

POHA August 1, 2024

The Commissioners of the Port of Harlingen Authority (POH) met in a regularly scheduled session on Thursday August 1, 2024 at 12:00 PM at the Port's Administration Office located at 24633 Port Road, Harlingen, Texas, 78550.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Neil Haman – Commissioner, Place 2
Alan Johnson – Chairman, Place 3
Chris Villarreal – Commissioner, Place 4
Ryan Newman – Commissioner, Place 5 (remote)

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
Keith Padilla – TRB Insurance
Mauro Garza – visitor

A. Meeting called to order at 12:02 pm.

Declaration of conflicts of interest: None.

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

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

3. **Discussion:** Mr. Mauro Garza signed in for public comment. He only said that he was there to observe & had 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. Villarreal and seconded by Mr. Haman, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the vouchers.

D. 1. **Item:** APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON JULY 18, 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. Villarreal, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting on July 18, 2024.

- E. 1. **Item:** CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF QUARTERLY CASHFLOW & INVESTMENT REPORTS
2. **Issue:** To review and approve the reports.
 3. **Discussion:** Mr. McDonald talked about the Cashflow report. The Commissioners asked about the projects on the Cashflow report. Mr. Smith talked about how the illumination project has been delayed. Then Mr. McDonald talked about the Investment report. He said the interest earned has increased by about \$10,000.
 4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Haman and seconded by Mr. Villarreal, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the quarterly Cashflow & Investment reports.
- F. 1. **Item:** PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION
2. **Issue:** To hear updates regarding various projects.
 3. **Discussion:** Mr. Smith reported that the Port was not awarded the EDA or USDA grants that it applied for. Mr. Smith also described an issue that arose with the fuel trucks and the overweight permits. He said that the overweight permit website was being amended to avoid the new problem. Mr. Smith also spoke about ongoing conversations with USACE regarding the CAP 107 program.
 4. **Action Taken:** This was for discussion only.
- G. 1. **Item:** CFO'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION
2. **Issue:** To hear updates regarding various projects.
 3. **Discussion:** Mr. McDonald presented a planning calendar regarding the tax rate.
 4. **Action Taken:** This was for discussion only.
- H. 1. **Item:** PR AND MARKETING DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION
2. **Issue:** To hear updates regarding various projects.
 3. **Discussion:** Mrs. Lynch reported that she recently submitted 4 additional projects to the PIDP grant for approval.
 4. **Action Taken:** This was for discussion only.
- I. 1. **Item:** DISCUSSION REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL
2. **Issue:** To discuss the health insurance renewal.
 3. **Discussion:** Mr. McDonald stated that the Port approved a new health insurance plan for its employees based on a quote from TRB Insurance back in May to start on August 1. However, Mr. McDonald said that the billed premium increased from the quoted rate. Mr.

Keith Padilla of TRB Insurance explained that BCBS had a rate increase in July and he apologized for not adequately informing the Port of that potential rate increase.

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

J. 1. **Item:** DISCUSSION REGARDING PORT DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO DC

2. **Issue:** To hear about the various discussions.

3. **Discussion:** Mr. Smith described his visit to Washington D.C. last week. He said he spoke to Congressman Vicente Gonzalez. He also spoke to the high-ranking staff of Sens. Cruz and Cornyn. And he also spoke to the Director of Civil Works from USACE. He said the topics of discussion ranged from the water shortage impact; the CAP 107 program; PIDP delays; bridge closures; and the farm bill. Mrs. Pat Younger was on the phone line to report on the discussions with officials in D.C.

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

The Commission entered the executive session authorized by Chapters 551.071(2) & 551.072 at 1:05 PM. They came out of the executive session at 1:25 PM. A Certified Agenda for the executive session is on file.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

ATTEST:



Alan Johnson, Chairman



Chris Villarreal, Secretary