

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF PORT ISABEL COMMISSION**

**DATE:** January 12, 2021  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** City Port Isabel Event & Cultural Center  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora, Mayor  
Martin Cantu Jr. Commissioner Place No. 1  
Carmen Rios, Commissioner Place No. 2  
Martin C. Cantu Commissioner Place 3  
Jeffery David Martinez, Commissioner Place No. 4  
Jared Hockema, City Manager  
Susie Alcocer, City Secretary  
Nadini Jee, Assistant City Secretary  
Gilbert Hinojosa, City Attorney

**MEMBERS ABSENT** None

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Carmen Rios gave the invocation.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

City Commission led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM: PLEASE NOTE:**

- Any person with business before the Commission, not scheduled on the Agenda as a Public hearing may speak to the commission.
  - Public Comment Forms are located on the table at the entrance of the City Chambers meeting Room. [For further information, contact the Office of the City Secretary]
  - Public Comment Forms must be filled out and presented to the City no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to scheduled start of the meeting, to be considered and recognized.
  - The speaker must state his/her full name before speaking.
  - There is a three (3) minute time limit per speaker.
  - Public Comment Forms are not accepted after 5:45 p.m.
  - PowerPoint Presentations are not conducted during the public comment period.
- None

**V. PUBLIC HEARING:**

- **Public Hearing: 2021-22 TxCDBG Downtown Revitalization Program  
Open Public Hearing at 7:06 pm**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting “aye” to open the Public Hearing.

City Manager Jared Hockema informed the City Commission that every two years the city applies for this grant. This year estimation for this grant is around \$275,000.00. We would like to use this grant to install more lights in the Laguna Height area. There were no comments from the public

**City Manager Jared Hockema informed the City Commission that the application will  
Close Public Hearing at 7:07 pm**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting “aye” to close the Public Hearing.

- **Public Hearing: 2021-22 TxCDBG Community Development Fund**

- **Open Public Hearing at 7:08 pm**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting “aye” to open the Public Hearing.

The City Manager Jared Hockema informed the City Commission that with this grant he would like to repair the streets at Laguna Heights area. There were no comments from the public.

- **Close Public Hearing at 7:09 pm**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting “aye” to close the Public Hearing.

## VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **All Consent Agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the City Commission and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a City Commissioner so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.**

1. **Consideration and approval of budget amendments and/or salary schedules**

None

## VII. REGULAR REPORTS

- **Update reports from Department Heads**

**[Administration, EDC Revolving Loan, EMS, Fire, Public Works, Museum, PI Event & Cultural Center, Library and Police]**

City Manager Jared Hockema informed the City Commission on the following:

- As soon as the States to approves the Change Order for South Shore will continue working on it.
- There has been a lot of progress on Galvan Park project.
- The Port Isabel Public Safety Employees have been vaccinated. We are trying to get an event going with the county to have a vaccination site here in Port Isabel.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discussion and potential action to adopt a resolution in support of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District’s Application for Economic Development Administration funds for the reconstruction of Port Road. [City Manager Jared Hockema]**

Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., motioned second by Mayor Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora and all voting “aye” to adopt a resolution in support of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District’s Application for Economic Development Administration funds for the reconstruction of Port Road.

2. **Discussion and potential action to appointment James Cooper as reserve officers, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 341 of the Texas Local Government Code. [Chief Robert Lopez]**

Mayor Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora motioned second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting “aye” to appointment James Cooper as reserve officers, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 341 of the Texas Local Government Code.

3. **Discussion and potential action to approve the bills. [City Manager Jared Hockema]**

Commissioner Martin C. Cantu motioned second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting “aye” to approve the bills.

4. **Discussion and potential action to ratify the appointment of the evaluation committee, and to adopt the recommendation of the committee for Engineering Services related to a prospective 2021-22 TxCDBG Community Development Fund grant application. [City Manager Jared Hockema]**

Committee Members are City Secretary Susie Alcocer, Fire Marshal John Sandoval, Building Inspector Josh Garza and Public Works Director Victor Valdez.

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Martin C. Cantu and all voting “aye” to ratify the appointment of the evaluation committee, and to approve the recommendation to select Cruz Hogan Engineers for Engineering Services related to a prospective 2021-22 TxCDBG Community Development Fund grant application.

**5. Discussion and potential action to conduct procurement for engineering and administration services for a prospective 2021 TxCDBG Downtown Revitalization Program application.**

**[City Manager Jared Hockema]**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting “aye” to conduct procurement for engineering and administration services for a prospective 2021 TxCDBG Downtown Revitalization Program application.

**6. Discussion and potential adoption of Ordinance, an Ordinance 703-J, an ordinance extending the state of emergency in the City of Port Isabel due COVID-19; making provisions relating to the protection of public health and safety; providing a repealer; and fixing a penalty.**

**[City Manager Jared Hockema]**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Mayor Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora and all voting “aye” to approve Ordinance, an Ordinance 703-J, an ordinance extending the state of emergency in the City of Port Isabel due COVID-19; making provisions relating to the protection of public health and safety; providing a repealer; and fixing a penalty.

**7. Discussion and potential action to approval of city policy requiring employees to be immunized for COVID-19 and Influenza unless the employee presents a valid excuse based on religious belief or medical condition. [City Manager, Jared Hockema]**

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Martin C. Cantu and all voting “aye” action to approve the city policy requiring employees to be immunized for COVID-19 and Influenza unless the employee presents a valid excuse based on religious belief or medical condition.

**8. Discussion and potential action to approve Change Order Number One for the Median Improvement Project. [City Manager, Jared Hockema]**

Commissioner Martin C. Cantu motioned, second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting “aye” to approve Change Order Number One for the Median Improvement Project.

**9. Discussion and potential action to acknowledgment of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020 Public Funds Investment Act Report. [City Manager, Jared Hockema]**

Commissioner Martin C. Cantu motioned, second by Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez and all voting “aye” to acknowledgment of 1st Quarter 2020 Public Funds Investment Act Report.

**10. Discussion and potential action to authorize the city manager to submit a comment on behalf of the city to the Federal Aviation Administration as part of the scoping review of the Environmental Assessment for the SpaceX Starship Super Heavy Project at Boca Chica Launch Site.**

**[City Manager, Jared Hockema]**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Martin C. Cantu and all voting “aye” to authorize the city manager to submit a comment on behalf of the city to the Federal Aviation Administration as part of the scoping review of the Environmental Assessment for the SpaceX Starship Super Heavy Project at Boca Chica Launch Site.

**IX. CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Mayor Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora and all voting “aye” to go into closed session at 7:51 pm.

**1. Deliberation on Edward Meza vs. City of Port Isabel, pursuant to Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(a), pending or contemplated litigation.**

**X. OPEN SESSION**

**1. Action relative to executive session.**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Mayor Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora and all voting “aye” to come out of closed session at 8:13 pm.

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Mayor Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora and all voting “aye” to acknowledge the report given by City Attorney Gilbert Hinojosa.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez and all voting "aye" to adjourn at 8:13 pm.

**CITY OF PORT ISABEL, TEXAS**

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**Juan Jose "JJ" Zamora Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Susie Alcocer, CITY SECRETARY**