



**MINUTES  
OF THE CITY OF SAN BENITO  
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

On February 25, 2019 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 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  
Mark Sossi - City Attorney**

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Manuel De La Rosa - City Manager  
Fred Bell - Assistant City Manager  
Ruth McGinnis - City Secretary**

**ITEM 1. WELCOME.**

**Mayor Benjamin Gomez** called the meeting to order. "The City Commission and I welcome you to this Special City Commission Meeting. The time is 5:30 p.m. and we have a quorum."

**ITEM 2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE CITY OF SAN BENITO MEMBERSHIP WITH THE SAN BENITO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

**Mrs. Toni Crane, President, San Benito Chamber of Commerce**, addressed the City Commission by thanking them for giving opportunity to appear before them again. The Chamber's sole purpose is to assist the City in working to make San Benito a better place to live in and work and to promote businesses. She advised the Chamber is asking the City to continue its membership and pay a reasonable membership fee as do all of the other members. A membership fee is based on the number of employees by each member, the fee is just a guideline as to what is thought to be fair. Some businesses are unable to pay their fair share but no potential members are turned away. If the City is unable to pay its fair share for whatever reason, it will still be welcomed as a member at whatever level it is comfortable at. If it does not wish to continue its membership that is regretful. With the exception of our Executive Director, all directors are volunteers. Talked about the different events the Chamber does. In the event, the City has concerns about operation, none of them are naïve, they want to sit down and discuss the problem to find a solution. The chamber belongs to its members. The city leaders have an obligation to citizens to invest tax dollars wisely. **Mrs. Anna Putegn-Garcia, Executive Director, San Benito Chamber of Commerce**, presented a power point presentation advising the Chamber has done twenty-three ribbon cutting ceremonies. The Chamber played a huge part in putting the Dining Guide for the City together which is displayed at every Rio Grande Valley Chamber Office. It is also held out at every Chamber function. It was electronically provided to the City which are on the lobby at the Municipal Building. They have promoted Resaca City Casino Night, which a video was shown, bringing the fun to the community. The Resaca City Bike Tour was a great success. She is a staff of one, sometimes response does take one business day. They have an open door policy for any type of question or complaints, just to let them know

and will address in person. **Mrs. Toni Crane** presented Dr. Enriqueta Ramos, Chamber Board Director, Dr. Marcos Martinez, Chamber Board Director, and Mr. Wayne Powell, Chamber Board Director. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez** mentioned this meeting is not about arguing and he has been by the Chamber Office and has left two voicemails with no return call. The hours of operation sign states 10am to 4pm and Fridays 10am to 1pm, as stated on the contract, which he has been by at 10:30am and found the doors were locked. He asked for them to put something on the door advising the public. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez** stated not all businesses are offered a grand opening, only paid members. We feel it's important every business gets a chance to get exposure after all that is the purpose of a Chamber. **Mrs. Putegnat-Garcia** stated they do have a sign, maybe need to make it bigger. **Mrs. Crane** mentioned she is next door and people have gone to go see her. She apologized and will get that corrected. He also mentioned why were two businesses denied due to not being members. This is a concern and he mentioned has e-mails confirming this matter. **Commissioner Ricardo Guerra** about the Saturday and Sunday activities. **Mrs. Crane** advised they do that extra, for example 10am and 12 Noon, they do ribbon cuttings. **Mayor Gomez** asked **City Manager Manuel De La Rosa** if they should work on the contract. **City Manager Manuel De La Rosa** advised will not touch contract specific to Visitor Center only. **Mayor Gomez** asked the City Commission had any other concerns. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** asked why there are no Grand Openings and if it's due to no non-members for example Rick's Ranch House. **Mrs. Putegnat-Garcia** stated she has been in communication with the manager at Rick's Ranch House. Most Chamber's do not offer free ribbon cuttings. The Harlingen Chamber charges \$300.00 on Saturday's and \$200.00 without two week notice. Maybe miscommunication or call Mrs. Crane. **Commissioner Ricardo Guerra** asked if they have all of the City Commission e-mails. **Mrs. Putegnat-Garcia** advised she went and found e-mails subscribed during August and October. **City Manager Manuel De La Rosa** advised there were a couple of e-mails erroneously sent to San Benito Police Detective Benise Gomez instead to Mayor Gomez. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** stated he was glad everyone met to avoid any more miscommunication and thanked the San Benito Chamber for their service. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez**, requested a motion to renew the San Benito Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership in the amount of \$10,000.00. **Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez** moved to approve. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco and Commissioner Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried to **APPROVE THE CITY OF SAN BENITO MEMBERSHIP WITH THE SAN BENITO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

### ITEM 3. ADJOURNMENT.

**Mayor Benjamin Gomez** moved to adjourn. **Commissioner Rene Villafranco** moved to approve. **Commissioner Antonio Gonzales** seconded the motion. Voting Aye; **Mayor Benjamin Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Lynn Sanchez, Commissioner Antonio Gonzales, Commissioner Rene Villafranco, and Commissioners Ricardo Guerra.** Motion carried to **ADJOURN AT 6:05 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

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BENJAMIN "BEN" GOMEZ  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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RUTH MCGINNIS  
CITY SECRETARY