

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, and following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary
Ilse Vidaurri, 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
Vanessa Guzman, Marketing Coordinator
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Tellez, Receptionist
Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT: David Friedlein, Asst. City Manager
Ricardo Rodriguez III, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Andy Vega, CBP
Elmer Martinez, CBP

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. 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. DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A) CROSSING AND REVENUES REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of September 2023. He reported total crossings for the month of September were 96,334, which was a decrease of -6,562 vehicles or -6.38% compared to last year. Mr. Bazan further reported total car crossings for the month of September were 43,365, which was an increase of 2,446 cars or 5.98% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of September 2023.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of September 2023. He stated crossings were 52,969, which was a decrease of -9,008 trucks or -14.53% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of September 2023.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported northbound crossings for the month of September were 54,260, which was a decrease of -3,507 trucks or -6.07% increase. Mr. Bazan stated the agriculture for the month of September 2023 had 15,533 trucks, which represents 28% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of September 2023 were 107,229, which was a decrease of -9,473 or -8.12%.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the crossing comparisons by axle for the month of September 2023. He stated cars were 43,365, 2X trucks were 2,850, 3X trucks were 4,620, 4X trucks were 1,186, 5X trucks were 43,291, 6X trucks were 795, mobile homes were 2, and wide loads were 170. He stated special crossings were 55 and the total combination for the month of September was 96,334.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on total revenues collected for the month of September 2023. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,293,918, which showed a decrease of -\$163,379 or -11.21% in revenues.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for August 2023.

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 the contractor provided documentation requesting final walkthrough inspection which was scheduled for today at 1:30 p.m. He stated the only item pending would be the Automatic Transfer Switch and a priority request has been submitted based on homeland security to the vendor. He added they were still waiting for a response.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated Amendment # 1 of the Donations Acceptance Agreement had been executed and they were waiting for GSA and CBP for the final execution of the document. He reported they were currently waiting on TxDOT to finalize the AFA Amendment.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated the 30-day comment period Notice of Availability for the final Environmental Assessment was posted this month and the expected date to get the final environmental clearance for the project was either December 2023 or early January 2024. He further stated they were in the preliminary steps of the Right of Way acquisition and had received the right of entry from the property owners. He reported they would continue with the surveys and appraisal and stated they could not move forward with property acquisition until the project was environmentally clear. Lastly, he reported the letting date for the project was April 2024.

Discussion ensued on DAP15 Projects.

D) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported the Start of the Produce Season Celebration had been a great success and exceeded expectations. He stated over 200 people were in attendance and showed pictures of the event and a recap video. He

further thanked the city leadership, Mayor and City Commissioners, Bridge Board members and the sponsors for allowing this to happen. He further stated they had a new program called Cross Check as part of the Fresh on the Border festivities and Board Member Ilse Vidaurri was part of the panel.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 REGULAR CALLED MEETING

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.

At this time, Chairman Delgadillo 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 12:24 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 12:51 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF NASCO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR \$5,000.

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.

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF TRANSPORTATION INTERMEDIARIES ASSOCIATION (TIA) ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR \$700.

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.

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

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 SAN ANTONIO MOBILITY COALITION, INC. (SAMCo) MEMBERSHIP FOR \$1,500.

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.

F) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROPOSAL FROM WORLD CITY FOR 2023 PHARR TRADE NUMBER BOOK FOR \$47,500.

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.

ITEM 6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Secretary Campero **moved** to adjourn. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 25th DAY OF OCTOBER 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: _____