

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
June 23, 2021
7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the Regular City Council meeting to order at approximately 7:01 p.m.

Mayor, City Council, and some members of staff participated remotely.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Administrator
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Axel Chaira, I.T. Department
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Glenn Gimbut, Assistant City Attorney
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jonathan Dumadag, I.T. Department
Jorge Perez, Billing & Collections Manager
Jose Luis Cisneros, Executive Assistant
Mary French-Jones, Grant Writer
Miguel Ramirez, Acting Assistant Director of Finance
Monica Castro, Director of Finance
Richard Jessup, Chief of Police
Rosalva Leon, Human Resources Coordinator
Roula Encinas, Acting Assistant Director of Finance
David Nuñez, Arizona State University Intern
Guadalupe Bustamante, Arizona State University Intern
Adelaida Buchanan, Resident
Buna George, Director to Greater Yuma Port Authority
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter
Christian Cuevas, Translator
Gary Snyder, Resident
Guillermina Fuentes, Resident

Paul Brierly, Executive Director to University of Arizona
Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Jose Ponce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Richard Jessup, Chief of Police, led the invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4. A. Presentation on any and all matters regarding Greater Yuma Port Authority's activities. (Buna George, Executive Director to Greater Yuma Port Authority)

Ms. Buna George, Executive Director to Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA), briefly presented a PowerPoint presentation providing their summary of events. She spoke about the Member Entities, GYPA's Timeline, Travel Restrictions, Collaborative Events, Magrino Industrial Park and their action items. Ms. George thanked the City of San Luis for the partnership. The presentation is filed with the City Clerk's Office with the complete agenda packet.

4. B. Presentation on any and all matters regarding the COVID-19 Sewage Testing Early Warning Program. (Paul E. Brierley, Executive Director to The University of Arizona Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture)

Mr. Paul E. Brierley, Executive Director to The University of Arizona Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture (YCEDA), stated that YCEDA was asked by one of the donors if there was something they could do to help Yuma County get back to work safely, specifically with the vegetable season coming up. They decided in the process utilized in Tucson at the University of Arizona to analyze wastewater and look for the virus that causes COVID-19. This can be detected a week before someone who was infected would have symptoms. Mr. Brierley provided a presentation on how the Waste-Based Epidemiology (WBE) works and its possible uses. He hopes to get a sample from the San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez thanked Mr. Brierley for the presentation and added that this tool gave an opportunity to the residents of the City of San Luis to be inform of the virus.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. A. MINUTES OF

- Work Session held May 19, 2021**
- Regular Council meeting held May 26, 2021**

5. B. DISBURSEMENTS FROM JUNE 2, 2021 TO JUNE 14, 2021

Total Disbursements \$1,650,223.05

(One Million, Six Hundred Fifty Thousand, Two Hundred, Twenty - Three Dollars and Five Cents)

MOTION: Council Member Gloria Torres/Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr. to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

6. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding an informational update on the Mesa Street Improvements project. (Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, said that a work session was held in May 2020 for a public hearing at which the City Council selected Mesa Street as one of the priority projects to be submitted to the Arizona Department of Housing for Community Development Block Grant. In August 2020, staff began the design of the project and titled it Mesa Street Improvements Phasing Project. Phase 1 includes improvement to the roads, sidewalks, curb and gutter, ADA ramps, storm draining and retaining wall. Phase 2 includes the tie-ins for C and D Streets road improvements, curb and gutter, sidewalk, pedestrian concrete steps with safety rails and private land acquisition.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, explained a graphic as shown on the PowerPoint presentation, attached to the complete Agenda Packet filed at the City Clerk's Office. He spoke about what staff thinks is the best layout and circulation for Phase 1. There was some dialogue regarding the drainage requirements/removal as well as the easements or acquisition of land on the east and west property corners to fit the sidewalk ramps and one-way/two-way width roads.

Ms. Torres mentioned that staff is negotiating with five (5) owners for the land acquisition. The staff is requesting an easement, which is an authorization for the city to perform improvement but they will still own the land. This is being done as part of the application to obtain site control and not be disqualified. But staff will go back to the City Council and recommend the purchase of the land. The acquisition of the land will improve the area and increase the value of their property.

She added that the engineer's cost estimate for Phase 1 is \$908,565.00; and Phase 2 is \$211,856.00. The final cost estimate for the private land acquisition is unknown, as it is still going through the appraisal process.

The city is applying for \$626,215.00, the city has allocated \$486,320.00 from the General Fund and the HURF account for Phase 1 and 2 but not for the land acquisition. The application is due next week and the funds/alternative award of funds will be awarded mid August. Site control of private land is for January 2022, begin construction in March 2022 and completion in September 2022. These dates are estimates and are based on the site control. Staff encountered challenges and received good news from Yuma County Water Users Association and they are willing to work with staff in regards to the drainage system. An application was submitted to Bureau of Land Management to acquire specific parts of land in downtown that would focus in parks. One of the items that residents addressed is the commercial truck traffic and access obstruction on C Street. What residents are complaining about is the traffic heading southbound and the deliveries happening as those trucks block any resident from having access to their property. Once the improvements are constructed, this will no longer be able to do that as enforcement will be stronger.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez added that this project has been talked about for approximately six (6) years. He thanked staff for the update and looks forward for the opportunity for these improvements.

6. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding an increase of the purchase price of an ambulance above the price City Council approved in September of 2020. (Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief)

Mr. Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, stated that this item was presented to the City Council in September 2020. After the purchase price, during the build staff learned some material during the COVID-19 phase and added a special UV light to the ambulance. This addition increased the price in the amount of \$701.00. He requested that the Mayor and City Council ratify purchase order #2021-696 to Republic EVS in the amount of \$701.00

MOTION: Council Member Jose Ponce/Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco to ratify the \$701.00 increased price to purchase the ambulance as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

6. C. Public hearing followed by discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2187. A resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. (Monica Castro, Director of Finance)

A. Open public hearing

MOTION: Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco/Council Member Jose Ponce to open the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

1. Staff Presentation

Ms. Monica Castro, Director of Finance, explained that two (2) weeks ago, staff presented the tentative budget to the Mayor and City Council for approval, since then, the tentative budget was published in the local newspaper inviting the public to comment. After the tentative budget was approved, it was brought to staff's attention the need to add an additional position to the budget. It was the Code Enforcement position to ensure compliance for the Public Works and business activities. In order to accommodate this request, staff removed an assistant position for Public Works and reallocated some expenses. This change did not increase the budget, nor changed the positions considered in the budget; by state statute, the budget cannot be increased after it is presented and staff can only reallocate resources to make sure that the needs for the city are met. Staff recommends approval of the final budget for Fiscal Year 2022 of \$94,976,387.00.

Council Member Matias Rosales commented that in reading the newspaper it read the city was in a deficit and asked if this is incorrect.

Ms. Castro stated that the city is not in deficit and the budget is balanced. In fact, it is required by state statute, that City Council cannot adopt a budget that is not balanced, but in order to balance the budget, it is not only taking the revenues and expenditures. One has to make sure that the recurring revenues match recurring expenditures. Also, that there be carrying balances from prior years, therefore staff has to make sure that those match with one-time expenditures because those are not going to occur again, specially with COVID-19 that the city did not spend as much since travel was suspended and some projects were delayed. The city was able to accumulate a positive carryover that will be able used next year for projects.

She indicated on the spreadsheet displayed during the City Council meeting, that the balance net position shows \$28 million which include the positive balances. The bottom line demonstrates the resources available in the amount of \$142 million which is a positive carryover versus the city's projected expenditures of \$89 million that does not include the transfers out.

Council Member Luis Cabrera asked when will the projects happen and if an estimated timeline could be provided or presented to the City Council within the next two (2) upcoming work sessions.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez added that he agrees but the city is dynamic and unfortunately with the pandemic staff is not sure. Staff can say the projects are going to be done in a particular time but if they are not, what happens then. There is a list of the projects and the presentations from the different departments, it is very difficult to commit as there might be another delay if the pandemic occurs once again as COVID-19 is not over yet. He stressed that the city is not in a deficit and projects will get done; it is important that the community knows that project need to get done.

2. Call to the public on this item

There were no comments from the public on this item.

B. Close public hearing

MOTION: Council Member Matias Rosales/Council Member Jose Ponce to close the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

C. Action on Resolution No. 2187

MOTION: Council member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Luis Cabrera to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2187. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

6. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2021-6. An order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona declaring the Employee Benefits Plans a public record; approving the Employee Benefits Plans for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for administration by the San Luis Employee Benefits Trust; providing for repeal of conflicting actions of City Council; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date for the plans. (Edgardo Carbajal, Acting Director of Human Resources)

Ms. Rosalva Leon, Human Resources Coordinator, mentioned that staff recommends approval of the Employee Benefits Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The Employee Benefits Trust approved the Employee Benefits Plan at their meeting of April 16, 2021. The final budget amount allocated for benefits plans is \$3,514,079.00 and it is to take effect July 1, 2021.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that as Chairman of the Board, the employees' premiums are not going to be increased, the city continues to offer one of the best medical plans for employees thanks to the broker. The number of claims have been higher but has managed to keep costs down in regards to the employee's premiums.

MOTION: Council Member Jose Ponce/Council Member Luis Cabrera to approve Order No. 2021-6. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

7. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez reported that the City of San Luis continues its internship programs, currently the city has nine (9) interns from Arizona State University (ASU).

This programs helps the interns gain experience in the various departments of how government functions. He also mentioned that the funds for the Port of Entry that is needed, supposedly it was \$90 million, now it appears that it will be over \$100 million. There is support from the Arizona Congressional Delegation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, General Services Administration and the federal government. He also reported that the Mexican authorities are working attentively regarding Avenida Morelos and Archibald Street in fixing the problem that is created in the evenings, NADBANK has responded regarding the funding of the studies but should know within two (2) weeks. He met last week with the different organizations about the situations at the Ports of Entry and borders. The city is facilitating with the Mexican Consulate and Ms. Amanda Aguirre, vaccinations of the Johnson & Johnson at the Port of Entry 2. If this goes well, they will continue to provide vaccinations to the counterparts in Mexico, specially those in the industry.

Council Member Matias Rosales reported he was invited by ADOT to attend the back to live training sessions for the cross-border truck drivers training. In attending that meeting Officer Carbajal found the garage gate opener for the gate ADOT has at the Magrino Park. He also attend the Yuma County Planning & Zoning meeting and added that tomorrow he will attend the Greater Yuma Port Authority meeting in the morning and the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization in the afternoon. He also informed that the Nationals Bike Ride will take place in October 2021. He also saw city employees participating in the kickball program last night and it felt great to see them back in the park having fun.

Council Member Luis Cabrera reported that he joined the 38th Annual NALEO Conference this morning. He thanked the Department Heads for the monthly reports submitted and Parks & Recreation for the different things going on for the citizens, kids and youth of the community.

Council Member Jose Ponce reported that he continues to assist Mr. Manuel Castro, Gethsemani Food Ministry, in the distribution of food boxes to members of the community. He has been attending the Campesinos Sin Fronteras events and is very active at the Senior Center activities.

8. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Gary Snyder, PO Box 2191, San Luis, Arizona, congratulated the Mayor and City Council for the 4th of July, adding that it is great to have it open for the community. He stated that he was going to wait a few minutes or pass because he is waiting on a legal document to go by and has not received it yet.

Ms. Guillermina Fuentes, 1630 N. 9th Avenue, San Luis, Arizona, congratulated the Mayor and City Council for the work they are doing for this community. She added that it does not matter how hard the City Council works, they will be criticized but do not feel bad because there are evil people outside who will do it. At least the City Council gets compensated and as School Board Members they do not get paid to receive all the garbage.

She recommended the City Council to not get frustrated as people chose them to represent them because they believe in them and it does not matter what two (2), three (3) or four (4) toxic people say about the City Council. She asked the Mayor and City Council to continue working hard so that they do not let citizens down.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vote to hold an 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 attorneys regarding County 24th Street and Avenue E. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney Glenn Gimbut)

MOTION: Council Member Matias Rosales/Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr. to go into Executive Session at approximately 8:26 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

10. MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco/Council Member Jose Ponce to go back into Regular Session at approximately 8:44 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco/Council Member Jose Ponce to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	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 Regular City Council meeting of the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on June 23, 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk