

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, July 31, 2007**, at **6:00 p.m.** with the following members present:

PAT M. AHUMADA		MAYOR
RICARDO LONGORIA, JR.)	
CHARLIE ATKINSON)	
CARLOS A. CISNEROS)	
EDWARD C. CAMARILLO)	
ANTHONY P. TROIANI)	
LEONEL T. GARZA)	COMMISSIONERS
CHARLIE CABLER		CITY MANAGER
CARLOS AYALA		ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
JIM GOZA		CITY ATTORNEY
LIZA M. VEGA		ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR
ABSENT:		
ESTELA VON HATTEN		CITY SECRETARY

A quorum being present, Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., asked Ms. Liza M. Vega, Administrative Supervisor, to read the call to consider the following matters as posted and filed for the record in The Office of the City Secretary on July 27, 2007:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros, 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, concerning consultation with attorney regarding privileged and confidential matters.**
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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 *Mr. Dagoberto Barrera*.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Reverend Jerry Frank, Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Brownsville, Texas.

1. *PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:*

Ms. Sofia Esteve and Mr. Daniel Cranick spoke in favor of the \$2.00 PUB fee.

Mr. John Kinch, representing Camille Playhouse, spoke in favor of the \$2.00 PUB fee and asked for the City's support.

Ms. Pearl Fry spoke in opposition of the \$2.00 PUB fee, and questioned whether it was legal.

Mr. Dave G. Lopez spoke in opposition of the \$2.00 PUB fee and the need for additional ambulances.

Mr. Fernando Ruiz spoke in favor of the \$2.00 PUB fee and his support for animal care.

Mr. Moises Gonzalez spoke in favor of the \$2.00 PUB fee, but suggested the payment should be made voluntary.

Ms. Gail Goodman spoke in favor of the \$2.00 PUB fee.

Mr. Dagoberto Barrera spoke in opposition of the \$2.00 PUB fee and suggested that the City “live within their means.”

Mr. Francisco Sifuentes suggested the \$2.00 fee be voluntary and asked City Commission to refrain from abstentions when voting on City business.

Mr. Roman Perez had submitted a public comment form, but did not wish to address the City Commission.

Mr. Robert Uresti spoke in opposition of the \$2.00 PUB fee, and addressed his concerns regarding street paving.

Mr. Alex Resendez addressed the City Commission regarding flood issues and hurricane preparedness.

Mr. Cesar Treviño spoke in favor of the \$2.00 PUB fee.

Mr. John Shergold addressed his concerns regarding hurricane preparedness.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2007-041 updating the Brownsville Citizens Advisory Committee (BCAC) duties and membership.

Ms. Lucy Garza, Housing Manager for the Planning and Community Development Department, gave a brief overview of Resolution Number 2007-041 Versions A, B and C. She noted that Version A, which was in compliance with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD), was a revision of Versions B and C, and was staff’s recommendation.

Commissioner Charlie Atkinson moved that Resolution Number 2007-041 Version A be approved. The motion **failed for lack of a second.**

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved that Resolution Number 2007-041 Version A, be **approved**, to update the Brownsville Citizens Advisory Committee (BCAC) duties and membership.

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

3. Consideration and ACTION regarding allocation of \$2.00 of the \$4.50 maintenance fee currently assessed in the Brownsville Public Utilities billing statement.

Mr. Jim Goza, City Attorney, noted this agenda item was incorrectly noticed on the agenda and should have been noticed as a Public Hearing. Commissioners opened this item for discussion as a Public Hearing.

Mr. Gabriel Treviño, Mr. Alex Resendez, and Mr. Fernando Ruiz spoke in opposition of the \$2.00 fee.

Mr. Roman Perez spoke in favor of the \$2.00 fee allocation.

Mr. Carlos Treviño, Ms. Maria Castillo and Mr. Roy Gonzalez suggested the \$2.00 fee be made voluntary.

Mr. Carol Dumas, Director of the Fine Arts Museum, Ms. Lavis Laney, SPCA member, and Ms. Laura Snyder spoke in favor of the \$2.00 fee.

Upon motion by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani, seconded by Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros, and **carried unanimously**, the public hearing was **closed**.

Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani moved to **table** this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo, but **no vote was taken**.

Commissioner Leonel T. Garza moved to adopt Agenda Item Number 3 to allocate \$2.50 out of the \$4.50 maintenance fee, effective October 1, 2007, for public safety needs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson, and **failed** by the following **3-4 vote**:

Ayes: Mayor Ahumada, Commissioners Garza and Atkinson;

Nays: Commissioners Troiani, Longoria, Camarillo and Cisneros.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. **Public Hearing and ACTION on FIRST READING of Ordinance Number 2007-1476 creating a special monthly fee of \$2.00 per Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) customer to be divided and dedicated towards the purchase of additional ambulances for Emergency Medical Transport, Public Safety needs and the promotion of the Fine Arts and our cultural heritage, and the Animal Shelter.**

Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani moved that **Ordinance Number 2007-1476, be amended** to include the following:

- (1) Payment to be made voluntary;
- (2) Encompass an Office of Cultural Affairs;
- (3) Grant proposal for funding;
- (4) Follow-up for usage of the funds so that as goals are met the funds can be redirected.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros, and **carried by the following 4-3 vote:**

Ayes: Commissioners Troiani, Longoria, Cisneros and Camarillo;

Nays: Mayor Ahumada, Commissioners Garza and Atkinson.

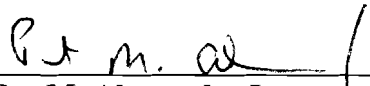
Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani moved that **amended Ordinance Number 2007-1476** be **approved** on first reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros, and **carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

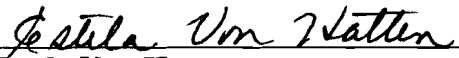
Approved the 28th day of August 2007.





Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.
Mayor of Brownsville

Attest



Estela Von Hatten
City Secretary