

agp 10/5/10

WESLACO CITY COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

On this 15th day of September 2010 at 6:00 p.m., 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.

NOTE: If any accommodation for a disability is required, notify the City Secretary's Office at (956) 968-3181, Ext 3101 prior to the meeting date.

NOTE: If during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in executive or closed session, the City Commission will convene in such executive or closed session whether or not such item is posted as an executive session item at any time during the meeting when authorized by the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Mayor	Miguel D. Wise
Mayor Pro-Tem	J.F. "Johnny" Cuellar
Commissioner	Rene Rodriguez, Jr.
Commissioner	Gerardo "Jerry" Tafolla
Commissioner	Lupe V. Rivera
Commissioner	Joe A. Martinez
City Manager	Leonardo Olivares
City Secretary	Amanda C. Elizondo
City Attorney	Ramon Vela

Also present: Gloria Sepulveda, Purchasing Director; Bret L. Mann, Finance Director and several staff members and citizens.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Wise called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH A QUORUM

There was no roll call; a quorum was established; Commissioner Robert J. Garza was absent.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and consideration to approve Ordinance No. 2010-19 approving and adopting a budget for the City of Weslaco, Texas, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2010 and ending September 30, 2011 and approval of Ordinance No. 2010-19 on first reading. Possible action.

Mr. Leonardo Olivares, City Manager highlighted the budget summary and the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Budget Advisory Committee. He stated the Personnel Policy Committee was reviewing the Personnel Policies Manual and would be making recommendations to improve the employees' benefits. Mr. Olivares added forty three employees had signed up for the Voluntary Separation Plan from the different departments and was looking at reducing the staff by an additional 37 employees for a total of 80 people. He pointed out the city would be offering a re-employment program for the employees that were laid off. Mr. Olivares mentioned in terms of salaries the city will provide the Police and Fire 2% increase as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He stated he was proposing a 5% cut on salaries for the non-union employees. Mr. Olivares recommended not to increase the property taxes and to continue seeking grants for available funding. He stated he was proposing to do the base performance evaluation to keep the productive employees. Mr. Olivares highlighted the organizational chart; which included a full-time municipal judge; city attorney to provide the prosecuting services; the establishment of a public utilities department and the building maintenance department would be transferred to public facilities.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked for a status report on the management audit regarding the professional services contracts and proposed lay offs.

Mr. Olivares responded staff had not been able to review the contracts because they were working on the budget. He pointed out the committee had completed their work and had submitted a list of recommendations for the City Commission's consideration. Mr. Olivares stated staff was working on the budget and the reduction in force was still an item that he was proposing. He added this was the first reading of the budget ordinance; however, it could be amended. Mr. Olivares stated the deadline to approve the budget was no later than September 30, 2010.

Commissioner Tafolla recommended that they review the professional contracts within the next two weeks. He mentioned the City Attorney could handle all the legal issues instead of having outside law firms and the prosecuting services at the municipal court. Commissioner Tafolla stated some employees were taking the city units home and felt this should stop. He pointed out these and other issues needed to be looked at before the reduction in force was definite. Commissioner Tafolla stated the HEB issue had been previously discussed and recommended that city staff meet with EDC Board of Directors to see if they could assist in paying the debt.

Mayor Wise stated the mission of the EDC was to create jobs. He mentioned the city was going through a financial crisis and they needed to be proactive in trying to solve the city's

financial situation. Mayor Wise stated the EDC was doing an incredible job in insuring that the city a viable city. He mentioned the city needed a new water plant in order to promote growth.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar and seconded by Commissioner Rivera to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 2010-19 on first reading. Motion carried as follows: FOR: Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar, Commissioners: Martinez, and Rivera. AGAINST: Commissioners: Rodriguez and Tafolla. (3-2). Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

- B. Discussion and consideration to approve Ordinance No. 2010-20 levying an advalorem tax on all taxable property within the City of Weslaco, Texas for the Tax Year 2010, fixing the tax rate for the use and support of the general government and for the interest and sinking fund for the redemption of bonds and other indebtedness of the City of Weslaco, Texas, providing for the assessment of annual occupation taxes provided by law, and fixing a lien on all taxable property and approval of Ordinance No. 2010-20 on first reading. Possible action.

Mr. Olivares recommended keeping the same tax rate of \$0.6967 as the previous year.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar and seconded by Commissioner Rivera to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 2010-20 on first reading. Motion carried unanimously, (5-0). Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

- C. Discussion and consideration of an Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between The City of Weslaco and The Weslaco Independent School District for Videotaping City Commission Meetings to extend the term on a month to month basis. Possible action.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tafolla and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar to approve the amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between The City of Weslaco and The Weslaco Independent School District for Videotaping of the City Commission Meetings on a month to month basis. Motion carried unanimously, (5-0). Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Andrew Levine, resident of 808 Quail Hollow, stated the taxes were decreasing instead of increasing and the city needed to maintain a good fund balance. Dr. Levine stated the city needed to do a good evaluation on the professional services contracts. He mentioned he was concerned about the Sanitation Department and the city needed to consider how much it would affect them; the EMS billing and employee lay-offs were a sign of weakness.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar and seconded by Commissioner Tafolla to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, (5-0). Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

MAYOR, Miguel D. Wise

ATTEST:

CITY SECRETARY, Amanda C. Elizondo

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

COMMISSIONER, Rene Rodríguez, Jr.

COMMISSIONER, Gerardo "Jerry" Tafolla

COMMISSIONER, Lupe V. Rivera

COMMISSIONER, Joe A. Martinez