

**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 in the Commission Chambers, on the Second Floor of the Brownsville City Hall – Federal Building, located at 1001 East Elizabeth Street, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, on **Tuesday, August 14, 2007**, at **6:00 P.M., 6:15 P.M. and 6:45 P.M.** with the following members present:

<b>PAT M. AHUMADA, JR.</b>		<b>MAYOR</b>
<b>RICARDO LONGORIA, JR.</b>	)	
<b>CARLOS A. CISNEROS</b>	)	
<b>EDWARD C. CAMARILLO</b>	)	
<b>ANTHONY P. TROIANI</b>	)	
<b>LEONEL T. GARZA</b>	)	<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>
<b>CHARLIE CABLER</b>		<b>CITY MANAGER</b>
<b>CARLOS AYALA</b>		<b>ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER</b>
<b>JIM GOZA</b>		<b>CITY ATTORNEY</b>
<b>ESTELA VON HATTEN</b>		<b>CITY SECRETARY</b>

**ABSENT:**

<b>CHARLIE ATKINSON</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER</b>
<b>JOHN E. CHOSY</b>	<b>ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY</b>

A quorum being present, Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., asked Ms. Estela Von Hatten, City Secretary, to read the call to consider the following matters as posted and filed for the record in The Office of the City Secretary on August 10, 2007:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo, and carried unanimously, Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., convened the Executive Session to discuss the following item:

- A) **Discussion pursuant to Section 551.072, of the Texas Government Code, regarding real property.**
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**WORKSHOP:**

Upon conclusion of the Executive Session, Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., convened the Workshop to discuss the following item:

- a) **Discussion regarding the Brownsville Beautification Committee’s budget and future projects.**
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**SPECIAL MEETING:**

***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: UNITED STATES PLEDGE \* TEXAS PLEDGE***

The U.S. Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge were led by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr.

***INVOCATION:***

The invocation was given by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr.

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**1. *PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:***

Mr. Robert Uresti commented on funds spent on City projects.

Mr. Fernando Ruiz expressed his concern regarding City debt and the appraisal district’s homestead appraisals.

Ms. Catalina Presas-Garcia expressed her concerns over drainage issues and asked that the Commission work as a unified Commission.

Mr. Roman Perez expressed his opposition to the proposed installation of red-light traffic cameras, noting that they would not alleviate traffic congestion.

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***PURCHASES/BIDS/CONTRACTS:***

- 2. Consideration and ACTION to purchase property located on Northeast One-half of Lots 5 and 6 Block A of Brownsville Original Townsite, contingent upon the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) concurrence.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Leonel T. Garza and carried unanimously, property located on the northeast one-half of Lots 5 and 6, Block A of Brownsville Original Townsite was **approved**, contingent upon the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) concurrence.

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***ACTION ITEMS:***

- 3. Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2007-046 consenting to the condemnation of a property needed for the construction of the Brownsville Urban System Multimodal Terminal Project.**

Mr. Albino J. Carrasco, III, owner of the property in question, noted that he wanted to make sure that the City had addressed all lease interests.

Upon motion by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani, seconded by Commissioner Leonel T. Garza and carried unanimously, Resolution Number 2007-046 was **adopted**, consenting to the condemnation of a property needed for the construction of the Brownsville Urban System Multimodal Terminal Project.

- 4. Consideration and ACTION to advance \$94,168 of the City's Fiscal Year 2008 Hotel/Motel Taxes to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau (BCVB) during Fiscal Year 2007.**

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, noted that the advance amount being requested would be reduced from the BCVB's next fiscal year's budget allocation.

Mr. George Gavito, BCVB Board member, noted that the requested funds were needed in order to finish out the last three months of the fiscal year and informed the Commission that an audit is underway and that certain debts have been paid.

Commissioner Leonel T. Garza moved that **\$94,168**, of the City's Fiscal Year 2008 Hotel/Motel Taxes be **advanced** to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau during Fiscal Year 2007.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros and carried unanimously.

**5. Consideration and ACTION to acknowledge the finance director's revised calculation of the City's 2007 rollback ad valorem tax adjusted for sales tax.**

Commissioner Leonel T. Garza moved that the finance director's revised calculation of the City's 2007 rollback ad valorem tax adjusted for sales tax be **acknowledged**.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., and carried unanimously.

*Agenda items 6 and 7 were read together.*

**6. Consideration and ACTION to authorize two public hearings to be held on August 28, 2007 and September 4, 2007, to consider an ad valorem tax increase for tax year 2007 or Fiscal Year 2008 of 6.48%, or an increase of 0.9765 cents or 1.5% over the current tax rate of 0.650235 cents.**

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved that two public hearings to be held on August 28, 2007 and September 4, 2007 be **authorized** to consider an ad valorem tax increase for tax year 2007 or Fiscal Year 2008 of 6.48%, or an increase of 0.9765 cents or 1.5% over the current tax rate of 0.650235 cents.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously.

7. **Consideration and ACTION to authorize two public hearings to be held on August 28, 2007 and September 4, 2007, to consider an ad valorem tax increase for tax year 2007 or Fiscal Year 2008 of 4.95%, or an increase of 0.0282 cents or .04% over the current tax rate of 0.650235 cents.**

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved that two public hearings, to be held on August 28, 2007 and September 4, 2007 to consider an ad valorem tax increase for tax year 2007 or Fiscal Year 2008 of 4.95%, or an increase of 0.0282 cents or .04% over the current tax rate of 0.650235 cents be **rejected**.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**RECONVENE:**

Upon Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr.'s, call for reconsideration of his motions on agenda items 6 and 7, and with a full quorum present, Mayor Pat M. Ahumada reconvened the City Commission meeting at 7:46 to reconsider motions made on said agenda items.

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**AGENDA ITEMS RECONSIDERED AT RECONVENED MEETING:**

6. **Consideration and ACTION to authorize two public hearings to be held on August 28, 2007 and September 4, 2007, to consider an ad valorem tax increase for tax year 2007 or Fiscal Year 2008 of 6.48%, or an increase of 0.9765 cents or 1.5% over the current tax rate of 0.650235 cents.**

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved that agenda items 6 and 7 be reconsidered and that the ad valorem tax increase, as stated in **agenda item 6, be rejected**.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonel T. Garza and carried unanimously.

7. **Consideration and ACTION to authorize two public hearings to be held on August 28, 2007 and September 4, 2007, to consider an ad valorem tax increase for tax year 2007 or Fiscal Year 2008 of 4.95%, or an increase of 0.0282 cents or .04% over the current tax rate of 0.650235 cents.**

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved agenda item 7, **approved as presented.**

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonel T. Garza and carried unanimously.

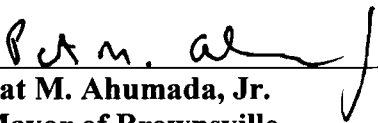
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**ADJOURNMENT:**


There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the reconvened meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 2007.



  
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Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.  
Mayor of Brownsville

Attest

  
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Estela Von Hatten  
City Secretary