

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON MAY 19, 2021, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 19th day of May 2021, 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
Larry Hernandez, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
PRESENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
ABSENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Mayor Pro-Tem Daniel Chavez

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
Hilda Pedraza, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk
Chris Hinojosa, Asst. City Attorney
Daniel Gonzalez, Asst. City Attorney
Omar Anzaldua, Engineering Department
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
David John Gonzalez, CBP
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexico Liaison
Jesus Barrera, AAA
Enrique Lastra, AAA

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

A. CALL TO ORDER:

ITEM 1 ROLL CALL-EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Chairman Delgadillo called the meeting to order. All members were present during roll call.

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 APRIL 2021

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossing and revenues report for the month of April 2021. He reported total crossings were 99,140, which was an increase of 35,193 vehicles or 13.27% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 40,742, which was an increase of 20,951 cars or 105.86% and showed a car crossing comparison from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings were 58,398, which was an increase of 14,242 trucks or 32.25% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing comparison from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported northbound crossings were 60,197, which was an increase of 16,048 trucks or 36.35% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated for the Agriculture for the month of April they had 17,915 trucks, which represents a 30% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. Lastly, Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected for the month of April was \$1,342,469, which shows an increase of \$ 334,446 or 33.18% in revenues.

Discussion ensued on the crossings.

ITEM 4 EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR APRIL 2021

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that finances are tracking well. He added that they are currently at 79% of their budget on the revenues side and leaves them with about 21% remaining of the budget from here to the end of the fiscal year. He stated that on the expenditures side they are at 84% of their budget leaving them with 16%

remaining. Mr. Bazan reported that they did have their budget kick off on May 7th which is an internal process and went very well.

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

ITEM 5 DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on travel restrictions. He reported that as they all know travel restrictions for non-essential travel have been extended another 30-days through June 21st.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on special meetings. He reported they had a visit from the Texas Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughs on April 28, 2021, where they were able to sit down and talk to her about the bridge, the projects, and the transportation master plan for the Texas -Mexico border as well as talk to the mayor about the Texas State permit. Mr. Bazan then reported on the next meeting with SRE, which is the consulate at the national level that oversee the binational process. He stated that the final meeting was the big one, where they had 2 core individuals for SCT, which is the project sponsor in Mexico for the bridge expansion and Banobras, who is the funding mechanism at the federal level. He added that for months they had been pressing Banobras to give them some type of letter of guarantee for the funding to take place, to be appropriated for the project in Mexico and this is basically that meeting. Mr. Bazan also reported during the city commission meeting they had approved Phase IV with the engineers and consultants in Mexico, which is the final leg of this process and will get them shovel ready to start construction in early 2022.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on DAP15. He reported that he wanted to showcase them some pictures of the project because he knows it is hard for people to get out there and see it for themselves. He added that Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer also has a presentation that he provided, and they can get a good idea of the magnitude of this project. He then showed the board some of the pictures of the project and stated that Omar will now do his presentation. Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, presented on DAP15. He then gave the board a brief presentation about the DAP15 Project.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Policies. He reported that they have three policy items that they have been working with the Legislative Affairs team on the legislative side at the state capital and they have probably seen a couple of the news releases that have gone out, so next month they will have Cynthia Garza there to give a full update on those policies.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Trade Numbers Book. He reported that they just received a few copies of the new Trade Numbers book along with the brochure in English and Spanish. He added that they should be receiving the full shipment on Friday if the weather permits if not on Monday. He stated that they

continue to move forward with World City, and this is something that they have been doing for many years because this is basically their market profile. He also added that part of the deal they have with World City is that for every quarter they are putting together a Pharr Trade Trends session and the next one will be focused on Oil & Gas and it will be virtual.

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

ITEM 6 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. He added that most of the engineer's report was discussed in the directors' report.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Bridge Expansion project. He stated they did approve Mexico's Phase IV, so they are probably looking at July to go for the final design with their consultants and it will take about six-months so it will line up with the end of the year to finish the designs. Mr. Bazan added that on the U.S. side they have been working on the hydraulic studies and the environmental clearance side of things.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM 7 CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES- APRIL 21, 2021.

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 COMCE NORESTE INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORSHIP FOR \$1,950.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated they are members of COMCE Noreste, which is a trade association for exporters coming in from Mexico and are based out of Monterrey. He added they have been members for the last three years and this sponsorship gives them a chance to have session, seminars and things of that nature and they will be bringing in some of their trade partners, companies that are exporting through other land ports of entry to look at Pharr and see if this is a good fit for them. He

added this also entails traveling to Monterrey, meeting with these folks, sitting down with them and presenting to them, and promoting the Pharr Bridge. He also added that with all this infrastructure and everything that they are putting into the bridge, it is in their best interest to go out there and sell it, so this is a good opportunity for them.

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

ITEM 9 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON CONFEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES DE AGENTES ADUANALES DE LA REPUBLICA MEXICANA (CAAAREM) SPONSORSHIP FOR \$13,500.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that CAAAREM is also one of those associations at the national level. He added that they have their local branch AAA Reynosa, which is the customs broker association for Reynosa and they did bring their friend Jesus Barrera and Enrique Lastra to give the board a little more details.

Enrique Lastra, Treasurer for the Customs Broker Association in Reynosa, then began his presentation in Spanish. Several discussions took place regarding the presentation. Jesus Barrera, Director for AAA Reynosa, also spoke about the association and the CAAREM event.

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

ITEM 10 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ASOCIACION DE AGENTES ADUANALES DE REYNOSA “GUAYABERAS” SPONSORSHIP FOR \$6,000.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

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

F. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT

Member Flores **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 12:47pm. Member Hernandez 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 MAY 2021, 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/BoardMtgMinutes5-19-21