

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 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, December 21, 2022, and following is the record of attendance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adalberto Campero, Secretary

**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: Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Sylvia Briones, CBP
Mike Myers, INDEX
Steve Taylor, Rio Grande Guardian

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 12:00 p.m.

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

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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

ITEM 2. DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A) CROSSING AND REVENUES REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of November 2022. He reported total crossings for the month of November were 103,271, which was an increase of 753 vehicles or 0.73% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total car crossings for the month of November were 42,460, which was an increase of 6,240 cars or 17.23%. He went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of November 2022.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, further reported the total truck crossings for the month of November were 60,811, which was a decrease of -5,487 trucks or -8.28% decrease. Mr. Brouwen went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of November 2022.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of November were 56,312, which was an increase of 339 trucks or 0.61% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of November had 18,584 trucks, which represents a 33% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of November 2022 were 117,123, which was a decrease of -5,148 or -4.21%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the month of November 2022. He reported the total revenue collected for the month was \$1,375,261, which shows an increase of \$25,083 or 1.86% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of November 2022. He stated cars and trucks were 42,460, 2X trucks were 2,897, 3X trucks were 4,651, 4X trucks were 1,323, 5X trucks were 47,910, 6X trucks were 3,856, mobile homes were 7, wide loads were 118 and special crossings were 49 and total combination for the month of November was 103,271.

Discussion ensued on the crossings.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 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 Northbound Lane Expansion project the installation of A/C unit roof curbs for the inspection booths were in progress, along with the installation of stucco on the primary canopy ceiling, finish coat and color for the stucco soffit area. He added the installation of electrical conduit and wire for the RPM's, and the electrical wire and light fixtures were in progress as well. He further reported on the 2nd BSIF Exit they were tying reinforcement for the generator foundation grade beam and installation of the A/C ducts, diffusers and grills for the inspection booths were in progress, as well as mowing of the construction area and clearing of excess materials in staging area. He stated time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 117% and placed to date was 93% of the funds for this project. The time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 89% and placed to date was 89% of the funds. He also stated a final inspection with CBP and GSA was scheduled for January 25, 2023 and expect the project close out on February 16, 2023.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated they received additional comments from TxDOT on 100% revised plans on December 12, 2022, and were working with the consultants on the necessary revisions. He further reported the City of Pharr accepted \$3.4M in additional funds requested from TXDOT to account for cost escalation and inflation. He further stated with the acceptance of the funds, the letting date for the project was projected to be in the Fall of 2023, due to the required STIP and AFA amendments. He added the next step was for the city to submit 100% revised plans to TXDOT in the following month.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated the consultants submitted 95% on December 5, 2022, as scheduled and were waiting on 60% comments which they received today from the TXDOT Bridge Division. He further stated the next steps were to continue working on the 100% plans for TXDOT submittal on January 30, 2023 but would be pending the environmental studies and the reviews.

Once they get those permits, they would be ready to let the project. Mr. Alfaro further reported SEA visited with CAXCAN at the bridge offices in November and the final Geotechnical report was part of the 95% submittal to TXDOT.

D) DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) called Global Entities Economic Partnership with ANIERM, Asociación Nacional de Importadores y Exportadores de la República Mexicana. He stated they were going to show a video on the MOU which highlights what they would do and how it is part of the overall strategic plan.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the INDEX Charity Golf Tournament. He stated INDEX/ Fundación RAMMAC has had their Charity Golf Tournament in Pharr for the second year in a row and Mr. Mike Myers from INDEX Reynosa was in the audience to give the board a briefing on how much funds were collected and where the proceeds were going. Mike Myers, General Manager of Maquiladora in Reynosa and INDEX Reynosa, began his presentation on the golf tournament and the distribution of proceeds from the tournament. Discussion ensued on the golf tournament and proceeds.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexican Liaison for his quarterly report. Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexican Liaison gave a brief update to the Board in Spanish.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Annual Customer Appreciation Holiday Social event. He stated it was a successful event and had a record-breaking attendance of about 400 people. He then showed pictures of the event and stated the executive team did a phenomenal job at putting this together. He stated they were not asking for sponsors but have been successful with that because their customers see the difference and want to participate in the event.

At this time, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, thanked the board and everyone for their support and for what they did to make this happen. He stated they were able to collect over 250 toys which were donated to the Pharr Police department for their Blue Santa toy distribution event held yesterday.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL DE IMPORTADORES Y EXPORTADORES DE LA REPÚBLICA MEXICANA (ANIERM) TITANIUM MEMBERSHIP FOR \$1,500

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.

At this time, Edgar Delgadillo, Bridge Board Chairman, stated they would deviate from the agenda and go into closed session. There was no objection.

ITEM 4. 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 1:09 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 5. RECONVENE

The time being 1:37 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF COMCE NORESTE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$1,800

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

D) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON COMCE NORESTE INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORSHIP 2023 FOR \$1,950

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

E) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROPOSAL FROM WORLD CITY FOR THE 2022 PHARR TRADE NUMBERS BOOK FOR \$42,000

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

F) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH BLUE STONE CAPITAL SOLUTIONS, LLC. FOR FINANCIAL CONSULTING

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

ITEM 6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to adjourn. Member Hernandez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:39 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 DECEMBER 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 MARKETING COORDINATOR**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE
MARKETING COORDINATOR

DATE APPROVED: _____