

TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE – REGION 11 MINUTES

**QUARTERLY MEETING
Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Portland Civic Center**

REGIONAL OFFICERS PRESENT

President: J.D. Villa

Mayor Pro-Tem – City of Rockport

1st Vice President: Cathy Skurow

Mayor – City of Portland

2nd Vice President:

TML Director: Pat R. Rios

Mayor – City of Rockport

Secretary: Teresa Valdez Absent

Minutes taken by: Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary
City of Kingsville

Call to Order

TML Region 11 President, J.D. Villa called the July 22, 2021, meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Roll Call

TML Region 11 President J.D Villa called roll of the cities of TML Region 11:

Amarillo	Mathis
Aransas Pass	Odem
Beeville	Port Lavaca
Bishop	Portland
Corpus Christi	Refugio
Edna	Rockport
Gregory	Sinton
Ingleside on the Bay	Taft
Kingsville	Victoria

Mayor Bill Wilson conducted the invocation at the beginning of the meeting.

Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland welcomed attendees to the City of Portland. She further thanked all sponsors who donated door prizes and provided entertainment for the evening’s social hour. Mayor Skurow announced that the theme for tonight’s meeting is “Here Comes the Sun”.

A two-minute video of Portland was played for attendees themed “Land of Let Them Play til Dark”. The video showed the good people of Portland and what Portland has to offer to its residents and visitors.

President J.D. Villa announced that tonight's special guest was Texas Municipal League President-Elect, Mr. David Rutledge and further welcomed Mr. Rutledge to the Region 11 Quarterly meeting.

President J.D. Villa welcomed Alderman Lenny Anzaldua from the Town of Refugio to the podium for the Election of Officers.

Alderman Lenny Anzaldua announced that the Nominating Committee received nominations for TML Region 11 Board. He further stated that nominations would be open to the floor, should anyone in attendance want to serve as a Board member. Alderman Anzaldua further explained the duties of serving on the TML Region 11 Board.

Alderman Anzaldua began the nominations with the position of Director. This position will travel to Austin, when necessary, and represent Region 11. Alderman Anzaldua stated that the Nomination Committee received a nomination for Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland for the position of Director. He further opened the nomination to the floor and asked if anyone in attendance would like to make a nomination for this position. No other nominations were received. Nomination of Mayor Cathy Skurow for the position of Director of TML Region 11 was seconded by City Councilman Mr. John Green, City of Portland. Nomination of Mayor Cathy Skurow for the position of Director was passed and approved by a unanimous vote.

Alderman Anzaldua announced the Nominating Committee received a nomination for President of TML Region 11, Mayor Paulette Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi. Alderman Anzaldua further opened the nomination to the floor and asked if anyone in attendance would like to make a nomination for this position. No other nominations were received. Nomination of Mayor Paulette Guajardo for the position of President of TML Region 11 was seconded by City Councilman John Sutton, City of Portland. Nomination of Mayor Paulette Guajardo for the position of President was passed and approved by a unanimous vote.

Alderman Anzaldua announced the Nominating Committee received a nomination for 1st Vice-President for TML Region 11, Alderman Jeffrey Falcon, City of Odem. Alderman Anzaldua further opened the nomination to the floor and asked if anyone in attendance would like to make a nomination for this position. No other nominations were received. Nomination of Alderman Jeffrey Falcon for the position of 1st Vice-President was seconded by Mayor Jo Ann Ehmann, City of Ingleside by the Bay. Nomination of Alderman Jeffrey Falcon for the position of 1st Vice-President was passed and approved by a unanimous vote.

Alderman Anzaldua announce the Nominating Committee received a nomination for 2nd Vice-President for TML Region 11, Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Soliz, City of Victoria. Alderman Anzaldua further opened the nomination to the floor and asked if anyone in attendance would like to make a nomination for this position. No other nominations were received. Nomination of Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Soliz was seconded by Mayor Brenda Moses, City of Goliad. Nomination of Mayor Pro-Tem Josephine Soliz for the position of 2nd Vice-President was passed and approved by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Paulette Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi thanked TML Region 11 members for electing to the position of President TML Region 11. Mayor Guajardo stated that she looks forward to serving the position and the members of Region 11.

President J.D. Villa thanked Mayor Pat Rios, City of Rockport for his service of four years to Region 11. Mayor Pat Rios, City of Rockport, stated that he was glad to have served his region and further thanked the members of Region 11 for the support they have provided him throughout the years.

TML Legislative Update

TML Director of Grassroots and Legislative Services Monty Wynn gave a Legislative update. Mr. Wynn gave a PowerPoint presentation on Legislative Wrap Up. Mr. Wynn stated that a tough 2019 led to TML focus on grassroots efforts. Impact of increased partnership and politicizing local issues heading into 2021 are Pandemic response, Policing, and Elections. Mr. Wynn further discussed the 87th Legislature Timeline and stated that the early session impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic was a slow start with limited public access and limited member interaction. Winter Storm Uri shifted the focus to state priorities and utility weatherization and securitization. Mr. Wynn further stated that TML priorities were HB 5, Statewide Broadband Plan; SB 374, Annexation reform; SB 861, Open/Virtual Meetings; SB 402, Street Maintenance Sales Tax; and HB 2578, Newspaper Notices. Mr. Wynn also mentioned the priorities of Governor Greg Abbott. Those being HB 5, Statewide Broadband Plan; SB 2, ERCOT Reform; SB 3, Power Grid Reform; SB 6, COVID-19 Liability Protections; SB 7, Election Integrity; SB 21, Bail Reform; and HB 1900/Sb 23, Defunding law enforcement. Mr. Wynn briefly mentioned some of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick priorities. Those being SB 1, State Budget; SB 2 ERCOT Reform; SB 3 Power Grid Stability; SB 4 National Anthem at Sporting Events; SB 5 Statewide Broadband Plan; SB 6, COVID-19 Liability Protections; SB 7, Election Integrity; SB 8 Fetal Heartbeat Bill; SB 9 Abortion Ban Trigger; SB 10, Community Censorship; SB 11 Appellate Court Reorganization; SB 12 Social Media Censorship; SB 11 Appellate Court Reorganization; SB 12, Social Media Censorship; SB 13, Oil & Gas Investment Protection; SB 14, Preemption of Local Ordinances on Employment Practices; and SB 15, Ban Sale of Personal Data from State Agencies. Mr. Wynn informed the Region 11 members that for the 87th Legislature session, there were 6,927 bills filed with 2,156 bills tracked. Of those bills 1,073 bills were passed with 247 of those bills passing. Mr. Wynn stated that in the 86th Legislative Session, 1,429 bills were passed. Information on the 247 bills that passed this legislative session can be found on the Texas Municipal League website. Mr. Wynn mentioned that there was a first called Special Session called on July 8, 2021, where the following bills were discussed: Bail Reform, Election Integrity, Border Security, Social Media Censorship, Article X Funding, Family Violence Prevention, Transgender Youth Sports, Abortion Inducing Drugs, Thirteenth Check for Teachers, Critical Race Theory, Property Tax Relief, Foster Care Reform, and Protection for Cybersecurity Threats. There will also be a Fall Special Session called either late August or early September. The Fall Session will consist of discussions on Redistricting, Distribution of State ARP Funds, and Community Censorship.

Mrs. Kathleen Wiesenberger, Assistant City Manager, City of Portland introduced Mr. Jarred Miller, City Manager City of Amarillo. Both Mrs. Wiesenberger and Mr. Miller are part of a Task Force that will assist with enhancing relationships and influence state representatives at the State Capitol. She further spoke about the Hahn Public Training that focuses on how to stay connected with the local State Representatives. Mrs. Wiesenberger showed a video on how to contact and keep a relationship with your local State Representatives that represent you at the State Capitol. The video was a short version of the Hahn Public Training that is offered to local officials. Mr.

Miller spoke about his experience and the importance of staying in contact with State Representatives.

Mayor Pat Rios, City of Rockport emphasized the importance of building a relationship with the Chief of Staff for your State Representative. He further stated that it is very important to communicate with the Chief of Staff monthly, which is one way of keeping the line of communication open.

TML President Elect David Rutledge suggested that local officials speak with their community members and educate them on how to become an advocate for their city. This is something that will be very important for each community come year 2023.

President J.D. Villa thanked the presenters for their time in coming out and speaking with Region 11 members.

Announcements

President J.D. Villa asked members of Region 11 if anyone would like to host the next TML Region 11 Quarterly Meeting.

Mayor Paulette Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi stated that the City of Corpus Christi would like to host the next Region 11 Quarterly Meeting.

Closing Remarks by President Officer

President J.D. Villa closed this meeting by thanking the City of Portland for hosting the meeting. He further thanked all the sponsors that assisted with this meeting.

Adjournment

At 7:55 p.m. the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary
City of Kingsville on behalf of
Teresa Valdez, City Secretary
City of Rockport
TML Region 11 Secretary