



**RECORD OF WORKSHOP
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026**

On the 16th day of June 2026 at 4:06 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	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Israel Gonzalez Jr.
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza
	Commissioner	JP Rodriguez
	Commissioner	Adrian Farias

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:	Xavier Salinas	City Manager
	Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
	Benjamin Castillo	City Attorney

Also present: Omar Rodriguez Asst. City Manager, Antonio Lopez, Asst. City Manager/Fire Chief, Aida Vega, Deputy City Secretary, Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, Peter Hermida, City Engineer, Robert Lopez, Police Chief, Nick Castillo, Public Works Director, Marco A. Ortiz, Sanitation Director, Eddie Serna, Parks & Recreation Director, Arnold Becho, Library Director, Krista Cheramie, Animal Care Services, Rick Mendoza, IT Director, Celine Pardo, Municipal Court, 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 Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

B. Roll Call.

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and update on grants. (Staffed by Grant Manager.)

Gabriel Perez, Grant Manager, presented an update on the city's active grants portfolio, pending applications, and recent federal outreach efforts as follows:

Federal Projects Currently Under Review:

Reported that the city currently has \$33,000,000 worth of projects under federal review with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had Plaza Street Drainage Improvement Project design and construction \$11,906,682.24, Agostadero Drainage Project scoping \$1,078,200 and design and construction \$13,105,055 and Paisano Drainage Project scoping only \$704,300; under US Department of Transportation (DOT) Vo-Tech Pike Roundabout \$5,425,874.80, Transportation Master Plan \$250,000 and Mid-Valley Industrial Park Planning Project \$600,000. These applications have been submitted and are in the hands of the respective agencies for review by their engineers and technical staff.

Upcoming Grant Applications (June–July)

Reported on several applications anticipated to be submitted by end of June and into July were:

LCRA Grant — \$100,000 (20% local share) for RTHS monitoring system would provide real-time monitoring of water-level, precipitation, barometric pressure and flow conditions in city channels for flood risk assessment.

FEMA SAFER Grant — Seeking approximately \$1,000,000 for the hiring of 6 firefighters. The federal share is 75% for the first two years, shifting to a 75% local share in the third year.

Knapp Community Care Foundation — \$150,000 to extend the city's Community Health Officer program. A letter of intent was approved, and the city has been invited to submit a full application by end of June.

Texas Water Development Board (HB 500 Funding) — Due July 30th, seeking funding for planning and design related to water infrastructure.

Mayor Gonzalez indicated that if no response from FEMA is not received in a timely manner, regarding Piasano Drainage Project, the Commission may need to act independently and determine how they as a commission can move forward in financing or paying for the scoping of this project. Grant Manager Gabriel confirmed that prior to the FEMA shutdown, the agency had provided a six-week estimated timeline for a response, which has been 129 days since any recent movement and staff continue to reach out to FEMA.

B. Presentation on Fire Station No. 4. (Staffed by ACM/Fire Chief Lopez.)

Omar Rodriguez, Asst. City Manager, stated the focus of the presentation was strictly on the fire station building — the highest-priority component of a larger phased development — while the full site master plan (a potential park, Animal Care Services relocation, and expanded training facilities) would be addressed in subsequent phases.

Juan Cantu, ERO Architects, presented the architectural update. The proposed site is located on the southwest corner of an approximately 8-acre parcel with direct access to Westgate Drive. Utilities and drainage are available on-site. The station would occupy approximately 1.5 acres,

leaving ample space for future development to the north. Two existing structures — an agricultural barn and a K-9 building — would need to be demolished to accommodate the project.

Program Requirements in coordination with ACM/Fire Chief Antonio Lopez and fire department staff, a full space program was developed totaling approximately 12,700 square feet, encompassing fire administration, living and support quarters, and apparatus storage. The layout features a centralized living core (day room, kitchen, dining), separate public-access administration on the north side, and a dual drive-through apparatus bay allowing for reserve equipment to be stored indoors.

Three Design Options were presented:

Option 1 — Full Program: ~12,700 sq. ft. | Estimated cost: \$5,080,000 — Includes complete fire administration, full station quarters, and a 2.5-bay apparatus area accommodating a primary engine, brush truck, ambulance, and their respective reserves.

Option 2 — Reduced Program: ~10,800 sq. ft. | Estimated cost: \$4,300,000 — Same layout but with a reduced apparatus bay, accommodating 2 fire trucks plus an EMS unit.

Option 3 — Phased Program: ~9,200 sq. ft. | Estimated cost: \$3,600,000 — Full station and apparatus bay are built now, with fire administration deferred to a future phase.

Antonio Lopez explained the department's operational needs. The station would be designed for a maximum of 7 firefighters, with a standard daily deployment of 5 — three on an engine company and two on an ambulance. The additional capacity allows for a second ambulance if call volume increases as the area develops, or a four-person fire crew when needed. Explained that the apparatus storage requirements are not a luxury: reserve equipment left outside fails to qualify for ISO credit, and high-value vehicles (including boats and high-water vehicles) deteriorate when exposed to the elements. He also noted that the current Station 3 on 18th Street is already too small to house all its reserve apparatus indoors — a problem the new station is designed to avoid from day one. Identified the operational gap this station will address is the area between downtown and the Home Depot experiencing response times of 10 to 12 minutes. The new station would bring response times into the target range of 4 to 5 minutes for that zone, covering 7 schools, Bobby Lackey Stadium, and the Westgate corridor out to Business 83 and the HEB warehouse.

On the question of staffing and equipment readiness, Antonio Lopez confirmed that the personnel and apparatus currently assigned to Station 2 downtown would transition to Station 4 upon completion, with the heavy rescue unit (placed in service in January) relocating to the expressway corridor. A new fire truck is already on order and expected to be showcased at the next Commission meeting. The department's 10-year apparatus replacement plan, funded in part through Fund 415 (the fire equipment replacement fund), which receives 25% of EMS collections, accounts for all future equipment needs on a rolling basis.

Omar Rodriguez recommended proceeding with Option 1, citing the full operational need identified by the fire department and the reality that construction costs escalate over time. The 2025 bond series allocated \$5,700,000 for this fire station and the remaining balance from the \$30,000,000 bond series — approximately \$25,000,000 — has been allocated to parks, drainage, and street projects.

Staff noted availability of funding for future apparatus, would be that the fire replacement program fund stating that the station will not open with empty bays.

Mayor noted the importance of the project in terms of public safety and quality of life, framing the fire station alongside drainage improvements as the Commission's two most pressing priorities.

Juan Cantu indicated that if the program is approved and design proceeds, the project could be bid out by the end of the year, with a construction timeline of approximately one to one and a half years. Omar Rodriguez, ACM, confirmed that the Commission's direction from this workshop would allow administration to bring a formal authorization item to the next regular Commission meeting.

At 5:23 p.m. Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Lopez 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 the City Attorney regarding Liquid Environmental as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

At 5:44 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 Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to adjourn the workshop meeting of June 16, 2026 at 5:44 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Norma A. Cantu, **CITY SECRETARY**