

Minutes of the January 28, 2021 Special Commissioners Meeting

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 6:33pm
Establishment of a quorum: Commissioners present in building: Commissioner Mayberry, Commissioner Anaya, Commissioner Booth, Commissioner Rankins and Commissioner Berumen.
2. **Receive Public Comments:** None
3. **Election Matters - Review and take action on the following matters and Orders relating to conduct an election on the adoption of a sales and use tax in the District under Health and Saefy Code 775.0751 and 775.0752:**
 - A. **Review matters relevant to a District sales and use tax:** Commissioner Berumen and Anaya spoke about the growth in our district, the increase in residential homes and increase in commercial properties and the need for the Fire District to prepare for this growth. We have had several meetings to discuss funding options for the District. The community members are shouldering the financial responsibility of the growth in our district and that is why we should consider Sales Tax so that the visitors to our District can help shoulder the financial responsibility of the Fire District. The Sales Tax money will be used for paid Firefighters, additional facilities, and additional equipment. For the past few years, the ESD has had to use Reserve funding to balance the budget because property tax collection is not enough to cover our operating expenses. We had a company research the Sales Tax collection in our area and has estimated our yearly collection to be \$450,000.00. The visitors in our District would be able to help our community with Fire service. Chief Menendez spoke about our increase in call volume and that we are expected to double the number of runs in the next five years. Wendy Duncan from Touchstone discussed the district's map and where the Sales Tax would be collected from. The Chief gave statistics of housing and commercial development numbers in the past 10 years. Commissioner Rankins asked the Chief how the population increase has affected our fire response time. The Chief explained that the increase number of calls at times can decrease our response time due to crews being tied up an incident when another call comes out. The ballot wording was read, and the order reviewed by Ms. Aston. Commissioners asked questions about the order. Ms. Aston also reviewed the election rules that will need to be followed once the election is officially called.

- B. **Order for Election to be held May 1, 2021 on the Proposition of adoption of a District sales and use tax:** Motion was made by Commissioner Anaya to approve the order of Election with a second by Commissioner Berumen. Vote was as follows:
Commissioner Booth: For
Commissioner Rankins: For
Commissioner Anaya: For
Commissioner Berumen: For
Commissioner Mayberry: For
Motion carries
- C. **Order Approving and Appointing and Agent for the Election:** Motion was made by Commissioner Anaya to appoint Fiscal Administrator Katherine Ames as the Election agent. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Berumen. Motion carries.
- D. **Order Adopting Form of Notice of District Election:** Ms. Aston reviewed the information that would be contained in the notice. Motion to approve content made by Commissioner Anaya and seconded by Commissioner Berumen. Motion carries.
- E. **Action to approve a contract with the El Paso County Elections office for services relating to the conduct of the election:** Motion to table made by Commissioner Anaya and seconded by Commissioner Berumen. Motion carries.
- F. **To Consider and take action on such other Orders, Resolution and related matters as required or appropriate to call for District sales tax Election on May 1, 2021 on the Proposition of allowing the adoption of a District sales and use tax:** Motion to table made by Commissioner Anaya and seconded by Commissioner Berumen. Motion carries.
- G. **Determine the canvassing date for the May 1, 2021 election:** Motion to table made by Commissioner Anaya and seconded by Commissioner Berumen. Motion carries.
4. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Anaya. Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

Submitted by: Katherine Ames, Fiscal Administrator

Reviewed by: Cheri Bridges, Administrative Assistant