

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF MCALLEN**

The McAllen Board of Commissioners convened in a Workshop on **Monday, February 22, 2021** at 4:00 pm, at McAllen City Hall Third Floor (3rd) Commission Chambers, with the following present:

Mayor Jim Darling, Mayor Pro Tem Veronica Whitacre, Commissioner Javier Villalobos, Commissioner Joaquin Zamora, Commissioner Omar Quintanilla, Commissioner Tania Ramirez and Commissioner Victor "Seby" Haddad

Staff: City Manager Roy Rodriguez, City Attorney Isaac Tawil, Assistant City Manager Michelle Rivera, Assistant City Manager Jeff Johnston, Assistant City Manager Joe Vera, City Engineer Yvette Barrera and City Secretary Perla Lara

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Darling called the meeting to order.

1. PRESENT QUESTIONS TO STAFF RELATING TO THE FEBRUARY 22, 2021 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA, TO BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH MEETING.

Questions were asked regarding the regular meeting agenda.

2. PRESENTATION OF DOWNTOWN SERVICES STRATEGIES.

Staff gave a brief presentation of Downtown Services Strategies. The need to shift strategies during and after the Covid-19 pandemic was discussed. It was noted that the McAllen Parking Garage caters to customers daily who are visiting the facility for various reasons like:

- Daily / Overnight Parking
- Visiting the Passport / Vitals Statistics Division
- Food Court
- Public Restrooms
- Downtown Dining / Shopping

It was mentioned that while the Parking Garage has remained open and serves the general public daily, parking enforcement in downtown McAllen was halted in FY 2020.

Proposed strategies for FY 2021 were discussed as follows:

- Promote Parking Garage and on/off street parking spaces
- Add wayfinding signage in downtown McAllen / Create and add Parking Guide in mcallen.net
- Lease available spaces in Food Court
- Utilize the public parking garage top floor for special events, photography, etc.

A discussion ensued. Comments and concerns were shared by the Mayor and City Commission. Questions were raised relating to: 1) Incentives, 2) Roof Requests, 3) Special Events/Public Space, 4) Similar Facilities / Prices, 5) Difference with Public Spaces, 6) 1 Hour Photography and 7) Rate Structure / Adjustments. Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission.

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

3. PRESENTATION OF BUS SHELTERS.

Staff gave a brief update of bus shelters and accessibility was discussed as follows:

- Bus Stop Amenity Thresholds
- Bus Shelter Design (Comparison)
- Pedestrian Access and Walkways
- Award of Contract

Also discussed were shelter uniformity, product scalability and product comparison.

A discussion ensued. Comments and concerns were shared by the Mayor and City Commission. Questions were asked relating to: 1) Sidewalk Timeframe 2) Stops, 3) Transit Plans, 4)

Infrastructure, 5) Routes, 6) Growth and 7) Revisiting Thresholds. Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission.

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

4. UPDATE ON THE SOUTH POLE ILLUMINATED DRIVE.

Said item was tabled.

5. DISCUSSION OF THE RE-OPENING OF PARK PLAY STATIONS.

Staff gave a brief update of possible reopening plan for city play systems at various parks. It was noted that Parks & Recreation oversees over 86 park spaces and within them 110 playgrounds. It was mentioned that in March 2020 due to the unknowns of the pandemic spread, playgrounds were closed and Parks has continued to monitor and follow CDC recommendations.

A phased reopening plan was provided to the Mayor and City Commission including 34 play stations throughout the city. Locations were highlighted as follows:

• District 1 -	Bill Schupp, Crossings	6 Play Systems
• District 2 -	Lark, Zinnia	5 Play Systems
• District 3 -	Daffodil Park, Summer Breeze	6 Play Systems
• District 4 -	Palm View Community Center, Airport Park	6 Play Systems
• District 5 -	Municipal 5-12, Lions Park, Crocket Park	5 Play Systems
• District 6 -	Firemen's Park, Curtis Park, La Vista	6 Play Systems

It was noted that if approved these locations will be sanitized once a day. Signage for self-care and self-regulated social distancing can be placed at all affected play stations. The Parks and Recreation Department staff recommended proceeding with the proposed phased in park reopening plan with a proactive campaign to self-regulate use and social distancing.

A discussion ensued. Comments and concerns were shared by the Mayor and City Commission. Questions were asked relating to: 1) Implementation, 2) Playscapes/ Playgrounds/Surrounding Cities, 3) Additional Work Hours, 4) Personal Responsibility and 5) Specific to Certain Parks / Sports Park. Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission. Staff was directed to provide updates through the Friday Highlights.

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

6. REPORT ON CARES ACT FUNDING.

Report was given. No action required.

7. SUBDIVISION MONTHLY REPORT.

Staff provided a brief update for subdivisions including:

- Acqualina at Tres Lagos – Phase 1 Subdivision
- Acqualina Lot 9 Subdivision
- Northwood Trails Block I Subdivision
- Campo de Sueños Subdivision
- Cascada at Tres Lagos Subdivision
- Highland Oaks Subdivision
- M2 Subdivision
- Solidaire Subdivision
- The Villas on Freddy Subdivision

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

8. PROOJECT STATUS REPORT THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2021.

Said item was tabled.

9. PARKS AND RECREATION PROECT STATUS REPORT.

Said item was tabled.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION, CHAPTER 551, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY), SECTION 551.072 (DELIBERATION

REGARDING REAL PROPERTY), SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS) AND SECTION 551.087 (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

- A) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ASPECTS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS. (SECTION 551.071, T.G.C.)
- B) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ASPECTS OF LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. (SECTION 551.071, T.G.C.)
- C) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION – CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-21-000489; CITY OF MCALLEN V. THE STATE OF TEXAS, HON. RUTH R. HUGHS, TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE. (SECTION 551.071, T.G.C.)
- D) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO RISK, CLAIMS AND DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING. (SECTION 551.071, T.G.C.)
- E) CONSULTATION DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE LEASE, SALE OR PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE PROPERTY: TRACT 1. (SECTION 551.071, T.G.C.)
- F) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS. (SECTION 551.087, T.G.C.)

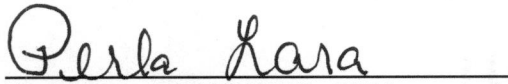
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: 1) Jorge Cruz Saenz, 2) Evita Luna, 3) Marta Luna and 4) Raul Cortinas

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.


Jim Darling, Mayor

Attest:


Perla Lara, TRMC/CMC, CPM
City Secretary