

MAY 13, 2002

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE, TEXAS WAS HELD MONDAY, MAY 13, 2002 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. ALCORN COMMISSION CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL, 200 EAST KLEBERG AVENUE.

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles E. Wilson, City Commissioner
 Horacio (Hoss) Castillo, 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
 Sammy Maldonado, Utilities Superintendent
 Dora Byington, Director of Purchasing
 Jennifer Detloff, Director of Development Services
 Dianne Leubert, Solid Waste Superintendent
 Coeta Montgomery, Director of Personnel
 Stanley Fees, City Engineer
 Tina Galvan, Solid Waste Supervisor
 Corando Garza, Assistant City Manager / Fire Chief
 Artemio Alvarez, Risk Manager

I. PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

OPEN MEETING:

Mrs. Dora Byington, Director of Purchasing, led the Commission and members of the audience in an invocation. Immediately thereafter, Commissioner Al Garcia 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. DISCUSS TEXAS HOUSE BILL 1689, WHICH ALLOWS INDIVIDUAL TAXING UNITS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT TO ADOPT A LOCAL OPTION PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGING PRIMARILY IN CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES. (CITY MANAGER).

Mr. Hector M. Hinojosa, City Manager, stated that each taxing entity must either approve or deny the tax exemption from ad valorem taxation for certain organizations engaged primarily in performing charitable functions. He stated that Ms. Tina Flores, Chief Appraiser with the Kleberg County Appraisal District was present to answer any questions.

Ms. Flores stated that she has received one application for the tax exemption from one local organization. She stated that the property tax exemption must be used by that organization, and the property could not be leased out for any other purpose. Ms. Flores stated that if the property is used for another purpose, it would not qualify for the tax exemption.

Upon a question raised by Commissioner Arturo Pecos, Ms. Flores responded that the only other governmental entity that has approved the tax exemption has been Kleberg County.

There was a brief discussion regarding the benefits provided to the citizens of Kingsville by charitable organizations and the effect of granting the proposed exemption.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.

1. COMMENTS ON ALL AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS.

Mrs. Mary Jane Cortez Reeder, 429 East Avenue C, congratulated the members of the Commission on the outcome of the recent election. She stated that the Commission should concentrate in cleaning up the entire City and asked that they pay special attention to the budget in order to allocate funds for this effort.

V. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COMMISSIONERS.

1. CONSIDER RESOLUTION APPOINTING HORACIO (HOSS) CASTILLO AS MAYOR PROTEMPORE. (CITY COMMISSION).

A motion was made by Commissioner Pecos and seconded by Commissioner Al Garcia to approve Resolution #R-2002-24, appointing Horacio (Hoss) Castillo as Mayor Protempore. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

2. CONSIDER RESOLUTION ELECTING WHETHER OR NOT TO GRANT A LOCAL OPTION PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED PRIMARILY IN CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES. (CITY MANAGER).

Mayor Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Jr., stated that the Commission had previously received information regarding this item. He asked if there were any other questions from the members of the Commission.

Upon a question raised by Commissioner Charles E. Wilson, Mr. Ruben Perez, City Attorney responded that there should not be any legal issues with this item. He stated that all of the duties fall with the Chief Appraiser.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Pecos and seconded by Commissioner Garcia to approve Resolution #R-2002-25, authorizing a local option property tax exemption for organizations engaged in charitable activities. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. CONSIDER OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR CITY STAFF TO ATTEND CONGRESSMAN RUBEN HINOJOSA'S THIRD ANNUAL REGIONAL LEADER'S ISSUES CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON JUNE 18-19, 2002. (CITY MANAGER).

Mr. Hinojosa stated that he had already received Commission authorization to attend this conference in Washington, D.C. He stated that he is requesting authorization for the Chief of Police and Assistant City Manager to attend the conference as well. Mr. Hinojosa recommended approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Pecos to approve the out-of-state travel for City Staff to attend Congressman Ruben Hinojosa's Third Annual Regional Leader's Issues Conference in Washington, D.C. on June 18 – 19, 2002. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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

4.1 RESCHEDULE 5/27/2002 REGULAR MEETING DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.

Mr. Hinojosa stated that the next regular meeting fell on a legal holiday; therefore the meeting would be rescheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2002.

In other matters, Mr. Hinojosa stated that he was close in hiring a finance director. He stated that a candidate would be in Kingsville on Friday for a personal interview.

Mr. Hinojosa also stated that the next TML Region Meeting was scheduled for June 20, 2002 in Goliad. He asked the members of the Commission to notify his office if they wanted to attend.

Commissioner Castillo requested a copy of the current fiscal year budget as well as an organizational chart for all City Departments.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION: UNDER SECTION 551.071 OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, THE CITY COMMISSION SHALL CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING POTENTIAL LITIGATION REGARDING ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITY OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE SOUTH TEXAS WATER AUTHORITY SUPPLY CONTRACT. (CITY MANAGER).

The Commission began the executive session at 7:03 p.m. and concluded the session at 8:30 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.


Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Jr.
Mayor

ATTEST:

Diana F. Valadez,
City Secretary