

## POHA April 10, 2024

The Commissioners of the Port of Harlingen Authority (POH) met in a rescheduled session on Wednesday April 10, 2024 at 2:00 PM at the Port's Administration Office located at 24633 Port Road, Harlingen, Texas, 78550.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Rose Snell – Commissioner, Place 1  
Neil Haman - Commissioner, Place 2  
Alan Johnson – Chairman, Place 3  
Chris Villarreal – Commissioner, Place 4  
Ryan Newman – Commissioner, Place 5

**PORT STAFF PRESENT:** Walker Smith – Port Director  
Robert McDonald – Chief Financial Officer (remote)  
Amy Lynch - Director of Marketing & Public Relations  
Anne Jimenez - Receptionist

A. Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm.

Declaration of conflicts of interest: Mrs. Snell declared a conflict of interest with the voucher for FastSigns. She abstained from signing the voucher and submitted an affidavit for conflict of interest.

B. 1. **Item:** PUBLIC COMMENTS

2. **Issue:** To hear public comments, if any.
3. **Discussion:** There were no public comments.
4. **Action Taken:** None.

C. 1. **Item:** APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

2. **Issue:** To review the vouchers for approval.
3. **Discussion:** There was no discussion regarding the vouchers.
4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Villarreal, the Commissioners voted to approve the vouchers. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Snell abstained on the Fast Signs voucher approval. There was no discussion.

D. 1. **Item:** APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CERTIFIED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2024

2. **Issue:** To review the corresponding minutes.
3. **Discussion:** There was no discussion regarding the minutes.
4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Haman and seconded by Mr. Newman, the

Commissioners voted to approve the minutes and certified agenda for the meeting on March 21, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

E. 1. **Item:** STAFF REPORTS

2. **Issue:** To hear from staff regarding their respective projects.

3. **Discussion:** Mr. Smith told the Commission about a trade conference that he and Mrs. Lynch attended last week. He also gave an update about the following: the NuStar dock construction, the status of diesel trucks passing through the international bridges, the Seaport Connectivity Program, and the Turning Basin expansion. Mrs. Lynch reported on the status of the Port's annual report and the Overweight Corridor support resolution.

4. **Action Taken:** This was for discussion only.

F. 1. **Item:** CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY BURNS AND MCDONNELL TO ASSIST THE PORT IN APPLYING FOR A PLANNING GRANT UNDER THE PIDP AND EPA CLEAN PORTS GRANT PROGRAMS

2. **Issue:** To review the proposals by Burns & McDonnell.

3. **Discussion:** Mr. Smith stated that per Burns and McDonnell, the EPA grant would be a long shot for the Port to apply for. However, for the PIDP grant application, the Port would be able to include other desired projects such as rail rehab or the addition of fleeting areas in the channel. Mr. Smith said that he recommended the Port to accept the task order proposal from Burns & McDonnell to apply for the PIDP grant and include the addition of fleeting areas. Mr. Smith recommended to hold off on the infrastructure assessment and the EPA grant application task order proposals for now.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Haman and seconded by Mr. Villarreal, the Commissioners voted to approve the proposal by Burns & McDonnell to assist the Port in applying for a planning grant under the PIDP Grant Program. The motion passed unanimously.

G. 1. **Item:** CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED FOR THE PORT'S WINDSTORM INSURANCE POLICY

2. **Issue:** To review the proposal and possibly approve.

3. **Discussion:** Mr. McDonald stated that he researched getting a lower windstorm insurance rate for the Port but found this was the best rate available. Mr. McDonald explained that the insurance rate increased mostly due to the valuation of the building having increased.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Haman and seconded by Mr. Newman, the

Commission voted to approve the proposal submitted by Gallagher Insurance for the Port's windstorm insurance policy. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission entered the executive session authorized by Chapters 551.071 & 551.072 at 2:44 PM. They came out of the executive session at 3:03 PM. A Certified Agenda for the executive session is on file.

H. 1. **Item:** ACTION REGARDING EXECUTIVE SESSION


2. **Issue:** Discussion regarding RGVSG lease agreement pursuant to TEX GOVT CODE 551.071.

3. **Discussion:** Discussion took place under executive session under Texas Government Code 551.071.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mrs. Snell, the Commission voted to authorize Mr. Smith to have a real estate appraisal conducted on the warehouse formerly occupied by the RGVSG. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 PM.

ATTEST:

  
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Alan Johnson, Chairman

  
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Chris Villarreal, Secretary