MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, held on Tuesday, May 19, 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=m9523386488dc60bd840a166b6a919daf
Meeting Number: 966 678 701

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

HELEN RAMIREZ CITY MANAGER
BRYANT WALKER DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
RENE DE COSS ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
GRISELDA ROSAS CITY ATTORNEY

ABSENT INTERIM CITY SECRETARY

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 15, 2020.

b) Invocation

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau delivered the invocation.

c) Proclamations

National Public Works Week

The proclamation was presented and read by Mayor Trey Mendez.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one signed up for the public comments period.
WORK SESSIONS

1. Presentation on current and proposed drainage projects through Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and General Land Office (GLO).

   David Lincon Jr., Engineer I/ Floodplain Administrator briefly updated the Commission with projects that have been proposed with the TWDB CWSRF Loan grant approved. Mr. Lincon further explained the future drainage projects focusing on citizen involvement and modern infrastructure by noting the four proposed projects and proposing two (2) grants as follow:
   - Southmost Waterplein Park,
   - Impala Pump Station,
   - SCADA & Culvert and
   - West Brownsville Drainage.
   - two grants for future projects such as the TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund due by June 14, 2020 and
   - the GLO CDBG MIT Fund due by July 13, 2020.

   Mr. Lincon further noted that a webinar would be held on June 17, 2020 to present the Drainage Stakeholder Forum as an opportunity for the City of Brownsville to collaborate with other local agencies in partnership with State and Federal Agencies with funding capabilities. He emphasized on the next step to prioritize future CIP projects; Local Match Requirements, Partnership Responsibilities Involvement and benefit to local flooding.

   At this time, Mr. Lincon informed the Commission that this would be his last presentation and noted that it was his last day of employment with the City of Brownsville.

   The Mayor and the Commission complimented Mr. Lincon on the job well done throughout his tenure with the City of Brownsville.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following are considered to be routine by the City Commission and will be approved by one motion.

   Upon motion by Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana seconded by Commissioner John Cowen, Jr., and carried unanimously, consent agenda were approved.

1. Consideration and ACTION to award the purchase and delivery of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus to Metro Fire Apparatus Specialist, in the amount of $540,000.00, BID SBA-26-0320, as budgeted in 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
2. Consideration and ACTION to award the purchase and delivery of one (1) Fire Pumper to Metro Fire Apparatus Specialist, in the amount of $750,000.00, BID FPT-27-0320, as budgeted in 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

3. Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2020-034 to apply for the Cameron 2019 Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) Grant #4131801 and accept the terms and conditions of said grant for the City Brownsville Police Department.

4. Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2020-039 to apply for the 2021 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) and accept terms and conditions for said grant for the City of Brownsville Police Department.

5. Consideration and ACTION to authorize the purchase of a new ASTRO Digital APX 6000XE Portable Radios with the Border Zone Fire Department Grant.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Fifth Amended Declaration of Local State Disaster for Public Health Emergency.

   Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Public Health Director briefly updated the Commission of the following as of May 18, 2020:
   
   • day 39, the testing site has administered 2,233 tests with 125 positive, 1,986 negative and 125 pending results. 53% of test takers have been insured and 47% have been uninsured.
   
   • The majority have been “linked to previous case” and three deaths have been reported.
   
   • Dr. Rodriguez briefly updated on day 23 of “Boots on the Ground” Operations. The operation’s current concentration is the Downtown area and N.E. district with 14,925 households reached.
   
   • In response to Commissioner Ben Neece’s question, Dr. Rodriguez updated the Commission on the nursing home situation.

   Helen Ramirez, Deputy City Manager read the recommended changes to the Fifth Amended Declaration of Local State Disaster for Public Health Emergency.

   Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission.

   Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that the Fifth Amended Declaration of Local State Disaster for Public Health Emergency, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Cowen, Jr., and carried unanimously.

2. Consideration and ACTION to acknowledge the Finance Director’s financial statements and cash investment report for the City of Brownsville for the second quarter ended March 31, 2020.

   Lupe Granado, Finance Department, presented the second quarter finance report that ended in March 31, 2020. In his 27 page report, Mr. Granado briefly explained the financial highlights, general fund revenues & expenditures and other fund summaries.
Mr. Granado finalized his presentation by updating on the COVID-19 expenditures as follow:

- Total COVID-19 year to date is $6,209,137 with a major portion being spent on personnel, Fire and Police.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved that the Finance Director’s financial statements and cash investment report for the City of Brownsville for the second quarter ended March 31, 2020, be acknowledged. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana and carried unanimously.

3. **Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2020-042, to amend Resolution Number 2017-030, authorizing the execution of an advance funding agreement between the City of Brownsville and the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the Southmost Nature Trail Phase II Project, Manzano Street to La Posada Drive.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Rose Gowen seconded by Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana and carried unanimously, the agenda item was tabled.

4. **Consideration and ACTION to approve the Substantial Amendment to the City of Brownsville’s Citizen Participation Plan.**

Marina Zolezzi, Assistant to the City Manager briefly informed the Commission the expansion of the amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). Ms. Zolezzi noted that the CPP would allow virtual or electronic public hearings and reflect waivers issued by HUD on Public Comment Period from 30 to 5 days.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved that the Substantial Amendment to the City of Brownsville’s Citizen Participation Plan, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joel Munguia and carried unanimously.

5. **Consideration and ACTION to approve the Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2015-2019 extending it by one additional year to 2015-2020 and reflecting additional projects/activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.**

Marina Zolezzi, Assistant to the City Manager, briefly explained the proposed agenda item noting that the amendments of the Consolidated Plan would consist of:

- extending the plan one more year, and
- to add activities to prevent prepare and respond to COVID-19.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved that the Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2015-2019 extending it by one additional year to 2015-2020 and reflecting additional projects/activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Cowen, Jr., and carried unanimously.
6. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Substantial Amendment to the City of Brownsville’s FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to add Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding for $1,597,695.00 and Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus (ESG-CV) funding for $819,241.00 made available through the CARES Act.

Marina Zolezzi, Assistant to the City Manager briefly explained the proposed agenda item.

Commissioner Ben Neece moved that the Substantial Amendment to the City of Brownsville’s FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to add Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding for $1,597,695.00 and Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus (ESG-CV) funding for $819,241.00 made available through the CARES Act, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John F. Cowen, Jr., and carried unanimously.

7. Consideration and ACTION on approval of policy statements related to Five-Year Financial Forecasting process.

Mr. Noel Bernal, City Manager briefly explained the five-year financial forecasting process presentation for 2021 thru 2025 fiscal years. Mr. Bernal Multiple presented policy statements as well as the policy statement overviews, and the service plans proposed schedule for all the departments.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission. Mr. Bernal noted that some Commissioners were part of the process and expressed their interest in being a part of it for next year.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved that the policy statements related to Five-Year Financial Forecasting process, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joel Munguía and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Rose Gowen, seconded by Commissioner John F. Cowen and carried unanimously, the Executive Session convened at 6:51 p.m. to discuss the following item:

1. Attorney consultation pursuant to Section 551.071(2), Texas Gov’t Code to provide legal advice and counsel in connection with the adoption of a general franchise ordinance for the City of Brownsville, to be codified in the Brownsville Code of Ordinance under its own Chapter, and to address legal issues related thereto. (City Manager's Office)

Upon conclusion of Executive Session, Mayor Trey Mendez III convened the regular meeting at 7:04 p.m. There was no action taken in Executive Session.
POSSIBLE ACTION ON ANY ITEM(S) AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Consideration and appropriate ACTION, if any, to adopt a general franchise ordinance for the City of Brownsville, Texas, to be codified in the Brownsville Code of Ordinance under its own Chapter, and which sets out the processes, procedures, and criteria for issuance of franchise licenses by the City.

Commissioner Joel Munguia moved that the adoption of the general franchise ordinance for the City of Brownsville, Texas, to be codified in the Brownsville Code of Ordinance under its own Chapter, and which sets out the processes, procedures, and criteria for issuance of franchise licenses by the City, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John F. Cowen, Jr., and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon duly made motion the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Approved this 18th day of August, 2020.

[Signature]
Trey Mendez
Mayor

Attest:

[Signature]
Griselda Rosas
Interim City Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
José A. Gonzalez—Reference Librarian
Office of the City Secretary