

**MINUTES**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
**San Luis City Council**  
**San Luis Council Chambers**  
**1090 E. Union Street**  
**March 13, 2020**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the Regular City Council meeting to order at approximately 5:32 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Gerardo Sanchez  
Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz  
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.  
Council Member Jose Ponce  
Council Member Matias Rosales (telephonically)  
Council Member Gloria Torres

**ABSENT:** Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager  
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk  
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney  
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief  
Edgar Juarez, Recreation Coordinator  
Enrique Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief  
Francia Alonso, PIO/Assistant to Council  
Richard Bauermann, Fire Inspector  
Richard Jessup, Police Chief  
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter  
Lucy Lopez, Reporter

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz.

**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM:**

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Vote to hold Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).**

**Discussion and possible action to hold an Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for legal advice with the city's attorney or attorneys regarding any and all matters to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (also known as COVID-19) and city services. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Gloria Torres to go into executive session at approximately 5:33 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
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

#### **4. MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION:** Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Jose Ponce to go back to regular session at approximately 6:51 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
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

#### **5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM:**

##### **5.A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding addressing the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and city services. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)**

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, stated that the Mayor had decided to declare an emergency due to the coronavirus disease 19, in this Declaration he has deemed the situation with the pandemic as an emergency and has put the emergency in effect immediately. It requests the assistance of the County of Yuma, the State of Arizona, and the Federal Government of the United States of America; it directs that the Parks & Recreation facilities and activities cease and that would include the buildings, the athletic fields, the athletic courts and the Senior Center, in the interest of preserving the public health and preventing the spread of the disease. The order also directs all city scheduled activities cease such as the upcoming Cesar Chavez event, the census in the parks and any private parties that have rented facilities to have private gatherings and fees shall be refunded. City business travel to out of state activities is denied unless there is a court order summons or other important travels such as moving intergovernmental projects of the city forward like the port of entry project.

The order also direct that the City Manager implement any procedures and take any action he deems necessary to carry out the intent of this Declaration. Anyone who knowingly fails or refuses to obey the orders of this Declaration shall be guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor as authorized by A.R.S. § 26-317. The Mayor and City Council shall schedule another agenda item on this to reassess on April 8, 2020 or sooner if circumstances merit it.

Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz commented and clarified that there are no positive cases in the City of San Luis.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that as of 3:00 p.m. this afternoon, there are zero cases in the City of San Luis or Yuma County. This measure is being done as a preventive or being proactive, they want to make sure that they reserve resources for those who are going to needed in the future. The goal is to minimize exposure or mass exposure; there is only one (1) hospital in Yuma County. This is not being done out of fear but to protect the community, to protect the resources and to protect the city's employees. The city will still be providing its fire, police, water, sewage treatment plants, wastewater services. The offices will not be closed; the city has the right to amend certain times but will continue to provide the basic services to the community. Mayor Gerardo Sanchez added that the virus will come, it is of when it is going to get here, it has traveled worldwide. The city needs to be proactive and make sure that it counts with the proper safety equipment. The City of San Luis will continue to work with Yuma County Health Department and the different cities in the community, federal and state governments.

There are rumors that the port of entry has closed or closing and as right now, there are no plans, or directive to close the border as he speaks, but the President does have that option to do it at his discretion. There was another rumor that the port of entry was sending residents back if they were coughing, no, that is not true, if anything they were being offered a mask by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. The Declaration of Emergency by the President gives him a lot of lead way and frees up over \$15 billion of funds for states, for the federal government, counties and hospitals. Currently they are working on the testing, on a cure and a vaccine but it will take some time. Again the city is being proactive on this matter and this Declaration will be in effect for at least four (4) weeks and then decide if this Declaration will continue.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez declared an emergency as recited by Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney.

**MOTION:** Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Jose Ponce to approve Order No. 2020-6. 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
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Gloria Torres to adjourn the Special Council meeting at approximately 7:05 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
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

**APPROVED:**

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Gerardo Sanchez, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING FO THE CITY COUNCIL, SAN LUIS, ARIZONA HELD ON MARCH 13, 2020. I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT THE MEETING WAS DULLY CALLED AND HELD AND THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT.

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Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk