

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

**DATE:** May 11, 2021  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** City Port Isabel Event & Cultural Center  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
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  
Gilbert Hinojosa, City Attorney

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Juan Jose “JJ” Zamora, Mayor

**ALSO PRESENT:** Rey Rios

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**  
Mayor Pro-Temp Martin C. Cantu called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 :**
  - o Any person with business before the Co mmission, not scheduled on the Agenda as a Public hearing may speak to the commission.
  - o Public Comment Forms are located on the table at the entrance of the City Chambers meeting Room.  
[For further information, contact t he Office of the City Secretary]
  - o Public Comment Forms must be filled out and presented to the City no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to scheduled start of the me eting, to be considered and recognized.
  - o The speaker must state his/her full name before speaking.
  - o There is a three (3) minute time limit per speaker.
  - o Public Comment Forms are not accepted after 5:45 p.m.
  - o PowerPoint Presentations are not conducted during the public co mment period.None
- V. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**
  - a. **City Commissioner, Place 3**  
Judge Gilbert Hinojosa conducted the oath of office to Commissioner Place 3 Martin C. Cantu.
  - b. **City Commi ssion, Place 4**  
Judge Benito Ochoa IV conducted the oath of office to Commissioner Place 4 Jeffery David Martinez.  
Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting “aye” to move Section VIII. Presentations before Reports.

PRESENTATION

a. Port Isabel Rotary Club-Laguna Madre First Responder of the Year Award  
Port Isabel Rotary Club presented Carlos Gonzalez and Christina Esquivel with the Laguna Madre First Responder of the Year Award.

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned, second by Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez and all voting "aye" to take a 10-minute recess.

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting "aye" to re-open the meeting at 6:44 pm.

## 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.**

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

City Manager Jared Hockema informed City Commission that the following furlough employees were coming back:

Building Administrative Assistant Myra Cruz, Accounts Receivable Nelly Martinez, Museum employees Jeannie Flores, Coty Camacho and Carmen Alaniz

Library employees Janie Villarreal, Ida Tellez and Lourdes Nunez

Animal Shelter employees Roberto Contreras, Robert Galvan and Teodoro Cisneros

Public Works employee was Jose Juan Rivera.

Mr. Hockema informed City Commission that the Library and Museums were going to be consolidated to one department and that Janie Villarreal will be the Department Head for both and that Jeannie will be her assistant. The Lighthouse will open at the end of May and the Museum will open at the beginning of June.

City Manager Hockema also informed City Commission that the Full-Time Employees that worked through COVID will be receiving a \$600.00 stipend.

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting "aye" to approve the items the above items.

**b. March 9, 2021 Special Meeting  
March 29, 2021 Special Meeting**

Commissioner Carmen Rios motioned second by Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez and all voting "aye" to approve the minutes.

## 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:

- On Thursday the city will be giving out the second dose of Moderna vaccine.
- On the Median project the workers are working on it every day.
- On the Arturo Project there has been no movement on that project. The city will hold Davila's Construction March draw until they start doing more work at the project.

## VIII. PRESENTATION

- c. VIDA-Request for Assistance for Area Students

VIDA supports economic development by providing a combination of financial assistance, intensive case management, and career counseling to help economically disadvantaged adults complete education and training in high-demand occupations. Its mission is to formulate new institutional relationships in the Rio Grande Valley that simultaneously address employers' needs for skilled workers and link the area's

unemployed and underemployed with high-skill, high-wage jobs identified in the region. Its vision is a well-trained, well-educated population which will not only be ready for tomorrow's jobs, but will be able to live a more prosperous, healthy, and happy life. VIDA's goal is for participants to graduate with a degree or industry-recognized certificate in a high demand occupation and achieve living-wage employment in their area of study. VIDA provides job-training services to economically disadvantaged, unemployed, and underemployed adults with family responsibilities.

VIDA is seeking \$15,000 to provide a Sector Strategy Initiative for Workforce Development and assist three (3) low-income, unemployed or underemployed residents from Port Isabel through credential attainment and ultimately job retention in high demand careers. VIDA will apply the career pathways approach and combine postsecondary education and training, connections to employment, and social supports to facilitate its participants with education and job training opportunities. Resources funding this initiative will support project goals and activities as follows: Apply VIDA's intensive case management model and provide support services (tuition and related training

expenses) to three (3) low income, low-skilled residents from Port Isabel to achieve self-sufficiency through

education and job training opportunities.

Develop a skilled workforce that meets employer needs in targeted fields to enter high demand, high wage jobs.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Discussion and potential appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem pore.

Commissioner motioned Martin Cantu Jr., second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting "aye" to appoint Jeffery David Martinez as Mayor Pro-Tempore.

### 2. Discussion and potential action to appoint Priscilla Trevino Rangel as reserve officer, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 341 of the Texas Local Government Code. [Police Chief, Robert Lopez]

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting "aye" to appoint Priscilla Trevino Rangel as reserve officers, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 341 of the Texas Local Government Code.

### 3. Discussion and possible action to approve the bills. [City Manager Jared Hockema]

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting "aye" to approve the bills for the exclusion of Davila Construction.

### 4. Discussion and potential action to approve an MOU between Port Isabel Police Department and the

US Marshalls Office for use of the shooting range. [Police Chief, Robert Lopez]

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting "aye" to approve an MOU between Port Isabel Police Department and the US Marshalls Office for use of the shooting range.

### 5. Discussion and potential approval to place a banner on SH 100 for the Veterans Service Officer's

Convention. [Mayor Juan Jose "JJ" Zamora]

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Carmen Rios with the Commission voting three (3) for and 1(1) against to deny to place a banner on SH 100 for the Veterans Service Officer's Convention. Motion to deny.

## X. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting "aye" to go into closed session at 7:32 pm.

### 1. Deliberation regarding acquisition of real property otherwise known as Lots 7, 7A, 8, 8A, 9 and 9a, Block 46, Port Isabel Original Townsite, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.072.

## XI. OPEN SESSION

Commission Carmen Rios motioned second by Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez and all voting "aye" to come out of closed session at 7:52 pm.

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

Commission Carmen Rios motioned second by Commissioner Martin Cantu Jr., and all voting "aye" for City Manager Jared Hockema to proceed as discussed under closed session.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Jeffery David Martinez motioned, second by Commissioner Carmen Rios and all voting "aye" to adjourn at 7:53 pm.

**CITY OF PORT ISABEL, TEXAS**

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**Martin C. Cantu Mayor Pro-Temp**

**ATTEST:**

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**Susie Alcocer, CITY SECRETARY**