MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, held on Tuesday, May 26, 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=mb4ef08f6e4ac686c7244675dd2db8fc7 Meeting Number: 966 002 339

TREY MENDEZ

Mayor

JOHN F. COWEN, JR.

COMMISSIONERS

ROSE GOWEN

At Large “A”

NURITH GALONSKY PIZANA

At-Large “B”

BEN NEECE

District 1

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

JESSICA TETREAU-District 2

JOEL MUNGUA-District 3

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 22, 2020.

b) INVOCATION

Pastor Angel Gutierrez delivered the invocation.

PRESENTATION

1) Presentation by Dr. McCormick and UT School of Public Health on COVID-19 Dashboard.

Agenda item will be presented at the next scheduled City Commission meeting.
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one signed up for public comments.

WORK SESSION(S)

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 Bermal, City Manager briefly informed the Commission that today’s SPECIAL COVID-19 meeting would be the last and the continuance of COVID-19 updates will continue on regular scheduled City Commission meetings. He further noted that the city currently has 12% of the staff teleworking with 88% working on site.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission.

Mayor Trey Mendez noted that the Planning & Engineering Departments needed to be ready to fix any technological issues that might delay any further approval on proposed projects.

Lupe Granado, Finance Director briefly updated the Commission on expenditures related to COVID-19 as follow:

- Total expenditures to date was $6,252,075 with the majority spent on personnel focusing mainly on Police and Fire overtime.
- Emergency procurement supplies comes in second with the majority spent on testing kits. The city currently has about 5,000 masks with 20,000 pending.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Public Health Director along with Ms. Michelle Jones, Epidemiologist briefly updated the commission on the COVID-19 testing site as follow:

- As of May 22, 2020, there had been 2,532 tests administered with 141 positive; 2,095 negative along with 374 pending results
- 50% have been insured and 50% have been uninsured.

Dr. Rodriguez further explained the pattern that follows each Executive Orders (GA18, GA21 & GA23) being released with the increase in positive cases in the testing sites, noting that the majority was still “link to previous cases” with four deaths reported to date. “Boots on the Ground” Operations was currently on day 26 and was concentrating in the downtown and surrounding area; to date, 16,655 households have been reached with a 32-percentage rate and one of the recent recommendations would be testing all employees.
At this time, the Mayor and Commission commended the department for a great effort within the community.

Commissioner Ben Neece mentioned the high cases of positive and death cases reported from our neighboring state of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, and the recommendation was to avoid any travels unless extremely necessary.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION(S)

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

Lupe Granado, Finance Director briefly informed the Commission of the current threshold, which was limited to $250,000. Mr. Granado noted that the to date, emergency purchases were just over $200,000 made up of $30,000 of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and $175,000 of drive-thru testing costs.

Commissioner Ben Neece moved that the City Manager, approve and authorize purchases above the formal solicitation threshold in response to COVID-19, be **approved**, for an extension of $250,000 for the next 60 days. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

2) **Consideration and ACTION to award Change Order #9 to SpawGlass Contractors, Inc., for the Terminal Project at Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport in the amount of $1,512,915.39.**

Shawn Schroeder, Airport Assistant Director briefly explained to the Commission, noting the seven items that encompass the additional changes required for completion of the South Padre Island International Airport Terminal Project.

Commissioner John F. Cowen moved that Change Order #9, be awarded to SpawGlass Contractors, Inc., for the Terminal Project at Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport, in the amount of $1,512,915.39, be **approved**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

3) **Consideration and ACTION to award Arconas $312,501.00 to provide the Terminal Seating for the Terminal Project at Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport.**

Shawn Schroeder, Airport Assistant Director briefly explained the proposed agenda item.
Commissioner Ben Neece expressed concern at the addition of more changes to the project and the amount that had increased at about $70,000,000 total project cost.

Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana moved that the award to Arconas $312,501.00 to provide the Terminal Seating for the Terminal Project at Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport, 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 6:14 p.m.

Approved this 18th day of August, 2020.

Trey Mendez
Mayor

Attest:

Griselda Rosas
Interim City Secretary

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

(Special) Minutes May 26, 2020