

BENJAMIN GOMEZ
Mayor

CAROL LYNN SANCHEZ
Mayor Pro Tem

ANTONIO GONZÁLES
Commissioner, Place 1

RENE VILAFRANCO
Commissioner, Place 2

RICARDO "RICK" GUERRA
Commissioner, Place 3



MANUEL DE LA ROSA
City Manager

FRED F. BELL
Assistant City Manager

RUTH A. MCGINNIS
City Secretary

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019**

The San Benito Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee met on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 10:01 a.m. in the San Benito Municipal Building Executive Chambers, 401 N. Sam Houston Street, San Benito, Texas, at which the following subjects were discussed. Present were City Manager Manuel De La Rosa, Assistant City Manager Fred Bell, Administrative Assistant Martin Saenz, Commissioner Ricardo Guerra, Commissioner Antonio Gonzalez, Public Relations Director Martha McClain, Henry Bhakta, Sam Patel, and Anna De La Cruz. Prior to the meeting, members and committee members were administered the oath of office.

1. Mr. De La Rosa welcomed everyone and explained what will be discussed.
2. Introduction of the members: Commissioner Guerra starts off and introduces himself. Mr. Sam Patel introduces himself and advises that he is the owner of the San Benito Lone Star Inn. Martha McClain introduces herself and advises that she is the Public Relations Director. Mr. Henry Bhakta introduces himself as owner of the San Benito America's Best Value Inn. Martin Saenz introduces himself as Administrative Assistant to the San Benito City Manager. Assistant City Manager Fred Bell introduces himself. City Manager Manuel De La Rosa introduces himself. Ms. Anna De La Cruz enters the Executive Chambers.
3. Oath of Office is Administered by City Secretary Ruth McGinnis to Anna De La Cruz.
4. Presentation: Martha McClain begins the presentation with the overview. What is HOT?
Mr. Patel asks if San Benito is considering Hotel Short Term rentals. Mr. De La Rosa replies that there are no short term rentals because they are restrictive. Commissioner Gonzalez enters the room. Mr. De La Rosa states that there are six hotels in San Benito. Ms. McClain then presents who can adopt HOT. – (Please see attached document)

Mr. De La Rosa States that Hotels have not been audited. The HOT committee must decide on funding activities to promote tourism. Mr. De La Rosa advised that whoever wants to get approved through the HOT committee, must consider applying during the Months of April and May. Reason being that by October the new budgets are out. As per ordinance committee must meet at least 2 times per year. Ms. McClain continues by saying that the revenues can be used for advertising and historical arts. She also states that TourTexas.com promotes the city of San Benito and gives tourists a reason to come.

5. Review of City Ordinance and by laws. Break down of positions.
6. Consideration and possible action to appoint or elect officers to the committee. Mr. De La Rosa will be the Chairman, Commissioner Guerra will be the Secretary, Ms. McClain will be the liaison and Mr. Bahka motions to appoint Sam Patel as Vice Chair. Commissioner Guerra seconds the motion.
7. Consideration and possible action to establish meeting times. Ms. McClain suggests Fridays. Mr. Patel suggests once a month. Mr. De La Rosa motions to schedule meetings on the second Friday of each month. Meeting time to be at 10:00am the second Friday of the month in the Municipal Building.
8. Adjournment: Commissioner Guerra moved and member Patel second the motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.


Martin Saenz

Approved by:


City Manager Manuel De La Rosa