



**RECORD OF WORKSHOP
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026**

On the 4th day of March 2026 at 4:05 p.m., the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas convened in a Workshop in the Legislative Chamber Room located at 255 S. Kansas Avenue with the following members present:

PRESENT:	Mayor	Adrian Gonzalez
	Mayor Pro Tem	Pete Garcia Jr.
	Commissioner	Adrian Farias (arrived at 4.59 p.m.)
	Commissioner	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Israel Gonzalez Jr. (arrived at 4:39 p.m.)

ABSENT:	Commissioner	JP Rodriguez
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza

STAFF PRESENT:	Xavier Salinas	City Manager
	Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
	Shellie Smith	City Attorney

Also present: Omar Rodriguez Asst. City Manager, Antonio Lopez, Asst ACM/Fire Chief, Aida Vega, Deputy City Secretary, Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, Rebekah de la Fuente, Planning and Code Enforcement Director, Joe Pedraza, Asst PCE Director, Peter Hermida, City Engineer, Armando Espinoza, Asst. Police Chief, David Arce, Public Utilities Director, Nick Castillo, Public Works Director, Eddie Serna, Parks & Recreation Director, Arnold Becho, Library Director, Celine Pardo, Municipal Court, Luz Galindo, HR Director, Magali Vega, Media Director, Lucio Garza 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 Thursday, February 26, 2026.

B. Roll Call.

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary conducted a roll call to show attendees.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and presentation on Fire Response Plan.

Xavier Salinas, City Manager, stated the item was to help explain the concerns voiced from the community on how the fire department responds to calls and called on Antonio Lopez, Fire Chief, to go over procedural and protocols.

Antonio Lopez provided a comprehensive overview of the department's strategic response system. He explained that responses are scaled based on the type and severity of calls, not simply sending all personnel to every incident.

For EMS calls the tiered response system. Basic EMS calls for difficulty breathing, weakness, or potential heart attacks typically receive only an ambulance response with a two-person medic crew. However, calls escalate when patients are unresponsive or not breathing, triggering both ambulance and fire truck responses from the appropriate district; emphasized this scaling provides additional paramedics on scene for complex procedures like intubation and cardiac monitoring, giving citizens the best opportunity for quality care.

When multiple patients are involved, the captain (commanding officer for the shift) responds to coordinate the scene; explained they operate on three shifts (A, B, C) and can scale up to four ambulances locally. Beyond that, mutual aid from agencies like Mercedes Fire, Med care, and Skyline in the Delta area provides additional support.

Antonio Lopez stated fire responses have different protocols. Brush fires typically receive brush trucks - smaller, lightweight pickup-style vehicles that can access off-road areas without risking damage to expensive pumper trucks. The department's tanker, carrying up to 2,000 gallons, provides water support for brush fires.

Structure fire calls trigger a three-engine company response from the nearest stations. With the new downtown station, the three closest fire trucks respond as "first due" while the furthest truck remains available for additional calls. Fire Chief Lopez emphasized this strategic approach allows for safe entry and exit from structures while maximizing resources for property and life safety with lives taking priority.

The new rescue truck from downtown station has enhanced their major accident response capabilities. Car accidents on the expressway now receive coordinated responses including ambulances, fire trucks from suppression, and the heavy rescue truck for extrication using jaws of life and stabilization tools. Each truck carries a paramedic, providing multiple levels of emergency medical care.

Xavier Salinas confirmed that all responding firefighters and paramedics work regular shifts without additional overtime costs, operating on a 48-96 schedule across four companies that support each other throughout the city.

Antonio Lopez explained a dead-on-scene (DOS) calls, would have coordination with police department. When potential DOS calls are dispatched, fire trucks and ambulances wait for police to secure the scene first. Robert Lopez, Police Chief, went over these types of calls and explained

their DOS response protocols are treated as a potential crime scene regardless of apparent cause of death. They deploy 2-3 units, establish perimeter tape, call supervisors and investigators, and have crime scene units prepared for evidence collection. Antonio Lopez stated there is a strong working relationship between fire and police departments, with police providing perimeter control for fire scenes and coordinated response for assault calls and fights in progress.

Mayor Gonzalez noted that fire truck responses to medical calls occur because firefighters are also paramedics, carrying the same equipment as ambulances except medications and transport capability. Antonio Lopez confirmed this dual-role system prevents treatment delays when ambulances are unavailable, ensuring patients receive IV access, oxygen, and EKG monitoring before ambulance arrival.

Antonio Lopez briefly went over mutual aid and explained that within Progreso city limits, their fire department handles primary fire response with Weslaco providing backup when needed. For EMS, Weslaco serves as the primary provider for Emergency Service District No. 1 including Progreso; went over their drone program for emergency management, which was being tested during fire training in Edinburg to provide live footage for emergency management purposes and concluded by acknowledging that no single department can handle every emergency alone, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation and mutual aid agreements.

B. Discussion and presentation on City Water Towers.

Xavier Salinas stated there have been increased water breaks, pressure issues and water demand during the unusually warm winter months. David Arce, Public Utilities Director and his staff along with Peter Hermida, City Engineer and Inframark staff were in attendance to present an overview of what is being done to evaluate water demand and storage capacity needs.

David Arce presented the system overview; the elevated storage tank at the water plant holds approximately 2 million gallons, with three additional water towers - two at 500,000 gallons each, one at 1 million gallons, plus the Kansas tower at 300,000 gallons. The plant can produce 13.7 million gallons daily while currently pumping about 6.5 million gallons per day; attributed increased demand to dry conditions and continued growth despite development moratoriums. He noted concerns about increased water pressure potentially breaking older water lines, requiring careful monitoring and documentation of breaks to identify lines needing replacement.

Staff discovered historical plans from 1962 that will be digitized and integrated into the GIS system for better system mapping and archival purposes; outlined necessary improvements, particularly for Milano's tower, which has an altitude valve but lacks communication capability with the water plant. Inframark can currently monitor the Bridge tower and water plant operations but cannot see Milano tower or Harlon Block tower levels remotely.

David Arce proposed installing communication systems and automated altitude valves for Milano tower to enable remote monitoring and control, like the Bridge tower's current capabilities. Harlon Block tower has partial systems requiring completion for full operational capability; the Kansas

water tower presents a decision point requiring staff and commission consideration: whether to bring it fully online with monitoring systems or maintain it offline as a historic landmark and emphasized these communications improvements would provide real-time monitoring capabilities, allowing Inframark to optimize water production and system operations more efficiently.

George Quilantan, Inframark, detailed current monitoring limitations, explaining they can only see GST and Bridge tower levels at the water plant's SCADA system, though the system has capability to monitor all towers if proper equipment were installed at each site.

Mayor Gonzalez emphasized the importance of upgrading all water tower monitoring capabilities, expressing concern about operating without knowing water levels in all towers. He stressed the need for immediate action rather than temporary patches, requesting comprehensive short-term and long-term plans for system improvements.

George Quilantan stated the Harlon Block tower historically has never been able to fill to capacity since construction, an issue that persisted through previous administrations and Inframark was sending two technical specialists next week to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations for achieving full capacity.

Mayor Gonzalez supported the proposed booster pump solution for Harlon Block as a short-term fix while developing long-term solutions, emphasizing the tower's importance for serving the south side area where significant development is occurring.

Xavier Salinas discussed ongoing efforts to acquire military water supply rights, noting meetings with military water attorneys and their willingness to sell rights as they've done in other Valley cities. The team is exploring both purchase options and quicker local agreements to provide city water service to affected areas; described current emergency procedures of isolating towers individually to achieve full capacity while maintaining citywide service, a process they've been implementing for seven days with successful maintenance over the past two days.

Bruce Bryan, Regional VP Inframark, stated they offer broader capabilities, operating over 275 water and wastewater plants across 30 states. He offered additional technical support beyond their current contract scope, emphasizing their partnership approach to problem-solving; outlined plans for comprehensive data analysis, mapping review, and investigation of potential underground leaks or system changes that might explain recent issues.

Mayor Gonzalez welcomed the additional expertise and thanked the entire team for their rapid response and comprehensive planning approach to address the water system challenges.

The commission did not enter the executive session portion of the agenda at this time.

III. 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.

B. Legal Consultation – Consultation with City Attorney regarding Cause No. CL-25-6181-F, Fernando Cavazos, Jr. vs City of Weslaco as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

C. Legal Consultation — Consultation with the City Attorney regarding Municipal Court Fines and Fees as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Farias seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. moved to adjourn the workshop meeting of March 4, 2026 at 5:02 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**