

Boards & Committees

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS

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Paul Fedigan, Vice-Chairman
Peter Maheu
Jerry Pace
Jim Winholtz
Alternates:
Chris Huffman
Stephen Burch

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Shane Wilson, Vice-Chairman
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Charles Costanza
Issac Taboada

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Bill Donahue
Herschel Patel
Anne Weiss
Bryan Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman
Arnie Creinin

Ex-Officio Members:

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Terence Chase, Valley International Airport

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Joe Logan
George Shelley
Gar Treharne, Chairman
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Roy Bailey, President
Bob Friedman
Roxanne Guenzel
Bill DiLibero
Joe Townsend
Murray Meggison
Joanne Williams, Vice-President

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Susan Holmes
Angie Roach
Leo F. "Speak" Sanders
Mary Ann Tous, Vice-Chairman
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KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE

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Mary Jane Shands
Elaine Sanchez
Mary Tannenbaum
Michael Quist
William George, Chairman

PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

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Wanda Ballou, Vice-Chairman
Carol Bolstad
Debbie Huffman
Lori Alaniva
Kerry Schwartz
Robert Weiss

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Patrick McNulty, Chairman
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Deanna Bowman
Robert (Bobby) Bujanos
Russell Judah
Gary Olle

SHORELINE TASK FORCE

Charles Brommer
Troy Giles, Vice-Chairman
Neil Rasmussen
Paul Munarriz, Chairman
Robert Nixon
Theresa Metty



2013-2014

Focus

Highlights from 2013-2014

City of South Padre Island



City Council 2013-2014

- Robert N. Pinkerton, Jr., Mayor
- Jo Ann Evans, Mayor Pro-Tem
- Barry Patel, Council Member
- Alex Avalos, Council Member
- Sam Listi, Council Member
- Alita Bagley, Council Member

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Grants

The Transit Department received approximately \$1.5 million in federal grants for the construction of the park-and-ride, bus berths, bus circulation, and bus canopies for the Multimodal Project.

Personnel

Transit staff conducted interviews for the new Communications Specialist positions. Maria Luisa Villagran, Bartolo Perez III, Isamar Palestina, and Edgar Monita were selected for the new positions. The four attended dispatch training in McAllen. The dispatch service for MetroConnect is now being managed by The WAVE.

Extended Hours

The Transit Department is now providing customer service during all bus operation hours, including evenings and weekends. We are also excited to announce that we began providing extended hours of bus service on Friday and Saturday evenings until midnight on the island only. The new extended hours and the dispatch service began Friday, September 19, 2014.

Annual Ridership

Ridership for the 2013-2014 fiscal year is 626,330, which is down by 13,919 riders from fiscal year 2012-2013. This is a decrease of 2%, and represents an average monthly decrease of 1,159 riders.

According to the FY2013 Texas Rural Transit Districts Peer-To-Peer Comparison and Performance Data reports, The WAVE had the 2nd highest ridership among the state’s 39 rural transit systems with 640,249 riders. The average ridership for all rural systems in Texas for FY2013 was 187,107.

Pictured are the new dispatchers training in McAllen.



Transit

Relocated

The Transit Department administrative offices relocated to 3401 Padre Blvd, Suite C. Also, the Transit Department had its new sign installed at the Administrative offices at 3401 Padre Blvd, Suite C.

MetroConnect

The new regional bus service MetroConnect officially began its service on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. The web address is: <http://rgvmetroconnect.com>.



Bus Stop Signs

The Transit Department purchased new signs for all of its bus stops.

TTA Board

The Texas Transit Association (TTA) announced that our Transit Director, Jesse Arriaga was elected to serve on the TTA Board; he will represent rural agencies in the state of Texas. The appointment is for a one-year term.

Congratulations Jesse!

Message from the City Manager

Greetings,

South Padre Island has a rich history and reputation for maintaining a balance of beautiful environs, quality economic development, and superior public service. As a community, we value our past, treasure our traditions, and are poised for the future. This philosophy is the foundation of decisions made by the City Council and City staff. Every day we allocate resources to ensure fiscal stability and a high quality of life that includes not only basic municipal services - such as public safety, maintenance of streets, and litter removal - but also the provision of enhanced amenities such as a multitude of recreation activities for all ages, and an informative and interactive communications program.

Please know that City staff is here to work with you. Employees strive to provide you with the best customer service and to be accessible, responsive, responsible and creative in meeting the needs of the community. If at any time, you do not receive outstanding customer service, please contact me at: WDiLibero@MySPI.org or (956) 761-8106.

Traveling the island from south to north the diversity of SPI is evident. I am greeted by fishing charters, water parks, hotels, dance and concert stages, restaurants, golf-carts, bikes, SUPs, kiteboards and windsurfing rentals, bird-watching and horseback riding. There are catamaran cruises and fishing boats on the bay side and beach goers and surfers on the gulf side. Within all of this activity are the residents of South Padre Island. My goal, to the extent possible, is to keep all of these parties and interests moving forward in a way that benefits the greater good of the City and the diverse environment in which we live. As a municipal chief executive I have an open-door policy. If I am in my office and not in a meeting, I am available to meet with you. If an issue or concern involves one of the City's departments, that department head will become involved in the conversation. My goal is to resolve issues quickly and in an appropriate manner.

In closing, I want to thank the City Council for selecting me as the South Padre Island City Manager. I look forward to serving the city to the best of my abilities!

Sincerely,
Bill DiLibero
City Manager



Administrative Services



Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division recruited many different positions this year. This division creates the job posting, recruits as needed and coordinates the interview process for each department. We would like to welcome all the new employees to TEAM SPI this fiscal year.

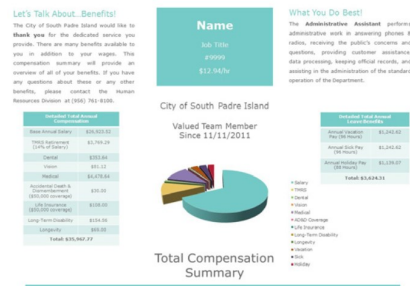
Finding our New City Manager

The City Council selected Strategic Government Resources as the Executive Search Firm to recruit the next City Manager in November of 2013. It started with a meeting on Monday, January 13, in an executive session format to present the 60 applicants who applied for the City Manager position. The City Council worked with SGR to develop a questionnaire that was then sent to the top 15 candidates. From there the top 6 were selected as candidates.

A job offer was made to Mr. William A. DiLibero on February 20, 2014 and he started employment with the City on April 1st, 2014. We are excited to have Bill as our new City Manager.

Compensation Overview

Araceli Sanchez, HR Generalist, has been working diligently this year creating the annual employee benefit statements. The benefit statements are a comprehensive overview of each employee's individualized total compensation package; this



includes all insurance coverage paid by the city, vacation and sick leave benefits, salary totals, etc. This is a huge task that Araceli completes annually.

Municipal Court Week

November 15th, Municipal Court Week was a great success! The Court staff displayed a booth in the lobby of the Municipal Court with goodies for children and information pamphlets for adults. Garriga Elementary School sent over children in the gifted and talented program to visit the Court. The children got a chance to go inside the Court Room and visit with the Judge and Court Staff. Each child was provided a coloring and activity book called "A Day in Municipal Court" to take home with them.

Spring Break

Municipal Court held court every day from March 8th to March 22nd. Court staff worked non-stop, coming in on weekend mornings around 6:30 a.m. to manually enter the citations filed in the Court by TABC and preparing the paperwork for the Judge for those arrested. Cindy Vasquez, Crystal Martinez, Maria Norwood and Araceli Sanchez were exceptional this Spring Break doing a great job for the City! The Administrative Services Department would also like to put out a special THANK YOU to Nikki Soto and Marta Martinez. Nikki and Marta went above and beyond this Spring Break regarding teamwork.

Public Works

Street Paving Project – In February 2014 R.M. Walsdorf, Inc. completed the street paving project at a cost of \$541,575.00.



2014 Padre Blvd Sidewalk improvements – In September 2014 Los Fresnos Construction completed the sidewalk improvements project at a cost of 34,155.86.

Water Tower Park improvements – In June 2014 the Public Works Crews completed the installation of



Rubber mats for the kid's playground at Water Tower Park at a cost of \$30,518.12.



Water Tower Park Palms – In September 2014 Parks & Rec's Committee funded the purchase of 4 Sabal Palm trees at a cost of \$1500.00. They were delivered by Exterior Designs and planted by Public Works Crew.

Inlet Repairs along Padre Blvd. – In June 2014 Contractor Luis Paredes, Jr. completed the inlet repairs at a cost \$5010.10.

Storm Drain Cleanout – In September 2014 Laguna Madre Water District completed the storm drain cleanout at a cost of \$14,700.00.

Sabal Palm Trees – In July 2014 Exterior Designs Transplanted 60 palm trees that were donated by Cameron County to SPI Convention Center at a cost of \$26,880.00.

Street Name Signs – In September 2014 the Public Works Crews replaced 57 faded out street signs at a cost of \$1,875.00.

New Public Works Yard – In May 2014 the new Public Works Yard was relocated to the Coast Guard Station for a cost of \$49,447.00.

Public Safety - Community Involvement

National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual event to generate spirit, friendship & support between 1st responders, agencies, local businesses, and the community. The event sends a message to criminals that we are committed to keeping our neighborhoods safe. SPI-PD showed their community involvement at this event along with other City departments.

First Responders 5K

Another event that showcased community involvement was the First Responders 5K Run. City Manager Bill DiLibero organized a group of police, fire, City Council members and City employees to run as Team SPI. Two of the individual winners for their division came from Team SPI!



We would also like to thank Judge Paul Hemphill for providing his services during March.

The line for the Municipal Court



Window on Saturday, March 15, 2014

Texas Municipal Court Clerk Certifications

Sponsored by the Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA) the Municipal Court Clerk Certification Program was established to encourage professional development and educational growth. Congratulations to Crystal Martinez for passing Part II of Level II exam, Araceli Sanchez for passing Part I of the Level II exam and to Wendi Delgado for passing the Court Clerk Level III exam this fiscal year.



Collections

Over the last few years the Municipal Court has implemented several collection strategies to assist the City in the collection of unpaid court fines. Both Cindy Vasquez and Crystal Martinez worked diligently in this effort throughout the year. We would like to announce that the Municipal Court collected fines and forfeitures for fiscal year 2013/2014 at an all-time high of \$517,000.



City Manager's Office

Personnel

Out of 60 applicants the City Council selected William "Bill" DiLibero as the New City Manager of South Padre Island. Bill started on April 1, 2014. Coming from North Kingstown, Rhode Island with over 20 years experience in municipalities and a licensed attorney. Bill has become a member of TML, TCMA, PI Rotary, EDC Board, and is attending the Laguna Madre Leadership Class XIX.



Angelique "Nikki" Soto joined the City Manager's Office on December 12, 2014 as the new Executive Assistant to the City Manager. Nikki came from the local school district, working in the



administration office for over 5 years. Nikki was also elected to be Chair of the Wellness Committee.

On August 4, 2014 the City Manager's Office also welcomed Adrian Rodriguez as the new Public Information Officer. Adrian Rodriguez grew up in Weslaco, Texas where he graduated with honors from Weslaco High School. He attained a Bachelor of Science in Radio-Television-Film from the University of Texas at Austin. Additionally, he holds a Master of Arts in Communication from UT Pan American. Rodriguez brings experience in radio, television, and film to South Padre Island.

Assistant City Manager Darla Jones did a tremendous job taking the lead as Interim City

Manager from September 30, 2013 through March 31, 2014. She is also currently in charge of Convention Centre renovations.

Susan Hill serves as the City Secretary. The City Secretary supports, facilitates and strengthens the City of South Padre Island governmental process, safeguards and conducts the municipal election process, protects and preserves official City records, as well as, assures that official City activities are in compliance with Federal, State and City policies and practices. The City Secretary also prepares and provides City Council information including agendas, agenda packets, minutes, ordinances, resolutions, agreements and contracts.



Public Safety - Beach Patrol

Lifeguard Towers

The South Padre Island Beach Patrol Division of the Fire Department added two more lifeguard towers for the 2014 beach season. This allows a total of seven stands to be strategically placed on the beaches of the island to increase beach safety for our residents and visitors. They are each staffed by members of the well trained South Padre Island Life Guard team. The SPI Beach Patrol members protect the beaches during Spring Break and from Memorial Day until Labor day each year.

The Beach Patrol provides a life saving service to the



community. The continued funding of the service promotes the safety and well being of all residents and visitors to our island. They are great ambassadors of the community.

Furthermore, the Beach Patrol Dive Team is available for any water emergencies involving search, detection, recovery, and inspection in the water. The Dive Team is fully staffed

and activated. Equipment for the team was acquired through grants.

Training, certification and continuing education are funded by the city of SPI.



The City of SPI has committed to maintaining the dive team and all associated equipment and has budgeted accordingly.



Public Safety - Fire Department

Spring Break

State officials turned a parking lot on South Padre Island into an emergency command center complete with a mobile hospital and pharmacy.

Traffic congestion on the island and roads leading to the Spring Break hotspot prompted the decision to set up the site, officials said.

The nearest hospital is 35 minutes away in normal traffic, officials said. Traffic congestion during Spring Break leads to lengthy delays in case of an emergency transport.

The City of South Padre Island Police Department and the South Padre Island Fire Department helped with the emergency command center as well as the various Spring Break events at Schlitterbahn and Clayton's Beach Bar & Grill.

Operation Brite

To be better prepared for emergencies, Cameron County and South Padre Island lifeguards and U.S.



Coast Guard officials honed their skills during the Operation Brite training session.



Operation Brite provides training through mock scenarios that can occur at any time, such as rescuing a stranded swimmer. SPI Fire Chief Marcus Smith said the quarterly training sessions are vital to rescue operations.

“When we have a rescue situation, time really does matter, and by working together to accomplish that task we have a much better chance of rescuing that individual,” Smith said. The fire department oversees 24 lifeguards, with 11 stationed on South Padre Island beaches, and works closely with the Coast Guard to protect beachgoers.



Coastal Resources & Parks and Recreation Division



Program Expansion

The Coastal Resources Department has been restructured into the Coastal Resources & Parks and Recreation Division. Reuben Trevino will serve as Administrator. Joe Vela was promoted to Beach Foreman and will work hands-on with beach maintenance and improvements. Mary K. Hancock will now serve as the City's dedicated Parks Manager. She will be working with Coastal Resources & Parks and Recreation Division. Her 16 years

experience working with the City of South Padre Island will enhance the City's community, parks, and recreational programs.

New Truck

The City purchased a new Broyhill trash compactor truck. This will reduce the man power needed to empty trash barrels on the beach, reduce plastic trash bags used, and reduce the risk of injury to employees.

Grants

South Padre's Volunteer dune restoration grant was completed in June 2014. With the help of volunteers from all over we planted 196,000 plants and vegetated approximately 5.6 acres along the public beach. All supplies were provided through the grant and the City's match was in-kind contribution of staff and volunteer time.

This year's submittals were the City's most successful attempt at receiving CMP funds from the GLO. The GLO funded \$1.6 million in projects and the City was awarded approximately \$441,000 (28%) of the total funds. The City of South Padre Island was more successful than any other government entity or university that applied for funding.

Projects selected include Gulf Blvd improvements, public walkover located at the Pearl beach access, and another cycle of South Padre's Volunteer Dune Restoration program.

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Personnel

The South Padre Island City Council selected Rachel Flores as the Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) Director during their regular meeting May 7, 2014. Flores began her new position on June 9, 2014.

Flores has a film degree from Cornell University and served as Director of Communications and Marketing, and Project Coordinator for a financial-based company in New York City, New York.

The City's interview panel selected Flores unanimously based on her marketing and management background. The South Padre Island CVB is excited to welcome her. Having been the Executive Director for the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation, she brings a wealth of experience to South Padre Island.

Seasoned hospitality professionals Denise Arnold and Eduardo Figueroa joined the CVB sales team. Both



have over 20 years of hospitality industry experience. Denise joined the CVB as Director of Sales and Eduardo as the Senior Sales Manager.

Joey Rodriguez was promoted



to CVB Operations Manager. Congratulations Joey!

The Wyland Wall

The Wyland Whaling Wall celebrated a birthday and turned 20 this past fiscal year. Dedicated March 14, 1994 the Convention Centre's Whaling Wall officially titled "Orcas off the Gulf of Mexico" turned 20. The wall is part of artist Robert Wyland's collection of Monumental Marine Life Murals. The murals are located across the country and total 100—the SPI Convention Centre's mural is number 53.

Public Safety - Police Department

Audits

This year SPI-PD participated in three significant audits consisting of; Texas Dept. of Public Safety Crime records division, Texas Commission of Law Enforcement Standards, and DPS CJIS Security Review. All assessments confirmed that SPI-PD is operating appropriately via procedures and guidelines set forth by these state agencies.

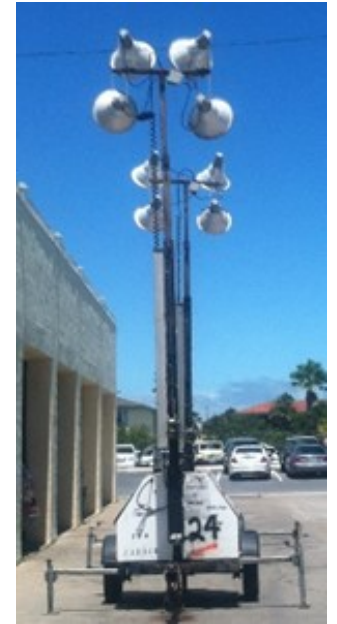
New Equipment

With forfeiture money the SPI-PD was able to purchase crime fighting tools & equipment, such as body cameras, portable breath alcohol testers, tower lights, a Patrol vehicle and an ATV.



Mental Health Training

In April, South Padre Island, along with the Houston Police Department hosted a 40-hour Mental Health Officer Certification training course. Law enforcement personnel from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties attended. National statistics indicate that emergency related mental health calls are on the rise. This course is designed to familiarize first responders to best practices when addressing persons exhibiting with mental health concerns.



Information Technology



www.MySPI.org

The main website for the City has been redesigned! You'll notice new content, better navigation, more photos and yes, a whole new look and feel. Planning for the new site began eight months ago, gradually taking shape with the input of staff and visitors to South Padre Island.



www.sopadre.com

The Convention and Visitors Bureau visitor website has been redesigned! This website receives more than 1.8 million visitors annually. The online booking engine has done extremely well. Visitors have booked 385 room nights with revenue to our lodging partners of \$60,644.82. Destination Travel Network has sold \$113,000 in annual paid advertisement with revenue to the City of nearly \$60,000.00.

Power Supplies

Power outages and surges are common on the Island and

can result in a loss of productivity and damaged equipment or corrupt information. Information Technology staff placed uninterrupted power supplies in Police Dispatch to protect against these disruptions.

New Laptops

We purchased and replaced 10 laptops for use in each of the Police Departments squad units.



Upgrades

Upgraded Internet connection to fiber connection at City Hall and Convention Centre. Increased bandwidth speed at Fire Department and installed managed Wi-Fi network for Fire staff. Upgraded Watch Guard Video server used for recording squad unit incidents. Upgraded Granicus server used for recording public meetings.

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The Visitors Center

The Visitors Center continued providing excellent customer service to the thousands of guests who visit our beautiful island, some from as far away as China. In September, 24 students from China and Taiwan's International Studies University and Arts and Science stopped by the Visitors Center to pick up some SPI literature. They were participating in a work and travel program at Schlitterbahn Beach Resort.

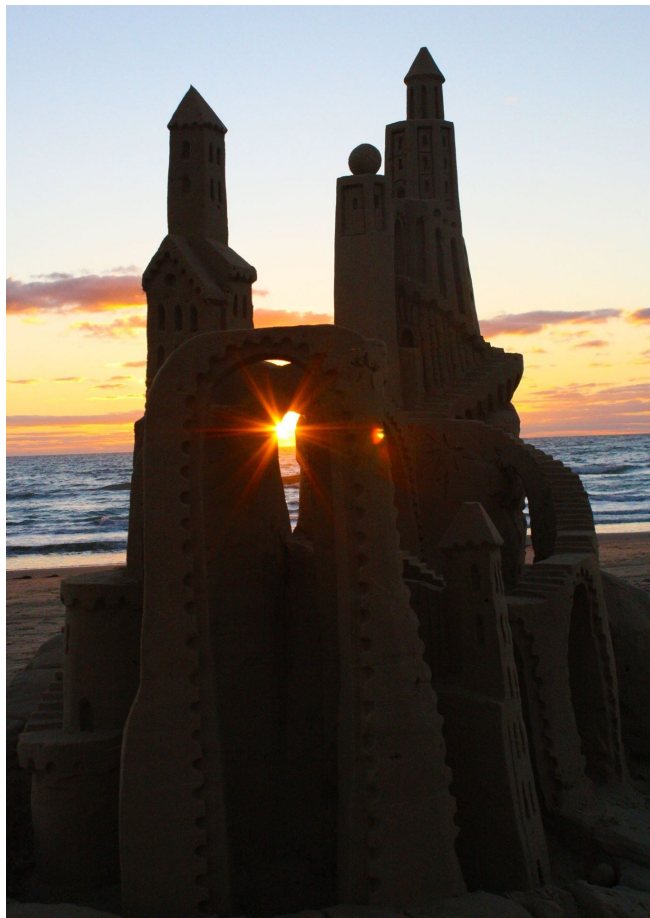
Guadalupe Rivera is the newest member of the Visitor's Center family. Guadalupe has been with us since August. Welcome!



Convention & Visitors Bureau Continued

Community Partnerships

The Convention Center continues to build partnerships with surrounding area agencies. A new program, established by City Manager Bill DiLibero allowed SPI local non-profits the ability to use the Convention Centre's parking lot through out the summer as part of their fundraising efforts. The program was a huge success and has provided a significant financial boost to our local community non-profit partners.



Art

Additionally, the CVB continues to support the arts by fostering sandcastle art with the Sandcastle Trail and Sandcastle Days, Bay and Beach Concert Series, as well as bringing artwork to South Padre Island. In conjunction with the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts the CVB organized the exhibition of artist Javier Marin's sculptures "Tres Cabezas Colasales."

Finance

24th Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The City of South Padre Island received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the 2013 Comprehensive Annual Report. This achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the 24th consecutive year that the City has achieved this award.

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The City of South Padre Island received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the 2013 Annual Budget. The award reflects the commitment of the City of South Padre Island to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting.



Standard & Poor's Ratings Services raised its rating on South Padre Island existing general obligation debt one notch to 'AA' from 'AA-'. S&P view the City's management conditions as strong, with good financial practices under the Management Assessment methodology indicating that South Padre Island has a very strong budget flexibility, liquidity, and debt and contingent liabilities profile. Purchasing as well as Fiscal Policies have been updated and presented to Council to comply with the Texas Department of

Transportation requirements. Additionally, a new indirect cost allocation has been prepared and approved for fiscal year 2014-2015. In order to promote efficiency and reduce waste, paystubs began to be emailed to employees. Finance and Information Technology worked together to obtain and place in service the additional software module needed to email the paystubs. Auctions of the City's surplus items have been assigned to the Finance Department. In the most recent auction 63 items were sold for a total gross of \$68,587.

Environmental Health Services Continued

Island Environmental Health Services Department, City of South Padre Island Keep SPI Beautiful Committee, City of SPI Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Animal Rescue, Home Depot, Jr.'s recycling, Port of Brownsville Recycling, Sea Turtle Inc., and Surfrider Foundation South TX Chapter.

Earth Day Cleanup

On April 26, 2014, the annual Adopt-A-Beach Clean-up took place. This year, this event was also held as an Earth Day Cleanup. All along the Texas Coast 5.5 tons of trash was removed from beaches. Participants came from Pharr, Edinburg, McAllen and Harlingen to help in keeping our South Padre Island Beaches clean and free of litter.

Vector Control

Congratulations are in order... For the fourth consecutive year, the Texas Department of Agriculture awarded the Environmental Health Services Department a perfect score on their Vector

Control Inspection! This extensive inspection looks for compliance with records of spraying, proper equipment use, proper handling of products associated with the



application of pesticides, chemical storage, and required licenses.

In celebration of receiving perfect scores for four years, EHS staff painted a "No Mosquito Zone" design on the garage door of the vector control room.

Anti-Litter Program

The 2nd Annual "Treasure It, Don't Trash It" Anti-litter Beach Program was a huge success. The program effectively ran from May 28th through September 3, 2014. Two Litter Patrol Officers educated beachgoers on keeping the beautiful beaches

clean. They also enforced local ordinance violations such as glass on beach and littering prohibited on beach. Combined, both officers issued 77 warnings and 186 citations for glass on the beach; they also issued 106 warnings and 97 citations for littering. Officers also distributed table tents to hotels, motels, and property management companies. They were placed on dining tables, front desks and other high traffic areas. Additionally, volunteers from The University of Texas at Brownsville, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation South Texas Chapter, Laguna Madre Boys and Girl Club, Keep South Padre Island Beautiful Committee, and local citizens targeted four heavily populated beach locations to educate visitors, remove trash from the beach, and hand out trash bags to beachgoers. Staff saw a reduction in trash on the beach along with a decline of beach violations.

Development

Visions of Tomorrow

Achieving quality services and improving our City's future environments require the City to develop visions to achieve the desired outcome and Development assisted the community developing their vision and the vision (Visions of Tomorrow) was adopted on March 5, 2014.

Comprehensive Plan

The Department initiated the process of updating the City's Comprehensive Plan for the year 2025. The process will go through (1) Data Collection & Analysis, (2) Vision Sessions with the Public, (3) Staff's Internal Review, (4) the Recommendation of Planning & Zoning Commission (and/or Joint Workshop Sessions with the P&Z and the Council), and (5) adoption at City Council. The plan was adopted on August 6, 2014.

Amendment

Development reviewed certain sections of zoning ordinances.



Professional Services

Dr. Kim has provided landscape design for the Convention Center and street corners. As well as draft design for a public parking lot at the public boat launch on West Polaris Drive.

Future Projects

The department worked on annexation to the northern extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) areas. They have been discussed in the past and it is expected that the annexation proceedings will be a major issue in the upcoming year.

Also, the department is currently reviewing certain sections of zoning ordinance to further improve quality of residential and business environment; to accommodate better parking locations; and to fine-tune with the recently adopted Form-Based Code (Padre Boulevard & Entertainment District Code).

Finally, the department has established a working relationship with TxDOT and is ready for the median extension and landscaping project.

Environmental Health Services

Food Safety

Mayor Pinkerton proclaimed the month of September 2013, in the City of South Padre Island, as National Food Safety Month. He urged all citizens to participate in activities that promote safe food handling throughout the year.

Beach Cleanup

Environmental Health Director J. Victor Baldovinos assisted in the coordination of beach cleanups in the US and Mexico. Beaches included in the cleanup were South Padre Island, Boca Chica Beach (Brownsville, TX), Playa Bagdad (Madero, Tamp) and Playa Miramar (Matamoros, MX). More than 600 volunteers collected approximately 13 tons of trash from those beaches.

Environmental Summit

The Valley Environmental Summit was held at the South Padre Island Convention Centre on October 24, 2013. The purpose of the environmental summit is to bring together the general public, political leaders,



neighborhood associations, nonprofits, businesses, and students to learn about and

discuss ways to improve the Texas environment. Over 300 people participated in the summit.

Recycling Efforts

For the first time ever, recycling efforts were conducted during the Causeway Run and Walk. Environmental Health Services Department (EHSD) assisted in recycling plastic, paper, and cardboard.



"I Love SPI"

The "I Love SPI" Campaign was a great success! This campaign was design to get the Island ready for the busy season. Many residents participated by disposing and recycling items.

Christmas Tree Recycling

EHSD teamed up with City of Port Isabel Public Works to reuse Christmas trees. The trees were given a new life as they were turned into mulch, as opposed to being discarded in a landfill or on the roadside. EHSD staff accepted the trees during the regular Saturday recycling, and gathered trees left on the side of the road.

Phone Book Recycling

As new phone books are distributed, the City of South Padre Island encourages everyone to recycle their old phone books. Recycled phone books were placed in a blue tote during regular business hours in the City Hall lobby, or during our regular recycling hours on Saturdays. Recycling phone books prevents thousands of pounds of unnecessary waste from entering our landfills. When recycled correctly, phone books are a valuable commodity that are useful longer than expected. The material that is obtained from

the phone books may be used for insulation (which lasts for years), paper plates, holiday or birthday cards, or...new phonebooks!

Recycle Land

The Keep South Padre Island Beautiful Committee and EHSD held its 4th annual Recycle Land Event on Saturday, November 16, 2013 at Water Tower Park. The event had tremendous participation from vendors, and patrons who prevented thousands of pounds of materials from being disposed in a landfill or entering our ecosystem. What would be trash, has now become a commodity, and each piece of material collected will have an extended life to be used in a positive manner. Materials that were recycled included corks, keys, buttons, ribbons, food items, ink cartridges, batteries, electronics, Christmas lights, light bulbs, appliances, aluminum, tin, paper, cardboard, plastic, and auto parts. This year's vendors include: Allied Waste, Art Space, City of South Padre