

CITY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

HARLINGEN, TEXAS

January 21, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Harlingen Elective Commission was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, City Hall, 118 E. Tyler Street, Harlingen, Texas. Those in attendance were:

Mayor and Commissioners

Mayor Chris Boswell  
Mayor Pro-Tem Victor Leal, District 5  
Danny Castillo, District 1  
Tudor Uhlhorn, District 2  
Michael Mezmar, District 3  
Basilio "Chino" Sanchez, District 4

Staff Present

Carlos Yerena, City Manager  
Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary  
Richard Bilbie, City Attorney

Mayor Boswell called the meeting to order and stated the meeting had been duly posted according to State Law. The following proceedings were held.

Invocation/Commissioner Danny Castillo

Commissioner Castillo announced Pastor David Aguilar of Abundant Life Christian Center would do the invocation on his behalf.

Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

Mayor Boswell led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed those in attendance.

1) Public Announcement of Events

David Ralph, Public Information Officer announced the following events.

- a) Liverpool Legends - The Complete Beatles Experience presented by Motor City, Harlingen Municipal Auditorium, Friday, January 23, 2015;
- b) Club Shōjo, Harlingen Public Library, Thursday, January 29, 2015, from 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.;
- c) Mayor State of the City Address hosted by The Rotary Club of Harlingen - Casa de Amistad, Friday, January 30, 2015- 12 Noon;
- d) 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Jalapeño 100 5k/10k Run – Fair Park, February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015;
- e) New Quilts from an Old Favorite Quilt Exhibit – Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum, Exhibit through February 28, 2015;
- f) Spring Break Helpers – Harlingen Public Library, March 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.;
- g) Dive Into Reading – Harlingen Public Library, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.;
- h) Character Wednesday – Harlingen Public Library, Every Wednesday from 4:15 p.m.- 5:15 p.m.;
- i) Downtown Harlingen Walking Tours on Saturdays - Departs from Java Café, 204 Jackson Street at 9:00 a.m.; and
- j) Jammin' on Jackson Street - The Railroad Crossing Model & Railroad Event Center, 101 E. Jackson Street, events through March 26, 2015- Show times: 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

2) Presentation on the Operation Crackdown Program

Carlos Yerena, City Manager reported on Operation Crackdown and Media Day. He announced the Texas National Guard would be in Harlingen for two weeks to demolish unfit structures in the community. Media Day was held near Crocket Elementary School and one of the demolition sites. The Texas National Guard members, city and school officials and students were present at the event. Thirty-one structures were proposed to be demolished and over the past four years 233 structures had been demolished.

Mayor Boswell and Mr. Yerena presented a plaque of appreciation to Texas National Guard members and City pens to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bruce Robinson, Jr, SSG. Jeff McCracken, CJ White, TSGT, Jesus Hernandez, SGT., Cristobal Mejia Jr., SGT. Juan Hernandez, SGT., and SGT. Vanessa Gomez as a token of appreciation.

- 3) Presentation by Manny Chacon, Director of Marketing and Business Development with Medical Center regarding their annual accomplishments.

Manny Chacon, Director of Marketing and Business Development at Harlingen Medical Center gave a power point presentation on the accomplishments of the Harlingen Medical Center. The presentation consisted of the history of the center, staffing and accreditations, recent renovations completed at the center including the upgraded technology for the care of their many patients.

- 4) Presentation of Proclamations proclaiming the following:

- a) National Heart Month - February 4, 2015

Mayor Boswell read and presented a proclamation to Manny Chacon of Harlingen Medical Center, proclaiming February 4, 2015 as "National Heart Month."

Mayor Boswell stated no one was present to receive the following proclamations. Staff would mail the proclamations to the appropriate individuals.

- b) IHOP's National Pancake Day and Shriners Hospitals for Children Day – March 3, 2015;  
c) National Human Trafficking Prevention Month – January 2015

- 5) Approval of Minutes

- a) Regular Meeting of January 7, 2015

Motion was made by Commissioner Uhlhorn and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- 6a) Second and final reading to approve and adopt an ordinance creating three new positions at the rank of lieutenant in the Harlingen Fire Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mezmar and seconded by Commissioner Castillo to approve the item under the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

For the record, the caption of the Ordinance No. 15-2 reads as follows:

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 15-2**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN, TEXAS CREATING THREE NEW POSITIONS AT THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT IN THE HARLINGEN FIRE DEPARTMENT; REPEALING PRIOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND ORDAINING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FORGOING.**

PASSED AND APPROVED on first reading this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015  
PASSED AND APPROVED on second and final reading this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2015.

CITY OF HARLINGEN  
/s/ Chris Boswell, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary

- 7) Consider and take action to authorize the City Manager to enter into an Advanced Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) for maintenance of the landscaped areas along the US 77/83 Interchange, Expressway 77 and Spur 54.

Dan Serna, Assistant City Manager stated the purpose of the agreement was to advance the funds for the maintenance and landscaping around the Expressway Interchange (near the Tourist Center), Spur 54 Right-of-Way and Expressway 77 Right-of-Way. The City's cost would be \$40,431.46 for 7 months. The funds were allocated in budget. He recommended approval of agreement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal to authorize the City Manager to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement between the City of Harlingen and the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). Motion carried unanimously.

- 8) Board Appointments

Commissioner Uhlhorn

Gary Miller – Convention Visitors Bureau

Rudy Cantu – Planning and Zoning Commission (Re-appointment)

Motion was made by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal to approve the appointment of Gary Miller to the Convention Visitors Bureau and the re-appointment of Rudy Cantu to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

- 9) Executive /Closed Session on the following items:

- a) pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D, V.T.C.A., Texas Government Code Section 551.072 regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.
- b) pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D, V.T.C.A., Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 and 551.087 regarding deliberations relating to economic development negotiations and/or to discuss or deliberate financial or other incentives with the business prospect known as **PROJECT MOUNTAIN** and to seek legal advice from the City Attorney regarding the subject.
- c) pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter, D., V.T.C.A., Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 to confer with assigned counsel in regards to AEP of Texas Franchise Agreement.

At 6:12 p.m., Mayor Boswell announced the City Commission would convene into executive session to discuss Item No. 9 (a), (b), and (c).

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Leal and seconded by Commissioner Castillo to go into executive session to discuss Item No. 9 (a), (b), and (c). Motion carried unanimously.

At 6:43 p.m., Mayor Boswell announced the City Commission had completed its executive session and declared the meeting open to the public.

- 10) Consider and possible action to approve a 380 Agreement between the City of Harlingen and an entity know as Project Mountain and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

Mayor Boswell announced Item No. 10 would be postponed to allow staff to continue working on it and would be place on a future agenda.

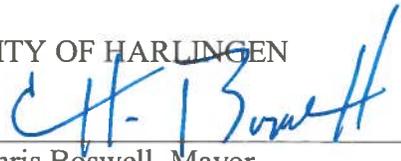
- 11) Citizen Communication

Ken Clark, 3102 Haine Drive stated after four years as Planning and Zoning Director with the City of Harlingen he was retiring at the end of January. The thing that he appreciated the most was the acknowledgement and support of staff by the Mayor and Commissioners. He commended Commissioner Michael Mezmar for giving proper recognition to staff for the many projects they have accomplished within the community. Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Yerena for bringing him to Harlingen and stated Mr. Yerena was one of the nicest and most genuine person that he has worked for during his professional career. When he started as director he was told the City had been left behind compared to other cities in the Valley. As a city planner, he was glad the City of Harlingen did not adhere to all the rapid growth that causes many problems for cities and referred the progress in Harlingen as "Smart Growth." In the next 30-50 years the Valley would be a prime location for business and residency. It was pleasure to have worked for the City of Harlingen.

Roy Maggard, 613 E. Austin stated the City of Harlingen was in need of a grant writer position. The position would help veterans fill out applications to bring veteran wheelchair games to the valley. It would assist non- profit and social service organizations to obtain funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He would like to see a Liberty House brought to the community to shelter and house homeless veterans of the community. The Parks & Recreation Department needed some restructuring and certain job positions needed to be eliminated to fund the salary of a grant writer position.

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

CITY OF HARLINGEN

  
Chris Boswell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Amanda C. Elizondo, City Secretary