

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, April 24, 2024

HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA THE 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: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

- DRAFT

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was attained. They moved on to Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Norie Gonzalez

Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg
Omar Quintanilla, City of McAllen
Ruben Saldana, City of Mercedes
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito
Mr. Richard Sanchez, UTRGV
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy County Navigation Dist.
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large

Absent:

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County
Mayor Adrian Gonzalez, City of Weslaco
Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County
Mayor J.R Garza, City of Alamo
Commissioner Betty Rodriguez, City of La Villa
Mayor Mike Carter, City of Laguna Vista
Mayor Jaime Gonzalez, City of Los Indios
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez, City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Eleazar Garcia Jr, Member at Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

B. Health and Human Services Action Item:

Mrs. Margarita Lopez was recognized and started with 2 action items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the timeline for the Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit operating plans for services (Sub-recipients) for the fiscal year from 10/1/2024 - 09/30/2025. **Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the timeline for the Request for Proposals to solicit operating for services (Sub-recipients) for the fiscal year from 10/1/2024 – 09/30/2025. Jim Darling seconded the motion; upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Contractor solicitation timeline for the fiscal year from 10/1/2024 - 09/30/2025. **Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Contractor Solicitation timeline for the fiscal year 10/01/2024-9/30/2025, Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Mrs. Lopez started by giving a huge shout-out to Mission Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mrs. Lopez mentioned to the board that they had received a phone call requesting collaborations to assist a family with a window of 2.5 weeks to complete this project with AAA alongside the City of Mission and they were able to repair this home within 2.5 weeks. Mrs. Lopez explained to the board that what was interesting about this project was the elderly lady had to be carried out utilizing comforters to be able to take her out of her home due to the poor conditions of the home entrance. There was an incident where she fell and broke her hip, and for the aging population, we all know what this means for other complications. It was extremely urgent that we were able to complete this project in that time frame and we were able to do the home modifications. We repaired the home and built a brand-new ramp, which now allows for medical stretchers to come up and pick her up at her doorstep, to take her for treatments. So, thank you so much to the City of Mission for your help and the wonderful team that you have on the screen, we get to provide guidance and allocate funds, but these people on the screen do all that footwork, so thank you so much to the City of Mission. Mrs. Lopez then stated that the City of Pharr with the CDBG funds allowed them for the first time to provide Homemaker Services. They provided us with 30,000 dollars and the 30,000 dollars are helping with lighthouse chores, and cooking, which is very important. Mrs. Lopez wanted to state that it is very important that they work together with the CDBG funds. Mrs. Lopez then went on and started explaining the slides that were included in the packet. Ann Cass then stated that she wanted to let everyone know that she had been seeing on television that maybe soon hit the Texas legislature to raise the salaries for the caretakers. Ann Cass went on and stated that in the Rio Grande Valley, our caretakers for both the elderly and children with special needs, are very, very low compared to the rest of the state. Ann Cass ends it with "I hope that people will pay attention to that legislation and support the increase to those who are caring for the people that have special needs.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Norie Garza moved on to C Public Safety.

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Program Action Items.

Mr. Cesar Merla was recognized and started with the action items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grand (JAG) Program Rankings and resolution. **Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance**

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Mr. Javier Solis started with Academy Action Items.

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the county of Hidalgo Texas, by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the Authority for LRGVDC executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the county of Hidalgo Texas, by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the Authority for LRGVDC executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the City of Rio Grande City, Texas by and through the Rio Grande City Police Department, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the City of Rio Grande City, Texas by and through the Rio Grande City Police Department, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Police Academy Program Status Report

Mr. Solis then started moving on to the Status reports, he stated that in their Basic Peace Officer Course, they had a total of 59 Cadets who graduated from the Academy. In-service training had 351 officers go through training for a total of 410 Law Enforcement Officers that have received training through the LRGVDC Academy. On our Course hours offered for our Peace Officer Course, they offered 1569 hours of training. In the service continuing Education training they provided a total of 208. Officers that went through the training for a total of 1777. He went on to mention the contact hours for the first quarter were 32,745, which is a major increase from last year. In 2023 total of contact hours in the first quarter was 5492, which is a significant increase because we are hosting BPOC Academy and getting condensed into the academy.

No further Comments or concerns they then moved on to Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District.

Program Status Reports

Mr. Dennis Moreno started by letting the Board know that there were no Action Items and then proceeded to the GIS Division, 911 and Information Technology, and community Engagement reports that were all in the packet provided to everyone for review.

With No Further Comments or concerns, President Garza then moved to Item D Valley Metro