

**MINUTES  
PHARR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M.  
118 SOUTH CAGE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas, met in a Workshop Session on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 and following is the record of attendance.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez  
Comm. Eleazar Guajardo  
Mayor Pro-Tem Oscar Elizondo (arrived at 5:30 p.m.)  
Comm. Ricardo Medina  
Comm. Mario Bracamontes

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Comm. Roberto Carrillo  
Comm. Edmund Maldonado, Jr.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Juan G. Guerra, City Manager  
Edward Wylie, Assistant City Manager  
Hilda Pedraza, City Clerk  
Imelda Barrera, Asst. City Clerk  
William Ueckert, City Engineer  
Gary Rodriguez, Events Center Dir.  
Raul Garza, CDBG Director  
Karla Moya, Finance Director  
Rodolfo Martinez, Municipal Judge  
Ruben Villescascas, Police Chief  
Lenny Perez, Fire Chief  
Luis Marin, Public Works  
David Garza, Public Utilities Director  
Roland Gomez, Development Services  
Roel Garza, Parks & Rec. Dir.  
Jason Arms, IT Director  
Luis Bazan, Bridge Director  
Jason Arms, IT Director  
Anali Cantu, Human Resources Director  
Sergio Contreras, PEDC Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hernandez called the meeting to order.

**ITEM 1 WELCOMING REMARKS BY CITY MANAGER AND/OR MAYOR**

Juan G. Guerra, City Manager, welcomed everyone in attendance and briefly stated this was the continuation of the budget workshop from Saturday, July 30, 2016.

**ITEM 2 DISCUSSION OF PENDING AND/OR PROPOSED CITY PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTAL DIVISIONS, DUTIES, ROLES, STRUCTURE, EVALUATION; DISCUSSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET FOR ALL CITY GENERALLY AND INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES: TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE (TIRZ); TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE II (TIRZ II); PHARR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION II (PEDC); PHARR POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE (PAL); PHARR HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (PHFC); PHARR HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION JACKSON PLACE APTS.; AND PHARR PUBLIC FACILITIES CORPORATION; DISCUSSION ON CAPITAL PURCHASES, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, PERSONNEL, AND DEBT**

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Luis Marin went over the organizational chart of Public Works Department and gave an overview of all divisions to include street maintenance and operations, drainage, traffic operations, animal control, environmental services, and debris management plan (catastrophic events). He reported maintenance response was 214 miles of roadways, 97.2 miles of storm sewer pipe, and 12 miles of drain canals out of 33.6 miles city wide. He further reported the new Right-of-Ways Operations program and stated the program is scheduled to complete the city in 2 months and they were currently working on maximizing new equipment to complete the entire city in one month. He went over the annual revenue comparison, annual recycle revenue comparison, Operation Clean Sweep Program and storm water management.

Mr. Marin further gave an overview of the recycling services program. He noted the Recycling Center will continue their public education and outreach efforts to increase public involvement.

A brief discussion was held about composting for trees. Staff reported they would look into this for next budget year and possible doing in-house.

Comm. Elizondo arrived at this time being 5:30 p.m.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS (CIP) PROJECTS

Ed Wylie, Assistant City Manager, recapped the capital improvement projects stating some of the projects completed were the traffic signal on West Sioux Road and North Sugar Road; STC land donation of 54.26 acres; detention pond on West Egly and North Sugar Road; Navarro Street and Drainage Improvements; Dr. Long Northside Park; Jones Box Park Pedestrian Bridge; and sidewalk improvements on West Ridge Road and South Jackson Road amongst others.

Mr. Wylie further provided status on the traffic signal at West Eldora Road and Sugar Road project, downtown lighting, South Pharr Development and Research Center, Hi-Line street improvements, downtown beautification, bicycle accessible improvements, Phase 1 street repaving, and West Owassa Road – Jackson to US 281. He briefly reported the total for the 5-10 Year capital improvements projects was \$50,620,000.

Roel Garza, Parks & Recreation Director, reported on the Pharr Nature Park and Amphitheater, he stated the park would be located behind Liberty Middle School and the total cost was \$750,000 with \$250,000 in grant monies from Texas Parks and Wildlife. Mr. Garza further reported on the Jones Box Park improvements project, Dr. William Long/City School Park expansion project Phase II, and Allen and William Arnold City/School Park project.

Lenny Perez, Fire Chief, went over the Fire Sub-Station #3 and Police Substation remodeling project and stated remodeling would start after the November 2016 elections but would be ready before May 2017. He further reported on the new fire station #4 at the Pharr Industrial area, and the self-contained breathing apparatus (S.C.B.A.) replacement.

Bill Ueckert, City Engineer, gave an overview of the Year 2 street repaving project, traffic light at Veterans and El Dora Road, traffic light at Veterans and West Kelly Ave., Eldora street widening project, city wide school traffic improvements, and West Moore Road widening project.

Ruben Villescas, Police Chief, briefly gave an overview of the proposed police evidence and property storage building. He stated the department in the course of normal operations had a need for additional storage space for evidence, property and records it processes and this proposed project will meet. The storage building would include an evidence garage to allow the

department to hold motor vehicles impounded as evidence in crimes and collection of evidence from them. The storage building would also meet some of the records storage needs of the Pharr Municipal Court. He further stated the estimated cost of the project is \$480,000.00 which will be evenly funded thru city funds and seized asset funds (\$240,000 city funds and \$240,000.00 seized assets).

Roland Gomez, Development Services, briefly reported on the downtown living initiative city beautification. He stated the Downtown park project would support economic development while promoting our downtown area. Total cost was \$300,000.00

David Garza, Public Utilities Director, went over the utility fund capital improvements projects. He stated there were no new capital improvements projects, all projects were in progress. He reported the north water transmission line and water tower serves the north side of Pharr with adequate water in case of emergencies and at peak times. Lift Station 25 and Force Main projects cost estimate was \$2 million and the project was bid out and contractor was mobilizing. He further stated the wastewater treatment plant clarifier current need was the rehabilitation of two clarifiers. First one was completed and second was being bid out.

#### FINANCE-CITY WIDE OVERVIEW

Karla Moya, Finance Director, went over the fiscal facts for current fiscal year 2015-2016 and stated all departmental expenditures were within budget. She recapped the proposed budget FY 2016-2017 summary of general fund, public utilities, bridge, golf, long-term debt, capital outlay, component units, Pharr Economic Development Corporation, Pharr Police Athletic League Program, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, and Pharr Housing Finance Corporation Jackson Place Apartments.

Ms. Moya further gave a snapshot of the general fund revenues, property taxes, and sales tax. She reported there was an increase of \$2,982,664 in personnel costs with 63% of personnel expenses were for public safety. Ms. Moya also explained the City of Pharr 380 Agreements and Incentives and went over the businesses that have received incentives.

In summary, the proposed budget FY2016-21017 was balanced.

**ITEM 3 CLOSED SESSION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOV'T. CODE, THE PHARR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY GIVES NOTICE THAT IT MAY MEET IN A CLOSED (NON-PUBLIC) EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA, INCLUDING ITEMS 2**

None

**ITEM 4 RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION, AND CONSIDER ACTION, IF NECESSARY ON ANY ITEM(S) DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

None

**ITEM 5 ADJOURNMENT**

Comm. Guajardo moved to adjourn. Comm. Bracamontes seconded the motion and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Workshop adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

CITY OF PHARR

  
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AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ  
MAYOR

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO  
CITY OF PHARR

ON THIS THE 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2016 the Board of Commissioners of the City of Pharr, Texas convened in a **WORKSHOP SESSION** at the Commissioner's Room located at 118 S. Cage, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Pharr, Texas. The workshop being open to the public and notice of said workshop, giving the date, place, subject, hereof, having been posted in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code (Open Meetings Act) and there being present a quorum, I, **HILDA PEDRAZA, CITY CLERK**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

ATTEST:

  
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HILDA PEDRAZA, CITY CLERK

APPROVED: September 6, 2016