

**APPROVED** by Council  
Date: 8/11/2021  
Clerks Office: SC

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**San Luis City Council**  
**San Luis Council Chambers**  
**1090 E. Union Street**  
**July 28, 2021**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the Regular City Council meeting to order at approximately 7:00 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  
Aracely De La Hoya, Senior Services Manager  
Domingo Sosa, I.T. Department  
Glenn Gimbut, Assistant City Attorney  
Janet Taylor, Legal Secretary  
Jonathan Dumadag, I.T. Department  
Jorge Perez, Billing & Collections Manager  
Jossue Cerda, I.T. Department  
Lizandro Galaviz, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Marlene Lara, Assistant to the Mayor and City Council/PIO  
Monica Castro, Director of Finance  
Ralph Velez, City Consultant  
Richard Jessup, Chief of Police  
Rosalva Leon, Human Resources Coordinator  
Buna George, Executive Director for Greater Yuma Port Authority  
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter  
Columba Nuñez, Resident  
Christian Cuevas, Translator  
David Lara, Resident  
Gary Snyder, Resident  
Joel Serpas, Taxi Cab Owner  
Luis Marquez, Resident

Maria Cecilia Cruz, Resident

## **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Matias Rosales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. INVOCATION**

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

## **4. PRESENTATION**

### **4. A. Introduction of the City of San Luis new hires for the 1st Quarter from January through March 2021. (Rosalva Leon, Human Resources Coordinator)**

Ms. Rosalva Leon, Human Resources Coordinator, presented the names of the new hires for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter from January through March 2021.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **5. A. MINUTES OF**

- **Work Session held July 7, 2021**
- **Regular Council meeting held July 14, 2021**

### **5. B. DISBURSEMENTS FROM JUNE 29, 2021 TO JULY 20, 2021**

**Total Disbursements \$1,580,087.30**

**(One Million, Five Hundred Eighty Thousand, Eighty-Seven Dollars and Thirty Cents)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Gloria Torres/Council Member Jose Ponce 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 Ordinance No. 418. An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, amending the San Luis City Code; Section 5.15.090 of the City Code which provides for a system of issuance and regulation for border area taxi vehicle permits amending subsection 5.15.090(F) limiting the number of permits to any single business; providing an effective date; repealing any conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Tadeo A. De La Hoya, City Administrator)**

Mr. Tadeo De La Hoya, City Administrator, stated this is an amendment to the border area taxi permit ordinance at the request of the users; limiting to no more than five (5) permits to a single taxi cab business. If any feasible changes were provided by the users, staff would work with them.

**A. Action on Reading of Ordinance No. 418 by title only**

**MOTION:** Council Member Jose Ponce/Council Member Luis Cabrera to approve the reading of Ordinance No. 418 by title only. 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

Mrs. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 418 by title only.

**B. Action on Ordinance No. 418**

**MOTION:** Council Member Jose Ponce/Council Member Luis Cabrera to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 418 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. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2189. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis adopting a Conflict of Interest Procedures to supplement the City of San Luis Personnel Policies; repealing any conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Monica Castro, Director of Finance)**

Ms. Monica Castro, Director of Finance, explained that this resolution is regarding the conflict of interest procedures. The Human Resources Policy Manual prohibits employees to engage in activities or decisions where employees have a conflict of interest. Staff likes guidelines that will indicate how to manage these conflict instances that arise. It is in the city's best interest and best practices to have guidance for these actions and to know how to avoid them. This resolution will be a supplement to the city's Human Resources Policy.

**MOTION:** Council Member Jose Ponce/Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2189, Conflict Policy 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. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Ordinance No. 419. An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, amending the San Luis City Code, Title III, Revenue and Finance, Chapter 3.05 Purchasing, Sections 3.05.010, In General, and 3.05.080 Professional Services to change the amounts and procedures for purchases; repealing any conflicting provisions; providing for severability; and declaring an emergency. (Monica Castro, Director of Finance)**

Ms. Monica Castro, Director of Finance, detailed that the current Procurement Code was adopted in 1982; since then the situation has changed enormously. The cost of living has increased, the city has experienced a lot of growth and the operations have increased which has created a disconnection between the threshold amounts currently in the Procurement Code. With the changing costs of the items being purchased, the disconnection has also created inefficiencies in the operation of the city. This ordinance will amend the current Procurement Code. This will help simplify the code to reflect the operations of the city and expand the process needing more clarification. Some of the proposed changes are to reduce the number of categories, increase the number of threshold, eliminate a service contract clause to incorporate in the professional service class and to increase the threshold from \$15,000.00 to \$45,000.00 before any items are presented to the Mayor and City Council.

**A. Action on Reading of Ordinance No. 419.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Gloria Torres to approve the reading of Ordinance No. 419 by title only. 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

Mrs. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 419 by title only.

**B. Action on Ordinance No. 419.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Jose Ponce to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 419 and declare an emergency. 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 he participated in a Zoom meeting with Senator Mark Kelly and added that this was the final meeting he held with the Arizona Delegation. The City of San Luis has 100% support from Democrats and Republicans of the Arizona Delegation to improve the ports not only for Port of Entry I but also part of Douglas and Nogales. He added that Senator Mark Kelly indicated the money is in the presidential budget. Everything is aligned and it is just a matter of time. On a separate note, he added that the city will now have podcasts that will be informative to the public from the departments on different projects.

Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco reported that herself and Ms. Angelica Roldan, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, attended the first Regional Advisory Committee meeting today, created by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area.

The purpose of this committee is to include South County in the history and heritage that revolves in Yuma County.

Council Member Matias Rosales reported he attended the Yuma County Planning & Zoning meeting yesterday and mentioned that Yuma County adopted and recommended the Master Bike Path Plan for the county. He will be attending the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting tomorrow; an invitation was sent to the Mayor and City Council for the ribbon cutting ceremony next week for Highway 95 and Avenue 9E ADOT project. He will also be attending the Greater Yuma Port Authority meeting next month as scheduled.

Council Member Jose Ponce reported he has been attending sessions with Hospice of Yuma to learn about their services and relay that information to the community.

## **8. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Eliza Lazalde, resident, 1312 San Pedro Street, San Luis, AZ stated she had a complaint regarding the proclamation adopted a week ago limiting the entrance to the Senior Center to people under the age of 60. She has been a volunteer at the Senior Center for 17 years through agencies like WACOG, Yuma Community Food Bank and the program VITA which belongs to the IRS. She also added that she has assisted senior filling out forms or documents when needed and with this proclamation her entrance to the Senior Center is prohibited. Mr. Lazalde wanted to speak to the Mayor but he refused to hear her version; by then Cynthia from Parks & Recreation had already talked about her. And the Mayor indicated that he could not do any exceptions with no one, referring to her. She asked if this is harrassment against her or abuse of power, because the Senior Center has been opened since June and all of sudden this proclamation is adopted.

Mr. Christian Cuevas, 266 N. Jenkins Avenue, San Luis, AZ, invited the Mayor and City Council to Mariscos El Navegante for an indoor event to present his racing team from Cueva's Racing Team. This is the only team from the City of San Luis, Arizona that will be racing and the only hispanic team racing in this event.

Ms. Maria Robles, 1195 California Street, San Luis, AZ, said that she has been asked for the support to include farm workers in the immigration reform that is already in Congress to be voted upon. A total of 5,000 support cards need to be completed and will be submitted to Senator Kyrsten Sinema's Office to ask her to vote in favor of the immigration reform. She asked the Mayor and City Council for their support.

Ms. Guillermina Fuentes, 1630 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Luis, AZ, stated that she knows of a controversial situation the City Council is going through and asked the Mayor and City Council to do the right thing.

Ms. Martha Servin, resident, indicated that she also heard about the situation the City Council is going through, and does not know if the City Council already decided or will decide.

She asked those Elected Officials involved in the recall process or attempt, whom they should be thankful to God that the recall did not go through, why not give the opportunity to that person to continue in its position.

Mr. David Lara, resident, stated he was there in reference to the meeting the Mayor had with the Yuma Port Authority and asked for clarification on how many Public Information Officers the city has; and who was at that particular meeting, how does someone acquire access.

Mr. Gary Snyder, resident, asked what is the oath of an elected officer; he added that he is the gentleman for the recall and he let it go. Residents expect as an elected officer to do the best for the community. There is one that was fingerprinted, another one that possibly got fingerprinted and there is another that he will talk about a bit later; this is hurting the community. Now for the school district they just came out on MSN and Wall Street which is not good for local schools. So the question Mr. David Lara had is who was at the meeting, because there is a gentleman he believes might have been Council Member Matias Rosales' son; he asked if he is employed with the city. He asked/commented why was not Council Members Jose Ponce, Luis Cabrera, Gloria Torres or Mario Buchanan available to be there. Mr. Snyder asked how is a non-employee son of a gentleman invited and not a City Council Member. As a PIO, he does not understand...they did business with Homeland Security. This undermines the power of misuse of a City Council Member as well. He asked how far does the City Council go with the misuse of power within the city. It has been seen in various times, this is abuse of power and nepotism. He recommended to the Mayor and City Council to gather together and decide what they will do to see who was the real problem of adding the son. He knows the City Council will vote on who they like to go or not, it does not really matter if they do let him go or not, the point is, he believes the City Council should be watching another person as well.

Ms. Maribel Holguin, resident and taxi cab owner, stated she is owner of Adonai Transportation and currently has eight (8) taxis and the ordinance adopted by the City Council lowered the number of permits to five (5). This highly impacts her because she will have to cut three (3) taxis meaning that three (3) people will be without a job. She added that at the time she applied for her permits, she invested in three (3) additional vehicles and asked the Mayor and City Council to consider a refund of the investment made or to reconsider the ordinance adopted tonight.

Mr. Joel Serpas, resident and taxi cab owner, said he is also affected by the ordinance adopted tonight by the City Council regarding the limit of five (5) taxi permits. He asked what is the idea of limiting them to five (5) taxi permits. He too will lose two (2) taxis when he did everything the city asked for when he first obtained his permits and it is not only the taxis but the insurance he paid for them and the rent of the office that was a requirement. He asked the Mayor and City Council to think about how their decision is affecting them.

## 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Vote to hold Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) subsections (1), (3), and (4) Discussion and possible action to hold an executive session pursuant to A.R.S. §§38-431.03(A)(1), (3) and (4) on any and all matters relating to the position and contract of the City Manager as delineated in the above-listed statutes and discussion and legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the city regarding same. (Council Member Luis Cabrera, Council Member Jose Ponce and Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Gloria Torres/Council Member Jose Ponce to go into Executive Session at approximately 7:40 p.m. Motion passed with four (4) ayes and three (3) nays.

The vote was as follows:

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

## 10. MOTION TO GO BACK TO REGULAR SESSION

**MOTION:** Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Jose Ponce to go back to Regular Session at approximately 8:09 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

**MOTION:** Council Member Matias Rosales/Mayor Gerardo Sanchez to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m. Motion died as there were three (3) ayes and four (4) nays.

The vote was as follows:

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

#### 11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM:

##### **11. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the position and contract of the City Manager. (Council Member Luis Cabrera, Council Member Jose Ponce, and Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis Cabrera/Council Member Jose Ponce due to the desire to have negotiations for a mutual severance agreement between the city and Mr. De La Hoya, moved to put Mr. De La Hoya on administrative leave with pay to allow negotiations to occur and to direct the City Attorney to negotiate and prepare a mutual severance agreement and bring it back before City Council on August 11, 2021. Motion passed with four (4) ayes and three (3) nays.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez asked for a roll call vote.

The vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Tadeo De La Hoya, City Administrator, thanked God, his mother, Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Members for the support and city staff for the last 22 years of service he gave to the community and every opponent that has supported him or advised him while performing the duties as City Administrator for the City of San Luis, Arizona; he added it was an honor.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez said he has known Mr. De La Hoya for almost 12 years, he was worked with him through almost bankruptcy and difficult times. They have seen the city grow from 17,000 to almost 36,000 in these 12 years. He thanked Mr. De La Hoya for his continuous effort and work.

## 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Vote to hold Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) subsections (1), (3), and (4) Discussion and possible action to hold an executive session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) subsections (1), (3) and (4) on any and all matters relating to the position of City Manager and the recruitment, employment, assignment, appointment, and salaries of the position, including the possible appointment of Interim City Manager, and consultation with the attorney or attorneys of the City regarding same. (Council Member Luis Cabrera, Council Member Jose Ponce, and Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis Cabrera/Council Member Jose Ponce to go into Executive Session at approximately 8:13 p.m. Motion passed with four (4) ayes and three (3) nays.

The vote was as follows:

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

## 13. MOTION TO GO BACK TO REGULAR SESSION

**MOTION:** Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco to go back to Regular Session 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

## 14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM:

**14. A. Discussion and possible action regarding any and all matters relating to the position of City Manager and the recruitment, employment, assignment, appointment, and/or salaries of the position, including possible action appointing an Interim City Manager. (Council Member Luis Cabrera, Council Member Jose Ponce, and Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis Cabrera/Council Member Jose Ponce to appoint the City Attorney Kay Macuil as Acting City Manager for the City of San Luis for a time period of approximately two (2) weeks. Motion passed with four (4) ayes and three (3) nays.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez asked for a roll call vote.

The vote was as follows:

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

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis Cabrera/Council Member Jose Ponce to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 8:46 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

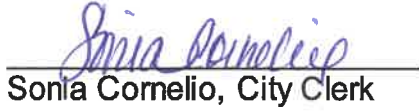
Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco	Aye
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Jose Ponce	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye

**APPROVED:**



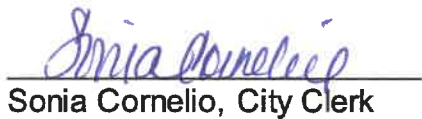
Gerardo Sanchez, Mayor

**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 July 28, 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

  
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk