



**A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018**

On Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at 5:34 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	Leo Muñoz
Commissioner	Greg Kerr
Commissioner	Jose “J.P.” Rodriguez
Commissioner	Letty Lopez
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; David Arce, Parks and Recreation Director; Leo Gonzalez, Information Technology Director; Mardoqueo Hinojosa, Planning and Code Enforcement Director and City Engineer; Tony Lopez, Fire Chief; Joel Rivera, Police Chief; Arnoldo Becho, Library Director; Pete Garcia, Public Works Director; Rosa Huerta, Court Administrator; Joe Pedraza, Health Official; 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, August 24, 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 Pedraza and a quorum present.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, moved to open the public hearing at 5:36 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

A. To solicit input from the public regarding the City of Weslaco ad valorem property tax proposed rate of \$0.6817/\$100.00 valuation, pursuant to the Texas Tax Code Section 26.05(d). Second Public Hearing.

Mike Perez, City Manager, reported the draft budget as filed included an ad valorem increase of 1.5-cents to issue certificate of obligations in the amount of approximately \$4 million for the development of regional detention facilities near John Knox Village, Leisure World, and Harlon Block Park. However, at the workshop held Thursday staff was instructed to reduce general fund budgets by \$140,000 to limit to a ¾-cent tax increase.

Randy Hall commented if a 1% across the board reduction in spending is not feasible because of contractual obligations with unions he suggested consideration of a 50/50 split, with half the money to be generated from the proposed 1.5-cent increase instead from budget cuts and increase the ad valorem rate just three-quarters of a cent. Dina Murillo expressed opposition to any tax increase and Israel Coronado expressed opposition to any tax increase and issuance of bonds.

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, moved to close the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration on evaluation and selection of a short list for interviews for Civil Engineering Services from the Request for Qualifications #2017-18-21 for consulting services to prepare a Stormwater Improvements Plan. Possible action. (Staffed by Planning and Code Enforcement.) Attachment

The City Manager requested to table the item for the next regular meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Muñoz, moved to table evaluation and selection of a short list for interviews for Civil Engineering Services for the next regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and consideration of the City of Weslaco Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 resulting from workshops and wrap-up presentations. (Staffed by the Finance Department.)

The City Manager stated this was for presentation only and overviewed changes as discussed during budget workshops. In response to directive, departments reduced budgets \$143,133 from the following line items: travel and training, advertising, landscaping, demolition and cleaning of dilapidated structures, purchasing one police vehicle, replacing fire bunker gear, installing street flashing lights, eliminating certain part-time and temporary employees within Parks and Library departments, and lowering the contribution to the Weslaco Museum.

He cautioned that since FEMA has not authorized the reimbursement of City expenses for the flood response, the City had to dip into its fund reserves. Also, since appraisals have been lowered in response to flood damages, the tax levy will decrease. In response to the Commission, he warned, “in one form or other, we will have to generate more revenue.” He reported staff is preparing a drainage utility fee for consideration as well as some grants; the consensus of the

Commission was to instruct the City Manager to speak with the Economic Development Corporation to contribute the other \$140,000 this year to avoid a tax increase.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Muñoz, moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Suarez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

MAYOR, David Suarez

ATTEST:

CITY SECRETARY, Elizabeth Walker

MAYOR PRO-TEM, Gerardo “Jerry” Tafolla

COMMISSIONER, Leo Muñoz

COMMISSIONER, Greg Kerr

COMMISSIONER, Jose “J.P” Rodriguez

COMMISSIONER, Letty Lopez

ABSENT
COMMISSIONER, Josh Pedraza