

MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that the City of Combes Commissioners met in a Special Meeting at 7:00 pm Monday, May 05, 2025, at **Combes Municipal Complex**, 21626 Hand Road, Combes Texas, to consider the following.

Public comments may be e-mailed to jduarte@townofcombes.com by the meeting date at 4:00 pm.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia requested a roll call.

1. Roll Call.

By City Secretary Jo Ann Nino

Mayor Silvestre Garcia – Present
Mayor Pro Tem Mary David- Present
Commissioner Olga H Montes- Present
Commissioner Jose J Herrera - Present
Commissioner Ann Forbes- Present
Commissioner Carlos Cordova – Present

Mayor Silvestre Garcia acknowledged with all commissioners present a quorum is established - moves on to the next item on the agenda

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Andres Esquivel led the Invocation.
Commissioner Ann Forbes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments: At this time, any person with business before the Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak, or any person may speak on any item on the agenda for a maximum of three (3) minutes. No formal action can be taken on these items. Action for Approval or Disapproval

Mayor Silvestre Garcia informed the city council there are zero (0) people with business before the council not scheduled on the agenda to speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes. No formal action can be taken on these items. With no public comments the mayor moves forward to agenda item #4.

4. Mayor Silvestre Garcia-Consideration and Possible Action of Update for: 25-0018 26MAR Severe Weather Event pSTAT report. Action for Acknowledgment.

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained the update to the city board that President Donald Trump has not approved the disaster declaration for the area. Due to the storm, the City of Combes has accrued approximately \$260,000.00 (two hundred sixty thousand) of damages with the majority cost pertaining to the sinkhole on the corner of Nita St and Business 77. All the declarations have been turned in by all cities and the threshold has been met by all four counties; however, they are pending due to the President Donald Trump not responding to Governor's

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request. Discussion among the city council pertaining to the cause of the sinkhole, the outcome damage and the costs associated with the repairs. Mayor Silvestre Garcia explains the additional work process required for sinkhole repairs and the continued repair cost.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to acknowledge the report with the understanding of looking into the previous construction of sinkhole.

Commissioner Ann Forbes made a motion to acknowledge item #4. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mary David. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

5. Consideration and Possible Action of Emergency Repair Invoices and Proposals- due to Severe weather event 25-0018 26MAR

Mayor Silvestre Garcia explained to the city council that these repairs were necessary with no alternatives and were done under Emergency Management with the intention of no interruptions to sewer and water services provided to citizens.

- a) The 5125 Company 10" Waterline Emergency Repair at Nita St. and Business 77. Invoice #86- \$20,000.00
- b) The 5125 Company- Severe Force main Repair and Set up of Bypass at Nita St. and Business 77. Invoice #85 \$42,500.00
- c) Emergency proposals Manhole Replacement-Sanitary Sewer Line and Dewatering at Nita St. and Business 77.
- d) Wisdom Pumps LLC-Nita St & Business 77-15" Sewer Main Emergency -Invoice#5483-\$20,696.00

Action for Approval or Disapproval of. (Items A-D)

Mayor Silvestre Garcia explained to the city council that continued work is still in progress and detailed the extent of the work that is required to get the job completed due to issue findings during the initial scope of work. Discussion among the City Legal Counsel Mr. Gilberto Hinojosa and City Council regarding the bid proposals.

Mayor Pro Tem Mary David made a motion to approve item #5 on the Emergency repair invoices (items a-d) and the proposal of 5125 Company. The City Legal Counsel, Mr. Gilberto Hinojosa inquired to include that the motion was made based on the emergency basis therefore did not have to comply with bid restrictions. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

6. Consideration and Possible Action to terminate the extension of Combes disaster declaration for 25-0018 26MAR flood. Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez clarified the agenda item and explained during an emergency situation a disaster declaration is sent to the Governor explaining the significant threats and potential impact for the city and at the end when the storm is no longer a threat (no longer exists) the city council, the county Judge, and the Mayor have the right to terminate the declaration.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked not to terminate the extension of Combes disaster declaration until all work is done to sinkhole caused by the storm. Mayor Silvestre Garcia explained that after a discussion was conducted with TCEQ and the maintenance supervisor Tim David additional unforeseen issues may arise once water is drained, and the digging process begins adding additional costs to the report.

Mayor Mary David made a motion to disapprove of terminating the extension of Combes disaster declaration until further notice. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

7. Consideration and Possible Action of March 31,2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia explained to the city council that a copy of the minutes was made available in their packets for review and asked for a motion for approval of March 31,2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve March 31,2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

8. Consideration and Possible Action of Resolution No. 2025-1 Express Its Support for a Multi-Purpose Arena to be Constructed in Cameron County. Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to Table Consideration and Possible Action of Resolution No. 2025-1 Express Its Support for a Multi-Purpose Arena to be Constructed in Cameron County. Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to Table Consideration and Possible Action of Resolution No. 2025-1 Express Its Support for a Multi-Purpose Arena to be Constructed in Cameron County. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mary David. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

9. Consideration and Possible Action to start the process of an Emergency Service District for Fire Protection in the City of Combes. Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained that presently the city is under contract with the City of Harlingen Fire Department, with a fee of .10 based on the property values in Combes. It is known the expense will rise annually and there is no alternative but to transfer the cost to residents. At the moment, the imposed charges are only for property owners who utilize services from Combes. For the current fiscal year, residential citizens are billed \$5.00 (Five dollars) per month, while commercial accounts incur higher rates. Unfortunately, the amount will not suffice to cover the expended incurred by the Harlingen Fire Department and the city anticipates a financial shortfall by the conclusion of the 2025 fiscal year. The Preliminary Assessed Value currently paid to Harlingen is \$165,000 (One Hundred Sixty-Five thousand) a year based on the value of the entire city and is to increase to \$185,000 (One Hundred Eighty-Five thousand) a year, increasing customer rate for Fire Protection to \$17 (Seventeen dollars) a month. Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to start the process of an Emergency Service District for Fire Protection in the City of Combes. Commissioner Ann Forbes made a motion to approve the starting process of an Emergency Service District for Fire Protection in the City of Combes. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mary David. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

10. Consideration and Possible Action for Additional Professional Engineering Services for City of Combes. Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained to the city council that this item was placed on the agenda due to the city having four (4) projects that require attention. Currently, Mr. R.E. Garcia is contracted through a retainer and Hinojosa Engineering is currently hired as needed through EDC. Ms. Gutierrez explained in detail the most important projects handled by Mr. R.E. Garcia and informed he is stretched out at the present time.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia explained to the city council that the projects are important and are required to move forward.

Discussion among the city council is pertaining to why assistance is required and how the engineering services would be paid.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for approval for Additional Professional Engineering Services for the City of Combes and to move on to get the projects done.

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Mayor Pro Tem Mary David made a motion to approve Additional Professional Engineering Services for City of Combes. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

11. Consideration and Possible Action of City of Combes Chain of Command amendments. Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia suggested a change in the chain of commands and recommended to separate the duties of the maintenance and police department. The Public Works Supervisor Tim David would now oversee the maintenance/public works department and be moved up and under the direction of the mayor. The Event Coordinator would be designated and be under the City Administrator.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia suggested an Administrator Assistant for the City Administrator to be selected to assist at city hall for efficiency. The assistant's duties would be to assist residents when needed and to oversee the office when the administrator is out of the office. The City Administrator would be able to concentrate on projects, funding and other important tasks.

The Police Dept, 2x Inspectors, Public Works Supervisor and City Administrator to be under the direction of Mayor Silvestre Garcia.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve the City of Combes Chain of Command Amendments. Commissioner Ann Forbes made a motion to approve the City of Combes Chain of Command. Seconded by Commissioner Olga H Montes. All in favor. All against. Motion passed Mayor Pro Tem Mary David abstained. All in favor. Motion passed.

12. Consideration and Possible Action to Amend Water and Wastewater Budget for Fiscal Year Ending September 2025 for the purpose of financing two (2) 6' inch pumps and one (1) Vacuum Truck Buy Board and/or HGAC proposals. Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

The City Administrator suggested to discuss item #13 due to the option chosen which would determine if an amendment would be needed.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia explained to the city council that the purchasing of the two (2) 6' inch pumps would avoid facing the same experience of flooding caused by the last storm. Pumps would be ready to be set up as soon as bad weather predictions and avoid any cost for rental of pumps. The mayor continues to explain that the city is dealing with manhole backups due to residents' negligence of flushing non flushable items. Vacuum Truck would assist and eliminate the issue.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to move forward with item #12. Mayor Pro Tem Mary David made a motion to move forward with item #12. Seconded by Commissioner Olga H Montes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

13. Consideration and Possible Action of.

- a) Resolution No. 2025-1 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing two (2) 2025 Ford Police Explorers from Caldwell Country Ford Buy Board #724-23.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia explained to the city council the option a) will not affect the General or Water Work funds. It would be funded by the police annually.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve item a) Resolution No. 2025-1 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing two (2) 2025 Ford Police Explorers from Caldwell Country Ford Buy Board #724-23.

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve item a) Resolution No. 2025-1 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the

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purpose of financing two (2) 2025 Ford Police Explorers from Caldwell Country Ford Buy Board #724-23. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

- b) Resolution No. 2025-2 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing Two (2) 6" inch pumps.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve b) Resolution No. 2025-2 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing Two (2) 6" inch pumps.

Mayor Pro Tem Mary David made a motion to approve b) Resolution No. 2025-2 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing Two (2) 6" inch pumps. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

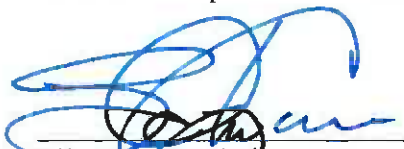
- c) Resolution No. 2025-3 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing one (1) Vacuum Truck.
Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve c) Resolution No. 2025-3 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing one (1) Vacuum Truck.

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve c) Resolution No. 2025-3 and Finance Options: A Resolution regarding a Finance Contract by City of Combes and Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing one (1) Vacuum Truck. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

14. Adjournment of Meeting. Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion for the Adjournment of Meeting. Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion for adjournment of meeting. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mary David. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.



Silvestre Garcia, Mayor



JoAnn Nino, City Secretary

