THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITY OF BROWNSVILLE
COUNTY OF CAMERON

MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 5:00 P.M., with the following members present via Webex Teleconference Meeting by logging on at: https://brownsville.webex.com/brownsville/j.php?MTID=m4e9f292f941e69ad03a772630c2b092f Meeting Number: 969 728 362

TREY MENDEZ

COMMISSIONERS
At Large "A"
At-Large "B"
District 1
District 2
District 4

JOHN F. COWEN, JR.
ROSE GOWEN
NURITH GALONSKY PIZANA
JESSICA TETREAU
BEN NEECE

NOEL BERNAL
HELEN RAMIREZ
BRYANT WALKER
RENE DE COSS
GRISELDA ROSAS
ABSENT

CITY MANAGER
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
CITY ATTORNEY
INTERIM CITY SECRETARY

JOEL MUNGUIA – District 3
ELIZABETH WALKER – Assistant City Manager

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 May 8, 2020.

b) Invocation

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau delivered the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one signed up for public comment.
ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

1. Discussion regarding the City of Brownsville response to the urgent public necessity concerning COVID-19, otherwise known as Coronavirus, including but not limited to:

   a. Continuity Plan Update: City staffing, facilities and services, including actions and continuity of such operations;
   b. Financial Update: Emergency Procurement; and
   c. Drive-thru collections/testing site update

   Mr. Noel Bernal, City Manager briefly informed the Commission the BTX Recovers Committee consisting of four sub committees, which are safety, communications, operations facilities and finance. He further informed that the committee would be working with Health, Finance and Emergency Management Departments as well as other city departments to develop a tracking pool for financial impacts, which would be introduced at the next meeting. Mr. Bernal noted that by allowing track revenues and expenditures it would reconcile the most significant costs. Mr. Bernal further noted that 12% of our staff is currently teleworking with the remaining 88% working on site.

   Ms. Odee Leal, Director of Emergency Management and Lupe Granado, Finance Director briefly informed the Commission of the reimbursement process. Both presented a sample of the process, which may function based on the previous case with last year’s influx of immigrants.

   Ms. Marina Zolezzi, Assistant to the City Manager briefly informed the Commission of the expansion of the CARES Act Funding, Allocations by Agencies for the City of Brownsville, COVID-19 Current Applications and how Texas A&M has launched education and technical assistance through some of their existing programs.

   Mr. Ramiro Gonzalez, Director of Government and Communities Affairs briefly discussed other initiatives for the City of Brownsville, which consisted of (1) signing onto letters from TML, US Conference of Mayors, and other organizations that support federal funding for Counties and Cities, (2) Monitoring all legislative activity and (3) Developing a new legislative agenda for the City of Brownsville.

   Mayor Trey Mendez requested that the Commission be informed of all financial numbers on a weekly basis.

   Dr. A.turo Rodriguez, Public Health Director briefly informed the Commission of the COVID-19 drive thru testing site as follow:

   • As of May 11, 2020, there had been 1,941 tests administered, 1,960 did not meet criteria, 53.5% have been insured and 46.5% uninsured; 114 positive cases and 1,781 negative cases with 49 pending results were reported.
   • majority had been “linked to previous cases” with the first COVID related death reported in the community; and
   • The “Boots on the Ground “operation was on day 19 currently concentrating in the Southmost Neighborhoods
   • The Health Department has had 18 Door-to-Door events and two food bank events reaching 12,340 household members. All the Commissioners
thanked Mr. Rodriguez and the entire department for their performance along with some of our local business donors Wal-Mart, PUB, and Autrey Pharmacy.

At this time, the Commission thanked Dr. Rodriguez and his staff for their performance along with local business donors such as Wal-Mart, BPUB, and Autrey Pharmacy.

Ms. Michelle Jones, Epidemiologist informed the Commission of the outreach in progress with pediatrics through the Maternal & Child Grant Fund issued in 2016 during the Zika virus. She further informed that the programs in place and those being considered for children and parents should take place within the next upcoming weeks.

2. Presentation and possible ACTION on letter of support for grant submittal by the South Texas Astronomical Society (STARS) for creation of planetarium and science museum.

Victor De Los Santos, Director at the South Texas Astronomical Society, briefly informed the Commission that the South Texas Astronomical Society (STARS) program was a nonprofit organization focusing on Space Science research, education and outreach. He further noted the long-term program goals by implementing both a Science Museum and a Planetarium in the downtown area.

A brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Ben Neece moved that the letter of support for grant submittal by the South Texas Astronomical Society (STARS) for creation of planetarium and science museum, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon duly made motion the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Approved this 18th day of August, 2020.

[Signature]

Trey Mendez
Mayor

[Signature]

Griselda Rosas
Interim City Secretary

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