

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON AUGUST 19, 2020, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 19th day of August 2020, the Toll Bridge Board met in a regular Bridge Board Meeting. Following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary
Luis Flores, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Larry Hernandez, Member

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
PRESENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
ABSENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Mayor Pro-Tem Bobby Carrillo

STAFF PRESENT: Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations
Vanessa Guzman, Administrative Assistant
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant
Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager
Anali Alaniz, Assistant City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Omar Anzaldua, Engineering Department
Ignacio Amezcua, Purchasing Director
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Juan Gonzalez, Asst. Police Chief
David Moreno, CBP
Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexico Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Cynthia Garza, Director of External Relations
Michael Vargas, Public Affairs Liaison

There being a quorum established Chairman Edgar Delgadillo called the meeting to order.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

ITEM 1 ROLL CALL-EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Member Flores moved to excuse absent members. Chairman Delgadillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATIONS

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and said the prayer.

B. DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: *(Director's Administrative Reports and discussion, if any, with Bridge Board. The Director may also assign a designated spokesperson for any particular listed topic)*

ITEM 3 CROSSING AND REVENUES COMPARISON FOR JULY 2020

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossing and revenues report for the month of July 2020. He reported total crossings were 88,516, which was a decrease of (-8,540) vehicles or -8.80% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 32,289, which was a decrease of (-10,909) cars or -25.25% and showed a car crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings were 56,227, which was an increase of 2,369 trucks or 4.40% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported northbound crossings were 55,550, which was an increase of 100 trucks or 0.18% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated for the Agriculture for the month of July they had 15,803 trucks, which represents a 28% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. Lastly, Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected for the month of July was \$1,283,561, which shows an increase of \$87,831 or 7.35% in revenues.

Discussion ensued on the crossings.

ITEM 4 EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR JULY 2020

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, was logged on to the meeting and questions could be entertained at this time.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM 5 PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, was present and questions on projects could be entertained at this time.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the office expansion. He stated that as they can see behind him, they are in their new facility but still have a way to go. He reported there still was another phase to the project, which will get started in the next couple of months. He also stated they would have some type of Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new building once they are ready.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the DAP15 projects. He stated they are about 85% vetted as far as work force is concerned. He also stated the federal government, GSA has already accepted the Project Safety Plan and are now working on the Risk Management Plan as well as on a few other pending items for DAP15. He stated once all that gets squared away, they have the green light to break ground on those projects.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the DAP16 projects. He stated that they have the Donations Acceptance Agreement, which was agreed on by GSA, the City of Pharr and CBP. He also stated there was a press release done, which goes out this week announcing that the DAP16 Project is underway.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported on the expansion of the bridge. He stated things are moving forward, and they are meeting with both the Mexico team and the US team of engineers and consultants. He also stated Mexico has been on board since day 1 and they have made a lot of progress with them.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, stated the generator for the building expansion should arrive next week. He also stated on the bridge expansion that they are looking to fast track the presidential permit so they can get that in by the end of the year.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM 6 DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported that they are going on part 20 of their BridgeConnect LIVE session. He also stated this was their opportunity to get in front of the trade community and ensure them that they have their best interest in mind. He added they want to bring the topics of interest affecting their business, whether it be in a positive or negative way. He further stated one of the things that they have been doing year after year, is sharing the Trade Numbers. He also added they normally bring Ken Roberts, who is the publisher/president of World City and does the Trade Number books once a year for the Pharr Bridge to give an overall economic presentation of why

these numbers are so important, where they come from, how to make sense of them and what they mean to the trade community. He reported they will be doing a workshop/trade session with World City on September 3rd through their BridgeConnect LIVE Sessions to discuss the state of the economy for the Pharr International Bridge, where they stand, what their trade numbers mean and what they have to look forward too going in to the future. He further reported the bridge is now using social media platforms to keep the public informed of events, important news as well as advertising.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Edgar Degadillo moved to the next item.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM 7 CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JULY 22, 2020.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to approve the minutes as presented. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 8 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF TEXAS BORDER COALITION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR \$5,000.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Cynthia Garza, Director of External Relations, was present and questions on membership could be entertained at this time.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated this is something the City of Pharr has been engaged with for years and Cynthia is highly involved on the legislative side and is a part of the committee that has to do with transportation.

Cynthia Garza, Director of External Relations, began to give a brief history of the Texas Border Coalition.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to approve. Member Flores seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 9 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH TEXAS BORDER BUSINESS FOR \$1,500 FOR 12 MONTHS.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported that they have been advertising with Texas Border Business along with the City and the EDC for several years now, so this is just to continue on that same path.

After a brief discussion, Member Flores moved to approve. Vice-Chairman Martinez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

**ITEM 10 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH THE
ADVANCE NEWS JOURNAL FOR \$930 PER MONTH FOR 12
MONTHS.**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Vice-Chairman Martinez moved to approve. Member Flores seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

**ITEM 11 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH THE
PRODUCE NEWS FOR A TOTAL OF \$19,100 FOR 12 MONTHS.**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on The Produce News. He stated this was somewhat new to them and they have advertised with them for the PMA and Viva Fresh events. He further stated that Tad, the publisher for The Produce News has been running a lot of great stories on the Pharr Bridge. He added they are great advocate for the region and produce, so this is something that they want to try out at least for a year and see how that works.

After some discussion, Vice-Chairman Martinez moved to table the item. Member Flores seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

**ITEM 12 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH
MEXICO INDUSTRY FOR \$725 PER ISSUE AND \$4,000 FOR
INDUSTRIAL MAP (8 ISSUES; 1 INDUSTRIAL MAP).**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Vice-Chairman Martinez moved to approve. Chairman Delgadillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

**ITEM 13 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH
ANDNOWUKNOW FOR \$735 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS.**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on AndNowUKnow. He stated this was something new that they have never done, and he receives a lot of emails from AndNowUKnow. He further stated he has met them at several trade shows in the past

where they have offered their services. He reported that is something that they can try or bring back later.

After some discussion, Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to table the item. Member Flores seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 14 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH THE SNACK FOR \$4,195 PER ISSUE FOR 12 MONTHS.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on The Snack. He stated this was completely new to them and this is an off shoot of AndNowUKnow. He further stated The Snack publication focuses more on a healthy lifestyle but at the same time it revolves around trade and produce.

After some discussion, Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to table the item. Chairman Delgadillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

F. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 15 ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 1:00pm. Chairman Delgadillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §
CITY OF PHARR §

ON THE 19th DAY OF AUGUST 2020, the Toll Bridge Board convened in a Regular Meeting at the Pharr International Bridge, the meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting, giving the date, place and subject thereof, having been posted to the public and notice of said meeting, given in accordance to Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code, (Open Meetings Act) and their being present a

quorum, I, **VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DATE APPROVED: _____
Word/C:BoardMeetings/BoardMtgMinutes8-19-20