

**AUGUST 31, 2000**

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE, TEXAS WAS HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2000 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. ALCORN COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 200 EAST KLEBERG AVENUE.

**CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Stanley Laskowski, City Commissioner  
 Rene "Mr. V" Villarreal, City Commissioner  
 Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Jr., Mayor  
 Arturo Pecos, City Commissioner  
 Al Garcia, City Commissioner

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

Hector M. Hinojosa, City Manager  
 Diana F. Valadez, City Secretary  
 Ruben Perez, City Attorney  
 Maria Robles, Accountant  
 Victor Salas, Finance Director  
 Dianne Leubert, Sanitation Superintendent  
 Danny Almeida, Plant Supervisor  
 Frank Vergara, Plant Manager  
 Stanley Fees, Director of Planning  
 Ricardo Guzman, Street Superintendent

**I. PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.**

**OPEN MEETING:**

Commissioner Rene "Mr. V" Villarreal opened the meeting at 3:03 p.m. Immediately thereafter, Commissioner Stanley Laskowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) - REQUIRED BY LAW.**

There were no minutes available for approval.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING - (REQUIRED BY LAW).**

1. None.

**III. PETITIONS, GRIEVANCES, AND PRESENTATIONS.**

1. UPDATE FROM STAFF ON FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AT THE REQUEST OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

- A. None.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.**

There were no comments made at this time.

## V. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COMMISSIONERS.

### 1. MOTION APPROVING MEETING DATES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR PURPOSES OF SETTING PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND RECEIVING PUBLIC COMMENT. (DIRECTOR OF FINANCE).

Mr. Victor Salas, Finance Director, stated that the public hearing to consider the tax rate for fiscal year 2000-2001 needs to be set for September 11, 2000. He recommended the tax rate of \$.70145, which is a two-cent increase from the current rate. Mr. Salas stated that the action taken by the Commission today would authorize him to publish the proposed tax rate that the Commission is considering. He again recommended the rate of \$.70145.

**Mayor Filemon "Phil" Esquivel made a motion and was seconded by Commissioner Arturo Pecos to authorize the publication of the proposed tax rate at \$.68145 and setting the public hearing for September 11, 2000. The motion failed by a 2/3 vote. Commissioner's Stanley Laskowski, Rene "Mr. V" Villarreal and Al Garcia cast the dissenting votes.**

Mayor Esquivel stated that the Commission has identified additional cuts in the budget and was concerned with approving the higher tax rate.

**Another motion was made by Commissioner Laskowski and seconded by Commissioner Villarreal to authorize the publication of the proposed tax rate at \$.70145 and setting the public hearing for September 11, 2000.**

Commissioner Garcia stated that because of recent mechanical problems at the South Wastewater Treatment Plant, he is supporting the higher rate. He stated that repairs to the plant are going to require expenditures that were not anticipated.

Mayor Esquivel stated that \$25,000 from the Fire Department overtime budget had been reallocated to the Street Department. He recommended that the overtime from the Police Department also be reduced by at least the same amount.

Commissioner Laskowski stated that the new Chief of Police needs to look at the entire budget when he begins his employment with the Police Department. He stated that it would be up to the Chief to make his own recommendation regarding cut backs in his department.

There was a discussion regarding the overtime in the Police Department and reasons that cause the officers and dispatchers to work the overtime. Commissioner Villarreal stated that the overtime in the Police Department is needed because of unforeseen and unknown causes and emergencies that require the use of overtime by the patrol officers and dispatchers.

Mayor Esquivel stated that the Police Department is not the only law enforcement agency inside the City limits. He stated that the Sheriff's Department and Precinct Constables should be responsible to the citizens of Kingsville and not just the individuals that live out in the county. Mayor Esquivel stated that the Police Department should be able to reduce their overtime by at least \$25,000.

Mayor Esquivel stated that he would not support a tax increase this fiscal year.

The Commission then proceeded to vote on the motion. The motion passed by a 3/2 vote. Mayor Esquivel and Commissioner Pecos cast the dissenting votes.

2. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT. (CITY MANAGER).

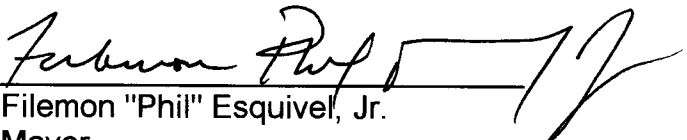
In his report, Mr. Hinojosa stated that some mechanical problems occurred at the South Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said that Mr. Mike Cunningham with the firm of CCA, Inc. was present in the audience to update the Commission on the problems. He stated that Mr. Cunningham's company worked at this plant approximately five to six years ago and had been called to assess the problem.

Mr. Cunningham informed the Commission that there has been a complete breakdown at the plant and the clarifier needs to be replaced. He said there is no way that it could be salvaged. Mr. Cunningham stated that the costs associated with these types of repairs are about \$300,000 and the problems were serious and needed to be taken care of because the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) could impose fines.

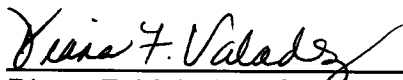
Mr. Hinojosa stated that staff has begun the search for water development grants to assist with the funding of these emergency repairs. He stated that he would keep the Commission informed as new developments occurred.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting then adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

  
Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Jr.  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Diana F. Valadez, City Secretary