



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

On January 7, 2020 the City Commission met for a Regular Meeting at the San Benito Municipal Building, Cesar Gonzalez Meeting Hall, 401 North Sam Houston Boulevard, San Benito, Texas at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present including the following:

HONORABLE BENJAMIN GOMEZ, MAYOR, WAS THE PRESIDING OFFICER

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Benjamin Gomez - Mayor
Carol Lynn Sanchez - Mayor Pro Tem
Antonio Gonzales - Commissioner, Place 1
Rene Villafranco - Commissioner, Place 2
Ricardo Guerra - Commissioner, Place 3

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mark Sossi - City Attorney
Manuel De La Rosa - City Manager
Fred Bell - Assistant City Manager
Ruth McGinnis - City Secretary

ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez

ITEM 1. WELCOME.

Mayor Benjamin Gomez called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. confirming a quorum.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U. S. FLAG AND TO THE TEXAS FLAG.

Commission Ricardo Guerra led the City Commission and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and to the Texas Flag.

ITEM 3. INVOCATION.

Mr. Omar Juarez, professional boxer led the City Commission and audience in prayer.

ITEM 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST.

Commissioner Ricardo Guerra announced items of community interest. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** commended Mr. Ramon Rodriguez, Parks Director, for keeping the Resaca looking beautiful and clean during the Christmas Holidays. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez** wished a Happy New Year to everyone and thanked Mr. Santiago Perez, Citizen, for expressing his concerns and solutions and invited him to sit down and talk.

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION TO THE SAN BENITO CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNIZING JANUARY 26 THRU FEBRUARY 1, 2020 AS SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK IN SAN BENITO.

[Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#) announced Ms. M.L. Garcia, Board Member, San Benito Consolidated Independent School District, present to accept the proclamation and pictures were taken.

ITEM 6. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MR. OMAR ALEJANDRO JUAREZ ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A PROFESSIONAL BOXER.

[Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#) announced Mr. Omar Alejandro Juarez present to accept the proclamation and pictures were taken.

ITEM 7. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION TO MR. RODOLFO JUAREZ, JR. ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A PROFESSIONAL BOXER.

[Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#) announced Mr. Rodolfo Juarez, Jr., present to accept the proclamation and pictures were taken.

ITEM 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS. (*Speakers/Remarks limited to three minutes. Public Comments limited to forty-five minutes*).

[Ruth McGinnis, City Secretary](#), announced [Mr. Santiago Perez, Citizen](#), who addressed City Commission stating issues at 800 Otho Street where he wishes to build but brush needs to be picked up and City will not pick up because he does not have a water meter in that location. Mr. Perez asked for City to pick up the brush. [Ruth McGinnis, City Secretary](#), announced, three minutes are over. [Mr. Santiago Perez, Citizen](#) stated to have more complaints, the last time he found out that they were six months behind scheduled and they sent me a bill for six months, now are they working or are they doing something else? Thank you. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#) requested clarification on the six months behind that Mr. Santiago was referring to and stating for Mr. Santiago to address his question. [Mr. Santiago Perez](#), stated he did everything by the book, the City required registering, permits and told everybody what he was doing and said, start charging me whatever you need to charge for sewer, for this, this and that. Everything was fine, he was paying his bill and next thing you know, he receives a bill for \$268.00 and he questioned it and found out it was not about water, it was about people that are supervisors at the water department. He stated why do I have to pay because it's your responsibility, you weren't doing your job. They didn't want to take it in the chin, so, I had to pay for their incompetence and for them not doing what they should have been doing. I mean, why should I, what are they going to do next? Oh, I forgot for the past two years to charge you this and it's \$300-\$400.00, that is basically what they did. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#), stated, Mr. Santiago, I know you and me talked. [Mr. Santiago Perez, Citizen](#), stated, yeah, about a bunch of other issues. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#), stated, yes, and I told you, a lot of issues. But, we already made it clear what's there and we never made excuses, we are going by ordinances and charters. Those are not excuses, those are things that are written on black and white that we follow and we are not going to break any ordinances but if you want to come in and sit down like I told you. [Santiago Perez, Citizen](#), stated, those black and white. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#), stated, day after day come, bring your solutions, help me out. [Santiago Perez, Citizen](#), stated, those black and white, Mayor, those black and white are issues that are wrong and it's up to you guys to say, hey, this is wrong, this shouldn't be doing and correct them. You can't just say, hey this is wrong and we are just going to keep on doing them wrong. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#), stated, no, I'm not saying. [Santiago Perez, Citizen](#), stated, correct to make it right, each one of you knows what is right and what is wrong. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#), advised, and I want to repeat myself one more time, again. [Santiago Perez, Citizen](#), stated, you are choosing wrong most of the time. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#), stated, bring it to the table, the doors are open. [Santiago Perez, Citizen](#), stated, it's not my responsibility. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#), advised, I've told you many times, let's talk. [Santiago Perez, Citizen](#), stated, you guys wanted

to be in that chair. Each one of you wanted to be in that chair. It's up to you guys to see these things and I shouldn't have to be calling on the phone to some commissioner or some leadership person to say, hey, I need this done as a favor. I shouldn't have to. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, no, we are not saying we are going to do favors, I said bring a solution. **Santiago Perez, Citizen**, stated, I shouldn't have to. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, a solution to the problem and we will address it. **Santiago Perez, Citizen**, stated, the solution is this, pick up the brush and that is why I pay taxes and you can't say, all that money that I pay goes to the same kitty. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, taxes are different from paying your waste, brush and trash and sewer and all that. It is different. Thank you, Mr. Santiago. **Santiago Perez, Citizen**, stated, it is not different, it all goes to the same kitty. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, ok, thank you, have a great evening.

Ruth McGinnis, City Secretary, announced end of public comments.

ITEM 9: CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2019 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING.

Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** moved to approved. **Commissioner Ricardo Guerra** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco, and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried to **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2019 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING.**

ITEM 10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT OR REAPPOINT BOARD MEMBERS TO THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO TO

- a) Place 1, Term Expiration June 30, 2017
- b) Place 2, Term Expiration June 30, 2017
- c) Place 4, Term Expiration June 30, 2016

Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve the reappointment of Mr. Rolando Moncevalles to Place 1. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** moved to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco, and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried to **APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. ROLANDO MONCEVALLES AS BOARD MEMBER TO PLACE 1 OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO.**

Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Jeremy Maya to Place 2. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** moved to approved. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye: **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco, and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried to **APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. JEREMY MAYA AS BOARD MEMBER TO PLACE 2 OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO**

Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Julian Rios to Place 4. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** moved to approved. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco, and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried to **APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. JULIAN RIOS AS BOARD MEMBER TO PLACE 4 OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO**

ITEM 11. DISCUSSION ON GUIDELINES FOR SPEED HUMPS.

Police Department Lieutenant Michael Cortez addressed the City Commission by identifying himself and advising he would be providing some insight and guidelines for speed humps requested by public in a petition for the areas of South McCullough Street and La Palma Street. I wanted to address that I have done some research and I have been out to the requested locations. Although speed humps are an effective traffic calming measure to the deterrent of speed. It is recommended at this time that we look at other measures to calm traffic in these specific areas. The streets in question, although they are situated in residential areas are considered to be connector roads or thoroughfares. These connector roads or thoroughfares provide access to other major parts of town as well as other major roadway systems within town. Each of these roadways are heavily traveled. Speed humps are usually not recommended for such type of roadways. In respect to the public petition submitted and in order to address traffic concerns appropriately, we will continue to assess the location conditions and the usage of the highlighted streets and will work to find solutions to any issues that may present themselves. Once our assessment is completed, recommendations will be made, will be presented to the city manager's office for review and follow up if needed. I am open to any questions at this time. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated on McCullough, it's a one-way corridor but it's a wide enough street and have two schools back to back. We have a middle school and then we have an elementary school. Traffic is pretty fast, what would we do about something like that. **Assistant City Manager Fred Bell** advised that is one of the areas that we were looking at, both South McCullough and North McCullough. We were looking at it from the expressway all the way to Business 77. One of the options that we are considering will be, more applicable for us to consider, would be placement of additional stop signs to create the equivalent of three-way stop sign. In order, for the traffic calming measures because of the type, the corridor because McCullough, as we know, goes way beyond on the north side of town and on the south side. The studies are showing that speed humps are effective in certain areas but these types of thoroughfares, connecting roads, the more appropriate calming measures are going to be like, they recommend, landscaping, additional changes on some of the landscape. We don't think that that is actually feasible for the city. We think that at this point in time, we are looking to recommending installing and creating three-way stop signs. That will require actually that people come to a complete stop. By strategically placing those, that would reduce the momentum that people build up when they come off the highway as they are shooting towards the schools. It's a long stretch and we recognize that it creates problems. Based on that type of roadway, we think that the road humps; number one, you would have to place way too many whereas road humps do not stop vehicles. They slow them but they don't stop them. If we wanted to have an overall impact to address these thoroughfares and connector roads, we think right now, we are leaning towards recommending actually creating three-way stop signs as strategically as Lieutenant Cortez stated. Captain Perea and I were out yesterday. We were driving up and down La Palma and McCullough trying to get ideas. We didn't want to present anything concrete to you right now because we are conducting this analysis. We think that is appropriate that we look at and we look at it at different times of the day, discuss with our experts that are on the field working, trafficking when they are out there in the field and seeing what would be the best bank for the buck. And, also, create the desired result which is we want to make sure that people are driving safely. Lieutenant Cortez did pull up some stats where we are as far as collisions in those areas. Statistically, they are very low, we are right in the school area, they are marked school zones twenty miles an hour. When we have the resources available to work traffic, we have several school. We don't have the resources, you know, to assign an officer every school zone. We are kind of a reaction whenever we get an area, you know, to a specific complaint, we try to divert some of our

resources. So, in order to create something of a long term, consistent traffic flow and address it, that is kind of what we are looking at doing something like the three-way stop. They're cost effective and stopping is much safer than just slowing down. Thirty miles an hour and if you are standing and you watch a car driving by thirty miles an hour it seems like it is speeding very fast. Same thing with twenty miles an hour. So, trying to get a gauge and assessment on it, we have to go by on the data that we have. The numbers show, again, collisions are very low, this is an area that, you know, over time, the design of the design of the street, Combes, perfect example, was designed and created to be one area, over time, the city changed, the dynamics changed so we have to try to modify some of the traffic control measures that we have and some of our responses to ensure to make it as safe as possible. That is kind of where we are with that right now. Mayor Benjamin Gomez, asked, so here on McCullough by the schools, are we looking at stops signs like at Fred Booth with the blinking light? I heard that those are pretty expensive but we got them up there but are we going to look at something like that? City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa, stated, it'll be three-way stop signs but not the blinking lights. They are not as wide as Robert Combes. It used to be former state highway. Assistant City Manager, Fred Bell, stated, twelve. City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa, stated, twelve, ok, so we know that historical records probably go back sixty years on old plots. That is a very wide area and we wanted to make sure that it is around that school. This is not that wide but we were looking at two points between the railroad tracks and Business seventy-seven. It's two different schools, so, we'll bring them to complete stops so having those flashing red lights is probably not necessary. There are residents and you are going to see these things at night, so, there, this connector road, probably works better there. The petition that we received was for the other side of McCullough, closer to the expressway. So, this is about a mile or maybe longer than that. Now that we've appointed the board, we can move forward with speed humps which is applicable to residential streets. The moment that we started looking at McCullough the way we looked when we have accidents at Combes and La Palma, we had those kinds of concerns, not petitions but folks that come in, I went, yes, let's look at it. If we do certain things at La Palma we are going to create problems with the folks leaving the stadium. Combes, we've addressed, the Fred Booth Elementary School area. This other, we'll see how we handle it but even the petition, these guidelines that we have, the second whereas, it says; where you are required to utilize in accordance with fine transportation engineering criteria. We have engineers, we have public works and we have police. This is not a new street, so, is it a police matter or not? It's an existing roadway, so how do we address these concerns of speeders. So, we've got data analysis and most of, but then, if you go to page three, under D, design standards and procedures; it says the traffic safety board should prepare and maintain current designs standards. I can tell you that in the last three and a half years, the traffic board when it did meet, didn't have any design criteria because we never provided it to them. So, as you go thru this, you will see further back that we even purchased urban street design guides. We've got engineers looking at this. This is not, it is not just issuing tickets, Mayor, because we don't just spend time sitting on an area watching traffic, we run calls, we prioritize calls and we handle those calls for service. So, how do we slow the traffic and handle some of this and they were not all, Chief Bell, they were not all speed related, the traffic accidents that we had were other and we did. We looked at those kinds of stats. Planning will now be part of the traffic safety committee that will provide information for some of these areas, we need to provide recommendations. But, we have an on-staff engineer, we have police, we have public works officials who actually make signs and put them up in accordance to signage standards. And then, we have planners that when we look at the new subdivisions, for example, the Liberty Estates when it comes onto Turner, are we going to have traffic issues on Turner because now you are allowing this additional flow of traffic. We need to get smarter on how we handle these

things and they are not all speed hump related; some of them are other traffic calming measures. So, we utilize the city's professionals to work with, when applicable, if the petition would've been a residential and we said, yeah, it is, say Ballenger Street, it's residential, let's send it over there and see if it meets certain criteria and then we weigh it. Sometimes it is good and sometimes it is not. But these other areas where we know that we have high traffic and a lot of other, something that is really much more where speed humps wouldn't work, we need to put those recommendations together and it is costly. Even this resolution that adopts it says if you don't have the cost you put it in place until you get the funding for it. It says; "upon funding approval the speed will be installed as scheduling permits." In other words, this is a pretty good guide it just needs to be read. We've got the criteria, we've got the professionals, we just need to address some of this. And, you might recall on Combes, the parishioners of St. Theresa, the crosswalks, we didn't think speed humps, I recall having that conversation, it wasn't appropriate to put speed humps because it is so wide. But the concern was, how do we get parishioners across the roadway safely. Well, we put signage, we painted the crosswalks and it became a maintenance issue. We need to make sure that they are properly maintained. Everybody knows that you can cross at the corner, cars are required to stop. We put signage, we are meeting those guidelines to protect everyone; pedestrians, vehicular and just people in general. [Commissioner Antonio Gonzales](#), stated, the other day on Combes, it is better, on Monday, that line. [City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa](#), stated, yes, sir, and we agree with you, yes, sir. [Commissioner Antonio Gonzales](#), stated, and also, you mentioned about Ballenger, well, I have a question on Ballenger, sometimes it is closed one-way. And we don't close it one-way but the school closes it one-way. [City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa](#), advised, I know that the school district is known for closing certain roadways and the chief and I have discussed that but because they do have cross guards and somebody managing it, it is safely done. I don't think that we've said that it is safely done but they do because they are trying to manage the flow of traffic and it's not the best of situation and we kind of leave it alone as long as there are cross guards and I think by law as long as cross guards are there, they are civilians. [Commissioner Antonio Gonzales](#), stated, no, no, I've been there, the people are dropping on - inaudible, Street, that is where people drop off kids. But, most of the people do not want to go all the way around, they want to go this way and then they drop them off at the gate they have there. I am wondering, do they have the right to close the street, if people want to close the street they have to come to us. [City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa](#), stated, they should, yes, sir. [Commissioner Antonio Gonzales](#), advised, but they don't come to us, they just close it and people have to go all around west to get on Bowie, you know. [City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa](#), advised, and if that is the desire of the commission, we can look at it. We kind of, I am going to be very up front, we let a lot of things slide as long as it seems to work for everybody. If we get a lot of complaints or if we get something that we actually believe that is being unlawful or making it unsafe, then you are going to get our attention, Mayor and Commissioners. [Commissioner Antonio Gonzales](#), stated, inaudible, people don't know. [City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa](#), stated, yeah, you are right, they need proper signage. [Commissioner Antonio Gonzales](#), advised, it was one side, just one side. The other one didn't do it. It was on this street. [City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa](#), advised, the school district should make a formal request, we should've put up proper signage, from this time to this time this road is this way because we put up signage. But here is the thing, there are costs associated, they should make the request, they should help us with the signage, we'll direct them, put them up and we'll enforce it that way. It cleans it up, we all work together. I'd like to thank Lieutenant Cortez, this is the first time he has presented and we are trying to get these other officers before you, they are replacements. [Mayor Benjamin Gomez](#), stated, very good presentation. [Commissioner Antonio Gonzales](#), asked, one thing I want to know, when somebody wants a speed hump how

are they going to go about it now? **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, advised, a street hump, the petition is still valid and the street hump says that it is put in accordance to the standards. The standards are the street humps are not applicable outside of residential streets. That is only. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**, stated, let's say I inaudible, where they used to fill them up and bring them back to traffic safety, you know. But now they have to come in and then have something explained to them as a new rule. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, we'll direct them because we might see them up front but I know that Chief Bell and Captain Perea reached back to the two residents that came at the last meeting just to let them know that we are not looking at street humps but that we are looking at other measures to correct this. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**, stated, I understand that. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, yes, sir, but you are right because sometimes they go thru all this but they are not going to understand, well, what engineering criteria, what's this? So, they are going to go thru a lot of work only to realize yet that the petition doesn't really mean much because it's not applicable to me. I mean, we have to make real clear, it is residential. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**, stated, on McCullough, you are right, stops signs might be better than speed humps because buses pass thru there. It is kind of hard for the kids in the buses, you know, due to the bumps and you have a couple of bumps on the street especially from junior high. What if somebody gets hurt. I think the stop signs are better as you are suggesting. **Lieutenant Michael Cortez, Police Department**, stated, yes, sir. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**, stated, you just keep on working on it. **Lieutenant Michael Cortez, Police Department**, stated, yes, sir. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, I heard a comment that the chief made that speed humps do not stop people they just slow them down. Stop signs do not stop people sometimes either. **Assistant City Manager, Fred Bell**, stated, but it's easier to enforce the stop signs. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, but, also, I just want to make a comment on this, are we also going to give a booklet to the committee that we just appointed or I just appointed so that they can read up on it or who is going to be in charge of setting up the meetings. Because, I know I spoke to the last people in that committee and they had not met for years. So, I want to know, is the committee going to nominate or vote for somebody to be in charge of it, like a chairperson and a co-chair or is the city going to tell them when to meet or how are going to work this. I think I appointed some good people on there and I think that they are going to do their job. But, they need guidance to when and where they are going to have meetings or how often are they going to have those meetings. And, are they going to take recommendations into consideration or are they just going to have them there on the board like we did last time. Because the other board never met for years. So, I want to know if they are going to be meeting and how long or how often are they going to be meeting. Because, we don't want a board just to name a board to have them with an expiration date and yet they never meet. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, and if I can ask, Ms. McGinnis, this is the only one we got all of 2019? **Ruth McGinnis, City Secretary**, stated, yes, sir. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, Mayor, they don't come in that often, they just don't. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, that is what I am saying, are we going to set criteria or are we going to tell them every Tuesday of the month or every third Tuesday, or what? We've got to let them know so that they can start meeting on a regular basis. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**, stated, how many inaudible. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, state, that too but they need to, even though they don't have applicants, meet and discuss the situation in the community on speed humps or stop signs or whatever the case might be; even though, we don't have a complainant or an applicant. They still need to meet, you know, to be in synch on what they need to do for the community when the time comes. I mean, we are not going to wait until we get an applicant or a petition for a speed bump; ok, let's meet now. No, that'll be a little too late, you know what I mean? We need to have them there meeting maybe once a month and we need to tell them what day of the month or what

time of the month they want to meet or we leave it up to them or how is this going to work? I don't want a board there just on paper but they are never going to meet like the past board. They never met. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco**, stated, there is a timing schedule for every board. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, that's what I meant, do we have it? Do we show it to them? **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, but, remember, you know what a speed hump is? How much does a speed hump cost? One ribbon of speed and where is Adan? How much is a speed hump? Just one rubber speed hump? **Adan Gonzalez, Public Works Director**, stated, Mayor and Commissioners, it's \$1,900.00 per speed hump. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, advised, every one of them, so, in other words, Mayor, to have a committee that goes, we are going to meet every month or once a quarter, let's designate six streets and we are going to put up, you have just started spending money. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, I never said that, I said a meeting. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, no, no, I just said. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, I never said if they were going to designate or not. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, ok, nothing specific. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, advised, I said when are they going to meet, that is all I said. I never said, ok, we are going to need a speed hump. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, advised, ok, I was hearing. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, no, no, I never mentioned that. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, ok, if they should meet. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, go back on the recorder, I never said that. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, no, no, but the committee should select their chairman. All of the requests that come in are based on speeding. That is the accusation, so, that should go straight to PD. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, and they need commission approval anyway. But, I'm just saying that they need to meet and know what is up, is what I am saying. It is not like they are going to go crazy buying speed humps. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, all the requests, and we can put this online, when it comes in, when the petition is filed, because they've usually gone thru the City Secretary's office, we can make it online and they are going to go straight to the police department because that is where it needs to be initiated. And, that committee is a traffic safety. It should be met with them, their building, with them; whether it's the chief, the captain or ranking officer, not patrolmen, but it's handle like that and then they can establish how often. Because, most committee set up their own bylaws and what they are going to do, those kinds of things. The bylaws are going to have to be approve by this group, by this commission, right, if you are going to set some type of protocols and that is where it needs to start. They need to tell us exactly what they think what their function is. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, well, we can look into what was in place with the last traffic safety committee because I don't know what was in place. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, I don't know either. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, stated, we need to check and see what is in place. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, advised, I only know that they met a handful of times and they met in here the other day but I think most of them were retirees, Mayor, I think these are working individuals. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, I think the working individual puts in more effort to come the meetings than the retired ones, so, I've seen it in different boards. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, we know that it's not, and we've had this long discussion, we know that we are not going to send it to planning because it is not a new street. It shouldn't be public works, the police department. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, advised, we just need to give them a little guidance and how they are going to work with the police department. I just don't have to have a board on paper like it's been here for I don't know how long. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, advised, my recommendation is that Chief Bell and Lieutenant Cortez have done such a good job that that is going to be the first person that is going to be getting a lot of these things. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco**, stated, he's just voluntold. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa**, stated, it is Mayor, and that is what it is but we need those guidelines for them but they need to kind of tell us what they think those guidelines

are and they are going to be able to get access to our engineer and our public works guys because there is all these criteria. Mayor Benjamin Gomez thanked all involved in the discussion.

ITEM 12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE SALE AND AUCTION OF CITY OWNED OBSOLETE SURPLUS GOODS.

Jerry Salazar, Public Library Director, addressed the City Commission and identified himself and requested approval of the sale by auction of City owned obsolete surplus goods. Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales moved to approved. Commissioner Rene Villafranco seconded the motion. Voting Aye; Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra. Motion carried to **APPROVE THE SALE AND AUCTION OF CITY OWNED OBSOLETE SURPLUS GOODS.**

ITEM 13. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO VALLEY I.T. SOLUTIONS FOR THREE SERVERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,989.97.

City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa, addressed the City Commission stating, Mayor and Commissioners, recommending the purchase of three servers from Valley IT Solutions for the amount of \$48,989.97. These servers are about six years old and on any given Monday when you walk in, we have a hard time starting up our Incode Program for our payment system, they are just starting to fail. There are more and more failures, our IT has been recommending to get them replaced. The other vendor quotes are from CDW and Dell. Valley IT Solutions is the least expensive. Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales moved to approved. Commissioner Ricardo Guerra seconded the motion. Voting Aye; Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra. Motion carried to **APPROVE PAYMENT TO VALLEY IT SOLUTIONS FOR THREE SERVERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,989.97.**

ITEM 14. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE FOR WORK REPAIRS OF CLARIFIER NUMBER 1 AND CLARIFIER NUMBER 2 AT WATER TREATMENT PLANT NUMBER 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,500.00.

Adan Gonzalez, Public Works Director, addressed the City Commission requesting approval for payment to Industrial Performance for work repairs on clarifier number one and number two at water treatment number two for the amount of \$47,500.00. Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales moved to approve. Commissioner Ricardo Guerra seconded the motion. Voting Aye; Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra. Motion carried to **APPROVE PAYMENT TO INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE FOR WORK REPAIRS OF CLARIFIER NUMBER 1 AND CLARIFIER NUMBER 2 AT WATER TREATMENT PLANT NUMBER 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,500.00.**

ITEM 15. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RATIFY THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE PUMP SHAFT ASSEMBLY KIT AND REPAIRS FROM SIDDONS-MARTIN EMERGENCY GROUP FOR THE SAN BENITO FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,633.44.

Danny Watkins, Fire Chief, addressed the City Commission and identified himself requesting approval to ratify the purchase and payment to Siddons-Martin Emergency Group for the completed repairs to engine one's pump housing in the amount of \$13,633.44. Repairs have

been made and the pump is operational and functional as it is expected. Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales moved to approve. Commissioner Rene Villafranco seconded the motion. Voting Aye; Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco and Ricardo Guerra. Motion carried TO RATIFY THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE PUMP SHAFT ASSEMBLY KIT AND REPAIRS FROM SIDDONS-MARTIN EMERGENCY GROUP FOR THE SAN BENITO FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,633.44.

ITEM 16. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AN ARTWORK LOAN AGREEMENT FOR EXHIBITION INDIGENOUS WARRIORS & RITUALS OF MESOAMERICA BEGINNING JANUARY 27, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 27, 2020 AT THE SAN BENITO CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM.

Luis Contreras, Cultural Arts Director, addressed the City Commission by identifying himself and advising continuing our traveling exhibition program at the museum. The Castilian Roses exhibition that is currently on exhibition thru the 24th, we now have the Indigenous Warriors and Rituals of Mesoamerica. Thru the artwork loan agreement, artist Andy A. Villarreal, out of San Antonio, agrees the terms and conditions of the loan agreement. This exhibit will be featured as a short-term visiting exhibition of artwork at the San Benito Cultural Arts Heritage Museum. Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales moved to approved. Commissioner Rene Villafranco seconded the motion. Voting Aye; Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco and Ricardo Guerra. Motion carried to APPROVE AN ARTWORK LOAN AGREEMENT FOR EXHIBITION INDIGENOUS WARRIORS & RITUALS OF MESOAMERICA BEGINNING JANUARY 27, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 27, 2020 AT THE SAN BENITO CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM.

ITEM 17. STATUS UPDATE ON SOUTH PARK PROJECT.

Ramon Rodriguez, Parks and Recreation Director, addressed the City Commission stating, good evening, Mayor and Commissioners, for the record, my name is Ramon Rodriguez, I serve as the Parks Director for the City of San Benito. Work continues at the Park, we, the first phase of the plumbing for the splash pad and concession stand has been finished, passed inspection and we are good with that. We had the site treated for termites and foundation contractor is finishing the installation of the forms. Once that is done and passes inspection, we will start, they will start putting concrete, weather permitting. The splash pad contractor is also ready to pour concrete this week if the weather allows it. Once he is done with that, they will start installing the water fixtures. So, we are moving ahead with that too. We ordered the block and the inaudible for the concession stand, that is on the works also. I've made contact with playground vendor, so, we can get ready for the installation of that once that phase comes along. That equipment has been stored at the Neuman Building, we have it there, it will remain there until it is ready for installation. No motion PRESENTATION ONLY.

ITEM 18. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF) APPLICATION INVITATION.

City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa, addressed City Commission advising the City has an opportunity to apply for a loan through the Texas Water Development Board. On December 20th, Friday, he received the e-mail that is attached or that follows the summary. There is an opportunity for us to roll this and not lose. It is called, roll for eligible, so, in other words, the same terms, the same amount. It will move to the next funding cycle so that we don't lose, therefore, we kind of keep our place in line or in the queue. So, it is my recommendation that

until we finish the analysis, the assessments and do the design and we really know how much money we need. We may need to take it all but at least we'll address what we need to TCEQ pertaining to the SSOY, my recommendation is that you authorize staff, city attorney and our consultants to roll these funds over. **Benjamin Gomez** requested a motion to approve. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** moved to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco, and Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried **TO APPROVE THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF) APPLICATION INVITATION.**

ITEM 19. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SAN BENITO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Rebeca Castillo, Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, addressed the commission by stating; good evening, Mayor and Commissioners, Rebeca Castillo, Executive Director for the San Benito EDC. Also, for the record, today here in the audience, we also have our board president, Julian Rios, our Vice-President, Mr. Ruben Garcia and our Treasury Secretary, Jeremy Maya. What you will find in your meeting packet is the employment agreement that was approved by the EDC Board on December 18th. It stipulates the agreements and terms of the contract between the San Benito EDC and myself as executive director. I am here to answer any question you may want to ask so that we may clarify any questions or concerns that you may have and ask your consideration for this item. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez,** asked, does anyone have any questions for Ms. Castillo? **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales,** asked, it has been approved already? **Mayor Benjamin Gomez,** stated, it has been approved by their board but it comes to us for commission approval. **Rebeca Castillo, Economic Development Corporation Executive Director,** stated, yes, sir, we reviewed it, the EDC and myself reviewed the terms and conditions of it and we are in accordance. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez** requested a motion to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** moved to approve. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco and Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried to **APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SAN BENITO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

ITEM 20. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a) **Consultation with City Attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.071 (1) and (2), regarding the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development On-Site Monitoring of the City of San Benito's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program findings.**

THE CITY COMMISSION CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:33 P.M. AND ADJOURNED AT 6:58 P.M.

GENERAL SESSION:

ITEM 21. POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON ITEM DISCUSSED PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE §551.071(1) AND (2) IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mayor Benjamin Gomez announced no action.

ITEM 22. ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Ricardo Guerra** moved to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco, and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried **TO ADJOURN AT 6:58 P.M.**

Note: The City of San Benito does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission of, access to, treatment of, or employment in its programs, activities, or public meetings. Any individual with a disability in need of an accommodation is encouraged to contact the City Secretary at (956) 361-3800, Extension 103, by Monday, no later than 5:00 P.M., to make proper arrangements.

CITY OF SAN BENITO

BENJAMIN "BEN" GOMEZ
MAYOR

ATTEST:

RUTH MCGINNIS
CITY SECRETARY