MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026

On Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 5:37 p.m. the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting at City Hall in the Legislative Chamber, located at 255 South Kansas Avenue with the following members' present:

PRESENT:	Mayor	Adrian Gonzalez
	Mayor Pro Tem	Pete Garcia Jr.
	Commissioner	Letty Lopez
	Commissioner	Adrian Farias
	Commissioner	Israel Gonzalez Jr.
	Commissioner	Josh Pedraza
	Commissioner	JP Rodriguez
ABSENT:	None	
STAFF PRESENT:	Xavier Salinas	City Manager
	Norma A. Cantu	City Secretary
	Leslie Alvarez	City Attorney
	Benjamin Castillo	City Attorney (arrived 6:53 p.m.)

Also present: Omar Rodriguez, Asst. City Manager, Aida Vega, Deputy City Secretary, Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, Rebekah De La Fuente, Planning & Code Enforcement Director, Ray Marroquin, Asst. Fire Chief, Peter Hermida, City Engineer, Eddie Serna, Parks and Recreation Director, Luz Galindo, HR Director, Robert Lopez, Police Chief, Nick Castillo, Public Works Director, David Arce, Utilities Director, Mary Garcia, Asst. Library Director, Celine Pardo, Court Clerk, Rick Mendoza, IT Director, Magali Vega, Media Director, Krista Cheramie, Animal Care Services Director, George Quilantan and Lucio Garza, 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 Wednesday, August 12, 2026.

B. Invocation.

Xavier Salinas, City Manager, led the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Gonzalez led the "Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag."

D. Roll Call.

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary called the roll and noted perfect attendance and a quorum present.

E. Mayoral recognition.

1) Recognition Storybook Garden 25-Year Milestone Celebration.

Mayor Gonzalez along with the City Commission recognized the Storybook Garden on its 25th anniversary, honoring the organization's 25 years of inspiring children and families through literacy, imagination, and community engagement.

2) Recognition Weslaco Crime Stoppers 2025 Officer of the Year.

Mayor Gonzalez along with the City Commission recognized Lieutenant Carolina Elizondo of the Weslaco Police Department as the Weslaco Crime Stoppers 2025 Officer of the Year and recognized her extraordinary patience, compassion, courage, and commitment to preserving life.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. To solicit input on behalf of Alfredo Garcia to rezone 1715 Abilene Dr. also being E 62’ Lot 8, Block 6, Expressway Heights Unit 3, Subdivision, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas from R-1 One Family Dwelling District to B-2 Secondary and Highway Business District.

No comments.

B. To solicit input on the adoption of the Land Use Assumption Plan and Capital Improvement Plan.

No comments.

IV. REPORTS

A. Animal Care Services.

Marco Perez, Animal Care Services Outreach Coordinator, presented a report on recent departmental updates. He reported that a grant had been secured to fund a new office for the shelter, and that a community volunteer had painted the shelter in a blue shade that is visible to dogs; provided an update on the PAC (People Assisting Animal Control) partnership, noting that a delegation including Commissioner Pedraza visited Jim Wells County to observe their facility and practices. Through this partnership, the city gained access to low-cost spay and neuter surgeries at a base rate of $25, including rabies vaccines, e-collars, flea treatment, pain medication, and other preventative care. The partnership also connected the shelter with a cat rescue organization, Edgar's and Ivy's Cat Sanctuary, which successfully rescued 18 cats from the shelter. The presentation also highlighted a donation of two truckloads of dog food, cat food, and cat litter received by the shelter. Provided a public health briefing on the New World Screwworm and noted the three key agencies for reporting suspected cases are the USDA, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Upcoming community events announced was a rabies vaccination clinic at the Walmart Supercenter on September 12th from 9 AM to 1 PM, and an RGV Ghostbusters "Proton Packs for Paws" event on September 12th from 4 PM to 9 PM at 255 South Kansas Avenue.

B. Inframark.

Lucio Garza, Inframark, presented the monthly water and wastewater treatment facility report for the previous month. The report indicated that all project improvements were on track, with several items already completed, including the installation of the South Wastewater Rotor 3 and rotor baffle replacements. A repaired pump for Lift Station 35 has also been received. Stated that both the North and South Wastewater Treatment Plants, as well as the Water Treatment Plant, met all regulatory requirements for the reporting period. The North Wastewater Plant operated at 53% capacity at 2.6 million gallons per day, the South Wastewater Plant operated at 65% capacity at 1.6 million gallons per day, and the Water Treatment Plant produced 7.3 million gallons per day. The Falcon Reservoir storage level increased by 4.95% over the previous month. The final CIP project was reported to be out for bids, with a bid opening pending.

Commissioner Rodriguez inquired about a recent citywide water pressure drop. Lucio Garza stated the event was caused by a power outage combined with a generator failure, which prevented pumps from maintaining water tower levels. He noted that operators acted promptly and were able to restore service without issuing a boiling water notice. He confirmed that in response, staff conducted a training walkthrough with operators on generator procedures, and that parts approved by the commission for that generator were on order.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine, and the Governing Body has been furnished with background and support material and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, the item(s) will be removed from the consent agenda by the Mayor, a Commission member or the City Manager and will be considered separately.

A. Approval of the Record for the Workshop Meeting on July 7, 2026, the Regular Minutes and Record of the meeting of July 21, 2026, the Special Minutes for Meeting of July 29, 2026, and the Regular Minutes of August 4, 2026. (Staffed by City Secretary Department.)

B. Approval to authorize staff to publish notice of the public hearing for the adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance for Second reading. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement Department.)

C. Approval to authorize staff to publish notice of the public hearing to adopt the § 395.047 order setting the impact fee hearing. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement Department.)

D. Approval of six-month extension for the Final Plat for Ramos Estates Subdivision being 5.00 acres out of Farm Tracts 1038, West and Adams Tract Subdivision, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas. Located approximately 1,700 feet North of the Intersection of FM 1015 & Pike Blvd. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement Department.) Attachment.

E. Approval to accept BJA FY25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) 15PBJA-25-GG-02826-JAGX for the amount of $13,358.00 with no match required. (Staffed by Police Department.)

F. Approval to ratify authorization to apply to the Texas Department of Transportation Mobilization Grant #2027-WeslacoPD-IDM-00051 for the amount of $35,122.93 with a $5,301.95 match for overtime. (Staffed by Police Department.)

G. Approval to apply to the BJA FY 2026 Enhancing Security Measures for Houses of Worship for an amount of $150,000 with no match required. (Staffed by Police Department.)

H. Approval to apply to the DOJ FY 2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide Program – Round 2 for $500,000 with no local match required. (Staffed by Police Department.)

I. Approval to solicit bids for the 18th Street Repaving Project. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

J. Approval to solicit Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services for the Paisano Drainage Project. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve consent agenda excluding items G and I for separate discussion. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

G. Approval to apply to the BJA FY 2026 Enhancing Security Measures for Houses of Worship for an amount of $150,000 with no match required. (Staffed by Police Department.)

Commissioner Rodriguez asked clarifying questions about which houses of worship would be covered and whether the funding applied to events as well as regular services.

Robert Lopez, Police Chief, explained that the grant's goal is to reduce bias-motivated crimes targeting religious institutions through visible law enforcement presence and coordinated security response. The three objectives are: deploying uniformed officers at houses of worship during services and events; training religious institution staff in threat recognition and emergency procedures; and establishing rapid communication protocols between houses of worship and local law enforcement during crisis incidents. The grant would fund $150,000 over 36 months with no required match, with funds used to pay officers at overtime rates to provide a uniformed presence at the largest congregations. Priority would be Sunday services at larger churches, while also acknowledging that major community events at churches, such as festivals at Saint Joan of Arc, St. Pias and San Martin de Porres, could also be covered.

Commissioner Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Lopez, moved to approve to apply to the BJA FY 2026 Enhancing Security Measures for Houses of Worship for an amount of $150,000 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

<u>I. Approval to solicit bids for the 18th Street Repaving Project. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)</u>

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. requested a description of the proposed paving project.

Peter Hermida, City Engineer, described the project as a mill and overlay of 18th Street from the Expressway to Bridge Avenue—approximately one mile—in response to aging pavement and surface deterioration. He clarified that the project would skip the section over Texas Boulevard, as that segment is under TxDOT jurisdiction with different pavement requirements.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. raised concerns about the stretch passing near Memorial School and Margo, and the impact on residents whose only access routes run along 18th Street. He noted that in-house paving projects had historically allowed for phased work and more flexible scheduling around school calendars. Staff clarified that the project's complexity, length, multiple driveways, and intersection coordination made it beyond the capacity of city staff alone, and that an outside contractor would be better positioned to manage traffic control and manhole/valve identification. Peter Hermida noted that the project specifications would include raising or installing concrete collars around any manholes found in the overlay zone.

Regarding timing, the commission discussed the possibility of targeting the winter school break as a construction window. Omar Rodriguez, Asst. City Manager, noted that putting the project out to bid would allow the city to establish those timing parameters in the bid specifications. Commissioner Farias asked about FEMA reimbursable eligible for projects under construction, and Xavier Salinas, City Manager confirmed that the city could still submit damage claims for an in-progress project if a disaster occurred.

Commissioner Pedraza, seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve to solicit bids for the 18th Street Repaving Project as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

Mayor Gonzalez at this time requested item J be reopened, originally approved under consent agenda for discussion. There was no objection from the commission and Leslie Alvarez, legal counsel, advised to entertain a motion to open for discussion.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to reopen Item J. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

J. Approval to solicit Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services for the Paisano Drainage Project. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Mayor Gonzalez addressed the commission and public on the significance of Item (j), the approval to solicit an RFQ for engineering services for the Paisano Drainage Project. He explained that the city had been awaiting FEMA funding for the project and, having received no word, committed to moving forward using the 2023 bond funding. He noted this was the first step toward addressing serious and long-standing flooding issues in the Paisano and surrounding area, and that the design phase was necessary before construction could proceed. Peter Hermida confirmed the project would involve rerouting over one mile of drainage lines, including new 48-inch lines and 4-by-8 box culverts, to redirect flow toward the city's existing reservoirs past Los Torritos and stated the road crossings in that area were included in the scope.

Commissioner Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to approve to solicit Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services for the Paisano Drainage Project as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

VI. APPOINTMENTS

A. Discussion and consideration on Resolution 2026-62 for appointments to the Weslaco Recycling Committee Task Force. (Staffed by City Secretary Department/Sanitation Department.)

Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary, stated an application had been received from Veronica Calvillo-Gonzalez for consideration to the Weslaco Recycling Committee Task Force and was nominated by Mayor Gonzalez. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Rodriguez seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to approve Resolution 2026-62 appointing Veronica Calvillo-Gonzalez to the Weslaco Recycling Committee Task Force as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration after the public hearing on behalf of Alfredo Garcia on Ordinance 2026-25 to rezone 1715 Abilene Dr. also being E 62’ Lot 8, Block 6, Expressway Heights Unit 3, Subdivision, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, and Texas from R-1 One Family Dwelling District to B-2 Secondary and Highway Business District. First reading of Ordinance 2026-25. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement Department.)

Rebekah de la Fuente, Director of Planning and Code Enforcement, stated twenty-three property owners were notified and no petitions for or against were received. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval citing the mixed-use around the Expressway Heights subdivision, which included apartments, a church, and several commercial buildings. Staff recommended denial based on the surrounding land use that is primarily residential.

Commissioner Pedraza raised concern about whether approval of the rezoning would constitute spot zoning, referencing a prior case several years ago that was denied on similar grounds. Leslie Alvarez, City Attorney, stated on the spot zoning question she would need to research the issue. The commission determined it was prudent to table the item pending a legal review.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Farias moved to table for legal review. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

B. Discussion and consideration after public hearing to adopt the Land Use Assumption Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement.)

Rebekah de la Fuente stated that the Land Use Assumption Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) had been posted on the city's website and social media for the required 60-day public review period and that no public comments had been received. She introduced consultant Angie Flores of Raftelis to present the plan.

Angie Flores explained that the impact fee process consists of three steps, with the commission having completed steps one and two in partnership with the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee. The current action represented step three—the public hearing process. The Land Use Assumption Plan identifies the water and wastewater service area boundaries and designates the land use within those areas. The Water CIP totals \$36.5 million, including the existing North Water Treatment Plant at \$28 million. The Wastewater CIP totals \$58.8 million, including the existing North Wastewater Treatment Plant and a future South Wastewater Treatment Plant. These projects would become eligible for impact fee funding upon adoption of the impact fee ordinance. She outlined the next steps: an impact fee public hearing scheduled for October 6, a first reading of the ordinance at that meeting, and a second reading of the ordinance on October 20. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to adopt the Land Use Assumption Plan and Capital Improvement Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

C. Discussion and consideration on renewal of the Consulting Agreement with Prisylla Jasso. (Staffed by City Manager.)

Omar Rodriguez presented the renewal of the one-year consulting agreement with Prisylla Jasso, noting her work in facilitating communication with state legislators, coordinating with the Mid Valley Alliance and the South Texas Mayors' Alliance, and assisting with the city's legislative priorities. He noted her instrumental role during the last legislative session in securing various projects and highlighted that the Texas House Committee on Natural Resources—with Representative Martinez as vice chair—would be holding a hearing at Weslaco City Hall the following Monday. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Pedraza moved to renew the Consulting Agreement with Prisylla Jasso for one year as presented. The motion carried 5-2; Commissioner Rodriguez and Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. against; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

D. Discussion and consideration on the request from Justin Flores, Gulf Coast Sky Spectra, for closure of Pike Blvd on August 28, 2026, for the "We Are Weslaco" Unity Drone Show. (Staffed by City Manager.)

Justin Flores, owner of Gulf Coast Sky Spectrum, presented a request for the temporary closure of a section of Pike Boulevard on August 28, 2026, following the Weslaco High School vs. Weslaco East football game, for a 250-drone unity light show. Mr. Flores explained that the closure would be needed to establish a controlled safety and operational area and would last approximately 45 minutes to one hour. He noted the show would last approximately 12 minutes, with drones launching from an obstacle course area on Weslaco High School's property, flying approximately 150 meters above Pike Boulevard for optimal viewing from both home and visitor stands.

Mr. Flores stated that he had received full approval from WISD leadership and was coordinating with them, and that all FAA authorizations, insurance, and operational safety documentation would be provided to appropriate staff prior to the event. He described a three-tier geofencing safety protocol: a drone veering off course would first return home, then land in place, and finally shut down entirely if it breached the outermost perimeter. Parking on neither the east nor west side of Pike Boulevard would be blocked, and spectators wishing to leave early would be able to do so. Three sponsors—including a local health company and a local auto dealership—would be featured in short scenes at the end of the show to help offset costs.

Robert Lopez noted that the event would require approximately six officers and noted the need to close the area during the flight window due to the risk of drones landing on moving vehicles or in parking areas. He confirmed that officer callback minimums of two hours would apply, representing an overtime cost. Antonio Lopez, Asst. City Manager/Fire Chief noted that EMS and fire units working the game would need to reposition their vehicles outside the operational zone prior to the drone launch, and Mr. Flores confirmed that the show could be stopped immediately in the event of an emergency.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve closure of Pike Blvd on August 28, 2026, for the "We Are Weslaco" Unity Drone Show as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

E. Discussion and consideration to accept the proposal from ERO Architects for the New Fire Station #4 project for supplemental service to include Generator Design, Civil Engineering Design, Information and Communication Technology Systems and Landscape & Irrigation Design Services in an amount not to exceed $146,850. (Staffed by Asst. City Manager Omar Rodriguez.)

Omar Rodriguez presented the proposal for supplemental services from ERO Architects for the New Fire Station #4 project, including generator design, civil engineering design, ICT systems, and landscaping and irrigation design. He noted that the proposed layout and design for the station had been finalized, and these supplemental services were necessary to advance the project to construction documents. Staff recommended approval of the proposal in the amount of $146,850.

Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the proposal from ERO Architects for the New Fire Station #4 project for supplemental services as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

F. Discussion and consideration to approve the Proposal for Professional Subdivision Platting, Civil Engineering, Architectural, MEP Engineering, Structural Engineering, Landscape Architecture & Irrigation, Planning and Environmental, and Kitchen Design Services for the Fixed Based Operator (FBO), Hangar, and Taxiway/Apron Project at the Weslaco Mid-Valley Airport (Staffed by Asst. City Manager Omar Rodriguez.)

Omar Rodriguez stated the proposal was for professional design services for the Fixed Based Operator (FBO), hangar, and taxiway apron project at Weslaco Mid-Valley Airport. He described the project as encompassing a 4-acre undeveloped area that would include a pre-engineered airplane hangar of approximately 8,900 square feet, a lobby and office building of approximately 9,600 square feet on the ground floor, a second-floor office area of approximately 3,400 square feet, and an observation deck. The project is funded by the $8 million legislative appropriation secured during the last session. The proposed design fee is $1,311,000, which is subject to review by an independent third party as required by applicable regulations. Staff clarified that this project is separate from the existing hangar project currently underway. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Farias moved to approve the Proposal for Professional Subdivision Platting, Civil Engineering, Architectural, MEP Engineering, Structural Engineering, Landscape Architecture & Irrigation, Planning and Environmental, and Kitchen Design Services for the Fixed Based Operator (FBO), Hangar, and Taxiway/Apron Project at the Weslaco Mid-Valley Airport as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

G. Discussion and consideration approve the Proposal submitted by Halff & Associates for Professional Civil Engineering, Surveying, Environmental, Electrical Engineering, and Geotechnical Services for the Runway and Taxiway Extension Project at Weslaco Mid-Valley Airport. (Staffed by Asst. City Manager Omar Rodriguez.)

Omar Rodriguez requested no action be taken and back at the first commission meeting in September.

No action taken.

H. Discussion and consideration of renewal agreements with Muniservices, LLC for the local hotel occupancy tax program and sales tax audit and administration services. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos, Finance Director, stated Amendment No. 6 was the services provided by Muniservices for monitoring and auditing hotel/motel occupancy tax, as well as providing sales tax use and analysis reporting. Staff recommended approval for a one-year extension.

Commissioner Farias seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to approve a one-year renewal with Muniservices, LLC for the local hotel occupancy tax program and sales tax audit and administration services as presented The motion carried unanimously.

I. Discussion and consideration to accept the calculation of the No-New-Revenue and Voter-Approval tax rates for the 2026 tax year by the Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector Pablo Villarreal. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos presented the calculations prepared by the Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector's office. The No-New-Revenue tax rate was calculated at $0.6678 per $100 of taxable value, and the Voter-Approval rate at $0.7127 per $100. Stated the city's current tax rate is $0.6867 per $100 of taxable value. The No-New-Revenue rate is approximately 1.89 cents lower than the current rate. Staff recommended approval and noted a representative from the Hidalgo County Tax Office, Mr. Espinoza, was present to answer questions.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to accept the calculation of the No-New-Revenue and Voter-Approval tax rates for the 2026 tax year as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

J. Discussion and consideration to approve Resolution 2026-63 proposing an ad valorem tax rate and setting a date to adopt the 2026–2027 ad valorem tax rate. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED. (Staffed by Finance Department.)

Rosie Cavazos stated Resolution 2026-63 proposed a maximum ad valorem tax rate of $0.6678 per $100 of taxable value for Fiscal Year 2027—equal to the calculated No-New-Revenue rate and approximately 1.89 cents lower than the current rate. Because the proposed rate does not exceed the No-New-Revenue rate, no public hearing is required. The first reading of the ordinance to adopt the tax rate will be September 1 and second reading will be September 15, 2026. Staff recommended approval and roll-call vote required.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve Resolution 2026-63 proposing an ad valorem tax rate and setting a date to adopt as presented.

By roll call vote an ad valorem tax rate of $0.6678 for fiscal year 2027 as presented carried unanimously.

K. Discussion and consideration to approve Change Order No 4 to EB Merit Construction, for the addition of shade structures with bleachers at Isaac Rodriguez Park and Mayor Pablo Pena Park not to exceed $155,604.80. (Staffed by Parks & Recreation Department.)

Eddie Serna, Parks and Recreation Director, presented Change Order No. 4 to the existing contract with EB Merit Construction for the addition of shade structures and bleachers at Mayor Pablo Pena Park and Isaac Rodriguez Park, as part of the ongoing park improvements. He explained that these were Alternates 3 and 4 that were not included in EB Merit's original bid. A comparison was made to another contractor's earlier bid, which came in approximately $80,000 higher for the same scope. Funding for this change order is from the 2023 bond series. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve Change Order No 4 to EB Merit Construction not to exceed $155,604.80 as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

L. Discussion and consideration for the removal of an existing play scape at Mayor Pablo Pena Park and reinstalling the play scape with a turnkey at Villa Verde Park not to exceed $141,806.40. (Staffed by Parks and Recreation Department.)

Eddie Serna stated a proposal requested to disassemble and relocate the existing playscape at Mayor Pablo Pena Park to Villa Verde Park, utilizing the Allied States purchasing cooperative contract was received. He explained that the playscape sits within the footprint of the upcoming expansion of the Boys and Girls Club building and, being relatively new, could be salvaged rather than destroyed. The project with ExerPlay would include site preparation at Villa Verde Park, including grading, compaction, approximately 6,800 square feet of 4-inch concrete slab flatwork with PVC drainage, and the installation of a pour-and-play rubberized safety surface—replacing what would otherwise be mulch or dirt and the swings would also be relocated as part of the assembly. Staff recommended approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve ExerPlay for the removal of an existing play scape at Mayor Pablo Pena Park and reinstalling the play scape with a turnkey at Villa Verde Park not to exceed $141,806.40 as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

M. Discussion and consideration on the purchase of an E.H. Wachs Standard LX Valve Maintenance Trailer for the Water Utilities Division in the amount of $99,266.25 through BuyBoard Contract #788-25. (Staffed by Utilities Department.)

Commissioner Rodriguez and Commissioner Farias abstained from discussion and voting.

David Arce, Utilities Director, presented the proposal to purchase an E.H. Wachs Standard LX Valve Maintenance Trailer. He explained that while the city has identified many of its water valves, many go unexercised and eventually seize. The trailer is designed to clean out debris around valves, open and close them mechanically to keep them operable, and record GPS coordinates and date-stamp each exercise event—providing valuable data for the engineering department and GIS system. Staff recommended approval and was budgeted.

Commissioner Pedraza asked about how long it would take to exercise all known valves. David Arce estimated it would take significant time, with a goal of dedicating staff to the trailer approximately three times per week and working toward a full annual exercise cycle. He confirmed the vendor provides lifetime training, including retraining for new staff, and cited the pipeline inspection truck as a comparable example of week-long vendor training.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to approve the purchase of an E.H. Wachs Standard LX Valve Maintenance Trailer in the amount of $99,266.25 as presented. The motion carried, Commissioner Rodriguez and Commissioner Farias abstaining; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

N. Discussion and consideration on the upcoming streets to be paved: 1st Street from Bridge Ave. to Wardlow St.; Iowa Avenue from Los Torritos St. to Mesquite Ave.; Illinois Avenue from Los Torritos St. to Plaza St.; and Sinclair Street from 2nd St. to Witmer Ave. (Staffed by Public Works Department.)

Nick Castillo, Public Works Director, presented the streets recommended by the Streets Committee for the next paving project. He confirmed that the four segments—1st Street from Bridge Avenue to Wardlow Street, Sinclair Street from 2nd Street to Whitmer Avenue, Iowa Avenue from Los Torritos Street to Mesquite Avenue, and Illinois Avenue from Los Torritos Street to Plaza Street—were selected based on pavement condition assessments and are within the current streets budget. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the upcoming streets to be paved as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

O. Discussion and consideration of Change Order No. 1 for Elite Grading and Paving, LLC for the Sugarcane Drive Re-Paving Project increasing the contract amount by $20,000 and extending the contract time by thirty (30) calendar days. (Staffed by Engineering Department.)

Peter Hermida, City Engineer, presented Change Order No. 1 for the Sugarcane Drive Repaving Project. He explained that the Change Order resulted because of additional work required by the city not in the original bid to implement a traffic control plan in a phased approach rather than full closure as originally planned and contractor requested a time extension of 30-days to the contract. The additional $20,000 covers the contractor's costs associated with the more complex, two-phase traffic control plan. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Pedraza asked whether nighttime work was a viable option to reduce inconvenience to residents. Staff discussed the tradeoffs, noting that noise in residential areas can generate substantial complaints, and that geotechnical testing lab availability and overtime costs add constraints. The consensus was that while nighttime work is possible and has been done, it comes with its own set of complaints, and that scheduling weekends or school breaks when feasible is the preferred approach.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for Elite Grading and Paving, LLC for the Sugarcane Drive Re-Paving Project increasing the contract amount by $20,000 and extending the contract time by thirty (30) calendar days as presented. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

P. Discussion and consideration on the purchase of two ATVs with related emergency equipment from federal asset forfeiture funds for an amount not to exceed $27,000. (Staffed by the Police Department.)

Robert Lopez presented the request to purchase two quad ATVs with emergency equipment and decals from federal asset forfeiture funds for use at parades and community events, including the upcoming National Night Out, Thanksgiving, and Christmas parades. He noted the department currently has only one enclosed vehicle for such purposes, and that officers often borrow golf carts from vendors. This purchase would bring the total to three dedicated units. Staff recommended approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the purchase of two ATVs with related emergency equipment from federal asset forfeiture funds for an amount not to exceed $27,000 . The motion carried unanimously.

Q. Discussion and consideration to accept renewal for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

Mayor Gonzalez recused himself from Items (q), (r), and (s). Mayor Pro Tem Garcia Jr. presided.

Luz Galindo, Human Resources Director, presented the EAP renewal, noting that the current contract with All One runs from March 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026. A competing proposal was received from Blue Cross Blue Shield at $1.75 per employee per month. The current vendor, All One, offered renewal at the same rate of $1.25 per employee per month with no increase. Staff recommended to award All One.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve the renewal of the Employee Assistance Program with All One as presented. The motion carried; Mayor Gonzalez was not present.

R. Discussion and consideration to rescind the Employer Paid Group Term Life and AD&D contract award under RFP #2025-26-40 and accept the renewal as submitted by the incumbent vendor. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

Luz Galindo presented this item, explaining that following underwriting review, The Hartford revised the terms and conditions of the contract awarded under RFP #2025-26-40 in a manner that resulted in unfavorable rates for the city. Staff recommended rescinding the award to The Hartford and renewing it with the incumbent vendor, Mutual of Omaha, which offered no rate increase and a three-year rate guarantee. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Rodriguez raised a concern that legal counsel had not reviewed the contracts prior to the commission acting. Leslie Alvaraz stated legal had not reviewed the items. She advised that if the contract had not yet been executed, the commission could rescind the award and move to renew with the incumbent vendor within their procurement requirements. Following this discussion, the commission voted to initially approve the item, then reconsidered and tabled it pending legal review.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to rescind the award to The Hartford and award Mutual of Omaha for the Employer Paid Group Term Life and AD&D. The motion carried; Mayor Gonzalez was not present.

<u>S. Discussion and consideration to rescind the Accident policy contract award under RFP #2025-26-39 and accept the renewal as submitted by the incumbent vendor. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)</u>

Luz Galindo stated this was a like the previous item that the underwriting review resulted in terms less favorable than originally proposed from The Hartford. Staff recommended rescinding the award to The Hartford and renewing with the incumbent vendor, Colonial, which offered no rate increase and a three-year rate guarantee. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Pedraza moved to rescind the Accident Policy awarded to The Hartford and award Colonial. Commissioner Lopez questioned the procedure of the motion to rescind an award, and Commissioner Rodriguez again raised the concern that legal review had not been conducted.

Benjamin Castillo, City Attorney, stated legal review had not been done. In response to Commissioner Lopez, he explained when an entity awards a contract that has not been executed, to follow the procurement requirement the commission would need to rescind and award renewal to the current vendor. Benjamin Castillo clarified these were assumptions since he has not seen the contract and restated can be done provided the agreement had not been executed.

Commissioner Pedraza withdrew his original motion.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez moved to table pending legal review. The motion carried; Mayor Gonzalez was not present.

At this time Benjamin Castillo stated under parliamentary procedure, if the commission wished to revisit item R that has been considered, he stated any member of the commission can make a motion to reconsider and only a member that supported the item can make the motion. Since the vote was unanimous any member may entertain the motion to reconsider the item.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to reconsider Item R, New Business. The motion carried; Mayor Gonzalez was not present.

R. Discussion and consideration to rescind the Employer Paid Group Term Life and AD&D contract award under RFP #2025-26-40 and accept the renewal as submitted by the incumbent vendor. (Staffed by Human Resources Department.)

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to table for legal review. The motion carried; Mayor Gonzalez was not present.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:35 p.m. Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to convene the regular meeting into executive session. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

At 8:01 p.m. Mayor Gonzalez stated the City Commission had completed its Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting as open to the public.

Mayor Gonzalez asked legal if the commission could return to the tabled Item A New Business. There was no objection from legal.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration after the public hearing on behalf of Alfredo Garcia on Ordinance 2026-25 to rezone 1715 Abilene Dr. also being E 62' Lot 8, Block 6, Expressway Heights Unit 3, Subdivision, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, and Texas from R-1 One Family Dwelling District to B-2 Secondary and Highway Business District. First reading of Ordinance 2026-25. (Staffed by Planning & Code Enforcement Department.)

Commissioner Lopez seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Garcia moved to remove this item from the table. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

Xavier Salinas stated that staff recommendation was denial.

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Lopez moved to deny Ordinance 2026-25 to rezone 1715 Abilene Dr. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

IX. POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHAT IS DISCUSSED IN 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.

No action.

B. Legal Consultation – Consultation with City Attorney regarding Cause No. C-3430-26-D Enedelia De Leon, Heather L. De Leon Pena, and Ruben De Leon vs. City of Weslaco, Texas as authorized by Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

No action.

C. Real Property — Consultation with the City Attorney regarding the sale, purchase, exchange, lease or value of property located on 18th Street and Westgate Drive, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas as authorized by Section §551.072 of the Texas Local Government Code.

No action.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pedraza seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez Jr. moved to adjourn the regular meeting of August 18, 2026 at 8:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Gonzalez was present and voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

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Adrian Gonzalez, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

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Norma A. Cantu, City Secretary