

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

The McAllen Board of Commissioners convened in a Workshop on **Monday, October 28, 2019** 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 Kevin Pagan, 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 OCTOBER 28, 2019 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA, TO BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH MEETING.

Questions were asked relating to the Regular Meeting Agenda for items: 3C, 3D and 3G.

2. REPORT ON FIESTA DE PALMAS.

Staff briefed the City Commission on Fiesta de Palmas. Handouts were distributed to the Mayor and City Commission. Staff touched on the following:

- 2 Day Event
- 65,000 visitors
- 550 Entertainers
- Biggest end of summer fiesta in South Texas
- Statistics on Attendees
- Educational Exhibits
- Over 27,000 Youth in Attendance
- Coverage – 22 News Stories
- Economic Impact Generated \$115,220 of Tax Revenue

Staff also briefly reviewed profit /loss and sponsorship report. Additionally, staff discussed the Fiesta de Palmas Main Social Media Reach as follows:

- Total Impressions: 3.86 Million
- Organic Impressions: 1.1 Million
- Total Social Media Reach 2 Million
- Page Engaged Users 93,799

A discussion ensued. Comments and concerns were shared by the Mayor and City Commission. Questions were raised as to: 1) Youth Visits, 2) Science/Engineering/Math and Arts, 3) Educational Booths, 4) Growing the Event, 5) Beer Around the World, 6) Profit /Loss 2013, 2014 and 2015, 7) Fund that Profits Go To, 8) Staff's Vision and 9) Cultural Education. Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission.

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

3. DISCUSSION OF BUILDING A FENCE TO BLOCK OFF THE HIKE & BIKE TRAIL.

Staff briefed the Mayor and City Commission on the block off the Hike & Bike Trail. Concerns were discussed as it pertains to access and neighborhood concerns. Staff discussed the following streets:

- Redbud
- Violet
- East of Bicentennial Trail
- North of Nolana
- Creating 2 ADA Compliant Sidewalks

A discussion ensued. Comments and concerns were shared by the Mayor and City Commission. Questions were raised as to: 1) Bicentennial, 2) Looking at other possibilities and options, 3) North

of Nolana, 4) Creating Sidewalks, 5) Parking in Cul-de-sacs ,6) Violet Street , 7) Redbud being more narrow, 8) Addressing each street with different options, 9) Access to the Trails and 10) Crossing at Private Properties and 11) ADA Compliant . Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission.

After a lengthy discussion, staff was given direction to address both streets.

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

4. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

Presentation was given on University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine. It was noted that the UTRGV School of Medicine seeks to expand collaboration with the City of McAllen to include research in diabetes. Staff noted that diabetes, obesity and related disorders are reaching epidemic proportion in the Rio Grande Valley. This new collaboration with the city would allow the school to continue to increase the attractiveness of the Valley for researchers and research initiative and enhance the scientific resources available to researchers and clinicians at UTRGV School of Medicine that will help sustain its ability to recruit world class faculty who will continue to build and expand the research.

A discussion ensued. Comments and concerns were shared by the Mayor and City Commission. Questions were asked relating to: 1) Hospital Participation, 2) Team Focus, 3) Diabetes Initiative, 4) How Long to Self-Sustain, 5) Benefits and 6) Funding from other Cities. Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission.

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

5. DISCUSSION OF PARENTAL LEAVE & PET ADOPTION LEAVE.

Staff addressed Mayor and City Commission and mentioned that they had recently expressed interest in providing paid leave to employees for the purpose of a birth or adoption of a child as well as adoption of a pet.

The following were the proposed Parental Leave and Pet Adoption Leave guideline presented for their consideration:

Parental Leave

- One day (8 hours) of paid leave for each child born and/or adopted. (Example – 2 days for twins)
- No max on number of times benefit can be used for qualifying events
- If both parents are eligible – each will get one day
- Full – time employees only: Birth Mother, Biological Father, Adoptive Mother or Adoptive Father
- Employee must provide supporting documentation

Staff also discussed the pet adoption leave and mentioned that the purpose was to provide one day of paid leave to an eligible employee, following an adoption of a cat or dog from a Hidalgo County Shelter.

Guidelines for Pet Adoption Leave was discussed as follows:

- One day (8 hrs) of paid leave per fiscal year
- Limited to two times in employee's career
- If both adoptive parents are eligible – each will get one day
- Full-Time Employees Only
- Successfully completed probation
- Employee must provide supporting documentation

Comments and concerns were expressed by the Mayor and City Commission. Question were asked related to: 1) 3 Day Recently Approved, 2) Sick Leave/Vacation Leave, 3) Pets having to be adopted from Hidalgo Shelter, 4) Palm Valley Animal Shelter, 5) Shelter being opened on weekends and 6) Limited to Dogs and Cats. Staff answered questions posed by the Mayor and City Commission.

Staff was given direction to bring an update at a future workshop.

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

6. PROJECT STATUS REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.

Said item was not addressed.

7. STATUS REPORT ON PARKS & RECREATION PROJECTS.

Said item was not addressed.

8. SUBDIVISION MONTHLY REPORT.

Staff report briefly on the following subdivisions:

- La Homa Crossing Phase II
- Geptetto Meadows Subdivision
- Balboa Acres West
- Balboa Acres East
- The Crossing Commercial Plaza
- Monette Estates Subdivision

Mayor Jim Darling thanked staff for their presentation.

9. 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) EVALUATION OF THE CITY MANAGER. (SECTION 551.074, T.G.C.)
- B) CONSIDERATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS. (SECTION 551.087, T.G.C.)
- C) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ISSUE RELATED TO CONSULTING CONTRACT.
- D) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO RAILROAD REAL ESTATE.
- E) CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING LEGAL ASPECTS OF STREET NAMING PROTOCOL. (551.071, T.G.C.)
- F) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE LEASE, SALE OR PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY; TRACT 1. (SECTION 551.072, T.G.C.)

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: There was no Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Attest:


Perla Lara, TRMC/CMC, CPM
City Secretary


Jim Darling, Mayor