

SPECIAL MEETING

CITY COMMISSION

HARLINGEN, TEXAS

July 21, 2010

A Special Meeting of the Harlingen Elective Commission was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Town Hall at 118 E. Tyler, Harlingen, Texas. Those in attendance were:

Mayor and City Commission

Chris Boswell, Mayor
Joey Trevino, Mayor Pro Tem
Robert Leftwich, Commissioner District 2
Kori Marra, Commissioner District 3
Jerry Prepejchal, Commissioner District 4

Absent:

Gustavo Ruiz, Commissioner District 1

Staff Present:

Gabriel Gonzalez, Interim City Manager
Roxann Pais Cotroneo, City Attorney
Elena Garza, Assistant City Secretary

Mayor Boswell called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATIONS BY TOP THREE (3) ENGINEERING-CONSULTING FIRMS FOR FUTURE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

Dan Serna, Public Works Director, stated that the top three (3) engineering-consulting firms for future roadway improvement projects were here to make a presentation. At this time Mr. Serna introduced the first engineering firm Cruz-Hogan Consultants.

Orlando Cruz, President of Cruz-Hogan, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the future retail Bass Pro Shop development. He stated that they are a local business with a branch office in McAllen, Texas and experienced in roadway projects. They have over twenty (20) years of experience in Public Works projects. They are municipal Public Works Engineers and have worked with all sizes of planning and design projects. They are familiar with all state, federal, and local regulations with well-trained and experienced technical personnel. The firm has a proven track record of completing projects on schedule and within budget. There will be complete communication at all times to keep you informed on the progress of the project. The Cruz-Hogan Project Team has the expertise, diversity, knowledge, and experience needed to handle this project. His team consist of John Hernandez, with Camacho-Hernandez & Associates; Rudy Martinez with EarthCo; and Juan Garcia, Jr. with JNH Surveying.

John Hernandez with Camacho-Hernandez stated his company has worked with roadway and traffic engineering projects. They have worked in numerous projects in Hidalgo and Cameron County for local entities as well as TX DOT. He has served as a sub-consultant for the City of Harlingen in other projects. He stated that they will be focusing on key drainage, traffic operations, traffic studies, traffic control plan, and traffic design elements for this project.

Other firms working with Cruz-Hogan on this project is Juan Garcia with JNH Engineering and EarthCo.

Mr. Cruz stated Juan Garcia was running a little late. Mr. Garcia will be performing the field surveying services. The principals of Cruz-Hogan have been associated with JNH Surveying for many years and have worked with them on many similar projects in the Rio Grande Valley area.

Rudy Martinez with EarthCo stated their company is located in Harlingen, Texas and they serve the Lower Rio Grande Valley and surrounding areas. Their combined experience exceeds 35 years performing civil engineer design, project and construction management, geotechnical engineering and materials testing services.

Commissioner Trevino questioned the timeline to get this project completed.

Mr. Cruz replied it would be about a 2 – 4 month project and his team is ready to go.

Dan Serna introduced the next firm: Brown, Leal & Associates.

Jack Brown, President of Brown, Leal & Associates gave a brief presentation on the Dixieland Extension Project. He stated the two questions that need to be answered are who are we and why us. He introduced his team Rudy Martinez with EarthCo, Centerline Surveying, TEDSI Infrastructure Group and ESPEY Consultants out of Austin, Texas.

He stated that ESPEY Consultants and Brown, Leal and Associates will be working behind the scenes for the developers of the Bass Pro Shop. A site assessment was done two years ago and it was determined that the critical issue for the site was drainage.

His office, in conjunction with ESPEY Consultants and Cameron County Drainage District No. 5, have already planned and implemented the acquisition of a 22 acres detention pond, which after completion of the development and completion of the detention pond, will result in the lowering of the downstream impact of this development by over one foot. Mr. Brown stated TEDSI Infrastructure is on board to conduct traffic control, traffic study, signal design and lighting. They were chosen because they have experience in the area and EarthCo was chosen because they are a local business with 15-years experience in the area.

Another member of the team is Centerline Surveying and Victor Banuelos has more years experience than any other area surveyor. He is also a local business and has already done a control survey for the developers. His has an established benchmark and centerline alignments for the roadway project.

Mr. Brown stated they have completed the alignment, have preliminary designs for the water, sewer, the drainage and other infrastructure. They have met with the Irrigation District and discussed the materials to be used in pipe lining the canal. Have met with TxDOT and discussed their issues on this project. Brown, Leal is already on the job. So this is who we are and what we are bringing to the table. We are also the most cost effective. He stated that Brown, Leal would have been ready to take bid 45 days from today; that is how far along the firm is on this project.

TEDSI Infrastructure Group was introduced.

Jose Sanchez, Project Manager with TEDSI Infrastructure introduced himself and Aimee Schroller who was not present due to illness in the family. He explained that this firm has worked with the City of Harlingen in previous projects like Chester Park 1 and Chester Park II, Tennessee Road Project and Sweezy Lane Project. They have also done work with the Bass Pro Shop in the Houston area. He stated that a traffic impact study is needed to determine the roadway and traffic control. This study will dictate the number of lanes needed for Spur 54, Harrison Street and the Dixieland Extension.

TEDSI's team has plenty of local experience in similar projects. Aimee Schroller has 11 years of experience including a wide variety of civil, transportation, and municipal utility-related projects. She has worked with four different projects with the City of Harlingen and many numerous projects with TxDOT and Cameron County.

Mr. Sanchez stated that this unique project will require coordination with TxDOT. Our team has an excellent communication relationship with the Pharr, Texas TxDOT District and we are confident that we can secure TxDOT approval for this project. This project will also have a railroad crossing which is a critical element on the design. TEDSI has worked with the railroad company in the past and we will coordinate with them in order to secure the required permits for this project. Our team also consist of Brown, Leal & Associates who are directly

involved with the development of the Bass Pro Shop. They have the insides on the drainage, the utilities and other aspects of the project. Also, the direct line of communication with the developer will facilitate completing this project on time. TEDSI is also familiar with the interchange, since they were part of the team that design the interchange back in 1999. The TEDSI team will bring in engineers that have ties with the developer, with the City of Harlingen, the Irrigation District and TxDOT. In closing, one of the City of Harlingen projects TEDSI agreed to complete the project in nine months. The City needed the plans as soon as possible, so we were able to complete the plans in four months. This shows that this company is dedicated to meeting deadlines. At this time he presented the Commission with some handouts on the project.

Commissioner Trevino asked the timeline from the beginning to pre-engineering to construction. How many days?

Mr. Sanchez replied in engineering it is probably from 4-6 months and 1 ½ months on construction, maybe six months.

At this time Mayor Boswell thanked the three engineering firms for excellent presentations and stated everyone was very well qualified.

ACTION TAKEN TO RANK THE TOP THREE (3) ENGINEERING-CONSULTING FIRMS AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH THE TOP RANKED FIRM.

Dan Serna, Public Works Director, explained to the Commission that each one had ranking form in their packets. Go through them then rank the firms based on the numbers and points given to each. The firm with the highest points will be ranked number one and from there staff will move on to the negotiations.

Commissioner Trevino questioned whether the firms were familiar with the timeline in completing the project.

Mr. Serna replied when staff and firms sit down to negotiate they will know that this project has to be completed in a timely fashion. Staff will dictate when that time will be. Mr. Serna stated in the preliminary ranking coming in first was Cruz-Hogan, second TEDSI Infrastructure and third Brown, Leal & Associates. That is only the preliminary ranking to bring in the top three for formal presentation.

Commissioner Trevino made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director to negotiate a contract with the engineering firm of Brown, Leal & Associates. Commissioner Prepejchal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Chris Boswell, Mayor

Attest:

Elena Garza, Assistant City Secretary