



**RECORD OF WORKSHOP
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026**

On the 18th day of March 2026 at 4:01 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
	Commissioner	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Israel Gonzalez Jr.
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza

ABSENT:	Commissioner	JP Rodriguez
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STAFF PRESENT:	Xavier Salinas	City Manager
	Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
	Eden Ramirez	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, Krista Cheramie, Animal Care Services 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, March 12, 2026.

B. Roll Call.

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and presentation by Cheryl Martinez, Executive Director of People Assisting Animal Control, a non-profit organization regarding services and programs.

Krista Cheramie, Animal Care Services Director, stated Cheryl Martinez, Executive Director of People Assisting Animal Control (PAC) was in attendance to present the organization's services and programs.

Cheryl Martinez stated the organization assists with spay/neuter clinics and is serving 9 counties in South Texas; stated the PAC recently received a \$500,000 state grant for a two-year pilot program, with Hidalgo and Cameron counties included in the grant request and because of the proactive approach of the Krista Cheramie, Director chose Weslaco as a location to offer a clinic and went over proposals and services.

Proposal 1: Spay and Neuter Services stated veterinary clinics in the area have 3-4 months' wait times and charge \$300-600 per dog. PAC offers immediate access at significantly lower costs. She stressed that the fastest way to move animals out of shelters is to spay and neuter them before they leave, which eliminates the three-month wait period during which animals continue breeding.

Proposal 2: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program is a program for community cats. She cited Kingsville's success, noting they hadn't euthanized a cat in five years. The program would involve spaying/neutering outdoor cats, vaccinating them against rabies, and returning them to their territories with ear tips as identification; calculated that the city currently spends approximately \$56,000 annually euthanizing cats at \$52 per cat, while TNR would cost only \$25 per cat.

Proposal 3: Immediate City Ownership of Young Animals this allowed for puppies and kittens under 4 months' to be immediate property of the city rather than requiring the standard 3-day hold period. This option would allow for rapid rescue, adoption, and placement while the animals are most vulnerable and before their immune systems become compromised.

Mayor Gonzalez thanked Cheryl Martinez for the presentation, acknowledging that animal welfare is a regional problem affecting multiple cities and stated the commission's commitment to supporting animal welfare initiatives and commended staff's proactive approach.

Commissioner Lopez, a member of the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, expressed familiarity with the organization's work and anticipated developing a strong partnership. Cheryl Martinez indicated that while the state grant contract hasn't been finalized, the implementation could begin this summer, with Weslaco being the first clinic established under the Hidalgo-Cameron County grant.

Mayor Gonzalez suggested exploring partnerships with educational institutions like Texas A&M to potentially bring veterinary programs to South Texas, addressing the regional shortage of veterinarians.

B. Discussion and presentation on Sanitation Services by the Public Works Department.

Nick Castillo, Public Works Director, introduced staff present was General Service Coordinator Dora Perales, Sanitation Analyst Armando Torres, and Interim Superintendent Bobby Rodriguez.

Nick Castillo stated that Weslaco's solid waste program was reinstated in 2021, starting with 5 commercial trucks and 6 residential trucks. The department currently operates 6 commercial trucks and 7 residential trucks, with the additional trucks serving as spares. The department has grown from serving 10,560 residential accounts and 650 commercial accounts in 2021 to currently serving 13,000 residential accounts and 750 commercial accounts and proceeded to report on the the following:

Daily Operations was the daily pickup schedules, with Monday and Thursday being the heaviest days, collecting from 7,011 accounts. Individual trucks average between 1,400-1,500 accounts per day, significantly above the recommended 700-800 accounts per truck. Commercial trucks operate five days per week with some Saturday service, picking up varying numbers of accounts daily depending on the number of dumpsters per location.

Maintenance challenges included \$79,000 annually for tire replacement and retreading across all trucks, with an additional \$23,000 for tire repairs. Major repairs completed this year included replacing residential truck arms at costs ranging from \$6,000-\$15,000 per truck, cylinder replacements at \$17,000 per unit, and fuel pump replacements at \$11,000. All trucks currently have over 100,000 miles, with some exceeding 105,000 miles.

Rate Comparison – stated rates to neighboring cities showed Weslaco charges \$15.05 for one trash can with twice-weekly pickup and no go-back fees, compared to Donna's \$16 for once-weekly pickup with a \$35 go-back fee, and McAllen's \$15.50 for once-weekly pickup with no go-back fee.

Armando Torres described the technology implementation for sanitation had the newly installed AI camera routing system that provides 90% hands-free operation for drivers, automatically photographing and storing data on missed collections, and offering turn-by-turn navigation. The

technology can potentially integrate with the city's billing system and provide detailed analytics on mileage, fuel usage, and tonnage.

Brush Collection - The department operates four brush trucks with a rotating schedule covering different city quadrants weekly. The northwest quadrant is serviced in the first week, northeast the second week, southwest the third week, and southeast the fourth week. Special requests outside the scheduled quadrant are typically handled on Fridays.

Mayor Gonzalez stated staff needed to prepare for a comprehensive truck replacement plan, similar to the fire department's systematic approach. He noted that two new trucks are scheduled for consideration at the next commission meeting and stressed the importance of developing a multi-year rotation strategy.

Commissioner Pedraza inquired about staffing contingencies for sick leave and vacations. Nick Castillo explained the use of temporary agency CDL drivers and cross-training programs, including training roll-off drivers on residential and commercial trucks.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. suggested utilizing retired drivers as substitute workers who could provide backup services on a part-time basis, noting their familiarity with routes and availability within work hour restrictions.

The commission discussed improving public communication about brush collection schedules through social media, QR codes on trucks, newsletters, and water bill inserts to better educate residents about pickup timing.

Commissioner Pedraza raised concerns about landfill locations, comparing the terrain challenges at the current Edinburg facility versus La Feria that is although closer has higher tipping fees. Some discussion included consideration of establishing a transfer station to improve efficiency and reduce truck wear.

Staff confirmed ongoing development of a five-year plan for the sanitation department, including truck replacement schedules and operational improvements. They emphasized the importance of providing the incoming sanitation director with comprehensive planning tools and clear expectations.

Commissioner Farias commended the implementation of technology and requested future data on tonnage collection by route and pickup frequency. Staff indicated the new system will provide detailed analytics including miles driven, fuel consumption, and tonnage collected per route.

At 4:58 p.m. Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to convene the workshop into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

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 City Attorney regarding Cause No. C-0712-26-H; A. Gonzalez vs. City of Weslaco, as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

D. Legal Consultation – Consultation with City Attorney regarding Cause No. C-4353-21-H; E. Hernandez, et al vs City of Weslaco as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

E. Legal consultation — Consultation with City Attorney regarding property tax reimbursement as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

F. Legal consultation — Consultation with City Attorney regarding Military Highway Water Supply Corporation as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

At 5:04 p.m. Mayor Gonzalez stated the City Commission had completed its Executive Session and reconvened the workshop as open to the public.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. moved to adjourn the workshop meeting of March 18, 2026 at 5:04 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**