

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HARLINGEN CITY COMMISSION AND
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF HARLINGEN, INC.

April 4, 2014

A Joint Special Meeting of the Harlingen City Commission and Development Corporation of Harlingen, Inc. was held on Friday, April 4, 2014 at 12 Noon at City Hall, Town Hall, 2nd Floor located at 118 E. Tyler, Harlingen, Texas. Those in attendance were:

Mayor and Commission

Mayor Chris Boswell

Danny Castillo, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 1

Tudor Uhlhorn, Commissioner District 2

Mike Mezmar, Commissioner District 3

Basilio "Chino" Sanchez, Commissioner District 4

Victor Leal, Commissioner District 5

EDC

Dr. Gilbert Leal, President

Robert Dunkin, Vice President

Lupita Gutierrez Garza, Secretary

Rick Ledesma

Absent

Michael Lamon, Treasurer

City Staff Present

Carlos Yerena, City Manager

Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary

Richard Bilbie, Interim City Attorney

EDC Staff

Raudel Garza, EDC Executive Director

Brendon Hall, EDC Attorney

Mayor Boswell called the meeting to order. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly posted according to state law.

Dr. Gilbert Leal, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Harlingen, Inc. called the meeting to order and stated a quorum was present.

For the record, Brendan Hall, Attorney for the EDC stated when the EDC agenda was posted on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 12 noon a handwritten typo was on the agenda stating it had been posted on Friday, April 4, 2014. The agenda was posted Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 12 Noon.

Roll Call

Dr. Leal announced Rick Ledesma, Lupita Gutierrez Garza, Robert Dunkin were present except Michael Lamon.

- 1) Executive session pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D., V.T.C.A. Government Code (Section 551.087) regarding commercial; and financial information from a business prospect with which the City Commission is conducting economic development negotiations and or to discuss or deliberate financial or other incentives to a business prospect known as Project Ring.

Harlingen City Commission

At 12:05 p.m., Mayor Boswell announced the City Commission would convene into executive session to discuss Item No. 1.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leal and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Castillo to convene into executive session to discuss Item No. 1. Motion carried unanimously.

Economic Development Corporation of Harlingen, Inc.

At 12:06 p.m., Dr. Leal announced the EDC would convene into executive session to discuss Item No. 1.

Motion was made by Mr. Ledesma and seconded by Mr. Dunkin to convene into executive session to discuss Item No. 1. Motion carried unanimously.

Harlingen City Commission

At 12:19 p.m., Mayor Boswell announced the City Commission had completed its executive session and declared the meeting open to the public.

Economic Development Corporation of Harlingen, Inc.

At 12:20 p.m., Dr. Leal announced the EDC had completed its executive session and declared the meeting open to the public.

2) Consider and take action to approve incentive agreement with Project Ring.

Raudel Garza, CEO for the EDC stated discussions were held with the EDC board members and the City Commission in regards to Project Ring (Qualfon Data Service Group) a proposed Customer Contact Center to locate at 2200 Haine Drive. Qualfon would be employing approximately 227 people the first year of which 27 would be in the IT, Management Department. After the first year, an additional 200 people would be hire and possibly the amount of employees would increase after the third year. The incentive proposal offered to Qualfon Data Service Group was favorable to both parties. Mr. Garza welcomed Victor Garcia and Kevin Kavanaugh, company representatives.

Mr. Garcia stated their company was established in 1996 and has been successful because it was driven by values empowering people's life and helping the communities. He presented a video of the insights and views of their company. They were extremely excited to be in Harlingen. It had been a long journey in choosing Harlingen as their next location because of the customer service offered from the labor pool of the people in the Rio Grande Valley. It would be one of the most successful operations.

Mayor Boswell stated he was excited that Qualfon Data Service Group chose Harlingen for its newest operation as well as being part of their global family. With the possible creation of 400 new jobs it would be another great day in Harlingen. He congratulated them and thanked Mr. Garza and EDC board members for making this project a reality.

Dr. Leal welcomed Mr. Garcia and announced that the word he heard often from the presentation made was "Teamwork." He extended the City and EDC's support and wished them great success in their new endeavor.

Economic Development Corporation of Harlingen, Inc

Motion was made by Mr. Ledesma and seconded by Mr. Dunkin to approve the incentive agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

City Commission

Motion was made by Commissioner Mezmar and seconded by Commissioner Leal to approve the incentive agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Leal to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Leal adjourned the EDC Meeting at 12:38 p.m.

CITY OF HARLINGEN


Chris Boswell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary

Economic Development Corporation of
Harlingen, Inc.


Gilbert Keal, President

ATTEST:


Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary