

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE CITY COMMISSION WAS HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 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
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
Deborha Balli, Finance Director
Leticia Salinas, Accounting Manager
Connie Womack, Tourism Director
Monika Donnell, Municipal Court Supervisor
Susan Ivy, Parks Director
Nick Rivas, Administrative Assistant
Juan J. Adame, Fire Chief
James Creek, Captain
Emilio Garcia, Health Director
Charlie Cardenas, Engineer
John Blair, Police Chief
Bill Donnell, Public Works Director

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).¹

None.

III. Reports from Commission & Staff.²

“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 that are occurring around the city. He further announced that City Hall office will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in observance of Veteran’s Day.

Ms. Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney, reported that the next scheduled city commission meeting is for November 24, 2025. The deadline for city staff to submit their agenda items for said meeting is November 12, 2025.

Commissioner Alvarez asked that all ordinances require two hearings, introduction and final passage, why is agenda item #9 not listed on this agenda as an introduction item? This is the first reading, and it is read for final passage.

Ms. Alvarez responded that as with the venue tax elections, those are not necessarily required to have the duals. It is a state versus the city ordinance, that can trump.

Commissioner Alvarez asked that if it is a state, it would have to be read twice. She stated that she is talking about item #9.

Ms. Alvarez responded correct. She further stated that our venue tax ordinances that we receive from bond counsel and have done a couple of times already, those were also single reads. It just comes from a different authoritative. Ms. Alvarez further commented that the commission is also under a court order.

Commissioner Alvarez responded that what she wanted was clarification on that.

Mayor Fugate commented stated that it was a state court order to a local ordinance. Fugate further asked Ms. Alvarez if this was a fair statement.

Ms. Alvarez responded that it was a fair statement.

Mayor Fugate commented that there has been some information that has been related back to him that there has been some waiving of fees. He further stated that it is his understanding that waiver of fees need to be approved by the city commission. He further stated that he would like to see this done, as it is something that has to be done. Mayor Fugate further asked Mr. Sosa, that when he gets a document that is given to him and only copied one commission member, it is important to circulate that information to the other members of the commission. This also includes if he, the Mayor, receives something and not the other commission members. This would be for transparency purposes.

Ms. Alvarez commented that following up on the waivers, it is not legal for staff to waive an ordinance fee.

Mayor Fugate commented that if the commission has to approve waiver of parade fees, he thought that was the rule.

Ms. Alvarez commented that if the commission by ordinance has imposed a fee to be accessed, then staff does not have the authority to waive that without the approval of the city commission.

Commissioner Alvarez commented that she thought if it were another public entity as she recalls when the college was building the Music building, there were fees that were waived and never came to commission for approval. She stated that she figured if it was another public entity then it was ok.

Mayor Fugate commented that when you are dealing with the university, the city had nothing to do them. The city does not do plan reviews or anything else when it comes to the university.

Commissioner Alvarez commented that when they are building the building, don't they still have to come to the city.

Ms. Alvarez responded no.

Commissioner Alvarez responded no, they just get to do whatever?

Mayor Fugate responded yes.

Ms. Alvarez commented that the state can do that.

Commissioner Hinojosa commented that he thought before that the commission had waived some of the fees or the city manager had waived the fees.

Mayor Fugate responded that the city can't do that and he is just saying that waiver of fees need to come to the commission for approvals. This is the rule that we have and if it was done in the past, it doesn't make it right.

Commissioner Hinojosa asked if the commission should set a limit on that.

Ms. Alvarez commented that the commission can have a discussion item on for the next agenda as this is not something that is on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Mayor Fugate commented that he just thinks it needs to come to commission.

Commissioner Lopez commented to Mr. Sosa that, unfortunately, some of his actions have required her to speak out, so our citizens are aware of her concerns. She stated that initially she attempted to give Mr. Sosa the benefit of the doubt, but his actions have made it increasingly difficult. On October 6th, 16th, and 20th, 2025 via email and text message, she requested a copy of attorney Hinojosa's invoice. This is the attorney who represented the three commissioners and the city at the hearing of the 105th District Court. She stated that she did not receive anything. However, four days later on October 24th at 7:59 p.m. both Mr. Sosa and Commissioner Alvarez received attorney Hinojosa's invoice via email. Three days later, on October 27th, at 3:19 p.m. Mr. Sosa forwarded the invoice to the Finance Director via email for payment process in the amount of \$9,250.00, which was the attorney fees. Then on October 29th at 7:51 p.m., the Finance Director emailed the Finance Clerk instructing them to charge the invoice to the legal department. However to her knowledge, the legal department was never informed that their budget would be charged for this invoice. She stated that Mr. Sosa had sufficient time to forward the invoice to her, however, Mr. Sosa decided not to do so until once again she requested a copy on November 4th, and that is unacceptable. Commissioner Lopez further commented that Mr. Sosa is accountable to five commission members and not only to one or two, but to all five commission members. You tell a lie once and all your truths become questionable. Lopez further stated that with this being said, had Mr. Sosa examined the invoice for accuracy, instead of rushing it for payment in the amount of \$9,250.00, you would have noticed that there was charge on the invoice under the section services rendered, which specifically stated researched mandamus law, reviewed city charter, and drafted answer for Alvarez, Alarcon, Hinojosa where the work was done on September 5th for five hours at a rate of \$375.00 per hour for an amount of \$1,875. At a commission meeting on August 25th, a 3-2 vote approved the hiring or retention of an attorney. The motion was made by Commissioner Alvarez and seconded by Commissioner Alarcon with no reference to the attorney's name or any discussion about retaining or hiring Mr. Hinojosa. Most importantly, the service for the three commissioners and the city was rendered on September 5th. Lopez further stated that her concern is the retainer agreement to hire attorney Hinojosa was not approved by this commission until September 8th. Considering the service was provided three days prior to the approval of the retainer agreement she believes that the \$1,875 fee should be rendered pro bono. Lopez further commented that if he had spoken to the city attorney, he probably would have learned that. That the city was paying for a service that had not been approved by the commission or date of the service that had not been approved. This matter should be of great concern to our citizens. One might question what this matter is not being addressed closed doors, my response is that I believe that it is essential to maintain transparency and keep our citizens informed about the expenditure of tax funds and the procedures governing decision making. As stewards of taxpayers funds, we must maintain the highest standards of integrity and she further stated that she still believes the power belongs to the people.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items.³

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

Elizabeth Ramos, 615 Elizabeth commented that she is here today because a lot of people say that she is mean and not very nice and all she has to do is say negative things all the time. She stated that normally she takes upon herself to tell people that this or that need to be fixed before she goes publicly bashing anyone, but with the LyteFiber and the change in temperatures, she is here to state that someone needs to hold someone accountable for better communicating with its citizens on what is going on. She further commented that her front yard looks like World War II with landmines that have gone off. There are dogs and cats that roam this area and have noticed a lot of trash in these holes as she has picked up some out of the holes this morning. She stated that she is pretty sure that they will dump the dirt over the garbage. She has brought this up to a couple of peoples attention and she is getting tired of her yard being a trashcan. She has reported that there were holes in her alley about a year ago and the city decided to fill the hole with plastic, condoms, razors, syringes and a lot of plastic wares and to come here and get the trash out of the yard, and that hadn't been done. With this new water issue her front yard looks like hell and she is not sure who she can file a claim against to get it fixed. She stated that she would appreciate her yard being taken care of a little more respectfully, since she does pay taxes to the city. She further commented that she does not want her yard to be left like that. She would like to be notified, by someone leaving a note on her door letting her know what is going on. If you travel down her road there are two holes which are about 5 to 8 feet deep that don't have caution tape around them, to which anyone can fall into it. She stated that she stood next to it and kind of hoping that maybe her weight would allow the hole to give out and maybe she file a claim against the city and have a really good Christmas year. She stated that the city needs to be more responsible and communicate better and fix the issues

that the citizens bring to the city. She further stated that it doesn't take much to communicate with what is going on with these issues in town and keeping her in the dark with what is going on with her property.

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).

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

1. Motion to approve final passage 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 COLAs, 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).

2. Motion to approve final passage of an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to setup budget for rolled over purchase orders. (Finance Director).

3. Motion to approve final passage 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).

4. Motion to approve final passage 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).

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES:

VI. Items for consideration by Commissioners.⁴

5. Discuss and consider introduction of an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to accept and expend the Edward Bryne Memorial JAG Grant award #5469901 for purchase of equipment-specialty cameras & equipment and license plate reader. (Police Chief).

Mr. John Blair, Chief of Police stated that the Kingsville Police Department is requesting approval to accept and expend funds received in the amount of \$72,975 from the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) Program. This funding opportunity is designed to enhance public safety measures, improve crime prevention strategies, and improve law enforcement operations. The funding will support the installation of a mix of high-resolution security cameras and License Plate Reader systems strategically positioned across key locations throughout the city. These investments will significantly improve our ability to secure public spaces, deter criminal activity, and provide real-time investigative support to law enforcement personnel. Additionally, this initiative aligns with our department's commitment to reinforcing best practices in community policing.

Introduction item.

6. Discuss and consider introduction of an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget request to increase Part Time Deputy Clerk hours from 19hrs. to 29 hrs. per week at Municipal Court. (Finance Director).

Mr. Sosa stated that this item will increase the hours of a part-time Deputy Clerk from 19 hours to 29 hours per week. The additional funding for this increase will come from the BA

reserve line item in the General Fund. With this change in hours, the part-time position will also become eligible for participation in the Texas Municipal Retirement System.

Introduction item.

7. Discuss and consider introduction of an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget request to add an additional heavy equipment operator position to the Street Department for street sweeping. (Public Works Director).

Mr. Bill Donnell, Public Works Director, stated that this authorizes an allocation of funds to hire a Heavy Equipment Operator for the purpose of operating the city's street sweeper. This action will transfer from Fund 092 Street Maintenance Fund to 001 General Fund by \$65,909.00.

Introduction item.

8. Discuss and consider approving a resolution casting the City of Kingsville's votes to candidate Crispin Trevino for election to the Board of Directors of the Kleberg County Appraisal District. (City Attorney).

Motion made by Commissioner Lopez to approve the resolution casting the City of Kingsville's votes to candidate Crispin Trevino for election to the Board of Directors of the Kleberg County Appraisal District, seconded by Commissioner Alvarez. The motion was passed and approved by the following vote: Alvarez, Hinojosa, Alarcon, Lopez, Fugate voting "FOR".

9. Discuss and consider an ordinance calling a Special Election for the Recall of Norma Nelda Alvarez, City Commissioner Place 2; Hector Hinojosa, City Commissioner Place 3; and Leo Alarcon, City Commissioner Place 4 from the Kingsville City Commission in accordance with the City Charter and the Texas election Code, to be held in the City of Kingsville, Texas and other matters related thereto. (for May 2, 2026) (City Secretary). (Descunche y considere una ordenanza que convoca una elección especial para la destitución de Norma Nelda Alvarez, comisionado de la ciudad plaza 2; Hector Hinojosa, comisionado de la ciudad plaza 3; y Leo Alarcon, comisionado de la ciudad plaza 4 de la comisión municipal de Kingsville, de conformidad con el acta constitutiva de la ciudad y el código electoral de Texas, que se llevará a cabo en la ciudad de Kingsville, Texas y otros asuntos relacionados con la misma. (el 2 de mayo de 2026) (Secretaria Municipal).

Mayor Fugate commented that this is a court order from the District Judge

Motion made by Commissioner Alarcon to approve the ordinance calling a Special Election for the Recall of Norma Nelda Alvarez, City Commissioner Place 2; Hector Hinojosa, City Commissioner Place 3; and Leo Alarcon, City Commissioner Place 4 from the Kingsville City Commission in accordance with the City Charter and the Texas election Code, to be held in the City of Kingsville, Texas and other matters related thereto. (for May 2, 2026) (City Secretary). *(Descunche y considere una ordenanza que convoca una elección especial para la destitución de Norma Nelda Alvarez, comisionado de la ciudad plaza 2; Hector Hinojosa, comisionado de la ciudad plaza 3; y Leo Alarcon, comisionado de la ciudad plaza 4 de la comisión municipal de Kingsville, de conformidad con el acta constitutiva de la ciudad y el código electoral de Texas, que se llevará a cabo en la ciudad de Kingsville, Texas y otros asuntos relacionados con la misma. (el 2 de mayo de 2026),* seconded by Commissioner Hinojosa.

Commissioner Alvarez stated that she is voting in favor of this recall in accordance with the District Court Rulings. While she respects the process and the outcomes, she must clarify that she disagrees with the allegations made against her, as they are inaccurate and not factual evidence.

Commissioner Alarcon stated that he also does not agree and would like to reiterate what he said in court on the stand. When he was asked why he would vote against it, he said that these charges against him are all false. He stated that this all happened within the City of Kingsville, and none of the community ever asked for this. We were elected on May 4, 2024 and then they received an email from Courtney Alvarez, City Attorney, a lengthy email, telling them what they needed to do. Alarcon stated that he read the email a couple of times to make sure he was doing the correct thing as she is their advisor. In that email she told them that because now they are running in places and no longer at-large, the commission had to decide what to do with the Mayor Pro Tem situation, as it was no longer the same as it was for years. He further stated that now they are not running against each other, we are running separately. They were sworn in on May 16th and it was on the agenda on June 10th and during that meeting Ms. Alvarez said for them discuss and they were discussing and he brought up the fact that he would like to make a motion for what he thought was proper, as far as what Ms. Alvarez asked them to do, before the Mayor stopped

him from making his motion, which his motion was going to be, now that it is four year term with four commissioners why not split it, Place 1 first year, Place 2, second year and so on. That would have been fair and equal. He stated that he does not care for the position of Mayor Pro Tem. He stated that he asked to be commissioner and represent the people, as he was County Clerk for 10 years and served well. Then he comes here and retires from, after being County Clerk for a decade, he was solicited by the City Manager to work for him as the Tourism Director and he did for four years. He stated that then he decided that since he is up in his 60's and he would like to retire, so he did despite the false things that are on social media that he had gotten fired. He stated no, he didn't get fired as he decided to quit. He stated that he decided to retire and go home and do nothing. He stated that being home and doing nothing he decided to run for commission since Ann Marie Torres vacated her seat to run for the Mayor position, so he said why not, as he did not have much to do. He stated that he decided to and why not serve again. Alarcon further stated that as far as the Mayor Pro Tem thing, on June 13th it was on the agenda and that is when he discussed that he would like to do what was proper and being asked by the City Attorney. They voted 3-2 because the process needed to be changed and right after that it comes out in the Kingsville Record, that week, and the word out there was that Commissioner Lopez was saying that she was going to get them as she was City Secretary and she was going to get them, but with a recall. The charter says you can't do anything for a year after being elected. Alarcon further stated that right after that, immediately, right after the anniversary of one year, the recall happened. He stated that her daughter-in-law, Michelle Lerma, Commissioner Lopez's sons, Jason Lerma's wife, initially turned in the affidavit and so of course others helped. He stated that this is when all this got started. This was not a community effort; it was all started by Commissioner Lopez. He stated that it was her and her daughter-in-law and then others joined her. He stated that all this is a waste of money and it is because it is her way or the highway. He stated that he is sorry, but they could have always done this together and had a Mayor Pro Tem every year and like he stated, he didn't care to have that, but he will do the job if he is asked to do it. He further stated that he wanted to clarify that, the fact that this is not a community deal, this is internal, the whole recall thing is internal within city staff and city commission.

Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he does not agree with the judge's order but he made the decision, but he didn't agree with how he handled the court and further commented, but who am I, I am just a city commissioner, and he is the judge. He further stated that he has to follow the rule of law, but his is against the recall, the outcome of the order.

Commissioner Lopez stated that she would like to clarify something, her daughter-in-law did start the petition and not her doing and had nothing to do with that. She further stated that she started but did not go through with it. Lopez further stated that it was Commissioner Alarcon's goddaughter, his goddaughter, that went through with the petition. Lopez stated that going back to the Mayor Pro Tem situation, Courtney Alvarez had to get a legal opinion on that. The legal opinion came back that the Mayor could make the decision on who the Mayor Pro Tem was and not them, and this was in writing and she doesn't understand how that got all muddled up. She further stated that it was not her daughter-in-law. Once you bring family in it is really dirty, but this is how he plays and that is ok. Lopez stated that she wants to clarify that it was his goddaughter, Selina Tijerina, that ran off and retrieved all the signatures, and just to clarify it was not her daughter-in-law did not get any signatures it was his goddaughter.

Mayor Fugate asked that when Commissioner Lopez says he, who is she referring to.

Commissioner Lopez responded that she is referring to Leo, Leo's goddaughter who got the petition going. Lopez further stated that she did all the work and is still doing all the work, so it was his goddaughter. She further stated that the legal opinion came back stating that the Mayor could make the decision and not them, and it had nothing to do with that.

Commissioner Alarcon commented that she just stated that her daughter-in-law did nothing. He stated that if anyone wants a copy of this, this is exactly who the recall was done by. The media not get the petition and never saw, it was always about the three of us being recalled, but who was the people that actually did the recall. He further stated that it was city employee Alicia Tijerina who circulated 26 pages and received 210 signatures. The next one was city employee Alicia Tijerina's daughter Selina Tijerina who got 60 signatures. The next one was City Commission, Edna Lopez's daughter-in-law who got 30 signatures and City Commission Edna Lopez circulated and received 10 signatures. There were a couple of other people, and those are all the people he is trying to say that it was all internal. This was not a community effort, this was all here, here in this room. All the media attention and its hoopla, it is all here in the city. He stated that he served the county and served well and then he comes here and he thought he was doing a service to be insulted this way. He further stated that she is saying this and she was part of the recall. She helped solicit signatures, her and her daughter-in-law. He stated yes, Selina Tijerina is his goddaughter but of course her mother decided to do this and get 210 signatures which is a majority of the people that signed the petition and out of those 292 people had

to be certified, 60% of those 292 people did not even vote in the election of May 4, 2024. He stated that the just anybody that is registered and had them sign. He stated that this is so sad as it was not a community effort. This was a city internal, this is what happened. He further stated that the media is not here, but the Kingsville Record is, which he appreciates Ms. Morales and the effort that she does as she clarifies when we were hiring the city manager, she clarified and she made him understand that he was never convicted. He stated that he was upset when Kookie Kingsville came out and it was very disgusting. He further stated how does she get this information so quickly, and he wonders how. He stated that it is a sad situation and makes the city look so bad. Alarcon stated that he is ashamed of these people that sit here and look so pretty and say all this stuff but yet they are putting our city down. That is what they are doing.

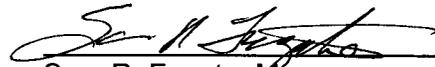
Commissioner Lopez commented that she thinks he is doing the same thing right now Commissioner Alarcon. She further commented that he is not any better than anybody else and yes she did but he does not know the situation as to why she had to sign that. She stated that you go back to the voters that didn't vote, but this is not what the charter says. If you have to follow the charter and the charter does not say that they had to have voted in the last election. It says you would need to be a registered voter, and that is the way it is, and if you don't like it, sorry.

Commissioner Hinojosa stated that they always refer to the charter, but only when its convenient.

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

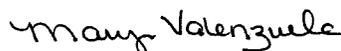
VI. Adjournment.

As there was no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



 Sam R. Fugate, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, City Secretary