

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

The McAllen Board of Commissioners convened in a Workshop on **Monday, April 8, 2019** at 4:00 pm, at McAllen City Hall Third Floor (3rd) Commission Chambers, with the following present:

Mayor Jim Darling, Mayor Pro Tem Aida Ramirez, Commissioner Javier Villalobos, Commissioner Joaquin Zamora, Commissioner Omar Quintanilla, Commissioner John Ingram and Commissioner Veronica Whitacre

Staff: City Manager Roy Rodriguez, City Attorney Kevin Pagan, Assistant City Manager Michelle Rivera, Assistant City Manager Jeff Johnston, City Engineer Yvette Barrera, Chief Victor Rodriguez and City Secretary Perla Lara

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Darling called the meeting to order.

1. PRESENT QUESTIONS TO STAFF RELATING TO THE APRIL 8, 2019 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA, TO BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH MEETING.

Questions were asked relating to items 3C and 6A of the Regular Meeting Agenda.

2. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE SECTION 74-55, POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

Staff gave a brief update on the Ordinance Section 74-55 Political Activities and the context of its application to requests. Staff briefly mentioned that in the City Manager's opinion Ordinance was vague. Also mentioned was that there is no criterion for the City Manager to use for such decision. Staff requested guidance to continue a practice of Ordinance Sec. 74-55 or make changes to the policy.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Comments and concerns were shared by the Mayor and City Commission. Questions were raised as to: 1) Use/Rent city parks for campaign purposes, 2) others having used park before, 3) renting McAllen Public Library or Fireman's Park for campaign events, 4) candidates running for non-city office and rentals, 5) enforcement during election cycles, 6) Criteria, 7) Future Problems, 8) Signs/Amplified Music/and Alcoholic Beverages, 9) Political campaigning allowed at city parks, 10) Requirements for mass gathering permits and 9) Constituents complaints. Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission.

Staff was directed to review ordinance and come back with recommendations to enforce at the next election cycle.

3. RECYCLE RIGHT PROGRAM UPDATE AND NATIONAL TRENDS.

Staff gave an update on the Recycle Right Program and National Recycling Trends and briefly touched on China's impact on recycling as follows:

- China is known as the largest consumer
- In 2017 China changed their policy to partial ban of:
 - 1) No Plastic
 - 2) Accepting only paper goods including cardboard and mixed paper
 - 3) Restricted to only 0.5% contamination rate
- January 2018 – Policy Enforcement Began

Staff mentioned national impact and discussed the following:

- Short-Term Issue
- Domestic market will respond within a few years
- Increase in public awareness about recycling

Impact on McAllen was noted as follows:

- Minimal
- Domestic Markets & Mexico
- Price of Commodities
- 30% - 40% Decrease in price of Paper goods

Recycle Right Program

- Implemented November 2016
- Increased Residential Participation (Set-out Rate) from 30% to 64%
- Curbside Tonnage Collected Decreased by 36%
- Tons Recycled Increased by 27%

Recycle Right – Results

- 2,242 – Total Blue Bins Removed
- 1,100 accounts have opted to keep the additional black bin
- \$185,614 – Revenue from Black Bins

Overall Current Recycling Status

- 12% Increase in Sales
- 17% Increase in Recycled Tonnage
- Sale of Commodities expected to meet budget projection (\$500,000)

Comments and concerns were shared by the Mayor and City Commission. Questions were raised as to: 1) Contamination Rates, 2) Rubber Bands and bundles, 3) China Paper Mills, 4) Citizens who were in non-compliance, 5) Glass Recycling, 6) Curb Side Collection, 7) Area in City using the blue bins, 8) Apartment Complexes and 9) Public Works Applications being a great educational tool. Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission.

Staff was directed to bring back a summary for future agenda.

The City Commission thanked staff for their presentation.

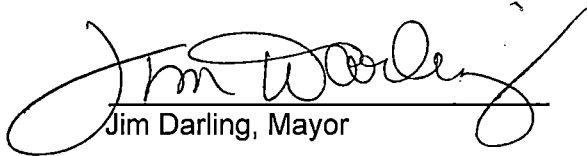
4. EXECUTIVE SESSION, CHAPTER 551, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY), SECTION 551.072 (DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY), SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS) AND SECTION 551.087 (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT).

- A) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ASPECTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY PARKING GARAGE CONTRACT. (SECTION 551.071 T.G.C.)**
- B) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO CAUSE NO. C-1013-19-I; MICHAEL LUNA AND ERNESTO BANDA V. CITY OF McALLEN. (SECTION 551.071 T.G.C.)**

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: There were no public comment forms submitted.

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