

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
November 20, 2019
6:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called for an informal Work Session at approximately 6:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez
Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.

ABSENT: Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco
Council Member Jose Ponce
Council Member Matias Rosales
Council Member Gloria Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Christine Hagen, Acting City Manager
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Derek Dueñas, Information Technology Manager
Enrique Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO
Glenn Gimbut, Assistant City Attorney
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jonathan Dumadag, Senior IT Technician
Jose A. Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning
Lizandro Galaviz, Director of Parks and Recreation
Marco Santana, Police Lieutenant
Monica Castro, Director of Finance
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter
Christian Cuevas, Simultaneous Interpreter
Eddie Loo, Visitor
Elizabeth Carpenter, Visitor
Maria Robles, Resident
Olivia Jenkins, Resident

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the possibility of a new park area for the community on County 24th Street between Avenues E and F. (Lizandro Galaviz, Director of Parks & Recreation)

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Director of Parks & Recreation, informed that there is an opportunity to purchase land in the east of San Luis for the development of a possible community park in that area. He stated that staff is seeking the City Council's direction that would like to address to staff. A concept plat for the 20 acres was shown to City Council, staff, and members of the public. He mentioned that staff would like to propose to work in different phases on these park amenities; one option would be to start with a 10-acre parcel; this would include three (3) soccer fields, ramadas, restroom areas, and parking. Mr. Galaviz presented a conceptual plan.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that the first step would be to purchase the land and develop the park in a period of two (2) years. He mentioned that the idea of the proposed property tax adoption was to bring a park similar to the proposed conceptual plan.

There were some recording issues between 6:35 p.m. and 6:38 p.m.

Mr. Glenn Gimbut, Assistant City Attorney, informed that it would be a 50-year loan on interest, or put it on a 25 year financing the payments will be less than \$25,0000.00 a year, in which that loan can be paid from future park impact fees. He mentioned that this park would benefit the entire city, not just the east side of San Luis, as Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, is working with Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization to open up County 24th Street to Urtuzuastegui Street. He added that this proposed park is more than double the size of Joe Orduño Park. He stated that if the city will obtain a warranty title and will not be at the mercy of the federal government or the state government.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez commented if the city is to go through the federal government, it can take 7 to 10 years. He added that it is very important to start the process. He stated that currently there are people going to other parks outside the city limits just because there is not enough room to practice or just have a gathering because there is not enough room. He informed that in 1982 there was only one (1) park, and in 2019 it is still the same. He mentioned that one of the things that staff needs to ask themselves is what are people's priorities; one of the things is sports, and currently, there is no room for kids to play sports in the community. Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that one of the priorities is to provide recreational areas to the community, as the current areas are not enough anymore.

Mr. Gimbut informed that if the city was to buy land from State Land Department, it would be at market value, as they will hire an appraisal, and the city will have to pay what the appraisal says the land is worth. He added that the city could never go wrong investing in infrastructure.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that he agrees with Mr. Gimbut's comments about purchasing land; he mentioned that every time government land is leased, the city is at the mercy of the federal government.

Vice-Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz stated that she supports this project as this is something Council has always wanted. She mentioned that Council should take advantage when opportunities arrive.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that the city is limited in space for the different recreational areas. He informed that retention areas are currently being used as parks and when it rains, the water goes in and floods the area. It is sad to see kids playing in those conditions. He stated that the City of San Luis deserves a second park.

Mr. Glenn Gimbut stated that the Mayor and Council had worked hard to talk to the citizens, and the number one thing expressed by those citizens was more parks and trees.

Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr. stated that the city needs parks. He mentioned that staff should work in obtaining a new park and let the future council finish it.

Mr. Gimbut stated that the city is growing to the east, and this proposed new park will be right in the heart of the newly developed area.

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz presented other conceptual plans for the proposed park. A copy of those pictures is included with the complete agenda packet filed in the City Clerk's Office. He agreed with Mayor Sanchez about the city being short in spaces for activities; this has been a challenge for the Parks & Recreation department. The proposed new park will include a pond which could be used for fishing activities and at the same park be the irrigation system to the park; will also include areas for parties, an amphitheater, ramadas, playgrounds, and open spaces for sports and also to move yearly events to this proposed new site.

Vice-Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz stated that she would like to see a bike path to connect the whole community.

Mr. Galaviz informed that staff is currently working in a master plan to include a bike and pedestrian paths. He added that Public Works and Development Services is looking at the different options of connectivity.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that staff should continue looking at the financing options available. He mentioned that the city should be able to provide different recreation options to the community. He stated that staff should focus on the acquisition of land.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding a proposed ordinance for the safety of the use of the curbs at the border for taxi businesses. An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona amending the City Code, Chapter 112, Transportation Business Regulations to provide for a border area zone and a system of issuance and regulations for border area taxi vehicle permits to operate within said zone; renumbering certain sections within Chapter 112; repealing any conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Richard Jessup, Chief of Police; Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief; and Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)

Mr. Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, informed that this item was presented before Council during their Work Session held November 6, 2019, by Richard Jessup, Chief of Police. He mentioned that his presentation during this meeting would be focused on safety. He stated that this has been an ongoing issue on William Brooks and 2nd Avenues. Mr. Ramirez presented a video to Mayor and Council recorded by the San Luis Fire Department in said area. He mentioned that the increase of calls for services increased; for the month of November there were 4,000 calls for service from which 35% of the calls are at the US Port of Entry. He commented that getting from the San Luis Fire Station to the US Port of Entry is very challenging. He stated that staff has nothing against the taxi cab drivers; he added that he had meetings with different drivers and they understand the issue. He mentioned that currently staff is able to maneuver around that area to get into the port, but it is not ideal. Furthermore, he mentioned that moving the taxis to the east side approximately 300 feet from where they currently are, will be the ideal location for them, because of the port expansion.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, stated that if staff is allowed to move the taxis to the proposed new location, safety would significantly be increased. The plan would add a sidewalk to get to the proposed location; this will alleviate the current area for emergency and regular vehicles.

Mr. Glenn Gimbut, City Attorney, informed that the concept of this ordinance was something that was drafted back in 2008 by the request of the council. He mentioned that the city is not allowed to regulate taxi business, but the city is allowed to regulate other things. He added that the concept of this ordinance is to regulate the curb, street and who gets to park at the curb. He mentioned that the main concern here is safety. Mr. Gimbut informed that the proposed area could only park eight (8) taxis, there are currently 103 licensed taxis in town. He mentioned that one of the suggestions was to have a central office with dispatch will help the police department in dealing with problems. This will help control who is using those eight (8) spaces; this will not help solve all the problems but will help alleviate those problems.

Ms. Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney, informed that staff is proposing a zone that will be in the southern border to the east side of the current location.

Mr. Gimbut informed that the zone is to designate taxi stands in the border area for people with a special permit will be able to park in the proposed area.

Mr. Ramirez informed that there is 1000 more call than last year during the month of November and 35% of the calls are at the port. The most important thing to consider is the time to arrive at the port, as every minute counts.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that the main reason for bringing this item back for discussion is to have everybody understand and ask questions and have a clear understanding that the main reason for the proposed ordinance is public safety, the other thing is because General Services Administration is asking for the Friendship Park land, which means that the expansion of the port is coming. He thanked city staff for being proactive.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice-Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz/Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr. to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:19 p.m.

APPROVED:

Gerardo Sanchez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Work Session for the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on November 20, 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk