

**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 on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. at the City Commission Chambers, located at 1001 East Elizabeth Street and via Webex Teleconference Meeting by logging on at with the following members present:**

<https://brownsvilletx.webex.com/brownsvilletx/j.php?MTID=m49def16eaa0b40b264da5fd8afcec478>

**JOHN COWEN, JR.**

**Mayor**

**COMMISSIONERS:**

**TINO VILLARREAL**

**At-Large "A"**

**ROSE GOWEN**

**At-Large "B"**

**BRYAN L. MARTINEZ**

**District 1**

**LINDA C. MACIAS**

**District 2**

**ROY DE LOS SANTOS**

**District 3**

**PEDRO CARDENAS**

**District 4**

**HELEN RAMIREZ**

**City Manager**

**WILL TREVINO**

**City Attorney**

**JENNIFER AVENDAÑO**

**First Assistant City Attorney**

**YOLANDA G. GOMEZ**

**City Secretary**

**ABSENT:**

**Elizabeth Walker - Assistant City Manager**

**Felix Saucedo - Assistant City Manager/Police Chief**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**a) ROLL CALL**

A quorum being present, Yolanda G. Gomez City Secretary, read the call to order to consider the matters as posted and filed for the record in the Office of the City Secretary on Friday, July 07, 2023.

Mayor John Cowen Jr., called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Mayor John Cowen Jr., Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez, Commissioner Roy De los Santos, and Commissioner Pedro Cardenas attended the meeting in person.

Commissioner Rose Gowen joined the meeting virtually at 5:45 pm.

**b) INVOCATION**

Pastor Coral Aguilar delivered the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAGS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND STATE OF TEXAS**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag was led by Mayor John Cowen, Jr., and the City Commission.

## **PROCLAMATION(S)**

### **Recognizing and Honoring Representative Erin Gamez (Mayor J. Cowen, Jr./Commissioner R. De los Santos)**

The proclamation was read and presented by Commissioner Roy De los Santos.

### **Honoring Fred Guadalupe Kowalski (Commissioner B. L. Martinez/Commissioner R. De los Santos)**

The proclamation was read and presented by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez.

## **POST ELECTION BUSINESS-CEREMONY**

At this time, Yolanda Galarza-Gomez City noted that Commissioner elect Tino Villarreal would receive the Certificate of Election and execute his officer statement and Oath of Office.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved to suspend the rules to allow swearing in of the office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

### **1) Commissioner, At-Large "A"**

#### **a) Issuance of Certificate of Election (Office of the City Secretary)**

#### **b) Signature and Verification of Statement of Elected Officer (Office of the City Secretary)**

#### **c) Administration of Oath of Office (Honorable Judge Rolando Olvera, United States District Court Southern District)**

Mayor John Cowen Jr., read and presented the Certificate of Election to Commissioner At-Large "A" Tino Villarreal.

The Honorable United States District Judge Rolando Olvera of the Southern District of Texas issued the Statement of Officer and the Administration Oath of Office to Commissioner, At-Large "A" Tino Villarreal.

At this time Yolanda Galarza-Gomez, City Secretary noted that the Swear-in Ceremony had concluded and requested the Mayor and City Commission a motion for a 15-minute recess.

Upon motion by Commissioner Roy De los Santos seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez, and carried unanimously, a recess was called at 5:30 pm.

Upon motion by Commissioner Roy De los Santos seconded by Commissioner Pedro Cardenas and carried unanimously, the meeting reconvened at 5:54 p.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Yolanda Speece expressed concern regarding City of Brownsville Police Department.

Sandra Delgado raised concern about the permit requirements based on the zoning of a property and suggested the City Commission ensure that neighbors in her neighborhood complied with the zoning that is shown on their property.

Esequiel Zeke Silva expressed concern and petitioned to the City Commission to audit the BCIC Board.

Craig Jenkins expressed concern regarding Ordinance Number 2022-235.120 and made a suggestion to the Commission on how to move forward with it.

Stacy Bilstein expressed support on the reappointment of two members that currently serve on the Ethics Advisory Commission.

Janie Melendez expressed concern regarding animal control in the country club area.

Catalina Presas was not present to address her concerns but did register her opinion on the public comment form that she submitted.

## **WORK SESSION(S)**

As a governmental body, the City Commission will not vote or take any formal action on any items discussed in the work session portion of the agenda.

### **1) Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) North Regional Force Main Project. (Engineering and Public Works Department)**

Doro Garcia, Engineering and Public Works Director, noted that this workshop was intended for the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) to share the proposed construction of a force main from Interstate 69E to Robindale Road, approximately 10.48 miles. Mr. Garcia introduced Ann Witko, Senior Water Resources Project Manager. She noted that the proposed project would include connecting Lift Station No. 159 (LS 159) at the Brownsville Sports Park to the Robindale Wastewater Treatment Plant (Robindale WWTP) to reduce current overflow during peak sanitary sewer flow periods and to provide future capacity for undeveloped areas around northwest Brownsville. Upon completion of the project, all disturbances from the construction phase will be restored to existing conditions.

Commissioner Rose Gowen requested that the Parks and Recreation Department consider making signs about detours and placing them along the trail areas that are involved in this project.

Commissioner De los Santos wants to better inform the public about these initiatives and their potential effects on the designated affected areas.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

### **2) Board and Commission Member Appointment and Eligibility Policy Workshop**

Will Trevino, City Attorney, provided a brief presentation as a refresher and to inform the current and new members of the Commission about the Board Appointment Policy. He mentioned that the procedure for determining board members' qualifications and on how many boards a member can serve, had been implemented in 2018 and changed in 2020.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez noted that every board member, in order to be in compliance and continue serving on the board, should complete the trainings for Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act and be reflected on the attendance record submitted to the Commission.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos recommended that the boards that fall under the Chapter 38, consider a policy that requires the meetings to be televised.

## **PRESENTATION(S)**

### **City Manager's Update**

Helen Ramirez, City Manager, provided a brief Economic Development update to the members of the Commission. Ms. Ramirez noted that she and Mayor Cowen were invited to the Space X Headquarters to discuss their expansion of their production and manufacturing. They added that they have a fantastic working relationship with the City of Brownsville and are enthusiastic about

the new Los Angeles route connecting Brownsville with the Hollywood Burbank Airport. Additionally, an invitation was extended to the community to participate in the Avelo Airlines inaugural flight to Las Vegas on September 8th.

## CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)

Upon motion by Commissioner Roy De los Santos seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously, Consent Agenda Items 1 through 21 were approved.

- 1) Approval of the Minutes:
  - a. Minutes of June 20, 2023, Regular City Commission Meeting
  - b. Minutes of June 27, 2023, Special City Commission Meeting
- 2) Consideration and **ACTION** to approve a 3-year term subscription agreement between eCivis (Carahsoft) under the cooperative contract OMNIA-R191902 in the amount of \$55,168.75, as budgeted annually. (Grants and Community Development Department)
- 3) Consideration and **ACTION** to approve a one-year term renewal of contract ELH-50- 0721 with Rio Grande Hauling, LLC. for excavation, loading, and hauling services that will extend from August 3, 2023 through August 2, 2024, as budgeted. (Engineering & Public Works Department)
- 4) Consideration and **ACTION** to approve a professional services contract for an Interim Assistant Director role for up to six months for \$60,000 plus travel reimbursements. (Airport Department)
- 5) Consideration and **ACTION** to authorize the purchase of Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST) for fuel storage, Equipment and Software from Separation Systems Consultants, Inc. (SSCI) under the TIPS Contract 23010402 for \$462,843.86 as budgeted. (Multimodal Transportation Department)
- 6) **APPROVAL** on **SECOND** and **FINAL READING** on **Ordinance Number 235-2023-009**, to rezone from Residential Estate (RE) to Residential Transition (R-3) for a 2.566-acre tract of land, out of a 71.17-acre tract of land in the A.N. Tandy Estate, Share 12, Espiritu Santo Grant, Cameron County, Texas, located on West Alton Gloor Boulevard, Brownsville, Texas 78520, as shown in Exhibit "A". (District 4) (Planning & Redevelopment Department)
- 7) **APPROVAL** on **SECOND** and **FINAL READING** on **Ordinance Number 235-2023-010**, to rezone from Commercial Corridor (CC) to Regional Center (RC) for Lot 2, Block 1, MG Estates Subdivision, Cameron County, Texas, located at 7225 Paredes Line Road, Brownsville, Texas 78526, as shown in Exhibit "A". (District 3) (Planning & Redevelopment Department)
- 8) **APPROVAL** on **SECOND** and **FINAL READING** on **Ordinance Number 235-2023-011**, to rezone from Commercial Corridor (CC) to Residential Single-Family (R-1) for Lot 5, Block 1, Military South Subdivision, Phase 1, Cameron County, Texas, located at 9795 U.S. Highway 281, Brownsville, Texas 78520, as shown in Exhibit "A". (District 4) (Planning & Redevelopment Department)
- 9) **APPROVAL** on **SECOND** and **FINAL READING** on **Ordinance Number 235-2023-904**, to rezone from Agriculture (AG) to Residential Suburban (R-2) for a 0.94 acre-tract out of a 5.66-acre tract, being in Santander Townsite, Barreda Gardens Subdivision, located on FM 1421, Brownsville, Texas 78520, as shown in Exhibit "A". (District 4) (Planning & Redevelopment Department)
- 10) Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Rubrik Disaster Recovery System with SHI Government Solutions, Inc. for an initial service term of 3-years in the total amount of \$312,055.08, as budgeted. (Enterprise Applications Department)

- 11) Consideration and **ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-085** by the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, approving the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) between the City of Brownsville and the Texas Department of Transportation for a Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) program project to fund the West Rail Trail Amenities (CSJ 0921-06-350) with a City of Brownsville payment of \$25,338 as budgeted. (Multimodal Transportation Department)
- 12) Consideration and **ACTION** for the approval of the acceptance of a 0.300-acre tract of land out of a certain 54.827-acre tract of land out of Share 19, Espiritu Santo Grant, to be used by the City of Brownsville for park or recreational purposes. (Engineering & Public Works Department)
- 13) Consideration and **ACTION** to authorize the City Commission approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Brownsville and the Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) Center Rio Grande Valley. (Brownsville Police Department)
- 14) Consideration and **ACTION** to approve a 180-day extension for contract BDS-52-0717 for depository services. (Financial Services)
- 15) Consideration and **ACTION** to reject any and all proposals for the Request for the Third-Party Administrator (TPA) and Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Request for Proposals, RFP Nos. PBM-73-0623 & TPA-72-0523. (Financial Services Department)
- 16) Consideration and **ACTION** for the City of Brownsville to accept a ten-foot sidewalk and utility easement (0.129 acres) out of Lot 5, Block 1, North Brownsville Industrial Park Subdivision from GBIC. (Engineering and Public Works Department)
- 17) Consideration and **ACTION** for the City of Brownsville to accept a 60' Access and Utility Easement (0.078) out of Lot 5, Block 1, North Brownsville Industrial Park Subdivision from GBIC. (Engineering and Public Works Department)
- 18) Consideration and **ACTION** to approve a Letter of Understanding between the Brownsville Independent School District – Adult Continuing Education (BISD-ACE) and the City of Brownsville for the delivery of basic education skills to educationally disadvantaged adults in Cameron County area. (Organizational Development and Human Resources Department)
- 19) Consideration and **ACTION** for the purchase and delivery of seven (7) John Deere Z950M Ztrak mowers in the amount of \$98,458.78 plus the option for a 25% cost overrun maximum (\$24,614.69) to Deere & Company through Tellus Equipment Solutions of Weslaco, Texas, through Buy Board Contract #706-23, as budgeted. (Parks and Recreation Department)
- 20) Consideration and **ACTION** to adopt **Resolution Number 2023-087** suspending the August 23, 2023 effective date of the Statement of Intent of Texas Gas Service Company, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc., to increase rates within the City in order to permit the City time to study the request and to establish reasonable rates; Finding that the City's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the Texas Gas Service Company; Authorizing participation with other Rio Grande Valley Texas municipalities in a coalition titled "Cities Served by Texas Gas Service"; Authorizing the Office of the City Attorney to engage the legal and consulting services of Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, ReSolved Energy Consulting, L.L.C., and J. Kennedy and Associates, Inc., to assist the City in negotiating with Texas Gas Service Company and directing any necessary litigation and appeals on the City's behalf. (Office of the City Attorney/City Manager's Office)
- 21) Consideration and **ACTION** for the purchase and delivery of Hill Science Pet Food for the Brownsville Animal Regulation & Care (BARCC) and authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute the agreement, Project# HSP-114-0823. (Public Health and Wellness Department)

## **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- 1) Public Hearing and ACTION on FIRST READING on Ordinance Number 235-2023-013, to rezone from Residential Single-Family (R-1) to Residential Suburban (R-2) for 2.048 acres of land in Block 39, Share 27, El Jardin Subdivision, Cameron County, Texas, located at 290 North Central Avenue, Brownsville, Texas 78521, as shown in Exhibit "A". (District 2) (Planning & Redevelopment Department) (Continued from June 20, 2023 - Public Hearing)**

Martin Vega, Planning & Redevelopment Assistant Director noted that the proposed rezoning ordinance request is to establish a duplex subdivision on the subject property.

Commissioner Linda C. Macias voiced her concern about how the neighborhood will be affected by the rezoning of the area, since it was primarily made up of single-family homes. She suggested that the Planning Department communicate with the neighborhood more because it is crucial that the public be informed of any upcoming zoning changes in their community.

Mr. Vega provided a brief explanation of the process when notifying the owners of the property of any zoning changes that will take place in their neighborhood.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos recommended approving the item on during this meeting since it was only the first reading.

Upon motion by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously, the public hearing was closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Linda C. Macias seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen the agenda item was tabled.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos noted that the ordinance had been tabled at a previous meeting and that no objections had been received from the public and that they would have another opportunity to voice any concerns at the next scheduled regular meeting.

After a brief discussion amongst the Commission and City staff, Commissioner Linda C. Macias withdrew her motion.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved that Ordinance Number 235-2023-013, be adopted at first reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pedro Cardenas and carried unanimously.

- 2) Public Hearing and ACTION on FIRST READING on Ordinance Number 2022-235.102, to amend the Unified Development Code (UDC), Sec. 5.3 - Signs, and dealing with related matters, as shown in Exhibit "A". (Planning & Redevelopment Department)**

Martin Vega, Planning & Redevelopment Assistant Director noted that sign regulations that are currently in place are intended to prevent visual clutter that is not harmful to automotive and pedestrian safety, property values, and the appearance of the city, while maintaining the effectiveness of signs as a visual medium. However, based on analysis of existing signage throughout the City and recent sign applications, staff have found that provisions within the mentioned ordinance should be more adequately tailored. Additionally, this amendment will adjust the height limitations for the various types of signs outlined in the UDC and will expand the list of zoning districts in which these are allowed.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Rose Gowen noted that before voting on the agenda item, she would like to see the complete data of the proposed ordinance.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos requested to see more specific data on the distance between signs since it will determine the conditions under the ordinance.

Ronald Kibler representative from Lamar Advertising briefly explained the process that is taken to determine the dimension and distance of their signs.

Upon motion by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez seconded by Mayor John Cowen Jr. and carried unanimously, the public hearing was closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Rose Gowen seconded by Commissioner Pedro Cardenas and carried unanimously, Ordinance Number 2022-235.102 was tabled.

**3) Public Hearing and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-086 for the Texas Parks and Wildlife "Local Park Grant Program", a resolution authorizing the application for a 50:50 matching grant certifying that the City of Brownsville is eligible to receive program assistance; certifying that the applicant's matching share is readily available; and dedicating the proposed La Posada Park site for a permanent public park and recreational uses. (Parks and Recreation Department)**

Damaris McGlone, Parks and Recreation Director noted that the Local Park Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant is one of five (5) individual programs in the Local Park Grant Program that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The application is due Aug 01, 2023, with a ceiling of \$750,000.00 for the population size of Brownsville, Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Upon motion by Commissioner Roy De los Santos seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously, the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved that Resolution Number 2023-086, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

*Commissioner Rose Gowen stepped out and did not vote on Public Hearing #3*

**ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION(S)**

*Commissioner Rose Gowen returned after Public Hearing #3 had been voted on.*

*At this time, Commissioner Linda C. Macias., stepped out and did not participate on Agenda Item # 1.*

**1) Consideration and ACTION on an agreement with the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) accepting Airport Debt Payment assistance. (BCIC/City Manager's Office)**

Michael Delmore Chief Financial Officer noted that the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) board agreed to negotiate with the City an extension of a prior agreement of financial assistance for the payment of airport bonds for infrastructure improvements at the Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved that the agreement with the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) accepting Airport Debt Payment assistance, be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried as follow:

Ayes: Mayor Cowen, Commissioners Villarreal, Gowen, Martinez, De los Santos, and Cardenas Will Trevino, City Attorney noted that for the record, Commissioner Linda C. Macias will be abstaining from the agenda item, since she currently serves on the BCIC Board.

*Commissioner Linda C. Macias returned to the meeting, after action was taken on the agenda item.*

*At this time, Mayor John Cowen Jr., stepped out, due to a conflict of interest and did not participate on Agenda Item # 2.*

- 2) Consideration and ACTION to approve a contract for depository services for up to five years with one of the following banks, listed in alphabetical order: JPMorgan Chase, Lone Star National Bank, PlainsCapital Bank, PNC Bank, and/or Texas Regional Bank; and Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute the contract. (Financial Services Department)**

Michael Delmore, Chief Financial Officer provided a recap of the meeting held on June 20, 2023, when finance staff presented the results of a request for proposals (RFP) for depository services. The respondents were JPMorgan Chase, Lone Star National Bank, Plains Capital Bank, PNC Bank, and/or Texas Regional Bank. Staff seeks authorization for the City Manager to negotiate and execute the contract for a 5-year term, which is the maximum allowed by state law, with one or more of the respondents.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos stated that he was not inclined to make a change for the long term while the process is still flawed and suggested thinking about awarding PNC another year for one more year or awarding PNC another five years because, if a year is awarded, it gives City staff the opportunity to tweak the process so that the presentation comes in earlier rather than later.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved that the contract for depository services be awarded for one (1) year to PNC Bank. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tino Villareal and carried unanimously.

Will Trevino, City Attorney noted that for the record, Mayor John Cowen, did not participate on the discussion or took action on the agenda item.

*Mayor John Cowen Jr. returned to the meeting, after action was taken on the agenda item.*

- 3) Consideration and ACTION to award ZIWA Corporation contract number TRP-87-0923, as the responsive and responsible bidder on the Brownsville Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Rehab Project in the amount of \$7,489,682.34, as budgeted. (Multimodal Transportation Department)**

Joel Garza, Multimodal Director, noted that the TIGER Rehab Project is a 5-stage construction project that consists of replacing an underground storage tank (UST) system with a new aboveground storage tank (AST) system for fueling the Brownsville Metro Fleet and administrative vehicles at the Jose Colunga Maintenance yard. Other improvements include the purchase of a new Automated Bus Wash Fuel system and island, improve site storm sewer system including retention pond, new Billy Mitchell bus entrance, automated gate entry points with increased security and lighting. The proposal consists of repaving access drives and new parking areas for current bus fleet

with room for expansion. The existing equipment storage facility will be replaced for secure storage of peripheral equipment including lawn equipment, trailers and tools.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved to approve and award contract number TRP-87-0923, to ZIWA Corporation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

*Commissioner Tino Villarreal and Commissioner Pedro Cardenas stepped out and did not vote on Agenda Item #3.*

- 4) **Consideration and ACTION to approve additional funding for project completion of the Communications & Marketing Department (CMD) Complex for an amount not to exceed \$684,911, as budgeted, to cover the remaining costs of the CMD Complex project, including the purchase of audio and visual components, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and other related expenses. (Communications & Marketing Department)**

Manuel Chacon, Communication and Marketing Director introduced Greg Smith representative from the Windsor Group, provided a brief update of the CMD Complex project, in which requires the approval of additional funding to complete the complex. Mr. Chacon noted that the objective of the project is to better serve and further enhance the communication efforts on behalf of the city towards our residents.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Pedro Cardenas moved to approve additional funding for project completion of the Communications & Marketing Department Complex. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENT(S)**

- 1) **Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-054, to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove members to the Ethics Advisory Commission. (Office of the City Secretary)**

Resolution Number 2023-054 was approved as follows:

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved to reappoint **Juan M. Pequeno** to the Ethics Advisory Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez moved to appoint **Rigo Flores** to the Ethics Advisory Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Linda C. Macias moved to appoint **Ismael Hinojosa** to the Ethics Advisory Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tino Villareal moved to reappoint **Martin Sarkis** to the Ethics Advisory Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Mayor John Cowen Jr., moved to reappoint **David Merrill** to the Ethics Advisory Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pedro Cardenas moved to reappoint **David Willis** to the Ethics Advisory Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tino Villareal and carried as follow:

Ayes: Mayor Cowen, Commissioners Villarreal, Martinez, Macias, and Cardenas

Nays: Commissioners Gowen and De los Santos

Commissioner Roy De los Santos reserved his appointment until the next scheduled meeting.

**2) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-050 to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove members to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau. (Convention and Visitors Bureau and Office of Space Commerce Department)**

Resolution Number 2023-050 was approved as follows:

Commissioner Linda C. Macias moved to appoint *Claudia Lozano* to the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

**3) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-049, to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove members to the Brownsville Border Film Commission. (Communications & Marketing Department)**

Resolution Number 2023-049 was approved as follows:

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved to reappoint *Jesus Trevino* to the Brownsville Border Film Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tino Villareal moved to appoint *David Betancourt* to the Brownsville Border Film Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez moved to appoint *Mykel Castillo* to the Brownsville Border Film Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pedro Cardenas moved to reappoint *Rosalinda Williams* to the Brownsville Border Film Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

Mayor John Cowen Jr., moved to appoint *Victor Leos* to the Brownsville Border Film Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Linda C. Macias moved to appoint *Carmen Nordyke* to the Brownsville Border Film Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

**4) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-083, to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove Regular and Alternate Members to the Board of Adjustment. (Planning & Redevelopment Department)**

Martin Vega Planning & Redevelopment Assistant Director informed the commission that the legal team suggestion was to use the same members of the Building Standard Board and the Board of Adjustments because the very limited number of cases that the board of Adjustment has.

Resolution Number 2023-083 was approved as follows:

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved to reappoint *Dillon Vanderford* to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved to reappoint **Howard Slackman** to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Linda C. Macias moved to reappoint **Dr. Jose Hinojosa** to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez moved to appoint **Ankjaer Jensen** to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Mayor John Cowen Jr., moved to reappoint **Marcos Cardoza** to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tino Villareal reserved his appointment for the next scheduled meeting.

Item was re-opened while discussing Agenda Item #8

Commissioner Pedro Cardenas moved to appoint **Alejandro Moreno** to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

**5) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-080, to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove members to the Parks Advisory Board Committee. (Parks and Recreation Department)**

Resolution Number 2023-080 was approved as follows:

Commissioner Tino Villareal moved to appoint **Tito Mata** to the Parks Advisory Board Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pedro Cardenas moved to appoint **Eduardo Mata** to Parks Advisory Board Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

**6) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-079, to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove members to the Brownsville Beautification Committee. (Parks and Recreation Department)**

Resolution Number 2023-079 was approved as follows:

Commissioner Pedro Cardenas moved to appoint **Veronica Dimas** to the Brownsville Beautification Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved to reappoint **Amanda Dave** to the Brownsville Beautification Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Mayor John Cowen Jr., moved to reappoint **Mary Elizabeth Hollman** to the Brownsville Beautification Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez moved to appoint **I. Yvonne Barraza** to the Brownsville Beautification Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Linda C. Macias moved to appoint *Joe Lee Rubio* to the Brownsville Beautification Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tino Villareal moved to appoint *Belinda Eager* to the Brownsville Beautification Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos reserved his appointment for the next scheduled meeting.

**7) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-081, to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove member(s) to the Special Needs Advisory Board for a partial and/or regular term. (Parks and Recreation Department)**

Resolution Number 2023-081 was approved as follows:

Mayor John Cowen Jr., moved to appoint *Sergio Zarate* to the Special Needs Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

**8) Consideration and ACTION on Resolution Number 2023-084, to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove Regular and Alternate Members to the Building and Standards Commission. (Planning & Redevelopment Department)**

Resolution Number 2023-084 was approved as follows:

Commissioner Pedro Cardenas moved to appoint *Alejandro Moreno* to the Building and Standards Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved to appoint *Howard Slackman* to the Building and Standards Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved to reappoint *Larry Hollman* to the Building and Standards Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez moved to appoint *Ankjaer Jensen* to the Building and Standards Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Mayor John Cowen Jr., moved to appoint *Marcos Cardoza* to the Building and Standards Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Linda C. Macias moved to reappoint *Jose Trevino* to the Building and Standards Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rose Gowen and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tino Villareal reserved his appointment for the next scheduled meeting.

At this time, Commissioner Roy De los Santos seconded by Commissioner Pedro Cardenas and carried unanimously, Agenda Item #4, the Board of Adjustment Board Appointment, was reopened for discussion and action.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved to reopen Agenda Item #8, Building & Standards Board appointment for discussion and action. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff regarding the appointment of the board members if they will serve as regular or alternate members.

Mayor John Cowen, Jr., moved to appoint ***Dillon E. Vanderford*** to the Building and Standards Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

**9) Consideration and ACTION, if any, to approve Resolution Number 2023-082 to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove member(s) on the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB). (Office of the City Attorney)**

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez moved to adopt Resolution Number 2023-082 and appoint ***Gerardo Martinez*** to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, Place 1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Cowen, Commissioners Villarreal, Gowen, Martinez, Macias, De los Santos and Cardenas

**10) Consideration and ACTION, if any, to approve Resolution Number 2023-095 to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove member(s) on the Animal Regulation and Care Advisory Committee. (Public Health and Wellness Department)**

Resolution Number 2023-095 was approved as follows:

Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved to appoint ***Monica Tellam*** to the Animal Regulation and Care Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rose Gowen moved to appoint ***Lourdes Bolado*** to the Animal Regulation and Care Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tino Villarreal and Commissioner Linda C. Macias reserved their appointments for the scheduled meeting.

**11) Consideration and ACTION, if any, to approve Resolution Number(s) 2023-088 through Resolution Number(s) 2023-106 (except 2023-095) to amend board and commission policies and/or to appoint, reappoint, and/or remove member(s) from the following boards and commissions: Audit & Oversight; Airport Advisory Board; Architectural Control Committee; Charter Review Committee; Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC); Historic Preservation Commission; Planning & Zoning Commission; Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC); Capital Improvements Advisory Committee (CIAC); Community Improvement Corporation; LGBTQ Task Force; Main Street Advisory Board; Paseo de la Resaca Landscaping & Lighting; Public Library System Advisory Board; Transit Advisory Committee; and La Posada Task Force. (Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez and Commissioner Roy De los Santos)**

Commissioner Roy De los Santos noted that the main purpose of the agenda item, was to provide the commission the authority to replace a member of the appointed board who had a pattern of excessive absences. He further noted that he has heard from constituents that boards routinely miss quorum requirements.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez noted that two (2) boards have canceled or not met multiple times due to lack of a quorum. He further pointed out the boards that have not met or canceled meetings due to lack of a quorum.

Resolution Number 2023-094 was approved as follows:

After a brief discussion it was determined that a vacancy needed to be filled within the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez moved to appoint **David Betancourt** to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos and carried as follow:

Ayes: Mayor Cowen, Commissioners Villarreal, Macias, Gowen, De los Santos, and Cardenas

Nays: None

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez also noted that the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC) Board, had a Board Member that reflected three (3) consecutive absences.

Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez moved to appoint Daisy Alcazar to replace Anna Oquin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roy De los Santos, the motion failed as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Martinez and De los Santos

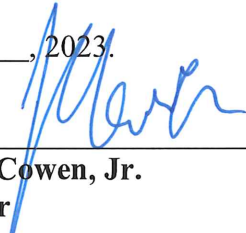
Nays: Mayor Cowen, Jr., Commissioners Villarreal, Gowen, Macias, and Cardenas

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff regarding the absences if they are excused and if special meetings count as well.

## ADJOURNMENT

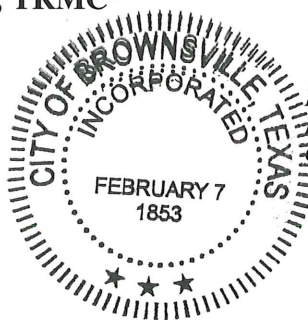
There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon duly made motion the meeting adjourned at 9:21p.m.

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023.

  
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**John Cowen, Jr.**  
**Mayor**

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Yolanda Galarza Gomez, TRMC**  
**City Secretary**



Respectfully submitted by:  
Blanca E. Gonzalez, Administrative Specialist  
Office of the City Secretary