

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
September 5, 2018
6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the Work Session to order at approximately 6:31 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez
Vice-Mayor Maria Cecilia Ramos
Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco
Council Member Matias Rosales

ABSENT: Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.
Council Member Gloria Torres
Council Member Ruben Walshe

OTHERS PRESENT: Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Angel Ramirez, Acting Fire Chief
Aracely De La Hoya, Senior Services
Axel Chayra, IT Department
Derek Dueñas, IT Manager
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Francia Alonso, Acting PIO/Assistant to Mayor and Council
Glenn Gimbut, Assistant City Attorney
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jesus Meza, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Jorge Perez, Utilities Manager
Jose Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning
Lizandro Galaviz, Director of Parks & Recreation
Manuel Rojas, Assistant Director of Public Works
Monica Castro, Director of Finance
Olivia Jenkins, Humana Resources Manager
Ralph Velez, City Consultant
Cesar Neyoy, Bajo El Sol
Lucy Lopez, San Luis AZ News

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Presentation by Greg LaVann of the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, (GYEDC) updating the City of San Luis on Economic Development Projects. (Greg LaVann, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation)

Mr. Greg LaVann of GYEDC, updated Mayor and Council on some of the projects that GYEDC is been working on in conjunction with the City of San Luis. He informed that Piana Group have started hiring for their personnel. He mentioned that they will be working with Arizona At Work, Goodwill and PPEP to hire the central personnel, once they are hired they will be sent to Georgia for training, then they will hire the next 25 individuals. He added that Piana is very excited to be in the community. Mr. LaVann stated that San Luis beat up Phoenix on this project. He stated that his team and Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager met up with the company and ended up winning this project. Furthermore, Mr. LaVann informed that Council Member Matias Rosales and Mayor Gerardo Sanchez met with a salsa company, this company is based in Hermosillo, Sonora, but they are looking for their first domestic manufacturing operation. He stated that he had a briefing meeting with this company and it went very well. He mentioned that they are very interested in moving to San Luis, once they are ready to visit San Luis they will get in touch with Ms. Torres to meet up with the company. Mr. LaVann also reported that a textile manufacturer based in Georgia came to visit the community, but unfortunately no staff was available at that time. He mentioned that they were very interested in the old Meadowcraft facility. On the other hand, he informed that Almark started doing their initial hiring, they have hire 80 people to start operation, this company is located in Yuma, and approximately 90% of the employees are from San Luis and Somerton.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez, thanked GYEDC for the great job done for San Luis and the entire Yuma County.

Ms. Karime Hayer, Business Development Coordinator for GYEDC, made a presentation regarding the international economic development efforts to promote the San Luis Port of Entry.

Vice-Mayor Maria Cecilia Ramos thanked GYED for the report.

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, informed that the hiring information about Piana will be uploaded onto the city's website. She mentioned that staff have been getting calls inquiring about their job openings.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the City of San Luis Incentive Policy. (Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, stated that during the last work session she introduced a draft of the proposed Incentive Policy. She stated that during this meeting she is looking for some direction from Mayor and Council as to where this incentive policy needs to be focused on. Ms. Torres stated that she also included a merit system that the City of Yuma also uses, this program will work like a reimbursement for new jobs created, this program will include requirements in the incentive policy.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez replied that he would like to see both commercial and manufacturing included in this policy. Unfortunately, the city has been growing but housing does not generate sales tax. He mentioned that residents are looking for permanent jobs.

Ms. Torres replied that she will be working on including both in the policy.

Council Members Africa Luna-Carrasco and Matias Rosales concurred with Mayor Sanchez.

2. C. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding commercial truck parking. (Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Ramos; Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works & Richard Jessup, Acting Chief of Police)

Vice-Mayor Maria Cecilia Ramos mentioned that she would like to see a designated area for commercial trucks to park. Currently, they park along 10th Avenue and in other areas of the city. She stated that this will help San Luis Ports of Entry.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, stated that if the city sees that this project is needed, then the city will provide what is needed. If this project is required then the work would be done without causing inconveniences to the community in the neighborhood. He mentioned that 10th Avenue and Urtuzuastegui Street are the closest to the Port of Entry. He stated that both roads were originally designed as a truck route. He commented that expanding 10th Avenue will be the best option to accommodate trucks. Mr. Vera mentioned that the other place for truck parking will be on Avenue E near the commercial port of entry, this can be a standby while they process to cross the border.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez indicated that this should have been done a while back, residents have complained of trucks parking in residential areas.

Mr. Vera stated that the city will have to be strict as to what will be allowed in this parking area. He informed that this project can be included in the 10th Avenue expansion project.

2. D. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding a cemetery in the City of San Luis. (Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Ramos)

Vice-Mayor Maria Cecilia Ramos stated that a cemetery is pretty much needed. She mentioned that it is time for San Luis to have its own cemetery.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez mentioned that this project has been discussed with other Mayor's in the county. He informed that the City of Somerton is looking for a place for their own cemetery. He added that he knows that a cemetery could be very costly, but this can be a joint venture with the City of Somerton. This cemetery could be located between the two cities. He stated that this is the time to start planning for this project

Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco agreed with Mayor Sanchez and believes that the cemetery is very much needed.

Council Member Matias Rosales mentioned that he understands that the mortuary located in Somerton have submitted their paperwork for a cemetery. He stated that if their cemetery does not goes through, then both cities could work with the mortuary on this project.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez commented that if this project is viable then both cities will have to get state land for this project.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, agreed with Mayor and Council on this project. He stated that this is good timing for this project and added that a good place will be close to the mesa near the East Main Canal, were irrigation water can be utilized to water and maintain the cemetery.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez asked Mr. Vera if he will be willing to look for area where this cemetery will be located.

Mr. Vera replied that he will work in conjunction with the Planning & Zoning Department to come up with a couple of ideas.

Mr. Glenn Gimbut, Assistant City Attorney, mentioned that the share cost problems on this project will be unbelievable. He suggested staff to contact other cities to find out what is the cost to maintain a cemetery.

3. ADJOURMENT

MOTION: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez/Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:21 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.