

SEPTEMBER 18, 2000

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE, TEXAS WAS HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2000 AT 6:00 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
 Victor Salas, Finance Director
 Maria Robles, Accountant
 Dianne Leubert, Sanitation Superintendent
 Dora Byington, Director of Purchasing
 Estella Garcia, Director of Collections
 Daniel Almeida, Plant Supervisor
 Ricardo Guzman, Street Superintendent
 Robert Alvarez, Lieutenant, Police Department
 Sam Granato, Chief of Police
 Jack Oliver, Lieutenant, Police Department
 Oscar Montalvo, Captain – Fire Department
 Donny Erebia – Fire Department

I. PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

OPEN MEETING:

Mrs. Dora Byington, Director of Purchasing, led the Commission and members of the audience in an invocation. Immediately thereafter, Lt. Robert Alvarez from the Kingsville Police Department, 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. REPORT AND EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF HEALTH, DENTAL, AND LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE EMPLOYEES AND OTHER BENEFICIARIES OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE. (CITY MANAGER).

Mr. Hector M. Hinojosa, City Manager stated that both the City Attorney and Finance Director have been reviewing the proposals that were submitted to the City for health insurance coverage.

Mr. Ruben Perez, City Attorney explained different options available. He stated that the differences between the plans were the amount of the deductibles. He said that the Commission would take no action on this agenda item. It was simply placed on the agenda for discussion purposes only. Mr. Perez stated that the proposals with a twenty-percent increase or less would be submitted to the Commission for consideration.

There was a discussion regarding the possibility of receiving input from the employees on which plan would be most beneficial. Mr. Perez stated that the contract needed to be awarded by September 30th, and contacting the employees to receive input could prolong the process.

Mayor Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Jr. stated that the Commission still needs to receive input from department heads and/or employees on which option they believe is better. He also stated that it would be premature to adopt a new budget since the Commission is not certain on which plan would be approved.

Commissioner Rene "Mr. V" Villarreal stated that staff has already prepared the new budget with a twenty-percent increase towards the insurance costs. Therefore, since the Commission will consider proposals below the twenty-percent increase, the new budget could still be adopted.

Mayor Esquivel stated this item would be considered at the next meeting.

2. CONSIDER RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPPING, OR RENOVATING OF WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOUTH WATER PLANT, AUTHORIZING THE UTILIZATION OF FUNDS FROM THE LANDFILL FUND AND PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT. (CITY MANAGER).

Mr. Hinojosa explained that two different engineering firms inspected the treatment plant regarding the necessary improvements needed. He stated that he is requesting authorization to use money allocated to the landfill and later reimburse the landfill account with money that will be borrowed to cover the expenses of the repairs to the plant. Mr. Hinojosa stated that money is needed at this time to proceed with the emergency repairs at the treatment plant, and funds could be used from the landfill revenues.

Mr. Sammy Maldonado, Utilities Superintendent, stated that two proposals were submitted for the repairs to the plant. The proposal submitted by CCA, Inc. was in the amount of \$290,000. He recommended that the City consider the contract with CCA, Inc. although their price was \$15,000 higher. Mr. Maldonado stated that awarding a contract to CCA, Inc. would put the project in a faster pace. He said that this company has done work at this plant before and Mr. Cunningham is familiar with the plant.

Upon a question raised by Commissioner Pecos, Mr. Maldonado responded that CCA, Inc. would give the City a one-year warranty on all the equipment that will be installed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Villarreal and seconded by Commissioner Al Garcia to approve Resolution #200037, authorizing the City Manager to approve emergency expenditures for the construction, equipping, or renovating of wastewater improvements to the South Wastewater Plant, authorizing the utilization of funds from the landfill fund and providing for reimbursement.

Upon a question raised by Commissioner Arturo Pecos, Mr. Hinojosa responded that staff will be applying for a grant with the Texas Water Development Board, and that money could be used to reimburse the landfill revenue account. He also stated that if the grant were not funded, then the City would proceed with the process of issuing certificates of obligations.

The Commission proceeded to vote on the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. CONSIDER FINAL PASSAGE OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE, TEXAS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 01, 2000 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2001. (CITY MANAGER).

Mr. Hinojosa recommended that the proposed budget for fiscal year 2000-2001 be approved with a supporting tax rate of \$.70145. He stated that members of the Kingsville Police Department were present and could answer questions pertaining to the Police Department's overtime budget.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the overtime in the Police Department and the different situations that cause the use of overtime. Mayor Esquivel expressed some concerns with the retention of the clerk dispatchers in the department. He stated that the dispatchers should be paid equivalent as to what other police departments in the surrounding area pay their dispatchers.

Mr. Hinojosa informed the Commission that he would review the pay scales for the dispatchers and propose a salary adjustment for those employees perhaps based on a seniority basis.

Mr. Sam Granato, Chief of Police, stated that part of the solution with the retention of the dispatchers is going to be resolved by technology. He said the patrol officers could do a lot of the dispatcher workload through technology. Chief Granato stated that dispatching is always going to be very stressful, and every city experiences a high turn over with dispatchers.

Mayor Esquivel stated that the deputies from the Kleberg County Sheriff's Department should assist the Kingsville Police Department with patrolling inside the City limits. He stated that the citizens of Kingsville are taxpayers of Kleberg County as well, and the citizens should receive services from both the City and the County.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Villarreal and seconded by Commissioner Laskowski to approve Ordinance #200017, adopting the annual budget for fiscal year beginning October 01, 2000 and ending September 30, 2001 with the supporting tax rate of \$.70145.

Mayor Esquivel detailed some of the items in the proposed budget as follows:

- No capital expenditures
- \$25,000 from Fire Department overtime budget allocated to the Street Department
- \$20,000 decrease from the publication of the City Journal allocated to drainage projects for the Street Department
- Increasing the monthly landfill fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00, and passing on an additional cost to out-of-city customers.

Mayor Esquivel also stated that Kleberg County officials agreed to pay for half of the cost for paving the street in front of the courthouse and also to pave 19th Street. He stated that the City needs to collect those revenues from the County for those projects. Mayor Esquivel stated that he would not support any tax increase for the new fiscal year and would like to also see the account receivables increase for the new budget year.

Mr. Victor Salas, Finance Director stated that with the new ambulance and utility billing package, the City could see additional revenues. He stated that he is looking into the investments and perhaps will request that the Commission adopt a new investment policy.

Mayor Esquivel once again urged the Commission to consider adopting the budget with a sixty-eight cent tax rate and not to approve the rate of \$.70145. He stated that adopting the budget with the sixty-eight cent rate will have a \$16,000 deficit, however there are other avenues that could cover the deficit.

The Commission proceeded to vote on the motion. The motion passed by a 4/1 vote. Mayor Esquivel cast the dissenting vote.

4. CONSIDER FINAL PASSAGE OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 01, 2000 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2001. (CITY MANAGER).

Mr. Salas stated that the tax rate must be approved in two components. One will be the maintenance and operations rate and the other is the rate for the debt service. He stated that the proposed ordinance would also maintain the \$8,400 exemption be granted for any person of age sixty-five or over. Mr. Salas recommended approval of the proposed ordinance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laskowski and seconded by Commissioner Villarreal to adopt the tax rate of \$.35193 on each one hundred dollar assessed valuation for general fund expenditures (maintenance and operations). The motion passed by a 3/2 vote. Mayor Esquivel and Commissioner Pecos cast the dissenting votes.

Another motion was made by Commissioner Villarreal and seconded by Commissioner Laskowski to adopt the tax rate of \$.34952 on each one hundred dollar assessed valuation for debt service expenditures. The motion passed by a 3/2 vote. Mayor Esquivel and Commissioner Pecos cast the dissenting votes.

5. CONSIDER INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 ANNUAL BUDGET. (CITY MANAGER).

Mr. Hinojosa stated that the proposed ordinance is necessary in order to balance out the budget on September 30th. He recommended approval of the proposed ordinance.

Upon a question raised by Commissioner Laskowski, Mr. Hinojosa responded that the increase in the City Commission budget under the communications line item would pay for telephone services for the Mayor. Commissioner Laskowski expressed some concern, stating that it was a big increase.

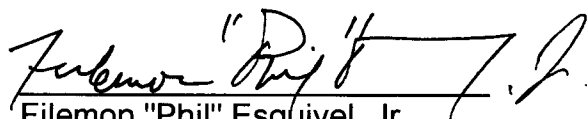
Mayor Esquivel stated this was an introductory item only and final passage would be considered at the next meeting.

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

No report was given at this time.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting then adjourned at 7:55 p.m.


Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Jr.
Mayor

ATTEST:


Diana F. Valadez, City Secretary