MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, held on Tuesday, June 02, 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=mb4cf08f6e4ac686c7244675dd2db8fc7

TREY MENDEZ Mayor
JOHN F. COWEN, JR. COMMISSIONERS
ROSE GOWEN At Large “A”
NURITH GALONSKY PIZANA At-Large “B”
JESSICA TETREAU District 1
BEN NEECE District 2
NOEL BERNAL District 4
HELEN RAMIREZ CITY MANAGER
ELIZABETH WALKER DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
BRYANT WALKER ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
RENE DE COSS ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
GRISELDA ROSAS CITY ATTORNEY
ABSENT INTERIM CITY SECRETARY

JOEL MUNGUIA – 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 29, 2020.

b) INVOCATION

Pastor Brad Burkes delivered the invocation.

c) PROCLAMATION(S)

Ms. Lupita Moreno

The proclamation was read and presented by Mayor Trey Mendez III.
Brownsville Fashion Week

The proclamation was read and presented by Commissioner Jessica Tetreau.

d) PRESENTATION(S)

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

Dr. Joseph B. McCormick, MD from UTHealth School of Public Health briefly informed the Commission of the progress on the COVID-19 collaboration between the UTHealth School of Public Health and the City of Brownsville, in creating digital database, conducting advanced analytics and an interactive dashboard.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.


Ramiro Gonzalez, Director of Government and Communities Affairs gave a brief presentation in regards to the Crossroads, a festival that provides opportunities for learning, networking and innovation through a collaboration of paths in film music, food, politics, art and innovation. He further noted that the event highlighted local and regional artists, business, and innovators in order to showcase the strong cultural influence that the people have in the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jerry Ruiz expressed several concerns including planting fruit trees on city parks.

WORK SESSIONS

A) 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

Joel Garza, Multimodal Transportation-Transit Director, briefly informed the Commission the purpose and goals of the BTX Recovery Committee, in which consists of assisting the City of Brownsville leadership in the development of the reopening plan for city buildings and slowly integrate personnel with modified conditions and noted that the three immediate actions needed are respond, recover & rerew/re-Imagine. Mr. Garza further noted the five subcommittees, which consisted of Finance, Operations/Facilities, Safety, and Communications & Health and the overall goal is to reopen the city based on data and scientific facts.
Lupe Granado, Finance Director briefly updated the Commission on the COVID-19 finances; total expenses to date is $6,345,774 with the majority spent on personnel overtime; with focus on the Police and Fire. Emergency Procurement comes in second with the majority spent on testing kits for the uninsured.

Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Director of Public Health and Ms. Michelle Jones, Epidemiologist briefly updated the Commission on the COVID-19 collections and testing site. As of May 28, 2020, 2,759 test have been administered; 164 have been positive, 2,363 negative and 235 are still pending. Half of the test takers have been insured and half have been uninsured. Five deaths have been reported to date. “Boots on the Ground” is on day 28 and is being proactive although rain has been a huge factor causing delays. Dr. Rodriguez further noted that the Health committee would be providing recommendations for a Phase II testing site.

B) Presentation on Taxi Ordinance Chapter #106 Vehicles for Hire.

Commander James Paschall briefly explained the proposed changes of the ordinance noting that it would promote more usage of taxis in our city and also provide a more even playing field with the advent of ride-sharing and two sections of the ordinance, would repeal the number of permits and the number of taxi companies allowed to operate within the city.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)

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 Rose Gowen and carried unanimously, Consent Agenda Items were approved as presented.

1) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2020-045, authorizing the execution of an advance funding agreement between the City of Brownsville and the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the Brownsville to Los Fresnos Hike and Bike Trail Phase I.

2) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2020-047, authorizing the execution of an advance funding agreement between the City of Brownsville and the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the Brownsville to Los Fresnos Hike and Bike Trail Phase II.

3) Consideration and ACTION on letter of support for Brownsville Metro’s HOPE grant application.

4) Consideration and ACTION for the City Commission to approve the Ride Systems Service Agreement Addendum No. 2, in the amount of $5,220 and allowing for a three-month extension of the current service agreement, from May 31, 2020 to August 31, 2020, for a total cost of the Ride System Service Agreement of $39,330.
5) Consideration and ACTION on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Texas Joint Counterdrug Task Force and the Brownsville Police Department for FY 2020.

6) Consideration and ACTION on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Texas Joint Counterdrug Task Force and the Brownsville Police Department for FY2021.

7) Consideration and ACTION to award a term contract for Uniform Cleaning for the City of Brownsville Police Department to Rex Cleaners of Brownsville, Texas, as per articles of agreement between the City of Brownsville and the Brownsville Police Officers’ association.

PUBLIC HEARINGS


   Commander James Paschall delivered his presentation during the Work Session.

   Upon motion by Commissioner Jessica Tetreau seconded by Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana and carried unanimously, the public hearing closed.

   Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana moved that Ordinance Number 2020-318-LL, be adopted at first reading, amending the City of Brownsville Code of Ordinances, repealing and replacing in their entirety Chapter 106 Article II Sections 106-107, 106-108 and 106-38. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

2. Public Hearing and ACTION on FIRST READING on Ordinance Number 235-2019-068, to rezone from Dwelling ‘G’ (DG) to Apartment “G” (AG) for Lot 26, Block 1, St. Tropez Subdivision, Cameron County, Texas, located at 2521 Old Port Isabel Road. (District 2)

   Martin Vega, Senior Planner gave a brief explanation of the proposed ordinance, noting that the rezoning of the property was to allow Apartments, and based on the surrounding similar uses and the mixed zoning nature of the area, staff recommended the applicant to rezone the property’s Use District rather than go through a Specific Use Permit.

   Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission.

   Upon motion by Commissioner Rose Gowen seconded by Commissioner Jessica Tetreau and carried unanimously, the public hearing closed.

   Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that Ordinance Number 235-2019-068, be adopted at first reading, to rezone from Dwelling ‘G’ (DG) to Apartment “G” (AG) for Lot 26, Block 1, St. Tropez Subdivision, Cameron County, Texas, located at 2521 Old Port Isabel Road, with restrictions. (District 2) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried as follow:

   Ayes: Commissioners Cowen, Tetreau, Gowen and Mayor Mendez
   Nays: Commissioner Galonsky Pizana.

Minutes June 02, 2020 – Page 4 of 7
ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION (S)

1) Consideration and ACTION to approve Sixth Amendment Declaration of Local State Disaster for Public Health Emergency.

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

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission.

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

2) Consideration and ACTION to approve on Second Reading the City’s General Franchise Ordinance 2020-1667, as amended, to be added as Chapter 309 of the Brownsville Code of Ordinances.

Lupe Granado, Director of Finance gave a brief explanation of the proposed agenda item noting that the general franchise ordinance will help mitigate variances in ordinances agreements that may have considerable impact in quality and efficacy to services. He further noted that the efforts of the City would help explore adequate capacity, strategic capacity, strategic services, public education and outreach to the community.

Commissioner John Cowen moved that Second Reading the City’s General Franchise Ordinance 2020-1667, as amended, to be added as Chapter 309 of the Brownsville Code of Ordinances, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana and carried as follow:

Ayes: Commissioners Cowen, Galonsky Pizana, Gowen and Mayor Mendez
Abstain: Commissioner Tetreau

3) Consideration and ACTION to acknowledge receipt of Texas Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant of $500,000 and authorizing local match requirement for Bahia Grande Trail Feasibility Study.

Joel Garza, Multimodal Transportation-Transit Director and Ramiro Gonzalez, Director of Government and Communities Affairs gave a brief explanation of the proposed agenda item, noting that the purpose of the project is to increase non-vehicular access to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, and the National Park Service Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. It was further noted that the feasibility study would include analysis of potential routes for future construction of 21.5 miles of multi-use trail.

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that the receipt of Texas Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant of $500,000 and authorizing local match requirement for Bahia Grande Trail Feasibility Study, be acknowledged. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.
4) Consideration and ACTION to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) authorizing Construction, Operation and Maintenance for Southmost Nature Trail Phase II on Land Adjacent to Garza Elementary School.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved that an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) authorizing Construction, Operation and Maintenance for Southmost Nature Trail Phase II on Land Adjacent to Garza Elementary School, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana and carried unanimously.

5) Consideration and ACTION for the City Commission to adopt Resolution Number 2020-049 approving the Texas Department of Transportation sponsored Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and establishing Safety Performance Targets for Brownsville Metro (B-Metro).

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that Resolution Number 2020-049 the Texas Department of Transportation sponsored Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and establishing Safety Performance Targets for Brownsville Metro (B-Metro), be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Cowen and carried unanimously.

6) Consideration and ACTION to enter into an agreement for services provided by Televon, a Telecommunications Management Consulting Firm, via TIPS-USA Interlocal Purchasing System.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved to enter into an agreement for services provided by Televon, a Telecommunications Management Consulting Firm, via TIPS-USA Interlocal Purchasing System, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jessica Tetreau and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Rose Gowen seconded by Commissioner Jessica Tetreau and carried unanimously, the Executive Session convened at 7:45 p.m.

A) Closed session pursuant to Section 551.087(1), Texas Gov’t Code regarding commercial or financial information that the City of Brownsville has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City; and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations; and to deliberate financial or other incentives to the same; regarding “Project Stone”.

Upon conclusion of Executive Session, Mayor Trey Mendez convened the Regular meeting at 8:12 p.m. There was no action taken in Executive Session.

POSSIBLE ACTION ON ANY ITEM(S) AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOTE: The City Commission of the City of Brownsville reserves the right to discuss any items in Executive Session whenever authorized under the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon duly make motion the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Approved this 15th day of September, 2020.

[Signature]

Trey Mondez
Mayor of the City of Brownsville

Attest:

[Signature]
Griselda Rosas
Interim City Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Yolanda Galarza-Administrative Supervisor
City Secretary's Office

Minutes June 02, 2020 – Page 7 of 7