

SPECIAL MEETING

CITY COMMISSION

HARLINGEN, TEXAS

MARCH 27, 2013

A Special Meeting of the Harlingen Elective Commission was held Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. in Town Hall, City Hall, 118 E. Tyler, Harlingen, Texas. Those in attendance were:

Mayor and City Commissioners

Mayor Chris Boswell

Robert Leftwich, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 2

Danny Castillo, Commissioner District 1

Mike Mezmar, Commissioner District 3

Basilio "Chino" Sanchez, Commissioner District 4

Victor Leal, Commissioner District 5

Staff Present

Carlos Yerena, City Manager

Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary

Roxann P. Cotroneo, City Attorney

Dan Serna, Assistant City Manager

Gabriel Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager

Elvia Trevino, Interim Finance Director

Mayor Boswell called the meeting to order; a quorum was established. A notice of the meeting had been duly posted according to state law and the following proceedings were held.

- 1) Presentation of a new Clean-Up Program by the City of Harlingen, "City Wide Trash Off Day."

Carlos Yerena, City Manager stated staff was working on implementing the "City Wide Trash off Day" as a new initiative for the City of Harlingen in an effort to beautify the community. He proposed that this project be done on a monthly basis. This work was done through the assistance of city staff and community volunteers. The City would provide an opportunity for city residents to dispose of unwanted items. A current water bill would be required to validate the residency. No contractors were permitted and the first Trash Off Day was scheduled for April 27, 2013 between 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Casa de Amistad Parking lot.

Commission Castillo announced that "Trash Bash" was scheduled for April 6, 2012. Volunteers and sponsors were being sought to host different locations. A location was adopted for District 1 and it would be good if the other districts adopted a site and gather volunteers.

Mayor Boswell questioned if there were any negotiations underway with the Tire Recycling Plant to take care of all the tires.

Dan Serna, Assistant City Manager stated negotiations were underway and staff was waiting for a response from them regarding on a proposed contract.

- 2) Discussion and presentation by Albert Aldana, P.E. with Aldana Engineering regarding an amendment to the City of Harlingen Vision 2020 Long Range Thoroughfare Plan by upgrading the designation of locations described in the Executive Summary Form prepared by the Planning and Zoning Department.

Albert Aldana, Aldana Engineering & Traffic Design, LLC gave a Power Point presentation of the City of Harlingen's Thoroughfare Plan. He stated the main purpose of the Thoroughfare Plan was to insure the roadways systems would be progressively developed for future travel demands. The main consideration in the thoroughfare planning was to allow for provisions to improve streets and highway. The City of Harlingen's last Thoroughfare Plan was adopted on 2003 and the purpose of updating the plan was to provide for roads/ highways to be designed to perform specific functions and city officials to be informed of the future plans to incorporate them into the planning and policy procedures. The City's Thoroughfare Plan was

updated to meet the following criteria: future traffic capacity needs; safe utilization by pedestrians, bicyclists, buses and traffic; existing and planned neighborhoods; existing roads and construction feasibility. The Thoroughfare Plan Update was performed using a traditional street functional classification plan that included different emphasis on traffic mobility and property access for freeways/expressways; major arterials; minor arterials; major collectors; minor collectors; and local roadways.

Discussion was held in regards to the following items:

- a) Speed limits provisions especially around the schools located on Loop 499;
- b) The synchronization of street lights on Loop 499;
- c) The incorporation of the Thoroughfare Plan with the City's Comprehensive Plan;
- d) Concerns about the speed limits, traffic and pedestrian traffic by Rio Hondo Road with the location of the new middle school;
- e) Current traffic count;

Mr. Aldana stated that it was not necessarily the speed limits, but the type of road and each road had to be reviewed based on the classification of each road.

Dan Serna, Assistant City Manager stated that video detection would help with the synchronization of the lights.

Ken Clark, Planning and Development Director stated staff was happy with Mr. Aldana and the updated Thoroughfare Plan. This was a good collaboration with Planning Staff, M.P.O., G.S.I., and with the students from Texas State Technical College. The Thoroughfare Plan would be presented to the City Commission at the April 20th meeting for approval and adoption.

Commissioner Castillo questioned how current were the traffic counts.

Mr. Aldana stated some of the counts were done in 2012, but the majority had been done in 2003. Due to the limited resources the existing evaluations and projections were based on the data and models done by of the M.P.O.

Mayor Pro-Tem Leftwich questioned what would be the main bus route to the ninth grade academy located on Teege Road.

Mr. Aldana responded the buses would arrive via Teege Road and North of Lozano Street. They had worked with the M.P.O on the traffic delays coming off of Commerce Street. A traffic signal was necessary at that location.

Commissioner Castillo stated no action was taken into account on the unfinished work done on 21st Street extension that connected to Vincent Road. The long-term intent would be to complete the improvements on 21st Street to connect to Vincent Road with another entrance ingress-egress to the school. He asked if this area was incorporated to the study.

Mr. Aldana responded not into this specific study. The study that was in progress was for the new health school. The study would be based on the need to connect 21st Street all the way to Vincent Road. The Thoroughfare Plan only provided a function of classification of roads.

Mr. Clark stated the issues pertaining to the counts on Rio Hondo Road and Morgan Boulevard were scheduled to be included in the plan. They would continue to gather counts for new items to incorporate in the plan. Mr. Yerena had scheduled meetings with the school district to discuss issues with the new ninth grade academy. The Police Chief, Mr. Serna and Staff would be in attendance at these meeting.

- 3) Consider and take action to enter into a lease purchase agreement for the City of Harlingen's P-25 radio migration to provide for an update of the existing radio system at the dispatch center from analog to an 800 MHz Digital.

Mike Rinaldi, Fire Chief stated there were some changes to the System Purchase Agreement. The cost of the system would remain at \$1,483,892.00. The City Attorney was able to review and negotiate the agreement with the Motorola Representatives. Mr. Yerena had

negotiated the cost with the representatives and was able to save \$76,762 over the life of the lease. This would be in addition to the \$37,000 saving of the radio system.

Mr. Yerena stated wording was incorporated in the lease regarding the warrant protection and the warranty would be in effect when the City had finalized the acceptance of the system.

Commissioner Castillo stated technology was changing so fast and was concerned because this was a 10-year agreement. He wanted to make sure that the equipment would not be outdated in 5 years and the City would be left with obsolete equipment. He asked if staff was comfortable with the ten year agreement.

Chief Rinaldi responded that staff believed that the equipment would last for at least 10 years.

The purchasing of the Motorola P-25 equipment would put the City of Harlingen in compliance with the State of Texas enabling the City to communicate with state officials in case on an emergency. This would be an unfunded mandate.

Commissioner Leal stated the system would works on Windows 7 and it would expire in 2020 and asked if the City would be required to purchase new updated computers or software to operate the system.

Motorola Representative stated the current system operated by the City is a closed system. There would be things driven by technology that the City would incur some costs.

Commissioner Mezmar asked who would authorize the expenditure of the seizure funds.

Mr. Yerena responded it would be a mutual decision. The major portion of the equipment would be for the Police Department/Emergency Operation Center. The first payment would be due one year from now. The first commitment would be from the Police Department Seizure Funds. The City would continue to seek funding within two years. When the new system was installed a new digital T-Line would be necessary to replace the analog system.

Commissioner Mezmar asked if the \$3,900 interest payment could be made without a pre-payment penalty.

Motorola Representative answered yes.

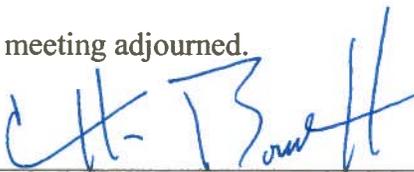
Mayor Boswell inquired about the timeline to install the new system.

Motorola Representative stated the installation would take up to one year and fewer than six months.

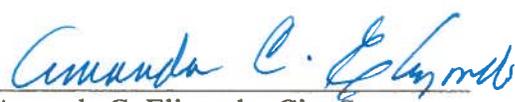
Ms. Cotroneo stated during the negotiation process she recommended that a project design review meeting be scheduled. During the scheduled Skype timeline meeting all deadlines would be set and this would have to occur within two weeks.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Leftwich and seconded by Commissioner Castillo to approve the purchase agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.


Chris Boswell, Mayor

Attest:


Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary