

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, September 11, 2007, at 6:00 P.M.** with the following members present:

PAT M. AHUMADA, JR.		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
ESTELA VON HATTEN	CITY SECRETARY

ABSENT:

JOHN E. CHOSY	ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
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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 September 7, 2007:

SPECIAL MEETING:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: UNITED STATES PLEDGE * TEXAS PLEDGE

The U.S. Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge were led by Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Deacon John Kinch from St. Mary, Mother of the Church of Brownsville, Texas.

1. *PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:*

Mr. Alex Resendez thanked the City Commission and City Staff for the efficient delivery of sandbags during the Hurricane Dean preparations.

Mr. Roy Gonzalez expressed his concern over the high funding amounts for the Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts, and Camille Lightner Playhouse.

Dr. Romeo Montalvo spoke in favor of funding the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts.

Mr. Fernando Ruiz spoke against the increase of reconnection fees from \$25 to \$75, and commented that any bond issuance should be determined by vote of the citizens of Brownsville.

2. *CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:*

All consent Agenda Items listed were considered to be routine by the City Commission and were to be approved by one motion.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo, and carried unanimously, Consent Agenda Item “a” was **approved**.

ITEM No. “a”

- a) **APPROVAL on SECOND and FINAL READING of Ordinance Number 2007-1133-X, amending Ordinance 86-1133, pertaining to a franchise contract between the City of Brownsville and Governmental Managerial Services (GMS) Incorporated for collection and disposal of commercial and industrial solid waste, incorporating signed contract for all purposes and amending the rates for containerized collection of commercial and industrial solid waste and related matters as set forth in Exhibit “A” establishing an increase of 3.43% as per Section 13.02(a), titled Modification of Rates, to reflect a consumer price index increase.**

BOARDS AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

- 3. Consideration and ACTION to appoint member(s) to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau (BCVB). [TABLED 08/28/2007]**

Commissioner Leonel T. Garza moved that **Ms. Joyce Brown** be appointed to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau Board. The motion **failed** for lack of a second.

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved that **Mr. Ruben Herrera** be **appointed** to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau to replace Ms. Marisela Cortez, who resigned.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Longoria, Cisneros, Camarillo, Garza and Troiani;
Nays: Mayor Ahumada and Commissioner Atkinson.

Commissioner Leonel T. Garza moved that **Mr. Joe Kinney** be re-appointed to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau. The motion **failed** for lack of a second.

Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., moved that **Mrs. Geeta Wadhvani** be appointed to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau to replace Mr. Joe Kinney whose term had expired.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo and **carried** by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Ahumada, Commissioners Atkinson, Cisneros, Camarillo and Troiani;

Nays: Commissioners Longoria and Garza.

4. Consideration and ACTION to acknowledge a Mayoral Appointment to the Brownsville Housing Authority (BHA).

Mayor Pat Ahumada, Jr. moved that his appointment of **Mr. Edward Moore** to the Brownsville Housing Authority Board be **acknowledged**.

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

Mr. Moore replaced Mr. Armando Recio who had resigned.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Consideration and ACTION to adopt budget amendment Resolution Number 2007-050 to amend the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund by transferring \$90,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Projects for the Animal Shelter Clinic Project.

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, reviewed the budget amendment resolution.

Commissioner Leonel T. Garza moved that budget amendment Resolution Number 2007-050 be adopted to amend the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund by transferring **\$90,000** from the General Fund to the Capital Projects for completion of the Animal Shelter Clinic Project.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson and **carried unanimously.**

- 6. Consideration and ACTION to acknowledge or to make revisions to the latest proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget scheduled for approval on September 17, 2007.**
- 7. Consideration and ACTION to provide funding, in the amount of \$300,000, to the Gladys Porter Zoo.**
- 8. Consideration and ACTION to provide funding, in the amount of \$300,000, to the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts.**
- 9. Consideration and ACTION to provide funding, in the amount of \$100,000, to the Camille Lightner Playhouse.**

Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., requested that Agenda Items 6, 7, 8, and 9 be read together.

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed 2007-2008 budget, noting a \$1.3 million dollar deficit.

Mayor Pat Ahumada, Jr., expressed his request for funding of \$300,000 to Gladys Porter Zoo, \$300,000 to Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts, and \$100,000 to the Camille Lightner Playhouse, noting that they were in dire need of the funds.

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, recommended against appropriating the requested funds until the 2007 budget is closed and reserve amounts can be determined. Mr. Gonzalez further noted that, depending on the fund balance, a budget amendment could be requested at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of asking Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) to charge the three entities a lower electricity rate such as a wholesale rate or perhaps a municipal rate such as municipally-owned operations are charged.

In response to Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., Mr. Noe Hinojosa, Financial Advisor of Estrada and Hinojosa, and Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, noted that they did not have information as to what the municipal rate was.

Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros moved to **table** agenda items 7, 8 and 9. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., but **no vote was taken**.

Commissioner Charlie Atkinson moved to **approve** funding for agenda items 7, 8 and 9, including additional entities, by the following amounts:

Gladys Porter Zoo	\$180,000
Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts	\$100,000
Camille Lightner Playhouse	\$ 65,000
Historic Brownsville Museum	\$ 50,000
Brownsville Heritage Museum	\$ 50,000
Brownsville Children's Museum	No funding
Costumes of America	<u>No funding</u>
Total:	\$445,000

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., and **failed** as no vote was taken.

In response to Mayor Pat M. Ahumada's suggestion, Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros stated that he did not wish to withdraw his motion.

Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros reiterated his motion to **table** agenda items 7, 8 and 9. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., and **carried by the following 5-2 vote**:

Ayes: Commissioners Longoria, Cisneros, Camarillo, Garza and Troiani;

Nays: Mayor Ahumada and Commissioner Atkinson.

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved that agenda item 6 be approved to **acknowledge** the latest proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget which is scheduled for approval on September 17, 2007.

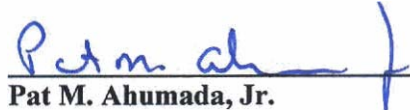
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo and **carried unanimously**.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Approved the 2nd day of October 2007.





Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.
Mayor of Brownsville

Attest



Estela Von Hatten
City Secretary