

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
July 1, 2020
6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the work session to order at approximately 6:36 p.m.

Mayor and City Council participated remotely due to COVID-19.

PRESENT: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez
Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.
Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco
Council Member Jose Ponce
Council Member Matias Rosales
Council Member Gloria Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Axel Chayra, Information Technology Technician
Christine Velez, Management Analyst (remotely)
Derek Dueñas, Information Technology Manager
Doming Sosa, Information Technology Technician
Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jose Luis Cisneros, Administrative Assistant
Marlene Lara, Government Affairs
Ralph Velez, City Consultant (remotely)
Annette Lagunas, Humane Society of Yuma (remotely)
Buna George, Greater Yuma Port Authority (remotely)
Diane Humphres, Amberly's Place (remotely)
Jesse Lopez, PPEP Youthbuild (remotely)
Julie Engel, Greater Yuma Economic Development (remotely)
Luis Ramirez, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National (remotely)
Paul Ward, Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (remotely)
Shelly Kreger, YCIPTA (remotely)

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding an informational update on the modernization and expansion of Cesar Chavez Boulevard and BUILD Grants opportunity. (Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager and Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, informed that the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) did a land appraisal to the land that will be used as right-of-way for the expansion of the Cesar Chavez Boulevard. She mentioned that the appraisal came at \$300,000.00 per acre, and added that the city submitted a letter to the state requesting a meeting. A letter was received from the state informing that there was an error in the first appraisal and that the new amount will be \$27,984.00 per acre. She mentioned that the city needs 16 acres, which will bring a total amount of \$451,000.00. Mr. Torres informed that previously the city had paid \$8,000.00 for the appraisal and had made a deposit to the state for \$350,000.00; these leaves \$118,000.00 to complete the ASLD process. She mentioned that the state requires the city to submit a plan explaining how this will be accomplished, and staff already worked on a letter that will be forwarded to the state. Ms. Torres commented that since the city will be acquiring private land, which is approximately 4 acres, some are residential, and the other is commercial. She stated that since the city is trying to acquire federal funding, then the city needs to follow the Uniform Act, which will provide staff the steps to follow to obtain funding. She added that staff attended a training at the Arizona Department of Transportation office, they recommended that a right-of-way specialist is hired and jeopardize the federal funding. She mentioned that ADOT provided staff with a list of five (5) possible consultants, from where the city received three (3) proposals. The costs averages from \$100,000.00 to \$140,000.00. Ms. Torres mentioned that staff does not know what the cost of the private land would be as the consultant would have to make an appraisal of each property and work with the landowners; this process might take approximately a year. Furthermore, she informed that staff obtained the NEPA, and for this reason, it is ready to apply for funding. She added that the funding availability notice is released in February, and applications are due in May, the consultant needs to be hired now because it will take about a year for the process. She mentioned that if the city gets the funding, then the city will need ADOT support; this means that a financial administrator will be required. She stated that Luis Ramirez would be a great choice in helping the city connect with ADOT to get their support. Furthermore, she added that the city would also need congressional support, as it has to be their priority to be able to support the project.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that this is an important project where City Council needs to make wise decisions.

Ms. Jenny Torres asked the Mayor and Council for their direction as to whether or not they would like staff to complete the ASLD right-of-way acquisition project; this will cost approximately \$118,000.00. Per the Finance Department, there are funds available for the acquisition through the Impact Fees. She added that staff could also use \$100,000.00 from Impact Fees for the land acquisition.

Council Member Matias Rosales asked if this project will be spread out into two (2) or more years.

Ms. Torres replied that it would all depend on how long it takes to start the process. She informed that the other item to be discussed is the hiring of a consultant to help with this project. She mentioned that the funding for this was removed from the budget, and it was placed in Council's Contingency account. She added that if the City Council authorizes staff to apply for the BUILD grant, then staff will come before City Council to request the funds. She stated that the city should take advantage that ASLD has revised its appraisal to complete the project. She added that the city should start this process as soon as possible, because if the city is not successful in the first year, then staff will reapply the following year. She mentioned that she has been working on this project for approximately three (3) years.

Mayor Sanchez stated that staff should proceed with this item, as the ASLD has lowered the appraised value of the land. He asked Councilmember if they had any comments.

Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz, Council Members Matias Rosales, Jose Ponce, Gloria Torres, and Mario Buchanan agreed with Mayor Sanchez and stated that staff should move forward with this project.

Mayor Sanchez directed Ms. Torres to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the agreement with Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager, and Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO)

Ms. Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO, informed that total contribution to the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC) would remain the same as last fiscal year in the amount of \$51,254.00. There are no changes to the agreement; everything will remain the same.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Ms. Julie Engel, Executive Director from GYEDC, and her staff for the job they have done and the support given to the city.

There were no comments and/or questions from members of the Council.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. C. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the contract with Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC, for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager, and Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO)

Ms. Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO, informed that the agreement with Ramirez Advisor Inter-National, LLC, was increased by \$5,000.00 to continue lobbying for the projects the city currently has.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Mr. Luis Ramirez and his staff for the great job they have done for the city.

There were no comments and/or questions from members of the Council.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. D. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the contribution to the Greater Yuma Port Authority, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager, and Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO)

Ms. Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO, informed that the contribution to Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA) has not changed from the previous year. The contribution amount is \$50,000.00.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Buna George from GYPA and her staff for the great job they have done for the city. He also thanked Matias Rosales for the work they have done and support given in the Industrial Parks and working together with the different cities.

Mr. Matias Rosales, Chairman of the GYPA thanked the City Council for the support and trust they had given him to chair this organization.

Ms. Buna George from GYPA thanked Mayor and Council for the continued support given to this organization.

There were no comments and/or questions from members of the Council.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. E. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the agreement with the Humane Society of Yuma for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager, and Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO)

Ms. Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO, informed that Humane Society of Yuma requested \$55,000.00 for this fiscal year to continue services with the City of San Luis. She mentioned that the only change to the agreement is to include the spay and neuter of animals within the city limits.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Annette Lagunas and her staff for the excellent service they have provided to the city.

There were no comments and/or questions from members of the Council.

Ms. Annette Lagunas, Executive Director of Humane Society of Yuma (HSOY), thanked Mayor and City Council for the continued partnership and for allowing HSOY to provide the services to the city.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. F. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the proposed agreement with Portable Practical Education Preparation, Inc. (PPEP) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager, and Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO)

Ms. Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO, informed that the contribution to the Youth Build Program of Portable Practical Education Preparation, Inc., has not increased and will remain the same as last fiscal year in the amount of \$30,000.00. Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Jesse Lopez, Youth Build Program Coordinator, for the great job they do in the community, especially with youth members. He directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of Council.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. G. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the dues to Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager, and Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO)

Ms. Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO, informed that this fiscal year contribution to Yuma Planning Organization (YMPO) is of \$13,319.42.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Paul Ward from YMPO and Maria Cecilia Cruz for the excellent job they have done in the organization and their leadership.

Vice Mayor Maria Cecilia Cruz stated that it had been an honor to serve on the YMPO board as it has been a learning experience.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. H. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the contract with Amberly's Place, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager, and Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO)

Ms. Franica Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO, informed that Amberly's Place is requesting \$42,000.00; this includes an increase of \$192.00; there are no changes to the agreement.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Amberly's Place for the services they provide not only to San Luis but to Yuma County.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. I. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2135. A resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving a contribution to the transit fund for the Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) Public Transportation Services. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Manager, and Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO)

Ms. Francia Alonso, Assistant to Council/PIO, informed that this year's contribution to Yuma County Area Transit (YCAP) Public Transportation Service is for \$70,573.00.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Ralph Velez, City Consultant, for representing the city on this board. He thanked YCAP for the excellent services they provide to San Luis.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco asked if the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the service.

Ms. Shelly Kreger, Executive Director for YCAP, replied that the pandemic has affected the service provided, as services had been reduced. She mentioned that since March 2020, ridership had decreased 75%, masks are required to receive service, social distancing is done on the buses. She added that YCAT is making sure that they provide the best reliable service to Yuma County.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Shelly Kreger for the services they provide to the community.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Alonso to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Gloria Torres/Council Member Jose Ponce to adjourn the work session at approximately 7:34 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 Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	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 July 1, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk