

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular called meeting on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, and following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary
Larry Hernandez, Member
Lazaro Beas, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman

**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
Ricardo Rodriguez, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Andy Vega, CBP
Elmer Martinez, CBP
Javier Montero, CAXCAN
Francisco Pena, AEM
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 12:08 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Member Hernandez moved to excuse absent members. Member Beas 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 MAY 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of May 2023. He reported total crossings for the month of May were 111,852, which was an increase of 7,882 vehicles or 7.58% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen further reported total car crossings for the month of May were 41,031, which was a decrease of -1,188 cars or -2.81% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of May 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of May 2023. He stated crossings were 70,821, which was an increase of 9,070 trucks or 14.69% increase and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of May 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of May were 66,352, which was an increase of 9,833 trucks or 17.40% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of May had 20,459 trucks, which represents a 31% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of May 2023 were 137,173, which was an increase of 18,903 or 15.98%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the month of May 2023. He reported the total revenue collected for the month was \$1,665,946, which showed an increase of \$242,720 or 17.05% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of May 2023. He stated cars and trucks were 40,858, 2X trucks were 3,103, 3X trucks were 4,475, 4X trucks were 1,312, 5X trucks were 47,785, 6X trucks were 14,143, mobile homes were 6, wide loads were 123 and special crossings were 47 and total combination for the month of May was 111,852.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR APRIL 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for the Bridge.

Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant with Blue Stone Capital Solutions, briefly reported on the expenditures and revenues year to date for the bridge.

Discussion ensued on the finance report.

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 testing and startup of A/C systems were completed along with adjustments of countertops to proper height and removal of incorrect plywood and the installation of fire rated plywood were also completed. He further stated installation of the plastic vapor barrier plywood wrap on the Northbound Lanes Expansion was completed and placing of the plastic vapor barrier plywood wrap on the 2nd BSIF was in progress. He further reported time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 134% and placed to date was 97.8% of the funds for this project. He stated time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 114% and placed to date was 92% and project completion and expected date for both projects was July 4, 2023.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated two out of the three AFA amendments with TxDOT had been executed and were waiting on the last amendment from TxDOT. He further stated the expected letting date was still the fall of 2023.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated a new 60% draft EA was submitted to FHWA, TxDOT and other review agencies on May 26, 2023. He further stated they performed a visit to the Mexico beam construction plant on June 22, 2023 and they were completing three beams per day and were expected to double their production in July if everything was going as planned. He further reported

on this project they expect to be ready to let on September 2023 and expect environmental clearance on Spring of 2024 and completion date of Fall 2025.

D) DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Bridge Expansion Project. He stated CAXCAN, the engineer from Mexico, was present to give the board an update on the Bridge Expansion construction in Mexico. He then introduced Javier Montero, Director for CAXCAN, who gave a brief update to the board in Spanish. Discussion ensued on the Bridge Expansion project.

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. Discussion ensued on nearshoring, business, and crossings.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, further reported on nationally recognized days and months for international trade. He stated the City had been recognizing certain days or months and even though there were no association for land port of entry or border crossings as for maritime, there were some recognized dates that correlate with the numbers on the Pharr Trade Numbers book.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, further stated June was National Mango month and the Pharr Bridge would like to present a proclamation at the next city commission meeting to make this announcement. He added yesterday was National Pineapple Day and the Pharr Bridge crossed \$22.3 million in 2022 and today was National Logistics Day. He further stated many things were happening in the trade world and it was important to recognize these days going forward.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2023

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 2023-2024 TEXAS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCE ASSOCIATION (TIPA) MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR \$1,000

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2023-2024 TEXAS TRUCKING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR \$1,999

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, introduced the item.

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

D) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON US-MX BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (AEM) CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$1,000

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, introduced the item. He called upon Francisco Pena of AEM for a brief report on what this association does and how the Pharr Bridge can benefit from it.

Francisco Pena, AEM, then gave a brief explanation to the Board about the association.

There being no further discussion, Member Hernandez moved to approve. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 4. CLOSED SESSION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOV'T. CODE, THE BOARD 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

None.

ITEM 5. RECONVENE

None.

ITEM 6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Member Hernandez moved to adjourn. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 28th DAY OF JUNE 2023, 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: _____