

## POHA May 8, 2024

The Commissioners of the Port of Harlingen Authority (POH) met in a rescheduled session on Wednesday May 08, 2024 at 12:00 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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chris Boswell – Port Attorney  
Mauro Garza – visitor

A. Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm.

Declaration of conflicts of interest: Mr. Villarreal and Mr. Newman declared a conflict of interest with Item F. They abstained from discussing and voting on it and submitted an affidavit for conflict of interest.

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

2. **Issue:** To hear public comments, if any.

3. **Discussion:** Mr. Mauro Garza signed in for public comment. He introduced himself as an interested citizen and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to address them.

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. Villarreal and seconded by Mr. Newman, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the vouchers.

D. 1. **Item:** APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CERTIFIED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING ON  
APRIL 25, 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. Villarreal and seconded by Mr. Newman, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes and certified agenda for the meeting on April 25, 2024.

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

2. **Issue:** To hear from staff regarding their respective projects.
3. **Discussion:** Mr. Smith said that he attended the Gulf Ports Association meeting in Lake Charles which was productive. He also said that he has had a conversation with the new U.S. Consul General from Matamoros. They discussed the issues with the international bridges. Mr. Smith said that the number of diesel trucks has increased a little. Mrs. Lynch said that the annual report should go to print soon. She also said that she is currently finalizing the new PIDP application.
4. **Action Taken:** This was for discussion only.

F. 1. **Item:** CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PORT'S EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY

*(Commissioners Newman and Villarreal exited the meeting chamber at this time and did not participate in the discussion or voting on this matter.)*

2. **Issue:** To review the options for employee health insurance policies.
3. **Discussion:** Mr. McDonald explained to the Commission that the Port's employee health insurance plan renewal with TX Health Benefits Pool is going to increase by approx. 37%. Mr. McDonald presented the Commission with insurance options including a small group policy with BCBS through a broker. Mr. McDonald also stated that it would be beneficial for the Port to align the health insurance coverage year with the Port's fiscal year. The insurance coverage is set to expire at the end of July. The Commission agreed to accept the Option 2 BCBS policy and directed staff to work for the alignment of the health insurance with the fiscal year beginning in 2025
4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Snell, the Commission Voted unanimously to approve "Option 2" plan under the Small Group Policy with BCBS.

*(Commissioners Newman and Villarreal returned to the meeting chamber.)*

G. 1. **Item:** CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE MID-YEAR REVIEW OF THE PORT'S OPERATIONAL BUDGET

2. **Issue:** To review the Port's operational budget.

3. **Discussion:** There was no discussion regarding this item.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Snell, the Commission Voted unanimously to table this matter.

H. 1. **Item:** CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PORT'S OVERWEIGHT CORRIDOR LEGISLATION FOR THE 89<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2. **Issue:** To review the resolution for adoption.

3. **Discussion:** The Commission reviewed the drafted resolution. Once the resolution is approved, the Port can begin contacting stakeholders and requesting that they adopt their own version of the resolution in support of the Port's overweight corridor bill. The Commission recognizes that the stakeholder's supportive resolutions need to be completed before the 89th Texas legislative session begins. Mr. Boswell noted that the Port will need to check in on the stakeholders on a regular basis to ensure they've completed the resolutions.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Villarreal, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

I. 1. **Item:** REVIEW OF THE MASTER PLAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND PRIORITIZATION OF PLAN PROJECTS

2. **Issue:** To review the prioritization of plan projects.

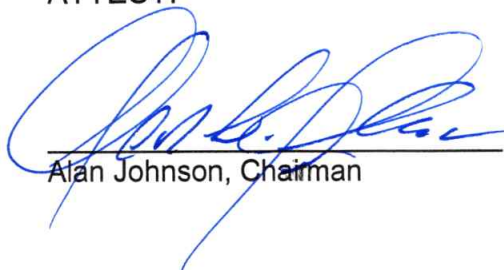
3. **Discussion:** There was no discussion regarding this matter.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Villarreal and seconded by Mr. Newman, the Commission voted unanimously to table this matter.

The Commission entered the executive session authorized by Chapters 551.071 & 551.072 at 12:55 PM. They came out of the executive session at 1:03 PM. A Certified Agenda for the executive session is on file.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 PM.

ATTEST:

  
Alan Johnson, Chairman

  
Chris Villarreal, Secretary