

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Mayor & Council

AGENDA DATE: 2.28.23

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Representative Cassandra Hernandez ~ 915.212.0003

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL

Goal 3 - Promote the Visual Image of El Paso

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action to approve a resolution recognizing Walburga "Wally" Cech's lifetime accomplishments and contributions to El Paso and to El Paso City Council meetings.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

Wally Cech, a German immigrant and war bride, taught herself English, while her husband was stationed in Fort Bliss, self-published 4 books, operated a Bavarian restaurant in El Paso and has participated in City improvement initiatives. Among other recognitions, she was awarded for her hospital volunteerism, and for many years has been one of the most active public participants at El Paso City Council meetings.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

Yes, Council has recognized numerous members of the public for their lifetime achievements and contributions to El Paso.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Walburga “Wally” Cech grew up in Augsburg, Germany during World War II, where she met her husband Johnny Cech, an American soldier whom she married in 1948.

WHEREAS, While Mrs. Cech’s husband was stationed at Fort Bliss in 1952, she began learning English using a dictionary, magazines and newspapers and commenced her writing journey.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cech self-published her books in El Paso, Texas describing her memories of Hitler and the Nazis marching into her town of Augsburg, Germany upending her life and changing history. She produced four books, "Auf Wiedersehen" published in 1964, "The Lost Years - Volume II" came in 1971, "Auf Wiedersehen Brings Happiness - Volume III" and "Auf Wiedersehen Hope and Joy - Volume IV" were published in 2022.

WHEREAS, In 1963, in his last visit to El Paso before his assassination, Mrs. Cech gave President John F. Kennedy two dozen roses in honor of El Pasoans.

WHEREAS, In 1967, Mrs. Cech opened and ran the Happy Bavarian Restaurant for 17 years and in 1971 it was named in Texas Monthly magazine, and she received the Yellow Rose of Texas Award.

WHEREAS, While Mrs. Cech retired from the restaurant business in 1985 she has remained an activist throughout her life, serving on the Renaissance 400 Committee to revitalize Downtown El Paso in the 1980’s and as a part of Keep El Paso Beautiful helping store managers clean up their storefronts.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cech has received several public commendations including from the late Mayor Jonathan Rogers, from Gen. James Maloney at Fort Bliss, and at the age of 82 she received the 2010 Frist Humanitarian Award for Volunteer of the Year for spending every Thursday at Del Sol Medical Center, working as an auxiliary volunteer.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cech continues to be active and involved in current events, particularly at the local level so much so that she has attended over 361 El Paso City Council Meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the City Council recognize Ms. Wally Cech for her entrepreneurial ventures that has brought German culture and history to the Sun City, for her participation in initiatives to better El Paso and for her consistent and enthusiastic attendance at City Council Meetings.

(Signatures begin on following page)

APPROVED this _____ day of February, 2023.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Roberta A. Brito
Assistant City Attorney