



**WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2011**

On this 11th day of March 2011 at 12:00 noon, the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas convened in Special Session at City Hall in the Legislative Chamber, located at 255 South Kansas Avenue with the following members present:

Mayor	Miguel D. Wise
Mayor Pro-Tem	J.F. "Johnny" Cuellar
Commissioner	Robert J. Garza
Commissioner	Lupe V. Rivera
Commissioner	Joe A. Martinez
City Manager	Leonardo Olivares
City Secretary	Elizabeth Walker
City Attorney	Ramon Vela

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call/Establish a Quorum.

Mayor Wise called the meeting to order. Elizabeth Walker, City Secretary, called the roll; a quorum was established.

B. Certification of Public Notice.

Mayor Wise certified the public notice of the meeting as properly posted Tuesday, March 8, 2011.

C. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wise recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Flag.

Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, moved to pull an agenda item from its posted sequence to consider item III.A. immediately. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration to suspend Ordinance 2009-18 to conduct this Special Meeting of the City Commission at 12:00 noon. Possible action. Attachment.

Commissioner Garza, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar, moved to suspend Ordinance 2009-18 to conduct this Special Meeting of the City Commission at 12:00 noon. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Brian Humphreys, board member of the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce and resident of 1502 South Oklahoma Avenue stated the chamber board unanimously opposed use of the Weslaco Visitor Center by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, though it did support use of incentives to relocate that organization to Weslaco.

Mr. Spencer Bell, proprietor at 421 South International Boulevard, stated he echoed the statements by Mr. Humphreys and implored the Commission to consider even the Development Council's own mission to work in partnership with local economic development and chamber organizations.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:07 p.m., Mayor Wise recessed the regular meeting to convene in Executive Session.

At 12:22 p.m., Mayor Wise announced the City Commission had completed its Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting as open to the public.

V. POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHAT IS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Economic Development - Discussion with the City Manager to authorize economic incentives through The Economic Development Corporation of Weslaco to locate a business prospect in Weslaco as authorized by §551.087 of the Texas Government Code. (Item as requested by Mayor Pro-Tem John F. Cuellar and Commissioner Robert J. Garza.)

Commissioner Garza, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar, moved to not authorize economic incentives at this time to locate the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council to Weslaco. Mayor Wise stated for the record that he "completely disagreed" with the motion, stating he believed it was a "missed opportunity."

Mr. Richard Talbert, counsel for the Economic Development Council, cautioned there may be devastating tax consequences from the improper use of the Weslaco Visitors Center by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council since it is not a governmental entity.

The Mayor stated that approximately \$90,000/year remains through 2013 to extinguish the debt service on the facility, secured by a revenue bond. He added that in his meeting with the Development Council, it is adamant that they desire at least two options in any response to the Request for Proposals.

Mr. Mike Givilanz, board member with the Economic Development Council, reiterated there is no feasibility study of impact to "put up this kind of money or this building." The Mayor said that the Development Council, and by consequence the City, are "negotiating with a gun to our heads" since the Development Council hopes to move by May of this year, by August 20 at the latest.

Commissioner Garza, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar, moved to withdraw the motion from the table.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar, seconded by Commissioner Garza, moved to authorize the submission of a proposal to locate the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council to Weslaco identifying three options: 1) build-out of the vacant portion of City Hall; 2) the Weslaco

Visitor Center pursuant to a legal opinion of assigned bond counsel; and 3) the former City Hall complex including the former Cardenas property.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Commission, at 1:05 p.m. Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, moved to adjourn the March 11, 2011 meeting. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

MAYOR, Miguel D. Wise

ATTEST:

CITY SECRETARY, Elizabeth M. Walker

MAYOR PRO-TEM, J.F. "Johnny" Cuellar

COMMISSIONER, Robert J. Garza

(absent)

COMMISSIONER, Rene Rodriguez, Jr.

(absent)

COMMISSIONER, Gerardo "Gerry" Tafolla

COMMISSIONER, Lupe V. Rivera

COMMISSIONER, Joe A. Martinez