

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE CITY COMMISSION WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025, IN THE HELEN KLEBERG GROVES COMMUNITY ROOM, 400 WEST KING AVENUE, KINGSVILLE, TEXAS, AT 12:00 P.M.

**CITY COMMISSION PRESENT:**

Sam R. Fugate, Mayor  
Edna Lopez, Commissioner  
Norma Alvarez, Commissioner  
Hector Hinojosa, Commissioner  
Leo Alarcon, Commissioner

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

Charlie Sosa, Interim City Manager  
Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney  
Kyle Benson, IT Director  
Derek Williams, Systems Administrator  
Diana Gonzales, Human Resources Director  
Deborha Balli, Finance Director  
Leticia Salinas, Accounting Manager  
Connie Womack, Tourism Director  
Monika Donnell, Municipal Court Supervisor  
Susan Ivy, Parks Director  
Alicia Tijjerina, Downtown Manager/Special Events Coordinator  
Nick Rivas, Administrative Assistant  
Manny Salazar, Economic Development Manager  
George Flores, Captain

**I. Preliminary Proceedings.**

**OPEN MEETING**

Mayor Fugate opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. with all five commission members present.

**INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – (Mayor Fugate)**

The invocation was delivered by Ms. Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

None.

**II. Public Hearing - (Required by Law).<sup>1</sup>**

None.

**III. Reports from Commission & Staff.<sup>2</sup>**

*"At this time, the City Commission and Staff will report/update on all committee assignments which may include but is not limited to the following: Planning & Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustments, Historical Board, Housing Authority Board, Library Board, Health Board, Tourism, Chamber of Commerce, Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Conner Museum, Keep Kingsville Beautiful, and Texas Municipal League. Staff reports include the following: Building & Development, Code Enforcement, Proposed Development Report; Accounting & Finance – Financial Services - Information, Investment Report, Quarterly Budget Report, Monthly Financial Reports; Police & Fire Department – Grant Update, Police & Fire Reports; Street Updates; Public Works-Building Maintenance, Construction Updates; Park Services - grant(s) update, miscellaneous park projects, Administration –Workshop Schedule, Interlocal Agreements, Public Information, Hotel Occupancy Report, Quiet Zone, Proclamations, Health Plan Update, Tax Increment Zone Presentation, Main Street Downtown, Chapter 59 project, Financial Advisor, Water And Wastewater Rate Study Presentation. No formal action can be taken on these items at this time."*

Mr. Charlie Sosa, City Manager, reported on street projects and gave other updates.

Ms. Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney, reported that there is a regular commission meeting on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Lopez asked if the meeting was online.

**IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items.<sup>3</sup>**

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

Elizabeth Ramos, 615 Elizabeth, commented that she is glad she is not employed so that she is able to be here today at noon, during the week. She further commented that she is here to tell the three why they need to go and to go now. Ramos stated that Commissioner

Alvarez is an ignorant woman. She is the reason why KISD has a poor special education program. She cost me two years of my child's college savings because she didn't know what the hell she was doing. Ramos further commented that she has two diagnosticians that would love to be subpoenaed to explain all the ways you crapped on the most vulnerable children in our community. You only care about yourself and your people. For years I have been warned about how two-faced you are, and it's true. You are so evil, you let your varmint of a peep squeak fake lawyer friend to convince Charlie to file felony allegations against me at KPD. You are the one who needs to be locked up for being ignorant and evil. Ramos further commented that it was two years of college gone. As for Hinojosa, hello, are you even alive in there. This guy is lucky that most people who voted are over the age of 50 years old.

Commissioner Hinojosa commented to Mayor Fugate that this was out of order.

Mrs. Ramos commented that there is no point of order; it's freedom of speech; city ordinances allow it. She further continued with her public comments and commented that he should be lucky that most people who vote are over 50 years of age, and that means his friends. She stated that she is not sure if he's alive or suffering from death becomes her syndrome, because this guy doesn't know how to return phone calls or emails. My pinky toe has more life in it than this dude that represents us. Ramos further commented, on to Leo, this guy, who along with Alvarez, loves himself more than the community. This guy pats himself on the back so much she is surprised he hasn't suffered from tennis elbow. Complaints about employees not calling his name at a parade, what a sad sad existence that must be. Along with being conceded, he can't make his own decisions without Mommy Alvarez's say-so. She further stated that she knew as soon as she read the former Tourism's Director city agreement, with an NDA, as she knows cause she had one against you, it's gone now and she is able to speak now, that it was fishy and she figured it out. She further stated that she has a lovely thumb drive at home that will explain all the fishy stuff that Charlie did as a city employee. She stated that now that she has two years rest from KISD, you guys are now on every one of my purviews. You will have to do better than a fake lawyer friend and some felony accusations to get rid of me. Watch your emails and text messages as she has friends that don't mind funding open records request. You may have to have more walking quorums to avoid me from now on, so quit wasting taxpayers' money and going after the community who doesn't agree with your ridiculous decisions. Ramos further commented until next time losers.

Andrew Mendez, 405 E. Alice commented that he appreciates the passion in this room, it comes from people who care deeply about the city, but passion without direction can burn what we are trying to build. I would like to offer a different kind of message, not against anyone but for everyone. What I am about to share isn't politics, it's a story. It is called the pothole that wouldn't be filled. It's about what happens what we forget that think that fixing things gets to all of us, not just the loudest voices but steady hands that are willing to work. There once was a small pothole in the heart of our city it wasn't much at first, crack in the asphalt, a dip that rattled a few tires. Most people just drove around it and some said it wasn't their problem and some said it was too small to matter. Weeks past, then months. Rainwater filled it. The edges crumbled and the hole widened and before long it wasn't just a bump on the road it was a scar right down the middle of town. People starting arguing about whose fault it was a few tried to patch it but others came along with shovels saying don't touch it, we will handle it ourselves. But they didn't fill it, they dug it deeper. Everytime someone tried to pour gravel, someone else through mud. Pretty soon the hole wasn't just in the street, it was between neighbors, between friends, between the city and people, and all the while taxpayers kept paying for the same road to be fixed again and again, but it never held. The thing about potholes is simple, they don't heal with blame, they don't get better with pride, and no city can move forward if the people hired to fix the road keep breaking their shovels on each other. At the pothole patrol you learn something small but steady, you can't fill a hole with excuses, you fill it with effort, teamwork and integrity. You fill it by showing up by working side-by-side even when you disagree, because the moment you stop trying to repair, you start to erode. Today as we look at the cracks on our street and in our trust we have to ask ourselves a hard question, are we patching the problem or are we deepening it. If leadership means anything it means knowing when to stop digging. It means remembering that every decision cost someone and the people paying are the ones driving over these roads every day. Let this story be a reminder that we don't need to pave over problems, we need to fix them from the ground up, because when the foundation is cracked even the smoothest road won't last. In Kingsville, this home we share, deserves roads that hold, leaders who listen and citizens who care enough to keep filling and not digging. Kingsville cares, because every road leads home.

V.

### **Consent Agenda**

### **Notice to the Public**

*The following items are of a routine or administrative nature. The Commission has been furnished with background and support material on each item, and/or it has been discussed at a previous meeting. All items will be acted upon by one vote without being*

*discussed separately unless requested by a Commission Member, in which event the item or items will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in its normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon. The remaining items will be adopted by one vote.*

**CONSENT MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND ORDINANCES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

*(At this point, the Commission will vote on all motions, resolutions, and ordinances not removed for individual consideration).*

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES:**

**VI. Items for consideration by Commissioners.<sup>4</sup>**

**1. Discuss and consider authorizing attorney Gilberto Hinojosa, Jr. to appeal the District Court's decision in Cause No. 25-377-D, Selina Tijerina vs. City of Kingsville, Texas, Norma Nelda Alvarez, Hector M. Hinojosa, and Lionel "Leo" H. Alarcon in the 105<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Kleberg County, Texas. (Commissioner Alvarez).**

**Motion made by Commissioner Hinojosa to consider authorizing attorney Gilberto Hinojosa, Jr. to appeal the District Court's decision in Cause No. 25-377-D, Selina Tijerina vs. City of Kingsville, Texas, Norma Nelda Alvarez, Hector M. Hinojosa, and Lionel "Leo" H. Alarcon in the 105<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Kleberg County, Texas, seconded by Commissioner Alarcon.**

Commissioner Alvarez stated that there is a petition, and all the requirements of the city charter have to be met in order to have a recall petition, according to our charter. She further stated that there were several charter things that were not met, and she would like to speak on two of them, as there are about four that were violated and therefore there shouldn't have been a petition. First one is on what the petition should have said. On the forms that went out to the public to sign, the petition should have said what we were being recalled, what should we be recalled for and they were general. She further stated that our charter says, according to 24-5 and -4, says both must be on there. Both must be on their means that you have to have the general, which they did and you have to have the specifics and there were no specifics as to what we did wrong. Under the first one was, one of them was misappropriated funds to which we don't even have a budget. One was harassment of employees and she can speak for herself and the other two, that they have never harassed employees, and if we did, they should have been specific as to who and when. Alvarez further stated that as far as unprofessional, she has never been unprofessional at meetings, my years before as city commissioner and county commissioner, she has never yelled at a meeting, walked out of a meeting, so they needed to have their specifics according to the charter. She stated that this was the first violation of the charter that happened. The second violation, she stated that she would like to say that the Mayor, to which she has a partial of the actual minutes, not minutes, but the testimony of what happened at the court, and under oath the Mayor said that he agreed that there were no specifics just general. She stated that she has this which is partial of the actual docket from that meeting. She further stated that on the second violation was, which is what everyone refers to, for the public, there is a poster that has the charter where it says that at the top and she has fixed a packet for everyone to look at, and she is sorry that Commissioner Lopez tore hers up and threw it in the trashcan. She stated that it says on the first page what the requirements were and there is a copy of the calendar as well, and the judge himself, she stated that first of all she would like to say, that Mary, City Secretary, under oath also according to these, she was asked by the attorneys and she says were they turned in in 31 days and she said yes. They also asked her if there were specifics on the petitions and she said no. Alvarez further stated that going back, the judge himself said at the very end said that, first of all he said, the charter needs to be redone to which all kind of agree on that, but he says, I am going to order that start counting May 7<sup>th</sup> to continue to do 30 days. Alvarez said that if you look at the calendar and you start May 7<sup>th</sup> and turned them in on June 6<sup>th</sup>, that's 31 days. So they violated another part of the charter that said that these petitions had to be turned in within 30 days. Alvarez stated that this is why she feels that they should have a fair chance and have this appealed.

Commissioner Hinojosa said call the question.

Commissioner Lopez commented to Commissioner Alvarez that she thinks that all this has already passed as the judge has ruled on the petition on the last hearing,

but first of all, she would like to let the citizens know, make them aware, that whatever happens here today, once again, your taxpayers dollars are funding this attorney. It looks like this attorney, the city will also have to be paying for Selina Tijerina's attorney. That is already money coming from taxpayers dollars. She further asked why we scheduled a noon meeting instead of an evening meeting, which would have allowed our citizens to attend, and this question is for the city manager, since he signs off on the agendas.

Mayor Fugate asked Commissioner Lopez is she was asking about this specific meeting today.

Commissioner Lopez responded yes. Why schedule at noon and not at 5:00 p.m. so that more of our citizens could attend, as she is being asked by the citizens.

Mayor Fugate responded that he could answer that questions and stated that staff usually call him and ask him when and what time to do a special meeting, and he stated to have this meeting at noon. He further commented that the didn't mean anything by it.

Commissioner Lopez responded that citizens are asking and she is asking for the citizens. Lopez further asked why there was no executive session take place before the agenda item. How can we vote on something that no back up information in the agenda. Why is there not a new retainer in the agenda packet, because she received word from the city attorney that we were going to use the same retainer. If you go back and read that retainer, from Mr. Hinojosa, the retainer says, scope of representation and it says proceedings in the 105<sup>th</sup> District Court of Kleberg County. Lopez further stated that this is going to the 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals. So how can the same retainer agreement be used. She further stated that we have not received an invoice from Mr. Hinojosa, so we don't even know how much money has been spent. What is the source of funds that will be used to cover these attorney fees. They have not been told that. The most important part is that taxpayers need to know all this and they are asking questions, as you would be surprised. She stated that once again proper procedure protocols are not being followed. The city is going to receive another service and no RFQ exists, no bids received, and no staff recommendation. Lopez stated that she knows we have a ballpark figure of what this is going to cost, and probably should have gone out for bids. Lopez further stated that the most important part that she is really concerned about is the fact that our employees were not granted a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) this year. The city had to layoff people, cut hours on personnel, while taxpayer monies is being spent on a high-priced attorney that raises concerns, not only for her, but for our citizens. When is enough, enough? Lopez stated that she still says, the power belongs to the people.

Mayor Fugate commented that he would like to apologize for setting this meeting at noon, as he didn't think anything about it, but this won't happen again. We have had several meetings through the years and they were special meetings that only had one thing on it and we do it at lunch as it makes it easier, but that is on him. Mayor Fugate stated that his concern is a different concern and hiring Mr. Hinojosa to represent the city. He stated that he believes there is a conflict of interest that exists between the three individuals and the city. He has been practicing law for 48 years and he has never seen a hearing where the attorney on the other side called parties on the other side to corroborate favorable testimony and our lawyer impeaching us. What Mr. Hinojosa did to our City Secretary, who is the city, that lady that sits right there is the City of Kingsville, and for them to try and impeach her shows that there is definite conflicts of interest in this case. Fugate further stated that Mr. Hinojosa needs to excuse himself in this case. He can represent the three commissioners, but the city needs its own lawyer. He asked the City Attorney, Ms. Alvarez, that he is not sure how this can be done, as he knows there are time limits on appeals, but he thinks that Mary, City Secretary, is entitled to representation, and she is not getting it. He further commented that he has never seen a hearing like this and did not seem right, and it's grievable. He further commented that Mr. Hinojosa needs to look at this, because he has a conflict and he ought to see it as he is a learned it lawyer, and excuse himself from representing the city. Fugate stated that he will ask him to look at his representation and further requested for staff to get the city its own lawyer to represent the City of Kingsville. Fugate commented that Mr. Hinojosa can represent the three commissioners, as he has no problem with that, but he has a problem with Mr. Hinojosa representing the city. Fugate further commented that the way he treated Mary, is unforgiveable. She has been a dedicated employee to this city for many years and takes her job seriously

and is very conscientious and for her to be treated that way is unforgiveable. Mayor Fugate further stated that what people don't understand is that in this case, if you had a problem as to how this was applied, you should have gone out on your own and hired your own lawyer and file what is called a declaratory judgement, where you could seek that relief. But once she certified this election, that is the law, and that is what the opposing counsel was trying to bring Mr. Hinojosa's attention and the Judge's attention. It doesn't matter 30 days or specifics, they are gone because this election has already been certified. All we are doing now, well there is nothing to do as it won't take long for the Thirteenth Court of Appeals to sustain or not overrule this decision. This is just costing us more and more money. It is time to get this behind us, we just keep bleeding here at the city. Fugate further commented that he doesn't know what they are afraid of, call this election and lets hear it and lets move on. By appealing this you keep that wound open.

Commissioner Lopez commented that what people don't understand is that Mary is not a secretary, Mary is the City Secretary. She holds more power than the City Manager, and the Mayor is correct. She stated that she still talks to City Secretaries friends, and she has been told by them that once she has certified that petition, that is the law. Mary is the law. Because if anything happens during an election, she gets in trouble. Not Charlie not the commission, Mary is the law. She certified that petition, so she is the law.

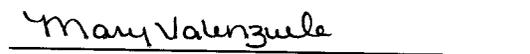
**The motion was passed and approved by the following vote: Alvarez, Hinojosa, Alarcon voting "FOR". Lopez and Fugate voting "AGAINST".**

**VI. Adjournment.**

As there was no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

  
Sam R. Fugate, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, City Secretary