

**THE STATE OF TEXAS §
CITY OF BROWNSVILLE§
COUNTY OF CAMERON §**

MINUTES of a **Special Meeting** of the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, held on **Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 5:00 P.M.** at the **City Commission Chambers**, located at **1001 East Elizabeth Street** and via **Webex Teleconference Meeting by logging on at** with the following members present:

<https://brownsvilletx.webex.com/brownsvilletx/j.php?MTID=m122c38d522bdb41fd7b759b5017dff3>

ROSE GOWEN

Mayor Pro Tem

COMMISSIONERS:

BRYAN L. MARTINEZ

District 1

LINDA C. MACIAS

District 2

ROY DE LOS SANTOS

District 3

HELEN RAMIREZ

City Manager

FELIX SAUCEDA

Assistant City Manager / Chief of Police

WILL TREVINO

City Attorney

JENNIFER AVENDAÑO

First Assistant City Attorney

YOLANDA G. GOMEZ

City Secretary

ABSENT:

JOHN COWEN, JR. - Mayor

TINO VILLARREAL - At-Large "A"

PEDRO CARDENAS - District 4

ELIZABETH WALKER - Assistant City Manager

CALL TO ORDER

a) ROLL CALL

A quorum being present, Yolanda Galarza Gomez City Secretary, read the call to order to consider the matters as posted and filed for the record in the Office of the City Secretary on Friday, July 21, 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Rose Gowen, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Rose Gowen, Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez, Commissioner Roy De los Santos, and Commissioner Linda C. Macias attended the meeting in person.

b) INVOCATION

Pastor Rolando Garcia delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAGS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND STATE OF TEXAS

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag was led by Mayor Pro Tem Rose Gowen and the City Commission.

WORK SESSION(S)

As a governmental body, the City Commission will not vote or take any formal action on any items discussed in the work session portion of the agenda.

1) Presentation on Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Workshop #1. (Financial Services Department)

Michael Delmore, Chief Financial Officer, presented the first budget workshop to the City Commission for Fiscal Year 2024. Mr. Delmore stated that the Finance Department was still expecting the last property tax evaluations from Cameron County in order to finish the taxation and finalize the formal budget. The presentation's main goal was to explain the budgeting process. Mr. Delmore shared that one of the initial stages for the Finance Department was to meet with each department to ascertain their needs for the upcoming fiscal year. He added that the objective for the upcoming fiscal year is to develop infrastructure in the city, such as the zoo and historical buildings, decrease tax rates, improve street maintenance, and be able to provide competitive wages to our staff.

Brief discussion ensued amongst the Commission and City staff.

Commissioner Roy De los Santos expressed that his priority was the cost-of-living adjustment. Commissioner De los Santos requested to see a separate analysis for the Fire Department in this upcoming fiscal year for probationary firefighters. Commissioner De los Santos noted that he would like for probationary firefighters to be treated as civilians when deciding compensation because they are not protected by the collective bargaining agreement. Additionally, Commissioner De los Santos stated that he would like to see the departments' wish list and that he was aware that some items would need to be given higher priority.

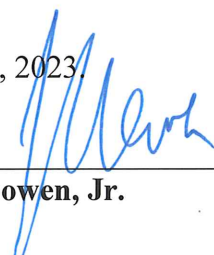
Mayor Pro Tem Rose Gowen requests more information on grants that can be used to fulfill the needs of the departments, as well as whether the city can apply for other grants that can cover these expenses.

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon duly made motion the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Approved this 15 day of August, 2023.

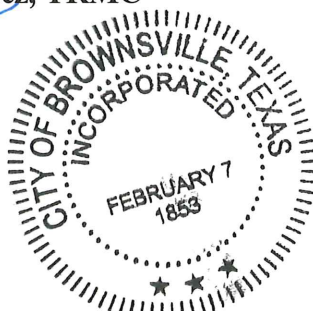


John Cowen, Jr.
Mayor

Attest:



Yolanda Galarza Gomez, TRMC
City Secretary



Respectfully submitted by:
Blanca E. Gonzalez, Administrative Specialist
Office of the City Secretary