

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
February 5, 2019
6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the work session to order at approximately 6:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez
Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.
Council Member Jose Ponce
Council Member Matias Rosales

ABSENT: Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco
Council Member Gloria Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO
James Einwaechter, Assistant Director of Public Works
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jorge Mungaray, Information Technology Technician
Jorge Perez, Billing & Collections Manager
Lizandro Galaviz, Director of Parks & Recreation
Maria Roldan, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Monica Castro, Director of Finance
Richard Jessup, Chief of Police

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding placement of electrical outlets at the city's retention basins. (Council Member Jose Ponce and Lizandro Galaviz, Director of Parks & Recreation)

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Director of Parks & Recreation, informed that there are electrical outlets in some of the parks and retention areas. He stated that one of the challenges is that people were connecting different equipment that was damaging the breakers.

He added that his department does not have an on-call person, but coordinate with public works for when a sprinkler breaks or any problem that has to deal with irrigation of the park or retention basin. Mr. Galaviz informed that when people rent the ramadas; they are notified that there is no guarantee that the electrical outlets are going to work. He mentioned that the city charges only for the ramada rental; there is no fee for electrical outlets. He mentioned that he contacted the City of Yuma and City of Somerton to see if they provide electricity when they rent their ramadas and both cities do not provide electricity, because of the same issue San Luis faces. He commented that currently, staff is working in allowing water jumpers in some parks with a fee; currently, they are not allowed.

Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr. commented that he believes that providing electricity is a liability to the city, as they have not been used adequately.

Council Member Matias Rosales stated that by leaving the things ramadas currently have will not hurt anything, since the city will be liable if something happens by providing electricity.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that he agrees with Council Members Buchanan and Rosales.

Council Member Jose Ponce stated that the reason he brought this item for discussion is because he received some complaints from residents. He mentioned that he agrees with the other council members about not providing electricity if the city will be in liability. Council Member Jose Ponce stated that the contract should be specific and let people know that there is no electricity available in the ramada rental.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the city's participation in county-wide programs against street drugs, city's traffic safety programs and consequences for violators. (Council Member Jose Ponce and Richard Jessup, Chief of Police)

County-Wide Program Against Street Drugs

Mr. Richard Jessup, Chief of Police, mentioned that as stated during the budget retreat, there are so many officers needed for every thousand residents, he added that fortunately, the crime rate in the community is not as high as in other municipalities. He mentioned that a few years ago the San Luis Police Department was part of the Yuma County Narcotic Task Force, the agreement was they will pay the salary of the officer assigned to them. As time went by, patrolling became more important; for this reason, the officer that was assigned to the task force was removed. He informed that during the last two (2) years, nobody had been placed back into the task force programs because the department needs to take care of its residents. Mr. Jessup stated that in the meantime (Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has been allowed to come into the department detective bureau to use a space; also, the department is working with the U.S. Marshall Service in giving them an office space.

He stated that staff has also addressed the drug issues and have worked diligently in conjunction with Customs and Border Protection to stop the drug smuggling and is working in ways to stop this problem amongst high school and middle school students as they are the conduit across America to get these drugs into the nation. He added that staff has an on-going discussion with the partners in El Centro Police Department, Imperial County Sheriffs Department, California Highway Patrol, and other entities to start to tackle this opioid and methamphetamine epidemic. Mr. Jessup commented that he has been in several discussions with the Yuma County Sheriffs Department to see how soon an officer can be appointed to the task force. He mentioned that staff is working to allow an officer to work overtime with this task force and work their regular 40-hour shift at the department. He added that the other way to combat the drug problem in the community is through school programs and one of the ideas is to work with the San Luis High School and Middle School and create a program similar to the D.A.R.E. program. He informed that staff had done drug program presentations during their PTO's meetings.

City's Traffic Safety Programs

Mr. Richard Jessup informed that the department is on track in bringing back the motor officer. He stated that there is a training scheduled with the Phoenix Police Department to have a supervisor and two (2) officers get their training. The cost for this training is approximately \$15,000.00, this is a three (3) week course, and they will be certified. He mentioned that traffic is an issue because the city is growing at a fast pace. He added that one of the ideas is to work with the municipal court and teach residents to get educated and not just pay the fine and look at different options as to what can be provided to educate all those driving around the city. Mr. Jessup stated that his department has been working diligently to do the best that can be done and inform the community the police department cares about the community's needs.

Mr. Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, informed that his department has addressed the street drug problem in the community and has come up with the idea that spare times will be utilized to talk to young teenagers about the consequences of using Fentanyl. He added that the other idea is to work in an information pamphlet where high school and middle school students will be the target. He informed that during the year 2019, there were 26 overdoses and 4 in January 2020 and 2 in February 2020. Mr. Ramirez stated that it is very important to use public education and awareness in the community, especially in young teenagers.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that both the San Luis Police Department and San Luis Fire Department became very proactive when the Fentanyl problem first arrived in the community. He added not only the departments, but other organizations have been very active in educating teenagers. He thanked the San Luis Police Department for the continuous effort to inform the community, there is still a big problem, but it has been addressed through the media. He mentioned that, unfortunately, the public is not aware of the needs of the community. He asked both the Police and Fire Departments to continue to be more aggressive in the campaign against street drug use.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez commented that he has been driving around town and have noticed that people ignore the 15 miles per hour in school zones and also ignoring stop signs. He asked the Police Department to enforce this and give no warnings to people.

Mr. Jessup stated that this is one of the discussions he has had with Lieutenant Miguel Alvarez, and the idea is to start driving unmarked vehicles to run on school zones. He mentioned that the community would be informed.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez informed that the stop sign located by the Gadsden School District on 6th Avenue is bypassed during the night. He asked Chief Jessup to assigned a vehicle during the night to monitor this area. He also asked to monitor the curve on 10th Avenue that goes to Los Alamos Subdivision. He mentioned that the residents need to know that the city has not forgotten them, he asked to please continue to enforce traffic in that area. Mayor Gerardo Sanchez also commented about jaywalkers on Main Street.

Mr. Jessup replied that jaywalking on Main Street has also been addressed; he mentioned that there would be a bigger problem once construction of the San Luis Port of Entry I begins. He mentioned that this area would be enforced, and officers will concentrate in that area.

Council Member Matias Rosales mentioned that on the jaywalking problem, it is because a lot of the time, agricultural companies drop people in the business area, and they cross the street anywhere. He commented that to alleviate this problem, to talk to the companies and ask them not to unload people in the business area because farmers do not respect traffic. Council Member Matias Rosales also addressed the graffiti problem in the community, he added that he has noticed that it has increased and some areas have been tagged by the Police Department so that Public Works go and remove it.

Mr. Jessup replied that this problem has already been addressed with the Gang Enforcement Unit, which is back in town, and they will work on these areas. He mentioned that this has increased when the agricultural season starts in the community. He also mentioned that currently in Mexico, they have been suffering from a lot of crimes, and cartels are fighting to take over the territory, but he is unsure that the tagging has to do with that problem.

Council Member Matias Rosales stated that he had seen graffiti on Avenue F that has been there for a long time, and nothing has been done.

Mr. Jessup asked Council Member Matias Rosales to please contact him directly when something like that happens; he stated officers should be doing their work against graffiti.

Vice-Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz thanked Fire Chief Angel Ramirez for starting the education program.

She suggested sharing videos on social media to reach out to more people. She agreed with Mayor Gerardo Sanchez about strictly enforcing speed limits, especially on Juan Sanchez Boulevard and 10th Avenue; she suggested installing a signal light in that area.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez mentioned that once speed limits are enforced, the community will understand the importance.

Council Member Jose Ponce thanked Chief of Police Richard Jessup and Fire Chief Angel Ramirez for the great job they have done at their departments. He mentioned that he brought this item for discussion because of community complaints that he had received. He asked Mr. Jessup if there is a possibility to bring back the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Mr. Jessup replied that he had a conversation with Mr. Jose De La Vara, City Prosecutor, and Marco Santana, Police Lieutenant, about bringing back this program to the community.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked the San Luis Police and Fire Departments for a great job.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to adjourn the work session at approximately 7:29 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye

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 February 5, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk