



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 on **Monday, August 17, 2026**, at **9:00 a.m.** at the eBridge Center for Business and Commercialization, located at 1304 E. Adams Street and **via Teams Teleconference Meeting by logging on at:**

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/268671428459234?p=FQYgoOMIcVqOaz02FV>

The following City Commission members were present:

JOHN COWEN, JR. Mayor

COMMISSIONERS:

TINO VILLARREAL At-Large “A”

NURITH GALONSKY At-Large “B”

LINDA C. MACIAS District 2

GUSTAVO DE LEÓN District 3

The following City Commission member was absent:

BRYAN L. MARTINEZ District 1

PEDRO E. CARDENAS District 4

The following staff members were present:

ALAN GUARD City Manager

FELIX SAUCEDA Deputy City Manager/Chief of Police

DOROTEO GARCIA Deputy City Manager

WILL TREVINO City Attorney

JENNIFER AVENDANO First Assistant City Attorney

MARINA ZOLEZZI Interim Assistant City Manager

EFREN TRUJILLO Interim Chief of Staff

MAYRA A. RIOS City Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

a) ROLL CALL

A quorum being present, Mayra Rios, 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 pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Mayor John Cowen, Jr., called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Mayor John Cowen, Jr., Commissioner Tino Villarreal, Commissioner Nurith Galonsky and Commissioner Gustavo De Leon attended the meeting in person.

Commissioner Linda C. Macias attest the meeting virtually at 10:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Anaid Zapatais of 1233 Calle Pluton, Brownsville, is in favor of the Brownsville Workers First Ballot Initiative.

Kyle Voreis of 1202 Lomax Rd in Brownsville, Texas, submitted a public comment, but was not present to provide the remark to the commission regarding support for the Brownsville Workers First ballot initiative.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)

- 1) **Consideration and APPROVAL on SECOND and FINAL READING acknowledging the City Secretary's Certificate of Sufficiency for the Charter Amendment Petition, proposing the Brownsville First Jobs & Contracts Policy, establishing provisions relating to local hiring, City-funded contracts, small business participation, workforce development, transparency, and safe working conditions; and APPROVAL on SECOND and FINAL READING on Ordinance Number 2026-1819 ordering a Charter Amendment Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026; providing for the publication and posting of notice; providing for early voting dates, times, and locations; and dealing with related matters. (Office of the City Secretary/Office of the City Attorney)**

Consideración y APROBACIÓN en SEGUNDA y ÚLTIMA LECTURA para dar constancia del Certificado de Suficiencia de la Secretaria Municipal para la Petición de Enmienda a la Carta Municipal que propone la adopción de la Política Brownsville First Jobs & Contracts, estableciendo disposiciones relacionadas con la contratación local, los contratos financiados por la Ciudad, la participación de pequeñas empresas, el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral, la transparencia y condiciones laborales seguras; y Consideración y APROBACIÓN en SEGUNDA y ÚLTIMA LECTURA de la Ordenanza número de la Ordenanza Número 2026-1819 ordenando una elección de enmienda a la Carta Municipal para llevarse a cabo el martes, 3 de noviembre de 2026; disponiendo la publicación y fijación de avisos; estableciendo las fechas, horarios y lugares de la votación anticipada; y tratando asuntos relacionados. (Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal/Oficina del Abogado Municipal)

Motion: Motion was made by Commissioner Nurith Galonsky, seconded by Commissioner Tino Villarreal, to approve Ordinance Number 2026-1819. The vote was cast 4 for, 0 against [Martinez, Macias and Cardenas absent]. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon duly made motion the meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Approved 22nd day of September, 2026.

John Cowen Jr.

John Cowen, Jr.
Mayor

ATTEST:

Mayra A. Rios

Mayra A. Rios,
City Secretary



Respectfully submitted by: Blanca E. Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant, MPA, TRMC

CERTIFICATE *of* SIGNATURE

REF. NUMBER
KIWPX-QX9G4-IYKCQ-JYSVJ

DOCUMENT COMPLETED BY ALL PARTIES ON
28 SEP 2026 13:57:23
UTC

SIGNER

JOHN COWEN JR.

EMAIL
JOHN.COWEN@BROWNSVILLETX.GOV

TIMESTAMP

SENT
24 SEP 2026 21:48:45

VIEWED
28 SEP 2026 12:34:33

SIGNED
28 SEP 2026 12:34:55

SIGNATURE



IP ADDRESS
38.179.56.18

LOCATION
BROWNSVILLE, UNITED STATES

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
28 SEP 2026 12:34:33

MAYRA RIOS

EMAIL
MAYRA.RIOS@BROWNSVILLETX.GOV

SENT
24 SEP 2026 21:48:45

VIEWED
28 SEP 2026 13:55:48

SIGNED
28 SEP 2026 13:57:23



IP ADDRESS
216.194.176.176

LOCATION
BROWNSVILLE, UNITED STATES

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
28 SEP 2026 13:55:48

