

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 15, 2008**, at **4:45 P.M.** and **5:00 P.M.** with the following members present:

PAT M. AHUMADA, JR.		MAYOR
RICARDO LONGORIA, JR.)	
EDWARD C. CAMARILLO)	
CHARLIE ATKINSON)	
CARLOS A. CISNEROS)	
ANTHONY P. TROIANI)	
LEONEL T. GARZA)	COMMISSIONERS
CHARLIE CABLER		CITY MANAGER
PETE GONZALEZ		DEPUTY CITY MANAGER/FINANCE DIRECTOR
LIZA M. VALDEZ		ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR

A quorum being present, Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., asked Ms. Liza M. Valdez, 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 September 12, 2008.

WORKSHOP:

a) Discussion regarding the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts.

Mr. George Farish, Immediate Past President for the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts, introduced Dr. Hans Van Doesburg, Treasurer for the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts, who delivered a Power Point presentation regarding the 2008 budget of the upcoming projects and exhibitions and a request of 14% of the amount allocated last year.

SPECIAL MEETING:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

*UNITED STATES PLEDGE * TEXAS PLEDGE*

The U.S. Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Mayor Pat M. Ahumada. The Texas Pledge was lead by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr

INVOCATION:

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr.

Upon motion by Commissioner Carlos A. Cisneros, seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously, the following agenda **Items were moved out of sequence for action as follow:**

ACTION ITEMS:

- 3. Consideration and ACTION to encumber or to carry over all of the Brownsville Beautification Committee FY 2008 unspent funds to FY 2009 and to encumber or carry over \$181,888 of Brownsville Public Library's FY 2008 unspent funds to FY 2009.**

Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani moved that Brownsville Beautification Committee FY 2008 unexpended funds be **encumbered** and that Brownsville Public Library FY 2008 unexpended funds be carried over to FY 2009.

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

4. Consideration and ACTION to adopt budget amendment Resolution Number 2008-077 to amend the General Fund, Public Transit Fund and Employee Benefit Insurance Fund.

Commissioner Charles Atkinson moved that budget amendment Resolution Number 2008-077 be **adopted** to amend the General Fund, Public Transit Fund and Employee Benefit Insurance Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. Public hearing and ACTION on Resolution Number 2008-076 of the City of Brownsville, Texas, to adopt the fiscal year 2009 annual budget and resolving other matters thereof.

Mr. Pete Gonzalez, Finance Director, delivered a Power Point Presentation of the proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.

Mr. Fernando Ruiz expressed his opposition to the City's proposed tax increase.

Mr. George Farrish expressed his concern regarding the commission's allocation of monies for the Fiscal Year 2009.

Mr. David Lopez spoke in reference to the comparison between public safety (civil service) employees and the regular (non-civil service) employees.

Mr. Robert Prepechjal suggested that the commission consider an increase in hotel/motel occupancy tax like other cities.

Dr. Pat Burchfield noted that all cultural entities have budgeting issues and the commission must work with the Cultural Affair Committee.

Mr. Alex Resendiz expressed his opposition to the proposed tax increase.

Mr. Dagoberto Barrera expressed his opposition to the proposed tax increase.

Mr. Edward Moore expressed his support of the \$0.03 cents tax increase for public safety.

Mrs. Maribel Farrish stated that it was late to allow the Cultural Affairs Committee to make any decisions.

Dr. Jennifer Cahn stated that Brownsville could not be considered a cultural place due to lack of funds for schools.

Upon motion by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson, seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously, the public hearing was **closed**.

Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani moved that the Fiscal Year 2009 budget, be approved to include a three-cent (\$0.03) tax increase. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr. moved that Resolution Number 2008-076 be **approved as presented**, to adopt the fiscal year 2009 annual budget and resolving other matters thereof. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson and **carried unanimously**.

1. Public Hearing and ACTION on FIRST READING on Ordinance Number 2008-1497 levying ad valorem taxes for the tax year 2008 for the use and support of the municipal government of the City of Brownsville, Texas, for the fiscal year 2009, providing for the interest and sinking fund for the fiscal year 2009 of the City of Brownsville, Texas, general obligation bonds.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr. seconded by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson and carried unanimously, the public hearing was **closed**.

Commissioner Charlie Atkinson moved that Ordinance Number 2008-1497 be **approved**, with the revision from \$0.68 cents to \$0.65 cents levying ad valorem taxes for tax year 2008 for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Brownsville, Texas for fiscal year 2009, providing for interest and sinking fund for

fiscal year 2009 of City of Brownsville, Texas general obligation bonds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonel T. Garza.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Approved this 07th day of OCTOBER 2008.



Attest:

Estela Von Hatten
Estela Von Hatten
City Secretary

Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.
Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.
Mayor