

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 21, 2022
PHARR CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD.
2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular called meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, and following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary
Larry Hernandez, Member
Lazaro Beas, Member

MEMBERS 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, Marketing Coordinator
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant
Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Wylie, Deputy City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Juan Gonzalez, Interim Police Chief
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Mexico Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
Andy Vega, CBP
Gregg Wendorf, The Advance News
Roberto Gonzalez, Texas Border Business

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER:

A) ROLL CALL AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EXUSING OF ANY ABSENT MEMBER

Chairman Delgadillo called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, led in the pledge of allegiance and said the invocation.

ITEM 2. CONSENT AGENDA

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 17, 2022

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF TEXAS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCE ASSOCIATION (TIPA) ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR \$2,000

C) CONSIDRATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF NASCO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR \$5,000

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, recommended that item 2.A be approved and items 2.B and 2.C be removed from consent agenda for further consideration.

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

At this time, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated they would deviate from the agenda and to into closed session. There was no objection.

ITEM 5. CLOSED SESSION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOV'T. CODE, THE PHARR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY GIVES NOTICE THAT IT MAY MEET IN A CLOSED (NON-PUBLIC) EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING BELOW

The time being 12:06 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be entering into closed session in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Govt. Code to discuss agenda items listed in the public portion of the agenda and Pursuant to Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.084 and 551.087.

ITEM 6. RECONVENE

The time being 12:35 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 2. CONSENT AGENDA

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF TEXAS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCE ASSOCIATION (TIPA) ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR \$2,000

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Member Hernandez **moved** to approve. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

C) CONSIDRATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF NASCO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR \$5,000

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

ITEM 3. DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A) CROSSING AND REVENUES COMPARISON FOR AUGUST 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of August 2022. He reported total crossings for the month of August were 107,399, which was an increase of 20,281 vehicles or 23.28% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total car crossings for the month of August were 42,574, which was an increase of 19,470 cars or 84.27%. He went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of August 2022.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, further reported the total truck crossings for the month of August were 64,825, which was an increase of 811 trucks or 1.27% increase. Mr. Brouwen went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of August.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of August were 59,725, which was an increase of 4,135 trucks or 7.44% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of August they had 16,242 trucks, which represents a 27% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported

a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of August were 124,554, which was an increase of 4,946 or 4.14%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the months of August 2022. He reported total revenue collected for the month of August was \$1,467,397, which shows an increase of \$59,059 or 4.19% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of August. He stated cars and trucks were 42,574, 2X trucks were 3,329, 3X trucks were 4,582, 4X trucks were 1,528, 5X trucks were 51,481, 6X trucks were 3,749, mobile homes were 2, wide loads were 113 and special crossings were 41 and total combination for the month of August was 107,399.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR AUGUST 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, was in the audience and would give the board a report on the finances for the bridge.

Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, briefly reported on the expenditures and revenues year to date for the bridge.

C) ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the recent activity for DAP FY15 Projects. He stated on the 2nd BSIF Exit installation of electrical conduit and base for light pole had been completed, as well as the installation of chain link fence and barbed wire. He added installation and assembly of sliding gates were in progress. He further reported the inspection booth cabin installation for the Northbound Lane Expansion project was completed and the installation of metal lath and stucco application at the primary canopy extension were in progress. He further stated time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 79% and placed to date was 88% of the funds. The time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 104% and placed to date was 92% of the funds for this project. He stated they had an anticipated date of completion of October 11th but may be delayed due to rain days.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated TXDOT provided comments on the 100% submittal on September 16, 2022, and the next step was to review the comments and submit them to the consultant for plan adjustment as requested by TXDOT.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated they re-submitted the 60% Plans, Specifications and Estimate to TXDOT, completed the Value Engineering study, and responded to TXDOT with their analysis. He added the next step was to continue working on the 95% plans for TXDOT submittal, environmental reviews were on-going, and coordination was being performed to obtain approval. He also stated the underwater archeology survey process was on-going as well. He further stated the city commission approved amendment number 5 for additional time and re-submitted the 60% Plans, Specifications and Estimate on September 1, 2022, and the Value Engineering as well. He stated they should be receiving the final Geotechnical Boring and Report by the end of this month and the Archeological Study had been completed with no significant artifacts discovered. Lastly, he stated they were still waiting for the permit for the underwater survey and expect to complete the survey in October 2022.

D) DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated they would be hosting a BridgeConnect Trade Session on Warehouse Safety Training on September 28 and 29, 2022. He informed the board the Start of the Produce Season celebration would take place on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. and stated this was something they have been doing for many years and has become the premier trade event. He stated this year's theme was "A Taste of Trade" where local chefs and local restaurants would showcase some of their food based on the products that cross through this bridge. He extended an invitation to attend and encouraged everyone to wear a Guayabera if possible.

ITEM 4. ADMINISTRATIVE:

A) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH THE ADVANCE NEWS JOURNAL FOR \$930 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH TEXAS BORDER BUSINESS FOR \$1,700 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH THE RIO GRANDE GUARDIAN FOR \$11,000(TWO PAYMENTS OF \$5,500)

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

D) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH INBOUND LOGISTICS FOR \$3,708.33 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

ITEM 7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Board Member Hernandez **moved** to adjourn. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2022, 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: _____