years old. The City may apply for grant funds out of cycle with cost participation of $12,500 as 25% local contribution or full $50,000 expense if the City's request for out of cycle funds is denied.

Commissioner Kerr, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, moved to approve and seek Requests for Proposals for Professional, Technical and Expert Services for the Development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:10 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, moved the special meeting to convene in executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

At 8:45 p.m. Mayor Suarez announced the City Commission had completed its Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting as open to the public.

VI. POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHAT IS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. 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) as authorized by §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

Commissioner Kerr, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, moved to authorize the negotiating team to offer 1.5% increase year one and 1.5% increase year two only if sick leave is reduced from current 75% to 37.5% and continue to negotiate in good faith. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Pedraza, moved to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

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MAYOR, David Suarez

ATTEST:

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CITY SECRETARY, Elizabeth Walker

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MAYOR PRO-TEM, Gerardo “Jerry” Tafolla

ABSENT
COMMISSIONER, Leo Muñoz

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COMMISSIONER, Greg Kerr

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COMMISSIONER, Jose “J.P” Rodriguez

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COMMISSIONER, Letty Lopez

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COMMISSIONER, Josh Pedraza