MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 5:00 P.M., with the following members present via Zoom Teleconference Meeting by logging on at: https://zoom.us/j/658433003
Meeting Number: 958 433 003

TREY MENDEZ  Mayor

JOHN F. COWEN, JR.  COMMISSIONERS
ROSE GOWEN  At Large “A”
NURITH GALONSKY PIZANA  At-Large “B”
JESSICA TETREAU  District 1
JOEL MUNGUIA  District 2
BEN NEECE  District 3
NOEL BERNAL  District 4

CALL TO ORDER

a) Roll Call

A quorum being present, Ms. Griselda Rosas, Interim City Secretary, read the call to order to consider the matters as posted and filed for the record in The Office of the City Secretary on March 20, 2020.

b) Invocation

Invocation was not delivered.

c) Pledge of Allegiance  United States Pledge and Texas Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance was not delivered.
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Teresa Saldivar, Ms. Stephanie Dominguez, and Mr. Alfonso Saldana, signed up for Public Comment, and did not wish to address the Mayor and Commission, but did request that their opinion be registered for the record.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

1. **Consideration and ACTION to approve the City Manager to authorize purchases above the formal solicitation threshold in response to COVID-19. (Finance Department)**

   Lupe Granado, Finance Director, briefly updated the Commission that the City was facing unfamiliar territory and being proactive was a main component in dealing with the pandemic. The authorization to approve purchases above our current threshold might arise as the City faced the pandemic.

   Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana expressed concerns over the limit of the amount.

   Commissioner Jessica Tetreau recommended a seal amount of $250,000 as a cap. If the circumstances were to change and an even greater amount were needed, a special meeting would be scheduled.

   Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that the City Manager, be **authorized**, purchases above the formal solicitation threshold in response to COVID-19, with a cap of $250,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried as follow:

   **Ayes:** Commissioners Tetreau, Gowen, Munguia, Cowen, Jr., and Mayor Mendez
   **Nays:** Commissioners Galonsky Pizana, Neece

2. **Consideration and ACTION to approve City Manager to delegate authority to Deputy/Assistant City Manager or Emergency Management Coordinator for approval of purchases above the formal solicitation threshold in response to COVID-19.**

   Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana moved that the City Manager delegate authority to the Deputy/Assistant City Manager or the Emergency Management Coordinator for approval of purchases above the formal solicitation threshold in response to COVID-19 with a cap of $50,000 per expenditure, be **approved**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ben Neece and carried as follow:

   **Ayes:** Commissioners Galonsky Pizana, Gowen, Munguia, Neece, Tetreau and Mayor Mendez
   **Nay:** Commissioner Cowen

3. **Consideration and ACTION to approve Resolution Number 2020-028 expanding the Scope of Services of the Public Health Department.**

   Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Director of Public Health informed the Commission on how implementing extra measures would be necessary to combat the virus, in which the necessary actions would assist in identifying community diseases to better educate and
scope suspected cases, clusters and hot spots within our community. Dr. Joseph McCormick supported and applauded both Dr. Rodriguez’s initiative and the Commission’s actions in staying ahead of the pandemic.

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that Resolution Number 2020-028 expanding the Scope of Services of the Public Health Department, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

4. Consideration and ACTION to amend the City of Brownsville Personnel Policy Manual to allow the establishment of a Sick Leave Pool.

Ms. Marina Zolezzi, Assistant to the City Manager briefly explained the Sick Leave Pool, noting that the City had recognized the necessity to create a sick leave pool and bank to cover employees who may need to utilize sick leave due to the current health issue concerning COVID-19. Ms. Zolezzi further noted that the amendment would also assist new employees whom may not have sick leave accrual balances nor qualify for Telecommuting arrangements.

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that the City of Brownsville Personnel Policy Manual to allow the establishment of a Sick Leave Pool, be amended and approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joel Munguia and carried unanimously.

5. Consideration and ACTION to amend Declaration of Local State of Disaster for Public Health Emergency.

Mr. Noel Bernal, City Manager along with Mayor Trey Mendez and Ms. Helen Ramirez, Deputy City Manager briefly informed the Commission of the new amended items made to the declaration. It was mentioned that some of the items included but not limited to; restaurants, elective medical procedures/surgeries were prohibited, religious services are to be conducted by video/teleconference, daycares are limited to 10 children per room, adult daycares are limited to 10 residents; libraries were to remain closed, city events were cancelled, general public and private events were cancelled, and residents were encouraged to conduct online City services; bus services were limited to 10 patrons and the airport had limited access.

Mr. Felipe Romero, Director of Communications and Marketing mentioned that the City created the BTX CARES website, where information was continuously updated for the public.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission in regards to the amended Declaration of Local State of Disaster for Public Health Emergency.

Dr. Joseph McCormick stressed the urgency that more testing sites be in place and would like the support of the Commission.

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that the Declaration of Local State of Disaster for Public Health Emergency, be amended and approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joel Munguia and carried unanimously.
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon duly made motion the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved this 7th day of July, 2020.

Trey Mendez

Attest:

Griselda Rosas
Interim City Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Jose A. Gonzalez, Reference Librarian
Office of the City Secretary