

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA GLOBAL GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE PLATFORM
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: TREASURER NORMA SEPULVEDA

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Board Treasurer called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum was attained.

Chairwoman Sepulveda moved to item #2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (September 28, 2022). *Mayor Rick Salinas made a motion to approve the September 28, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner J. R. Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes, Chairwoman Sepulveda moved to Item 3: Public Comment, there being none, she moved to Item 4: Administration.

A. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2022-02

Mr. Manuel Cruz, Executive Director was recognized and informed the Board that the purpose of this resolution is to honor certain LRGVDC staff members. He introduced the resolution by stating that damage caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, or a man-made technological event such as explosions or hazardous material incidents can affect all aspects of the community from government services to private enterprises and civic activities. When disaster strikes, in 95% of all emergencies bystanders or victims are the first to provide emergency assistance or perform a rescue. Today, we honor our very own staff who did just that, responded to an explosion that took place just 50 feet away from our CIEDO Building which is on the west end of our campus. In their response, they immediately, without hesitation, assisted a worker at El Rinkon Natural y Mas Restaurant who was inside the building when it exploded. Through media sources, staff has learned that 50% of the woman's body received second and third degree burns and that she is recovering and receiving treatment at Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio which is a Level 1 Trauma Center.

Today we honor our heroic staff members by adopting Resolution 2022-02 and presenting them with the LRGVDC Medal of Valor which is the first of its kind. Mr. Cruz then asked Chairwoman Sepulveda to join him in presenting the Medals of Valor to the following staff members: Mr. Cesar Merla, Ms. Marilu Fuentes, Mr. Rolando Florez, Mr. Jaime Garza, Mr. Emmanuel Escobedo, Ms. Beatrice Hernandez, Ms. Ivonne Desiga, Ms. Liza Alfaro, and Ms. Mary Rojas. Ms. Sarah Dierlam, Assistant Executive Director read the resolution aloud, the last two paragraphs are as follows:

“This governing body recognizes that LRGVDC staff risked their own lives to save the life of another and takes great pride in expressing our appreciation for their professional and quick actions during this disaster.

In recognition of their heroic actions, the President and Board of Directors award the aforementioned staff members LRGVDC Medals of Valor and directs the LRGVDC Executive Director to make this

resolution a part of the permanent records of the LRGVDC.” **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-02 as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** A signed copy of the resolution is posted on the LRGVDC website, lrgvdc.org in the “Board Approved Resolutions” box on the Board of Directors page.

B. Consideration and Action to Adopt Annual Investment Policy and Accept Quarterly Investment Report

Ms. Crystal Balboa, Finance Director was recognized and stated that there were no changes to the Investment Policy from last year and staff recommends re-adoption. Both the Investment Policy and the 3rd Quarter Investment Report were provided in the meeting packet for review. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the Annual Investment Policy as presented and to accept the Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

C. Demonstration by Texas AgriLife Better Living for Texas

Ms. Karen Cantu, County Extension Agent with Texas AgriLife was recognized and gave a demonstration on how to make Nopalito (prickly pear) Dip. She informed the Board that the Better Living for Texas program has helped provided SNAP-Ed through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services since 1995. Commissioner David Garza commented that he has seen a similar Better Living for Texas demonstration recently and is impressed with the fantastic job they do.

D. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that Valley Metro hired Non-CDL Drivers Hector Saenz, Erika Salazar, Edgard Sanchez, and Dora Villarreal; CDL Driver Oscar Aguirre; Vehicle Driver II Carlos Martinez, CSR I – Mobility Mistica Regalado and Demitre Reghr; and Program Specialist I Dispatch Javier Torres. Administration hired Cristy Rodriguez, Human Resources Specialist I, and Mr. Gilbert Luna was hired as the Assistant Director of the Regional Police Academy.

2. Update on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Trainings, and Legislation

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the office of Representative Oscar Longoria contacted him last week regarding HB 3139 relating to the authority of all governmental bodies to hold open and closed meetings by telephone or videoconference call. Representative Longoria wanted to know if the LRGVDC Board of Directors is interested in refiling this bill to continue the ability to conduct virtual meetings. It was the consensus of the Board that they would like to continue having the option to meet virtually. Mr. Jim Darling asked if the language in the bill would allow an organization to *require* attendance in-person if they so desired. Mr. Cruz stated that he would inform Representative Longoria of the request for that verbiage to be included in the bill. No action required.

Mr. Cruz then brought the Board’s attention to the list of the 88th Legislative Session Objectives developed by the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC), our liaison in Austin. The list includes priorities that affect councils of governments, staff will keep the Board up-to-date as bills progress.

Upon conclusion of the Executive Director Report, Chairwoman Sepulveda then moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

Mr. Rick Carrera, Director of Community & Economic Development was recognized and noted that no action was required for his programs this month and that his full status report is included in the meeting packet for review. He thanked UTRGV for inviting staff to their Texas Stars event which was a positive experience and a great venue. He brought the Board's attention to several upcoming meetings and recent events. He then yielded the floor to Mr. Jim Darling, Board Secretary and Chairman of the Region M Water Planning Group for the Reservoir Level report. Mr. Darling noted that the US combined storage for both Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs is up to 31%, which does not sound very high, but given that it was at 20% just 60 days ago it is a welcome improvement from much-needed inflows. Even with this slight increase he cautioned municipalities to monitor the situation and their conservation ordinances.

B. Health & Human Services

Program Action Items

Ms. Margarita Lopez, Director of Area Agency on Aging was recognized and addressed the following items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve New Contractor/Vendor Applications for FY 2023

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval of the new contractor/vendor applications listed in the report for FY 2023. The services these contractors offer will be utilized to provide residential repairs, transportation, health maintenance, respite, and homemaker services to clients in the three-county area. A full list of the applicants is provided in the meeting packet. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the new contractor/vendor applications for FY 2023 as presented. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Action to Extend Sub-recipient Contracts

Ms. Lopez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to extend the sub-recipient contracts for one year, from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, for the following vendors: WellMed, Amigos Del Valle, City of Rio Hondo, City of La Joya, City of Los Fresnos, and Mission Housing Authority. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve extending the listed sub-recipient contracts from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consideration and Action to Approve New Member to Citizen Advisory Council

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to add Ms. Debra Lachico as a new member to the Advisory Council. **Mayor David Suarez made a motion to approve adding Ms. Debra Lachico to the Advisory Council as recommended. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the program status reports are in the meeting packet for review. She brought the Board's attention to the 1st Annual Vet Fest scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm here at the LRGVDC Main Campus.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items

Mr. Rene Perez, HLS/CJD Program Supervisor was recognized to address the following items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Revisions to Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Bylaws and Policies & Procedures for FY 2023-2024

Mr. Perez stated that as per Task CJ1.1 of the Statement of Work with the Public Safety Office’s Criminal Justice Division, the CJAC and LRGVDC staff shall review the CJAC Bylaws and the Policies & Procedures on a yearly basis. After review, the CJAC determined that no changes were necessary for the bylaws.

For the Policies & Procedures, the Conflict of Interest section was added, and revisions were made to the Prioritization Process section, the Local Appeals Process section, and the Final Review by CJD section. The documents are available in the meeting packet for review and the changes are noted in red font. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the CJAC Bylaws and the Policies & Procedures as presented. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation on Membership Renewals

Mr. Perez stated that as per CJAC Bylaws, a member’s term is for two (2) years; the following members have opted to renew their membership and the CJAC recommends approval:

Annie Romero	Aurelio Torres	Pablo Almaguer
Rose Gomez	Tom Hushen	Christina Sprawls
Eddie Guerra	Patricia (Cookie) Bader	Robert Lopez
Soila Garcia	Uvaldo Zamora	Monica H. Sanchez

Mayor David Suarez made a motion to approve the CJAC membership renewals as presented. Mayor Gus Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation to Appoint Committee Chair

Mr. Perez informed the Board that the CJAC convened on October 13 and considered the appointment of Mr. Tom Hushen, Cameron County Emergency Manager as CJAC Chair. This recommendation requires Board approval. **Mayor Gus Olivarez made a motion to approve Mr. Hushen as the CJAC Chair. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Perez stated that his program status reports were available for review in the meeting packet.

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the program status reports for the Regional Police Academy were in the meeting packet for review, and he announced that the 215th BPOC graduated nine (9) cadets on October 9!

Mr. Dennis Moreno, RGV9-1-1 Assistant Director informed the Board that the full programmatic status reports for the District were in the meeting packet for review. He brought the Board's attention to the GIS Division report and noted that the GIS team has achieved 100% geocode matching on the GeoMSAG (Master Street Address Guide created from and edited by GIS data). He stated that staff is in the final stages of their new website and the starting stages of their new geo enabled address ticketing system. He added that staff was active in the community throughout the month of October and attended many National Night Out events in their region which includes Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. He acknowledged Ms. Maribel Alonzo, RGV9-1-1 Public Education Coordinator, for attending a whopping 48 public education and community events!

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Action Item

Ms. Sarah Dierlam was recognized to address the following:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Procurement of Transportation Vehicles

Ms. Dierlam informed the Board that staff plans to incorporate these vehicles into the Valley Metro Fleet as service expansion and replacements for vehicles that have met their useful vehicle life expectancy. Purchase of these vehicles will be made under a state contract through Creative Bus Sales in the Dallas area using 100% TxDOT and FTA Federal Funding with Transportation Development Credits. ***Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the procurement of transportation vehicles as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Valley Metro Program Status Reports

The status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

RGVMPO Status Report

No report from the RGVMPO was available at this time.

Item 6. – Executive Session

- A. Real Property Matter pursuant to Sec. 551.071 (attorney consultation) and Sec. 551.072 (purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property) regarding certain real property located on North Milanos Road in the West Tract Subdivision, Weslaco, Texas.

At 1:01 pm Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to adjourn into executive session. Commissioner David Garza seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- B. Reconvene into Open Session to Consider Action, if any, on Items Related to Executive Session as Described Above

At 1:26 pm regular session was reconvened, and Chairwoman Sepulveda asked for a motion related to executive session discussion. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the offer to purchase real property located on North Milanos Road in the West Tract Subdivision in Weslaco, Texas. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Item 7. – New or Unfinished Business

Chairwoman Sepulveda was informed that Mr. Francisco Castellanos would like to make a public comment but was not present at the beginning of the meeting, it was the consensus of the Board to hear Mr. Castellanos comments at this time. He stated that he is with UMOS (United Migrant Opportunity Services) and that it was just announced that UMOS was awarded almost \$57 Million from a USDA grant to distribute assistance to about 75,000 farm workers, meat packers, and farm laborers in 13 states. Mr. Castellanos stated he is hurrying to spread the word about this award because applications will be competitive.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn. **Mayor David Suarez made a motion for adjournment; Mayor Rick Salinas seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.**



for Mayor Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez, President

ATTEST:



Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary