

SEPTEMBER 18, 2003

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2003 IN THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. ALCORN COMMISSION CHAMBERS CITY HALL / 200 EAST KLEBERG AVENUE 5:30 P.M.

CITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Mayor
Horacio "Hoss" Castillo, Commissioner
Al Garcia, Commissioner
Arturo Pecos, Commissioner

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

John Garcia, Interim City Manager
Irene Ramirez, City Secretary
Luke Womack, Auditor
Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney
Caron Vela, Interim Finance Director
Diana Gonzales, Human Resource Director
Corando Garza, Asst City Manager

I. Preliminary Proceedings.

OPEN MEETING

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – (Mayor Esquivel)

No Information

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) – Required by Law

II. Public Hearing - (Required by Law).¹

1. None.

III. Public Comment on Agenda Items.³

1. Comments on all agenda and non-agenda items.

None

IV. Petitions, Grievances, and Presentations.²

1. Interim City Manager's Report. (Interim City Manager).

None

2. City Attorney's Report. (City Attorney).

Ms Alvarez stated that she got the two resolutions to Mr. Buckner, from the COG. Upon a request from Mayor Esquivel, Ms Alvarez stated that the Community Master Plan and the Pharmacy School Resolutions were forwarded to Mr. Buckner. She stated that Mr. Buckner had stated he did not think there would be any problem putting these items on their agenda.

Mayor Esquivel suggested these resolutions also be put on the City agenda for approval.

3. Mayor and City Commissioner's Reports. (City Commission).

Mayor Esquivel stated that at the U S Mayor's Conference, Mr. Greg Hill, from Redondo Beach California was featured for best practices in Homeland Security.

V. **Items for consideration by Commissioners.**⁴

1. **Consider removing from table introduction of an ordinance adopting the annual budget of the City of Kingsville, Texas, and appropriating funds for the fiscal year beginning October 01, 2003 and ending September 30, 2004. (Interim Finance Director).**

Commissioner Pecos made a motion to remove the item, seconded by Commissioner Garcia. The motion carried, 4/0.

2. **Consider introduction of an ordinance adopting the annual budget of the City of Kingsville, Texas, and appropriating funds for the fiscal year beginning October 01, 2003 and ending September 30, 2004. (Interim Finance Director).**

Ms. Caron Vela, Interim Finance Director addressed the commission, stating that the only changes were a couple of reclasses on the Utility System side. She stated that the 68 ½ cent the general fund is balanced, \$414.00 in the black, and the Utility fund \$234,070.00.

Mayor Esquivel raised a question regarding the two reclassifications. Ms. Vela stated the two that were up for consideration.

Mr. John Garcia, Interim City Manager stated not everyone is included. He stated only the AP clerk and the meter readers were classified from Range 6 to 7.

Upon a question raised by Mayor Esquivel and Commissioner Garcia regarding who received a reclassification, Mr. Garcia stated it was Ms Sally Saenz's position and the meter readers.

Ms Vela stated several other employees were from the Street and Planning department. She stated there was a long list.

Upon a question raised by Commissioner Castillo, Ms Gonzales stated it affects approximately eleven employees.

Discussion followed on the list of employees and ranges this item is affecting.

Mayor Esquivel stated he had two employees (Sally & Joel) come to him, whom he thought they were justified in receiving an increase. Mr. Garcia stated that when instructions were given to cut down from .70 to .68, this caused the change.

Upon a question raised by Commissioner Castillo regarding why accounts payable clerk needed to be even with payroll clerk, Ms Vela stated the responsibilities are similar.

Mayor Esquivel stated that certain position had fallen through the cracks when certain positions were given increases. He stated that if not done for all, then don't do it for one. He added he wanted to know what it would take to get everyone up to par. Mayor Esquivel stated he wanted staff to their homework.

Ms. Gonzales explained to the commission the salary ranges of certain positions.

Mayor Esquivel suggested staff go back to see who got left behind. Mr. Garcia stated he would have that done.

A lengthy discussion followed on employees that fell through the crack.

Commissioner Castillo stated he was leading towards to the .685, and added that in the expenditure options the third line to reduce insurance contribution. He questioned if employees benefits were being reduced. Ms. Vela stated no because we are self-insured.

Commissioner Garcia asked what percentage was being funded. Ms Vela stated \$1,150,000.00 by the City and \$130,000.00 by the employees' contribution. She added the City had \$500,000.00 in surplus. Ms Vela stated this year is about the same as last year.

Mayor Esquivel asked what the maximum exposure out of pocket was; Ms Vela stated that according to Mr. David Jenkins from Entrust he had mentioned to her a full funded plan would be \$1 ½ million dollars.

Discussion followed regarding maximum exposure, and overall goal to fund the insurance.

No action was taken, first reading.

3. Consider removing from table introduction of an ordinance establishing and adopting the ad valorem tax rate for all taxable property within the City of Kingsville, Texas for the fiscal year beginning October 01, 2003 and ending September 30, 2004, distributing the tax levy among the various funds, and providing for a lien on real and personal property to secure the payment of taxes assessed. (Interim Finance Director).

Commissioner Garcia made motion to remove the item from the table, seconded by Commissioner Pecos. The motion carried, 4/0.

4. Consider introduction of an ordinance establishing and adopting the ad valorem tax rate for all taxable property within the City of Kingsville, Texas for the fiscal year beginning October 01, 2003 and ending September 30, 2004, distributing the tax levy among the various funds, and providing for a lien on real and personal property to secure the payment of taxes assessed. (Interim Finance Director).

Mayor Esquivel stated that .685, that's a great job!

Ms Vela addressed the commission, stating that on one it is .685, and the general fund expenditures is .14980 for 100 access value; for the debt service expenditures is .255310.

Mayor Esquivel stated that for the record the current tax rate .695. He stated that the tax rate would be reduced to .685 because of the additional property that came on the tax roll. He stated the commission's main goal is to increase the ad valorem tax base by recruiting new businesses and home subdivisions. He stated that the sales tax is very important to the City of Kingsville.

Mayor Esquivel commended staff, stated proposed budget started at \$4 million, and now it is a balance of budget of .685, and that water and sewer rates was raised. He stated that the average sewer base rates are about \$13.00, and that the City was charging \$4.00. He also stated that the commercial garbage rate was raised, he added that the commercial trash takes up a lot of space. He stated that the City did not budget eight-liner redemption amusement devices revenue and certainly that will be used for capital improvements. He stated commission goals were to (1) hire a City Manager; (2) to clean up the City; (3) street repairs; and (4) creating a master plan. He added that he was very happy about the Kingsville Convention and Visitor's Bureau public relations campaign for the City of Kingsville. He added that the City of Kingsville had to allocate approximately \$38,000.00 on the recall efforts.

The Commissioners requested an updated copy of the report.

VI. Adjournment.

Commissioner Garcia made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Pecos. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Irene Ramirez, City Secretary

PRESENTED and ADOPTED by the Kingsville City Commission on this 10th day of May, 2004.

Charles E Wilson, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Edna S Lopez, Interim City Secretary