

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 **Monday, September 17, 2007**, at **5:05 P.M., 5:30 P.M.** and **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

A quorum being present, Mayor Pro Tem Charlie Atkinson, 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 14, 2007:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem Charlie Atkinson convened the Executive Session to discuss the following item:

- A) Discussion pursuant to Section 551.071, of the Texas Government Code, regarding consultation with attorney.**
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WORKSHOP:

Upon conclusion of the Executive Session, Mayor Pro Tem Charlie Atkinson convened the Workshop Session to discuss the following items:

- a) Discussion regarding the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) Fiscal Year 2008 Budget.**

Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr. arrived.

- b) Discussion regarding Ordinance Number 2007-1479 amending the Subdivision Ordinance by requiring land for dedication of parks and/or recreational grounds.**
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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 Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Pastor Alex Resendez of Brownsville, Texas.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mr. Roy Gonzalez cautioned the Commission to spend City funds carefully and stated that organizations requesting funding should access grants and hold fundraising events and not expect a yearly allocation.

Mr. Bob Prepejchal expressed concern over funds that could be appropriated, to organizations requesting funding, from the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau fund.

Mr. Fernando Ruiz expressed his concerns with budgetary expenses.

Mr. George Farish expressed his support for the arts and funding for same.

Mr. Dagoberto Barrera expressed his concern with spending, noting that there was a \$1.3 million budgetary deficit.

BOARDS AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

2. Consideration and ACTION to appoint or reappoint three (3) members to the Building and Standards Commission.

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved that **Mr. Armando Magallanes** be re-appointed to the Building and Standards Commission for a 2 year term.

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

Upon motion by Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo, seconded by Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros and carried unanimously, **Mr. Reynaldo Garza** was re-appointed to the Building and Standards Commissioner for a 2-year term.

Upon motion by Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., and carried unanimously, **Ms. Estella Balli** was re-appointed to the Building and Standards Commission for a 2-year terms.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. Public Hearing and ACTION on Resolution Number 2007-051 to adopt the Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Budget, and resolving other matters thereof.

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, reviewed a revised budget noting that Commissioners Atkinson and Cisneros had proposed funding the Gladys Porter Zoo, Camille Playhouse, Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts and other organizations as listed in column 2 of the budget sheet.

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

Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros moved that Resolution Number 2007-051 be **approved** to adopt the revised Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Budget, *subject to renewal of funding of said organizations at the discretion of the City, and subject to the organizations' executing a contract with the City, prior to disbursement of funds, as prepared by the City Attorney.*

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

4. Public Hearing and ACTION on FIRST READING of Ordinance Number 2007-1480 levying ad valorem taxes for the Tax Year 2007 for the use and support of the municipal government of the City of Brownsville, Texas, for the Fiscal Year 2008, providing for the interest and sinking fund for the Fiscal Year 2008 of the City of Brownsville, Texas, general obligation bonds.

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, noted that the ordinance proposed a tax rate of \$0.650517.

Upon motion by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson, seconded by Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros, and carried unanimously, the public hearing was **closed**.

Commissioner Charlie Atkinson moved that Ordinance Number 2007-1480, levying ad valorem taxes for Tax Year 2007 be **adopted on first reading**.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

- 5. Consideration and ACTION to encumber \$50,319 at the end of Fiscal Year 2007, which will result in the carryover of \$50,319 from Fiscal Year 2007 to Fiscal Year 2008, for Beautification Projects.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson and carried unanimously, **\$50,319.00** was **authorized** for encumbrance at the end of Fiscal Year 2007, which would result in the carryover of \$50,319.00 from Fiscal Year 2007 to Fiscal Year 2008, for Beautification Projects.

Commissioner Charlie Atkinson stepped out.

- 6. Consideration and ACTION to adopt budget amendment Resolution Number 2007-053 to amend the General Fund budget by \$101,333 to provide funding for the City's cost associated with the preparation of Hurricane Dean.**

Commissioner Leonel T. Garza moved that budget amendment Resolution Number 2007-053 be **adopted** to amend the General Fund budget by **\$101,333.00** to provide funding for the City's cost associated with the preparation associated with Hurricane Dean.

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

- 7. Consideration and ACTION to adopt budget amendment Resolution Number 2007-054 to amend the General Fund and Employee Benefit Insurance Fund by transferring \$750,000 from the General Fund to the Employee Benefit Insurance Fund.**

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, noted that the City's medical insurance is self-funded and includes contributions by City employees.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously, budget amendment Resolution Number 2007-054 was **adopted** to amend the General Fund and Employee Benefit Insurance

Fund by transferring **\$750,000.00** from the General Fund to the Employee Benefit Insurance Fund.

8. Consideration and ACTION regarding the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) Fiscal Year 2008 Budget.

Upon motion by Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo, seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., and carried unanimously, the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) Fiscal Year 2008 Budget was **approved**.

PURCHASES/BIDS/CONTRACTS:

9. Consideration and ACTION to authorize the City Manager to execute the Service Agreement with the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) for Fiscal Year 2008.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Leonel T. Garza and carried unanimously, the City Manager was **authorized** to execute the Service Agreement with the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) for Fiscal Year 2008.

Commissioner Charlie Atkinson returned.

10. Consideration and ACTION to award a three-year depository contract to a local bank.

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, reviewed proposals submitted by four (4) local banks.

Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros moved that a three-year depository contract be awarded to **First National Bank** of Brownsville, Texas.

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

ADJOURNMENT:


There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Approved the 2nd day of October 2007.




Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.
Mayor of Brownsville

Attest


Estela Von Hatten
City Secretary