

FEBRUARY 2, 2004

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE, TEXAS WAS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2004 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. ALCORN COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 200 EAST KLEBERG AVENUE.

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Jr., Mayor
 Horacio "Hoss" Castillo, City Commissioner
 Arturo Pecos, City Commissioner
 Charlie Wilson, City Commissioner
 Al Garcia, City Commissioner

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Carlos Yerena, City Manager
 Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney
 Rick Torres, Chief of Police
 John Garcia, Garage Superintendent
 Caron Vela, Interim Finance Director
 Jamie Garza, Task Force Commander

I. PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

The meeting was opened at 9:07 a.m.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Manager Yerena led the Commission and members of the audience in an invocation. Immediately following Commissioner Pecos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) - Required by Law

None

II. Public Hearing - (Required by Law).

None

III. Public Comment on Agenda Items.

None

IV. Petitions, Grievances, and Presentations.

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

City Manager Yerena gave an update on the election. The early voting total was 1,317 for five (5) days of early voting. In May of 2002 there were only 807 early voters in 10 days.

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

Ms Courtney Alvarez, stated she had no report to give.

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

Commissioner Pecos stated he has had many phone calls on the sewer infrastructure. He stated that this infrastructure was annexed in 1981, 1994, and 1995, by law it is required that infrastructure should be laid out within a period of 5 years and the city has failed to do that. He stated that the city

needs to look at the areas that are annexed and make sure we comply with the law.

Mayor Esquivel stated that we are here to talk about the South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force. He stated that he wants to discuss this thoroughly, discussing both sides of the coin, pro and con. He also said that the Commission needs to do what is best for the City of Kingsville to get the highest return on our money when we invest it in protection.

V. Items for consideration by Commissioners.

1. Workshop session to discuss the options for the operation of the South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force.

Chief of Police Rick Torres stated that the Task Force can either continue operations through program income that was generated previously or can apply for a new grant. He stated that there may be issues brought up due to the action that will be taken today. He said that he was contacted by members of the Union regarding their pending collective bargaining discrepancies in pay of our police officers and the Task Force Officers. Chief Torres said that the city would have to back fill the City Marshall if applying for the new grant. He stated that the City Manager is trying to bring together smaller Task Forces into Mega Task Forces because of the revenue our task force brings to program income it would help the Tri-County Task Force. He added that if the City applies for the new grant then it would include the following agencies Brooks County, Kenedy County, Falfurrias police department, Kingsville Police department, and Kleberg County.

Mayor Esquivel stated that it was a good presentation but needs more facts.

Chief Torres stated he received a letter from CJD, letting us know they awarded generated program income to us at 48%, which is \$291,164 and whatever is in the pending seizure account of \$640,915. The total amounts to \$932,079, we would then have to return to the governors office \$315,428, which would leave a balance of \$634,412. The expected task force expenses are \$306,964. The projected CJD cash match for the new grant period runs from June 1 through May 31 would be \$645,203.

Mayor Esquivel asked how long this Task Force can go on operating with only \$573,000.

He then stated that the Task Force could only operate approximately 9 months. He added that the Task Force would need about \$814,000 per year to operate, the difference between the two amounts equals \$241,000 negative cash flow if they continue spending the way they are now.

Ms Linda Gerd, Task Force Clerk stated that this is without seizures and pending auctions.

Mr. JR Ibarra, Assistant Task Force Commander stated that out of a million dollar budget \$400,000 was cut, which was approved by the Commission till May 31, 2004.

Commissioner Wilson asked what a typical auction produces in revenue. Mr. Ibarra stated that the amount fluctuates in properties but approximately \$35,000.

Mayor Esquivel commented that this would still make us \$206,000 short.

Mayor Esquivel then asked what should be done. Commissioner Wilson stated that the Task Force has enough money to fund for 8 ½ months and when that time is up, then that is when the city should decide what to do,

not now.

Chief Torres asked whether or not the Task Force is under the direction of the Chief of Police. Ms Alvarez responded that the Task Force is currently under the organizational chart of the Police department, which is overseen by the Chief of Police.

Commissioner Castillo asked if the City is going to submit a grant application to CID. Mayor Esquivel stated that Chief Torres will do what needs to be done to get to that point.

Mr. Jaime Garza, Task Force Commander stated that the Task Force has been self-sufficient for years and that the City owes the citizens all the protection they can get. He added that he wants to continue running the Task Force as it is and if the Task Force were to go multi-jurisdictional it would lose the focus here in Kingsville. Mayor Esquivel responded that he should work with the Chief of Police.

City Manager Yerena stated that he is looking at the numbers and wants to make clear that the City has a tight budget and has no opportunity to increase the taxes or anything else. He added that the City needs to deal with what we have, if we have to reduce to get to that point then that's what needs to be done. He also added that there is no other option for increasing the revenue.

Commissioner Castillo stated that the application deadline is 5:00 p.m. today.

No action was taken.

2. Determine method for operation of the South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force. (Chief of Police).

Mayor Esquivel asked City Manager Yerena and Chief Torres if this item was already clear. They both responded "yes".

Commissioner Castillo asked for a re-organizational plan to be approved in the future.

City Manager Yerena, stated a re-organizational plan could be brought to the Commission, but it would be under the direction of the Chief of Police.

3. Consider a resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Governor State of Texas for the purpose of requesting: funding: for Grant year 2004-2005 for the South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force. (Chief of Police).

Commissioner Wilson stated that he doesn't feel the discussion that went on today is a good enough reason to enter into the agreement. He added that the City can stay in house until the next funding cycle.

Mayor Esquivel asked Chief Torres why he thinks it's a good thing to have. Chief Torres responded that if the Police Department had additional resources they could do their job a lot better. He added that if the City were to get the mega Task Force it would provide additional personnel, undercover agents that could be utilized between the different agencies. He also mentioned that agents that are well known in this area can be used in other areas, and also there would be additional resources from the state.

Commissioner Garcia asked who is included in the Mega Task Force. Chief Torres responded it would include the City of Kingsville, Kleberg County, Brooks County, Falfurrias Police Department, plus the Tri-County

Task Force which includes San Patricio, Nueces, and Aransas Counties.

A motion was made by Commissioner Castillo seconded by Commissioner Pecos to submit a grant application to the Criminal Justice Division. Motion passed by a 3/2 vote with Commissioners Garcia and Wilson casting the dissenting votes.

4. Consider authorizing: the City Manager to enter into Cooperative Working Agreements with local area Police Departments, Sheriff Departments, and District Attorney Offices on behalf of the South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force. (Chief of Police).

Chief Torres stated that he has been in contact with the different entities and they would be in full support of a new grant. He added that the District Attorney would be able to sign the agreement and there is a good chance the grant would be approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Castillo seconded by Commissioner Pecos to enter into a cooperative working agreement with local entities. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

VI. Adjournment

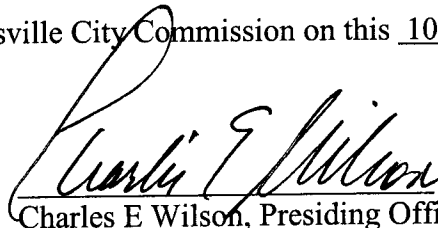
Commissioner Castillo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Filemon "Phil" Esquivel, Jr., Mayor

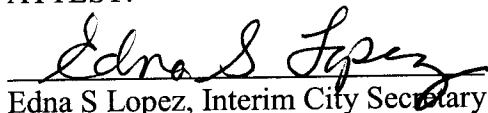
ATTEST:

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