

OCTOBER 27, 2025

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE CITY COMMISSION WAS HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025, IN THE HELEN KLEBERG GROVES COMMUNITY ROOM, 400 WEST KING AVENUE, KINGSVILLE, TEXAS, AT 5:00 P.M.

**CITY COMMISSION PRESENT:**

- Sam R. Fugate, Mayor
- Edna Lopez, Commissioner (left meeting at 5:18 p.m.)
- Norma Alvarez, Commissioner
- Hector Hinojosa, Commissioner
- Leo Alarcon, Commissioner

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

- Charlie Sosa, Interim City Manager
- Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary
- Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney
- Kyle Benson, IT Director
- Derek Williams, Systems Administrator
- Emilio Garcia, Health Director
- John Blair, Chief of Police
- Charlie Cardenas, Engineer
- Bill Donnell, Public Works Director
- Diana Gonzales, Human Resources Director
- Deborah Balli, Finance Director
- Monika Donnell, Municipal Court Supervisor
- Susan Ivy, Parks Director
- Manny Salazar, Economic Development Manager

**I. Preliminary Proceedings.**

**OPEN MEETING**

Mayor Fugate opened the meeting at 5:00 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, gave an update on street projects around the city.

Ms. Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney, reported that the next commission meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2025, with a deadline for staff to submit their agenda items on October 28, 2025.

Commissioner Lopez commented that she has received several calls from citizens who are concerned about a situation regarding the ongoing government shutdown, as well as SNAP benefits. Lopez stated that the city needs to have a plan in place for those residents who will be affected by the situation. These residents may not be able to afford their water bills, so the city would need to look at its late charges policy and see how the city can assist those being affected by this. Our citizens will need to make difficult decisions for

their families, and the city needs to be ready for this. Commissioner Lopez asked the City Manager to come up with a plan and see how this will be handled.

Mr. Sosa responded that Mrs. Connie Womack has been working with MWR at Naval Air Station-Kingsville and working with the University, as we are not sure if this will extend into the Thanksgiving holidays, but in the event it does, we are being proactive and helping out these residents with a Thanksgiving meal. He further stated that he is also working with the Finance Department regarding their water bills, where the city can delay them without the fees for these residents. These residents will have to have proof that they are part of this government shutdown, and these will be the only residents that will have this leeway. Mr. Sosa commented that the city is being proactive and watching this situation closely.

Commissioner Lopez commented that we would also have to consider those on the SNAP program as they will not have to go out and pay for food versus utilities, which would probably be food that they would pay for.

Mr. Sosa commented that the city has not looked at those residents on the SNAP Program as the city is concentrating on the government shutdown.

Commissioner Lopez commented that this may occur on November 1<sup>st</sup> so the city needs to be prepared.

Mayor Fugate commented that in light of the last city commission meeting, he is a firm believer of the first amendment that citizens have a right to voice their opinion and concerns at our meetings. Whether he likes what they say or not, that is not the issue, as they have a right to come up and voice their concerns. He further stated that as he cannot make anyone do it, he feels that it is important for everyone to be civil in our criticism and it is not appropriate to single out any member of this commission. What a particular member is doing or what a member is not doing, you still have to, in his opinion, be appropriate in your manners and your civility. He asks all of the citizens to keep that in mind. It does not help the City of Kingsville for people to come up here and act like what happened last week. We are trying to move this city forward, and he asks the citizens to keep that in mind when they come up here. There are a lot of emotions and a lot of things going on that people like or don't like, but he asks everyone to act appropriately.

Mayor Fugate presented two proclamations, one for Arbor Day and the other for Sherman Otto Benys.

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

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

Mr. Andrew Mendez, 405 E. Alice commented that we do need to do better about conserving our water as we are in a drought and we do get some of our water from Corpus. Drew Mendez Kingsville Pothole Patrol. Kingsville Pothole Patrol is more than a story about potholes, it's about leadership. Every town just like every team needs people with judgement, justice, and integrity to keep running things smoothly. In the Marines he has an acronym called JJ Did Tie Buckel to define great leadership. In Kingsville it can be used to remind every public servant, elected or employed, what civic duty looks like, as the city isn't built by titles, it is built by trust. The first letter is J, for judgement. Think before you dig. Use logic and fairness not emotion or ego. Poor judgment creates potholes and good judgement fills them before they deepen. Justice, do what's right even when no one is watching, especially when everyone is watching. Justice isn't punishment it is balance. Fairness keeps it smooth for everyone. Dependability, keep your word. Show up do your job and follow through. A dependable city doesn't need reminders, it just works. Initiative, don't wait for someone else to fix it, true leaders take action before complaints pile up. Initiative is the first shovel in the ground. Decisiveness, leaders make choices not excuses. Even a hard decision is better than no decision because waiting cost the people more. Tact, speak with respect even in disagreement. Kingsville is a small town and the way we speak to each other becomes the culture we live in. Tact keeps truth from turning into a fight. Integrity, don't say one thing in public and another behind close doors. Integrity is the line between leadership and manipulation. Lose it and you will lose the city's faith. Endurance, leadership isn't a sprint, it is a long road of late night small wins and steady hands. Endurance is staying calm even when others quit or crack. Baring, set the tone. City employees and commissioner represent Kingsville, act like it. Pride without arrogance, confidence without cruelty. Unselfishness, the city's money isn't your money. Leadership means choosing what helps the most people and not what helps your circle. Courage, speak the truth even when it's uncomfortable. Courageous is showing up to the microphone when silence feels safer. Knowledge, learn the budget, understand the law and know the process. Ignorance isn't an excuse it is a choice. Knowledge protects the people. Loyalty, be loyal to the people not your politics. The public trust is the highest rank in Kingsville, never betray it for

convenience. Enthusiasm, believe in your work, hope is contagious, cynicism is a disease. Bring light not more darkness to the table. Kingsville doesn't need superheroes; it needs servants with standards. If every official employee and citizen lived by JJ Did Tie Buckel, we wouldn't just fix potholes, we would fix trust.

John Temple, 519 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street commented that he has been keeping up with the recall and saw that one judge said that it could go on then he saw that the persons being recalled and voted to be recalled filed a counter the recall and filed with another judge to prevent the recall from going on. He stated that he doesn't care about it except for being history teacher, like he was for years, he feels that if people voted on it, it should be carried out. He doesn't care who get recalled and who doesn't get recalled, he just wants to see the process of it carried out. The process of it is what America is built on. He stated that counter lawsuits from the commissioners or from anyone else, cost a lot of money and was wondering if that would be paid by the city or the commissioners that are being sought for recall. He doesn't feel that the city needs to pay for that. He stated that he was concerned about the \$16,000 that went to waste and if the city is going to hire lawyers \$16,000 will not take them a few weeks as that amount will be passed soon.

Kathleen Studdard, 410 E. Ailsie, commented that at the last meeting there were three commissioners that voted on the appointment of Charlie Sosa. The problem she has with that is that the commission was ordered to resign immediately or face a recall. Should the commission be allowed to vote on anything from this point in time and why are there no alternates to take their place if they are not allowed to vote on anything. As the commission was ordered by the judge to resign immediately and the commission failed to do so, you should be under recall and none of the commission should be allowed to vote. She further stated that the commission voted in opposition to establish policy, 330.03. disqualification. An applicant shall be disqualified for consideration for appointment if the applicant does not meet the qualifications necessary for the performance of the duties of the position involved, has committed or attempted to commit a fraud criminal act at any point in the employment process. This policy was established on August 28, 2006. She further stated that Mr. Sosa does not meet the requirements as stated in the job application, description, or requirements. Eligibilities for promotions, transfers, or assignments all job positions shall be filled based upon employees education, skills, qualifications, and ability to perform the essential function as specified in the applicable job description and specifications which is policy number 40.100, again, Mr. Sosa does not the required specifications per the advertisement. She stated that she personally worked in a payroll division and paid 3,000 employees weekly for six weeks by herself in that positions that had never ever been allowed for someone alone for more than three days and she did it for six weeks. She stated that she was still not eligible to be employed because she did not have a bachelor degree. If you are going to state requirements then they should be followed. If you are not going to follow those requirements than the job description should be rewritten and if the City of Kingsville decides that you are going to accept experience in lieu of degrees that should also be proposed and added to the administrative policies.

Vicki Benys, 1914 Martin Street, gave an update on the golf tournament. She stated that the tournament grossed over \$52,000, and last fiscal year, they spent about \$25,000 on equipment throughout the county and city. She stated that this also includes any financial needs that anyone had, such as funeral expenses or illnesses. The tournament went so well that they needed to find 20 golf carts, which were shipped in from San Antonio for a cost of over \$4,000. They did receive a donation of \$7,500 that assisted with that cost. There were also hunting and fishing trips that took place, which added to the profit. Mrs. Benys further stated that on Saturday, there will be a walk in memory of Sherman Otto Benys and the fallen heroes at Dick Kleberg Park at 7:30 a.m., and on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Blood Drive will take place. The blood drive mobile will be parked at the Kingsville Police Department Last year's blood drive received close to 30 units of blood.

#### IV.

#### 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)*

Motion made by Commissioner Hinojosa to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Alvarez. The motion was passed and approved by the following vote: Alvarez, Hinojosa, Alarcon, Fugate voting "FOR".

1. Motion to approve final passage of an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to accept and expend donations for Parks Department Healthy Family Events. (Parks Director).

2. Motion to approve final passage of an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to accept and expend Body Worn Camera Grant #5094901 funding for replacement of outdated body worn cameras. (Police Chief).

3. Motion to approve final passage of an ordinance amending the City of Kingsville Code of Ordinances section 15-6-21-Definitions to revise the definition for tiny homes. (Director of Planning & Development Services).

4. Motion to approve final passage of an ordinance amending the City of Kingsville Code of Ordinances sections 15-6-21-Definitions and 15-6-25-Cargo Containers to revise the definition and regulations for cargo/shipping containers. (Director of Planning & Development Services).

## REGULAR AGENDA

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

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

5. Consider a resolution approving a second revised City of Kingsville Federal Grant Financial Policies and Procedures. (City Engineer).

Motion made by Commissioner Alarcon to approve the resolution approving a second revised City of Kingsville Federal Grant Financial Policies and Procedures, seconded by Commissioner Hinojosa. The motion was passed and approved by the following vote: Hinojosa, Alarcon, Alvarez, Fugate voting "FOR".

6. Consider introduction of an ordinance regarding the City of Kingsville's Texas Municipal Retirement System benefits authorizing: (1) a change in the City's matching ratio; (2) non-retroactive repeating COOLs, for retirees and their beneficiaries under TMRS Act Section 853.404(f) and (f-1); and (3) annually accruing updated service credits. (Human Resources Director).

Mrs. Diana Gonzales, Human Resources Director, stated that during the budget presentation for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the proposal to change the TMRS Plan design was presented. The proposed changes allow the city to reach a goal of increasing employee matching from 1.5 to 2.1. The modification to the plan, as indicated below, allows this to be a viable option for FY 25-26. The City Manager included the changes and applicable additional costs in the presented and subsequently approved budget. The City of Kingsville has been a member of TMRS since 1968. All full-time employees are required to be enrolled in the pension plan as mandated by TMRS. Change in city contribution from 9.34% to 10.06%. The added cost is estimated at \$90,000. Estimates are provided as the amount is dependent on the total compensation, including longevity, certification, education, clothing, and overtime hours. The total estimated TMRS contribution for FY 25-26 is \$1,646,634. TMRS only allows changes at the beginning of each calendar year, so this will be in preparation for a January 1<sup>st</sup> change.

Introduction item.

7. Consider a resolution approving a resolution amending the City of Kingsville Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual for Policy No. 730.00-Vacation Leave. (Human Resources Director).

Mrs. Gonzales stated that the revision to Policy 730.00, Vacation leave, is to eliminate time restrictions for utilization, which will provide new employees with the opportunity to utilize accrued leave as it becomes available and not be required to wait 180 days. There are many situations that may require work absences that are out of the employees' control, and with proper approval, this will allow employees to utilize leave for those situations. Commissioner Hinojosa commented that this is a good thing to do.

Motion made by Commissioner Hinojosa to approve the resolution approving a resolution amending the City of Kingsville Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual for Policy No. 730.00-Vacation Leave, seconded by Commissioner Alvarez. The motion was passed and approved by the following vote: Hinojosa, Alarcon, Alvarez, Fugate voting "FOR".

**8. Consider a resolution approving a resolution amending the City of Kingsville Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual for Policy No. 740.00-Sick Leave. (Human Resources Director).**

Mrs. Gonzales stated that the revision to policy 740.00 Sick Leave is to eliminate time restrictions for utilization which will provide new employees with the opportunity to request to utilize accrued leave as it becomes available and not be required to wait 90 days. There are many situations that may require work absences which are out of the employees' control, and with proper approval this will allow employees to utilize accrued leave for those situations.

**Motion made by Commissioner Alarcon to approve the resolution approving a resolution amending the City of Kingsville Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual for Policy No. 740.00-Sick Leave, seconded by Commissioner Alvarez. The motion was passed and approved by the following vote: Alarcon, Alvarez, Hinojosa, Fugate voting "FOR".**

**9. Consider introduction of an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to setup budget for rolled over purchase orders. (Finance Director).**

Mrs. Deborah Balli, Finance Director, stated that at the end of each fiscal year, there are outstanding purchase orders that have been created and sent to vendors and due to various reasons, they remain outstanding. All purchase orders that remain outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are reviewed to determine if the products are on order but have not been received or if the project has been started but not yet completed. If there are purchase orders in that state, the purchase order and the associated budget must both be rolled to the next fiscal year to cover the expenditure. During the budget process, it is not always known if items or projects are going to be received or completed by September 30, 2025. If allowances have not been made for this expenditure in the following fiscal year budget, a budget amendment must be submitted to cover the expenditure.

Introduction item.

**10. Consider introduction of an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to accept and expend the Operation Lone Star Grant award #4385704 for personnel, travel & training, equipment, supplies and direct operating expenses. (Police Chief).**

Mr. John Blair, Chief of Police, stated that the Police Department requests the city commission to approve a resolution to apply for and if awarded accept and expend FY 2026 Operation Lone Star Grant Program funds. The grant period spans from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026.

Introduction item.

**11. Consider introduction of an ordinance amending the City of Kingsville Code of Ordinances sections 9-7-5 Correction by City; Lien & 9-7-6 Abatement of Nuisance Lots; Administrative Fees, providing for revision of language and fees. (Director of Planning and Development Services).**

Mr. Erik Spitzer, Director of Planning and Development Services, stated that his department is seeking commission approval to modify language for sections 9-7-5 and 9-7-6. It was determined that the existing language in both sections requires modification to accurately label fees approved last year for property abatement and avoid customer confusion with respect to the word "administrative".

Introduction item.

**V. Adjournment.**

As there was no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

  
Sam R. Fugate, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, City Secretary