

**THE STATE OF TEXAS §**  
**CITY OF BROWNSVILLE §**  
**COUNTY OF CAMERON §**

**MINUTES** of a **Regular 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, January 05, 2010**, at **6:00 P.M.** with the following members present:

|                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>PAT M. AHUMADA, JR.</b>   |   | <b>MAYOR</b>  |
| <b>RICARDO LONGORIA, JR.</b> | ) |   |
| <b>CHARLIE ATKINSON</b>      | ) |   |
| <b>MELISSA A. ZAMORA</b>     | ) |   |
| <b>EDWARD C. CAMARILLO</b>   | ) |   |
| <b>ANTHONY P. TROIANI</b>    | ) |   |
| <b>ROSE M.Z. GOWEN, M.D.</b> | ) | <b>COMMISSIONERS</b>  |
| <br>                         |   |   |
| <b>CHARLIE CABLER</b>        |   | <b>CITY MANAGER</b>   |
| <br>                         |   |   |
| <b>PETE GONZALEZ</b>         |   | <b>DEPUTY CITY MANAGER &amp; CHIEF<br/>FINANCIAL OFFICER</b>              |
| <br>                         |   |   |
| <b>JEFF JOHNSTON</b>         |   | <b>ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER &amp;<br/>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT<br/>DIRECTOR</b> |
| <br>                         |   |   |
| <b>MARK SOSSI</b>            |   | <b>CITY ATTORNEY</b>  |
| <br>                         |   |   |
| <b>ESTELA VON HATTEN</b>     |   | <b>CITY SECRETARY</b>   |

A quorum being present, Mayor Pro-Tem Ricardo Longoria, 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 December 31, 2009.

**REGULAR MEETING: 6:00 P.M.**

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

The United States Pledge and the Texas Pledge was lead by Mayor Pro-Tem Ricardo Longoria, Jr.

***INVOCATION:***

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Brad Burkes, from Embassy of the Spirit Church of Brownsville, Texas.

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**1. *COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:***

***Commissioner Charlie Atkinson***

***Brownsville Sports Park  
District 2***

Commissioner Charlie Atkinson mentioned that the Leagues for football and soccer had ended and informed that if anyone would like any information on the Sports Park were more than welcomed to go to the website [www.bsp.cob.us](http://www.bsp.cob.us) and encouraged the public to visit the Sports Park. No report was delivered on District 2.

***Commissioner Rose M. Gowen***

***Imagine Brownsville***

Commissioner Rose M. Gowen gave a brief update on Imagine Brownsville noting that 15 committees were working on topics of importance to the City, both now and in the future. She noted that a 14-member coordinating board, representing seven (7) entities, along with seven (7) non-voting directors, was in the process of development. She further noted that Imagine Brownsville's tax status had not been determined yet, that by-laws are being developed. The board meetings, she continued, would be open to the public. Imagine Brownsville would hold a Kick-off event on the morning of January 21, 2010 so that the seven participating entities would pledge their support. The event would be televised. She noted that further information would be disseminated to the public as it became available.

***Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo***

***Holiday Giving  
Plastic Bag Ordinance***

Commissioner Edward C. Camarillo was not present to deliver a report.

***Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr.***

***General Update 2009***

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., informed the community, especially within District 1 area in Southmost that he would be working with Public Works Director, Santana Torres and Mr. Carlos Lastra, Engineering Director, on several projects throughout the year. He noted that he would host a community meeting in early March to provide information regarding the various project for the Southmost Community.

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3. **PROCLAMATIONS:**

**Hudson Elementary School**  
**2nd Grade Chess Team**  
(Commissioner Charlie Atkinson)

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricardo Longoria, Jr., asked the Hudson Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Chess Team to step forward to accept a proclamation recognizing and congratulating them on the team's second place finish in the **National K-12 Championships in Dallas, Texas**. The proclamation was read by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson.

(Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., arrived)

**Jimmy Gonzalez – Grupo Mazz**  
(Commissioner Charlie Atkinson.)

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricardo Longoria, Jr., asked Mr. Jimmy Gonzalez to step forward to accept a proclamation recognizing and congratulating him and **“El Grupo Mazz”** for their continuing contribution to Tejano music. The proclamation was read by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson.

**Tito Mata**  
(Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.)

Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., asked Mr. Tito Mata to step forward to accept a proclamation recognizing him for his **“Excellence in Powerlifting”**. The proclamation was read by Ms. Estela Von Hatten, City Secretary.

4. **PRESENTATIONS:**

**Employee of the Month**  
(January 2010)

Mr. Charlie Cabler, City Manager, recognized **Ms. Karina A. Zuniga**, Fiscal Technician I, from City Secretary's Department as **“Employee of the Month”** for the month of January 2010.

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**1. MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**Weir Project; MPO; PAWS;  
Toys for Disadvantage Children;  
Mayor's Grant; Health Fair, Cruelty  
to Animals; Travel**

Mayor Ahumada reported on the following:

Weir Project- attended a meeting at El Paso, Texas on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 where cost and medical issues were discussed. He noted that it would take 45 to 90 days to formalize a contract with Mexico.

MPO- as the Metropolitan Planning Organization chairman, Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., stated that the organization was dealing with infrastructure issues and grants.

PAWS – the Mayor encouraged the community to take precautions for the care of their pets during the forthcoming weather conditions this week.

Toys for Children – He announced that a bulletin and a press release regarding a toy give-away, had been issued and that the only city that participated in the give-away was Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, where 1800 toys were sent for the children, and other toys were sent to Matamoros, Tamaulipas, and children as well.

Health Fair – The Health Fair that was scheduled for January, 2010, was postponed until March or April.

Cruelty to animals – He expressed concern over the recent incident of an individual who had killed a puppy, in view of the family, due to a fit of rage. He stated that the community would not tolerate cruelty to animals.

Grant: Mayor Ahumada noted that a Request for grant funds, in the amount of \$100,000, had been submitted to the Bloomberg Foundation regarding volunteerism efforts with PAWS at the Brownsville Animal Shelter.

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**5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

Upon motion by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr. and carried unanimously, Consent Agenda Items “a, and e” were **approved**.

**ITEMS No. “a” through “e”**

**a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2009.**

**b) Authorization for the following individuals to incur travel expense:**

| <u>Employee</u> | <u>Department</u> | <u>Destination</u> | <u>Date</u>      |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Norma H. Zamora | BUS               | Austin, TX         | Jan. 25-28, 2010 |
| Gerardo Salazar | Library           | Houston, TX        | Jan. 13-14, 2010 |
| John Williamson | Municipal Court   | Galveston, TX      | Feb. 21-23, 2010 |
| Phil A. Bellamy | Municipal Court   | San Antonio, TX    | Jan. 11-13, 2010 |
| Ben Medina, Jr. | Planning          | Austin, TX         | Jan. 05-07, 2010 |

Ms. Norma H. Zamora, Brownsville Urban System Director, will attend the “*Transit Training Announcement and the Texas Transit Association Board Meeting*”, sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation through the Small Urban and Rural Transit Center, on January 25-28, 2010, in Austin, Texas.

Mr. Gerardo Salazar, Head Librarian, will attend the “*National Network of Libraries of Medicine South Central Region Advisory Committee*”, sponsored by The Texas State Library and Archives Commission, on January 13-14, 2010, in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Phil A. Bellamy, Associate Judge, will attend the “*12-Hour Judge Seminar*”, sponsored by the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, on January 11-13, 2010, in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. John Williamson, Associate Judge, will attend the “*12-Hour Judge Seminar*”, sponsored by the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, on February 21-23, 2010, in Galveston, Texas.

Mr. Ben Medina, Jr., Planning and Community Development Director, will attend the “*Alliance for I-69 Texas Board of Directors Meeting*”, sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation, on January 5-7, 2010, in Austin, Texas.

- c) **APPROVAL on SECOND and FINAL READING of Ordinance Number 2009-911-E to amend Chapter 46 Article II Litter, by adding new Sections 46-47 thru 46-52, prohibiting the use of Plastic Bags in the City of Brownsville, Creating an Environmental Advisory Committee, and ordaining other provisions relating to the subject matter.**
- d) **APPROVAL on SECOND and FINAL READING of Ordinance Number 235-2009-041 to rezone from Light Retail “F” (2CF) to Medium Retail “G” (3CG) for 5.00 acres out of Block 146 of El Jardin Subdivision located at 3631 Old Port Isabel Road.**
- e) **APPROVAL on SECOND and FINAL READING of Ordinance Number 235-2009-041-S to allow a Light Retail Use (Mini Warehouse) in a General Retail Use for 5.00 acres out of El Jardin Subdivision located at 3631 Old Port Isabel Road.**

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***BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:***

**6. Consideration and ACTION to appoint or re-appoint three (3) alternates to the Board of Adjustments.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson, seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously, **Mr. Mike Garza** was appointed as an alternate member of the Board of Adjustments.

Upon motion by Commissioner Melissa Zamora, seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously, **Ms. Joyce Brown** was appointed as an alternate member of the Board of Adjustments.

**7. Announcement of Mayoral appointment to the Brownsville Housing Authority Board.**

Mayor Pat M. Ahumada, Jr., announced that he had appointed **Mr. Art Rendon** to the Brownsville Housing Authority Board. Mr. Rendon would replace Mr. Don Currie who had resigned.

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**8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Mr. Craig Timmer expressed his support for the approval of Ordinance 2009-911-E, dealing with plastic bags, and thanked the Commission.

Ms. Sharon Putegnat expressed her support and thanks for the approval of Ordinance 2009-911-E.

Ms. Rose Timmer, representing Brownsville Healthy Communities, expressed her support for the above referenced ordinance and noted that the group was planning to provide updates in the near future.

Mr. Roberto Uresti thanked the City Health Department for removing the tires that were littering the roof of a house in his neighborhood and thanked Police Chief Carlos Garcia for his assistance.

Mr. Joe Lee Rubio, Past President of the Brownsville Beautification Committee, expressed his thanks for the above reference ordinance and noted the there were plans to further educate the community's residents regarding littering and recycling.

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***ACTION ITEMS:***

- 9. Consideration and ACTION to adopt Resolution Number 2010-001 re-accept, review, amend, and re-adopt all of the provisions listed in the documents, titled, "City of Brownsville, Texas Amended Investment Policy" and City of Brownsville, Texas, Amended Investment Strategy Statement.**

Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., moved that Resolution Number 2010-001 be **adopted** to re-accept, review, amend, and re-adopt, all of the provision listed in the documents titled "*City of Brownsville, Texas Amended Investment Policy*", and "*City of Brownsville, Texas, Amended Investment Strategy Statement*". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously.

- 10. Consideration and ACTION to authorize the Brownsville Police Department to apply for a 2010 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant being authorized by the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office to assist state and local governments in the reduction of crime through border security enhancement.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson, seconded by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani and carried unanimously, the Brownsville Police Department was **authorized** to apply for a 2010 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant being authorized by the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office to assist state and local governments in the reduction of crime through border security enhancement.

- 11. Consideration and ACTION to authorize and accept an Interlocal Agreement for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and the City of Brownsville.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Anthony P. Troiani seconded by Commissioner Charlie Atkinson and carried unanimously, the Brownsville Police Department was **authorized** to accept an Interlocal Agreement for the Public Safety Interoperable

Communications (PSIC) Grant between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and the City of Brownsville.

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

**12. Consideration and ACTION to award a contract for the purchase and delivery of one (1) Heavy Duty Wheelchair-Lift Equipped Fix Route Transit Bus for the City of Brownsville BUS Department.**

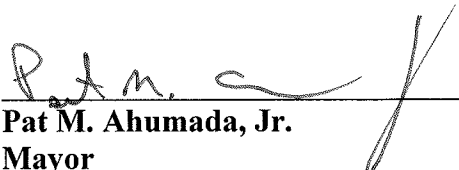
Commissioner Charlie Atkinson moved that a contract, for the purchase, delivery of one (1) Heavy Duty Wheelchair Lift Equipped Fix Route Transit Bus for the City of Brownsville BUS Department, be awarded to **Gillig, LLC, of Hayward, California**, in the amount of **\$335,679.00 each unit** for a **total amount** of **\$1,678,395.00** for Five (5) units. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Longoria, Jr., and carried unanimously.

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***ADJOURNMENT:***

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010.

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

Attest:

  
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**Estela Von Hatten**  
**City Secretary**

