



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING

On January 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., the City Commission met for a Special Meeting at the San Benito Municipal Building, Cesar Gonzalez Meeting Hall, 401 North Sam Houston Boulevard, San Benito, Texas.

The following City Commission members were present as noted: Benjamin Gomez, Mayor; Carol Lynn Sanchez, Mayor Pro Tem; Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner, Place 1; Mark Sossi, City Attorney.

Administrative Personnel present: Manuel De La Rosa, City Manager

Absent City Commission Member(s) and City Personnel: Rene Villafranco, Commissioner, Place 2 ; Vacant, Commissioner, Place 3; Fred Bell, Assistant City Manager; Ruth McGinnis, City Secretary

ITEM 1. WELCOME.

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

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

Cadet Commander Erasmo Cardoza, Cadet Lieutenant Commander Priscilla Coronado, and Cadet Master Chief Juan Jimenez 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.

Pastor Jaime Loya from Cross Church led City Commission and audience in prayer.

ITEM 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST.

Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez and Commission Antonio Gonzales announced items of community interest.

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO THE SAN BENITO N.J.R.O.T.C. AS THEY ADVANCE TO STATE COMPETITION.

Mayor Benjamin Gomez presented the San Benito NJROTC their Certificate of Recognition and pictures taken with group.

ITEM 6. RECOGNITION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT LIEUTENANT RENE GONZALEZ AND FIREFIGHTER JOSE LUIS PEREZ, JR.

Mayor Benjamin Gomez presented both Fire Department employees their Certificate of Recognition for passing their exam, congratulated them, and group pictures taken.

ITEM 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS. (Speakers/Remarks limited to three minutes. Public Comments limited to forty-five minutes).

Martha McClain, Deputy City Secretary, announced no Public Comments.

ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2019 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING AND THE JANUARY 7, 2020 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING.

Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales moved to approved. Mayor Benjamin Gomez seconded the motion. Abstained: Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez. Voting Aye: Mayor Benjamin Gomez and Commissioner Antonio Gonzales. Motion carried to **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2019 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING AND THE JANUARY 7, 2020 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING.**

ITEM 9. UPDATE ON CITY CENSUS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.

Martha McClain, Public Relations Director, addressed the City Commission providing an update and a video to ensure City of San Benito receives the best and most accurate 2020 Census count possible as it is an opportunity to receive needed monies to shape the future of our community. Census numbers will be used to build schools, roads and health clinics as well as to create jobs, provide housing and prepare for emergencies; like hurricanes. It also determines state and federal representation. The City is partnering with the school district, housing authority, LUPE and U.S. Census Bureau to get the word out that it is vital to the city's future to have a correct Census to ensure that we have a solid place at the table and federal and state funds are awarded. No Motion carried **PRESENTATION ONLY.**

ITEM 10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A POLICY FOR NAMING CITY PARKS AND/OR ATHLETIC FIELDS; TO INCLUDE CORPORATE NAMING RIGHTS.

Martha McClain, Public Relations Director, addressed the City Commission advising staff assistance was requested and policy guidelines were created in naming city parks and/or athletic fields. The Parks and Recreational Advisory Board will oversee the process but you will be the final decision makers on naming the park and there is also a timeline that you would like to establish in the process. The policy and its objectives to ensure that names submitted are consistent with the values and characteristics of the city and ensure the quality of the title so that it will serve the city on a permanent manner. Mr. De La Rosa has asked that the policy include provisions for the possibility of sponsorships. **City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa** addressed the Mayor and Commissioners advising as we work with South Park with renaming it, do we want to consider corporate naming rights? Do you want to look for sponsorships? As I informed you last week, our legislative consultant was here, part of that is working on the next legislation to try to get funding appropriated thru the next legislative session. Do we want to try and incorporate naming rights as we look for funding to improve not only South Park but also Stookey Park and some of our smaller parks? The larger parks, we have an opportunity to go out and seek these corporate funds from these large dealerships that would like to put their naming rights for five years, ten years. It's negotiable but we would have to put a proposal and requested direction by the City Commission. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez** requested a motion. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** moved to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez, and Commissioner Antonio Gonzales.** Motion carried to **APPROVE A POLICY FOR NAMING CITY PARKS AND/OR ATHLETIC FIELDS; TO INCLUDE CORPORATE NAMING RIGHTS.**

ITEM 11. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-0001 OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM.

Bernard Rodriguez, Planning & Development Director addressed the City Commission stating the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant will consist construction of recreational trails, region expanding wetlands water area. The maximum grant amount is two hundred thousand, it's an eighty twenty split, the split for the City of San Benito will be fifty thousand, but does not have to be cash, it can be in-kind. The public works crews will prep land for construction leading towards the eligible in-kind contribution. The ground would be designed to complement the Coast Management Program General Land Office Phase Four Grant Application currently being developed which consists of installing water gauges in the ponds. The water is coming from our sewer plant, when it rises too heavy, these gauges release the water out. If it is too low, the gauges would turn the pumps on and it will increase the water in the ponds. The ground will continue with installation of native plants, trees, and conduct a bi-annual bird count. Approximately one hundred fifty species have been identified and documented as part of the Marketing Program of Ecotourism. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, requested a motion to approve. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** moved to approved. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez, and Commissioner Antonio Gonzales.** Motion carried to **APPROVE RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-0001 OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM.**

ITEM 12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A FACILITY USE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE SAN BENITO CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM, INC., TO PROVIDE MUSEUM SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE USE OF CITY FACILITIES LOCATED AT LA PLAZA DE SAN BENITO.

Luis Contreras, Cultural Arts Director, addressed the City Commission advising since November of 2018, the City of San Benito Cultural Arts Department has brought eight very exquisite traveling indoor staff created exhibitions and six educational programs which included lectures, workshops and an exciting Conjunto showcase at La Plaza grounds. It is in our best interest; however, to add twelve portfolio of activity by establishing relationships with other entities in order to expand programming at La Plaza and engaging more diverse audiences. It is our long term strategy by the department which is actually written about two years ago; building and strengthening relationships with the city of San Benito and outside cultural historical and our entities and also developing La Plaza de San Benito Square which includes the San Benito Cultural Heritage Museum, San Benito Cultural Arts Center and the Community Center and La Plaza grounds as a premier education site for both resource and entertainment for our community and visitors. We want to promote these three wonderful venues and we are working on them at this time to ultimately, especially like the old library to be in full swing to also promote a smaller more intimate programs. With that said, thru this agreement that you have before you, the city of San Benito would grant use of these facilities to the friends of the San Benito Cultural Arts Museum for the purpose of providing museum services which are activities that include lectures, museum performances, educational group tours, short-term exhibitions and summer programming. I can tell you right now, Mayor, that there are other non-profits to whom we are also speaking with to utilize their services when it comes to more programming for our community at these facilities or at La Plaza. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez** requested a motion. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez**, moved to approved. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez**, and **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**. Motion carried to **APPROVE A FACILITY USE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE SAN BENITO CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM, INC. TO PROVIDE MUSEUM SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE USE OF CITY FACILITIES LOCATED AT LA PLAZA DE SAN BENITO**

ITEM 13. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE HOSTING OF THE FOLLOWING CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS, THEIR RESPECTIVE DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- a. Hog Waddle Country Concert & Cook-Off
Saturday, May 16, 2020 at the San Benito Fairgrounds, 551 Cesar Gonzalez Parkway, San Benito, Texas.
- b. Resacafest 2020
Saturday, July 4, 2020 at the W. H. Heavin Memorial Park, 705 North Bowie Street, San Benito, Texas.
- c. South Texas Music Festival
Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the W. H. Heavin Memorial Park, 705 North Bowie Street, San Benito, Texas.

Luis Contreras, Cultural Arts Director, addressed the City Commission stating mentioned events were established to promote our heritage, a little bit of history and also our musical heritage but mostly for economic impact and to promote any social vitality of the community. Respectfully requested approval to plan effectively for the rest of the year and take advantage of best available options with music, marketing, promotion and production services. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, requested a motion to approve. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** moved to approved. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez**, and **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**. Motion carried to **APPROVE THE HOSTING OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS, THEIR RESPECTIVE DATES AND LOCATIONS: THE HOG WADDLE COUNTRY CONCERT AND COOK-OFF, THE RESACAFEST 2020, AND THE SOUTH TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL.**

ITEM 14. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO SEEK SPONSORSHIP FOR THE FOLLOWING CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS:

- a. Hog Waddle Country Concert & Cook-Off
- b. Resacafest 2020
- c. South Texas Music Festival

Luis Contreras, Cultural Arts Director, addressed the City Commission advising the purpose is to seek and engage sponsorships as a revenue source to off-set costs associated with all event expenses. Mayor Benjamin Gomez, requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales moved to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez seconded the motion. Voting Aye; Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez, and Commissioner Antonio Gonzales. Motion carried to **AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO SEEK SPONSORSHIPS FOR CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS: THE HOG WADDLE COUNTRY CONCERT AND COOK-OFF, THE RESACAFEST 2020, AND THE SOUTH TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL. CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS.**

ITEM 15. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE MUSIC PRODUCTION SERVICES FOR THE FOLLOWING CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS:

- a. Hog Waddle Country Concert & Cook-Off
- b. Resacafest 2020
- c. South Texas Music Festival

Luis Contreras, Cultural Arts Director, addressed the City Commission advising the purpose for this item is to seek and engage and possibly negotiate an agreement for music production related services including but not limited to pricing for staging, light, sound, back lines, sound engineer, set-up and tear down and any related services just to music production. Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez moved to approved. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales seconded the motion. Voting Aye; Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez, and Commissioner Antonio Gonzales. Motion carried to **AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE MUSIC PRODUCTION SERVICES FOR THE FOLLOWING CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS: THE HOG WADDLE COUNTRY CONCERT AND COOK-OFF, THE RESACAFEST 2020, AND THE SOUTH TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL.**

ITEM 16. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO SEEK CONCESSIONAIRE SERVICES FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOL AT THE FOLLOWING CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS:

- a. Hog Waddle Country Concert & Cook-Off
- b. Resacafest 2020
- c. South Texas Music Festival

Luis Contreras, Cultural Arts Director, addressed the City Commission advising the purpose is to seek, engage and negotiate an agreement for a license and permitted services to provide alcohol sales at the event. The revenue will also help to off-set cost for event expenses. Mayor Benjamin Gomez, requested a motion to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez moved to approved. Commissioner Antonio Gonzales seconded the motion. Voting Aye; Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez, and Commissioner Antonio Gonzales. Motion carried to **AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO SEEK CONCESSIONAIRE SERVICES FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOL AT THE FOLLOWING CITY OF SAN BENITO FESTIVALS: THE HOG WADDLE COUNTRY CONCERT AND COOK-OFF, THE RESACAFEST 2020, AND THE SOUTH TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL.**

ITEM 17. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF ELECTION FOR THE MAY 2, 2020 CITY OF SAN BENITO GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A MAYOR, COMMISSIONER PLACE 1, AND COMMISSIONER PLACE 2.

City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa, addressed City Commission requesting approval of the three seats that are part of general election on May 2, 2020 and requesting the City Commission order that election formally. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, requested a motion to approve. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** moved to approved. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez**, and **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**. Motion carried to **APPROVE THE ORDER OF ELECTION FOR THE MAY 2, 2020 CITY OF SAN BENITO GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A MAYOR, COMMISSIONER PLACE 1, AND COMMISSIONER PLACE 2.**

ITEM 18. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF ELECTION FOR THE MAY 2, 2020 CITY OF SAN BENITO SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A COMMISSIONER PLACE 3.

City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa, addressed the City Commission advising the seat for Place 3, the Commissioner filed to run for mayor thus creating a vacancy requiring an Order of a Special Election to run with the General Election on May 2nd. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, requested a motion to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** moved to approved. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez**, and **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**. Motion carried to **APPROVE THE ORDER OF ELECTION FOR THE MAY 2, 2020 CITY OF SAN BENITO SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A COMMISSIONER PLACE 3.**

ITEM 19. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES WITH CAMERON COUNTY FOR THE MAY 2, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION AND SPECIAL ELECTION.

City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa, addressed City Commission advising turning this agenda item to City Attorney, Mark Sossi. **City Attorney, Mark Sossi**, stated, Mayor, if you remember the agreement, I discussed with Mr. Remi Garza, and think we can make changes within the next several days to the agreement. I would recommend the City Commission move to approve it but with change to the provisions by the City Attorney, on those changes that are going to be worked out. We just want to make sure that the people of San Benito will be fairly represented and that all places are designated and proper provisions are divided. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, requested a motion to approve with the provisions stated by City Attorney. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** moved to approved. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez**, and **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**. Motion carried to **APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES WITH CAMERON COUNTY FOR THE MAY 2, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION AND SPECIAL ELECTION.**

ITEM 20. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL PAYMENT TO CAMERON COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT NUMBER 2 PERTAINING TO WATER USAGE FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT NUMBER 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,085.18.

City Manager, Manuel De La Rosa, addressed City Commission advising the City has to make payment to the Irrigation District and recommending the payment of \$20,085.18. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, requested a motion to approve. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** moved to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez**, and **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales**. Motion carried to **APPROVE THE ANNUAL PAYMENT TO CAMERON COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT NUMBER 2 PERTAINING TO WATER USAGE FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT NUMBER 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,085.18.**

ITEM 21. PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2019.

Belen Pena, Finance Department Director, addressed City Commission by identifying herself and presenting the Financial Statements for November 2019. The first page is a balance sheet for the

General Fund reflecting assets of \$14,014,787.00, compared to previous year, November 2018, was \$12,592,728.00. Liabilities are \$4,123,559.00. Compared to last year was \$3,977,333, providing City a Fund Balance as of November 30th of \$9,891,228.00. The second page is the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance. For the month of November 2019, the Revenues were \$1,685,374.00. Expenditures \$998,996.00, providing City Revenues Over Expenditures of \$686,378.00. The Year-to-Date in Revenues \$4,474,323.00, Expenditures \$1,891,007.00, providing City the Revenues Over Expenditures of \$2,583,360.00. No questions received. No motion carried **PRESENTATION ONLY.**

ITEM 22. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Benjamin Gomez requested a motion to adjourn. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** moved to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye: **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez, and Commissioner Antonio Gonzales.** Motion carried **TO ADJOURN AT 6:10 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