MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 5:00 P.M., with the following members present via Zoom Teleconference Meeting by logging on at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82176283148?pwd=RGl0aktRNjFuSWtsM0R5N0FWK1hYUUT09

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

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

Mayor
COMMISSIONERS
At Large “A”
At-Large “B”
District 1
District 2
District 4

CITY MANAGER
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
CITY ATTORNEY
INTERIM CITY SECRETARY
JOEL MUNGUIA – District 3

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 July 17, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER

b) Invocation

Pastor Brad Burkes led the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one signed up for Public Comment.
1) Solid Waste update by Republic Services.

Mr. Omar Rodriguez, Municipal Services Manager and Nickolas Barrera, Operations Manager briefly updated the Commission of the following:

COVID-19 Matters
- Republic Services had seven (7) drivers affected due to COVID-19, had requested help which has been provided to relieve the effects of the pandemic and as they continue to proceed with providing services during the pandemic time, the possibility of service being delayed can and would occur. He further noted that routes would be completed, ask for their understanding and patience, and know the importance that safety is their priority for both drivers and the community.

Brownsville Residential Services
- Work orders provided from the City of Brownsville Call Center were full completed and closed, within the 48 hours after notice
- Operational changes, including personnel, have been made to ensure to meet and maintain the scheduled services
- Continue working with the City of Brownsville Call Center and weekly reports would be provided to ensure service level standard is maintained

Cart Replacement Matters
- Currently working on all cart replacements, continue to order carts in advance to try and keep up with the demand
- Working on matters pertaining to audit finding on extra costs
- Addressing the matters to help reduce cart issues and further help initiate better route efficiency

Tonnage Comparison
- Difference in Tonnage = 2,249.87 Tons
- 2,249.87 / 9 tons per load = 249 more truck loads
- 2020 Residential Brush/Bulk - Jan 1, 2020 – Jul 6, 2020 – 11,599.56 Tons Collected
- Difference in Tonnage – 933.63 Tons
- 933.63 / 3.4 tons per load = 274 more truck loads

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission, City staff and Republic Services

2) 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
Lupe Granado, Finance Director briefly updated the Commission on the COVID-19 finances; total expenses to date is $7,082,586 with the majority spent on personnel overtime; with focus on the Police and Fire. Emergency Procurement comes in second with the majority spent on PPE Masks and Drive-thru collection testing site and provided an update on a reimbursement strategy.

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 July 16, 2020, noting the following:

- 69,603 tests administered
- 45% insured, 55% uninsured
- 1,816 positive, 6,131 negative results
- 1,667 results pending

Dr. Rodriguez along with Ms. Jones further noted the COVID-19 drive thru lanes had been opened, provided details of impact to events due to the executive orders.

A brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

3) Presentation on proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

Mr. Lupe Granado III, Finance Director delivered a PowerPoint presentation in regards to the City’s proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, highlighting the Budget in Context – General Fund Revenue on property and sales taxes; the General Fund Expenditure; Non-recurring revenues and expenditures.

Mr. Noel Bernal, City Manager delivered the presentation in regards to the Fiscal Year 2021 Inflection Point – building a Post COVID-19 Organization; Fiscal Year 2021-Renew/Reimagine – Strategic Automation Plan, Reevaluate Services, and Personnel Reassignments.

Ms. Elizabeth Walker, Assistant City Manager delivered the presentation in regards to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Phase-Out Plan, noting the following:

- Health Care Costs-the City’s net retiree medical costs have increased from $972,000 in 2009 to $1,669,000.00 in 2019
- Eligible beneficiaries-731 of the 1,121 active employees included in the City’s most recent actuarial valuation would be within 10 years, 539 of the 1,121 active employees would be within 5 years, of TMRS retirement eligibility as of December 31, 2020

A brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission in regards to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION(S)

1) Consideration and ACTION on the Ninth Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency.

Helen Ramirez, Deputy City Manager read the recommended changes to the Ninth Amended Declaration of Local State Disaster for Public Health Emergency.
Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff in regards to bingo halls.

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

Mayor Trey Mendez left the meeting at 7:07 pm
Mayor Pro-Tem John Cowen, Jr., continued with the meeting.

2) Consideration and ACTION to award Change Order #10 to SpawGlass in the amount of $863,697.10, to provide Biometrics and additional Technology Solutions for the Terminal Project at Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport.

Mr. Bryant Walker, Assistant City Manager, briefly explained the proposed agenda item.

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that Change Order #10, be approved and awarded to SpawGlass, in the amount of $863,697.10, to provide Biometrics and additional Technology Solutions for the Terminal Project at Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

3) Consideration and ACTION to approve Resolution Number 2020-071, in support of the Brownsville Independent School District’s (BISD) closing of schools, adoption and implementation of safe return protocols that will ensure the safe return of our children and educators to in-person instruction.

Commissioner Jessica Tetreau moved that Resolution Number 2020-071, in support of the Brownsville Independent School District’s (BISD) closing of schools, adoption and implementation of safe return protocols that will ensure the safe return of our children and educators to in-person instruction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Jessica Tetreau, seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously, the Executive Session convened at 7:10 p.m. to discuss the following item:

1) Attorney consultation pursuant to Section 551.071(2), Texas Government Code to receive legal advice and counsel in connection with the City’s rights, duties, privileges, obligations, possible resolution, and related legal issues arising out of grievance filed by the Brownsville Professional Fire Association.

2) Deliberation of personnel matters pursuant to Section 551.074(1) of the Texas Government Code, related to the evaluation of a public officer or employee, to wit, City Manager Noel Bernal.

Upon conclusion of Executive Session, Mayor Pro-Tem John Cowen, Jr., convened the Regular meeting at 8:07 p.m. There was no action taken in Executive Session.
POSSIBLE ACTION ON ANY ITEM(S) AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

1) Discussion and possible ACTION to provide a temporary hazard pay stipend to the Fire and Police Departments.

   No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon duly made motion the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Approved this 15th day of September, 2020.

Trey Mendez
Mayor

Attest:

Griselda Rosas
Interim City Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Yolanda Galarza-Administrative Supervisor
Office of the City Secretary