

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
September 1, 2021
6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the Work Session to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Council Member Matias Rosales

OTHERS PRESENT: Lizandro Galaviz, Interim City Manager
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Aracely De La Hoya, Senior Services Manager
Crystal Fragozo, Administrative Coordinator
Derek Dueñas, IT Manager
Domingo Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Francia Alonso, Assistant to Mayor and Council
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jorge Perez, Billing & Collections Manager
Josue Cerda, IT Department
Marco A. Santana, Police Lieutenant

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the appointment of a Council Member to serve on the Western Arizona Economic Development District (WAEDD). (Francia Alonso, Acting Assistant to Mayor and Council)

Ms. Francia Alonso, Acting Assistant to Mayor and Council, informed that on June 2, 2021, the mayor and Council directed staff to contribute to the Western Arizona Economic Development District (WAEDD).

As part of the membership contribution, she mentioned that the city is to recommend and appoint an elected member to the WAEDD Executive Committee. She commented that one of the most important benefits of the EDD designation is the city's eligibility for EDA's competitive grant awards. Ms. Alonso informed that this board holds monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.; currently, they are holding Zoom meetings.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez asked council members if anyone is interested in this board to please inform staff to be nominated. In addition, he requested Ms. Alonso to obtain more information as to what this will entail to the city.

Council Member Luis Cabrera stated that he is willing to become part of this board.

Council Member Gloria Torres commented that she could not participate on this board as she is already part of two (2) Western Arizona Council of Government boards.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the purchase of a new ambulance. (Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief)

Mr. Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, mentioned that this purchase was discussed during the budget retreat. The department currently has four (4) ambulances, with one (1) serving as a backup. He commented that this purchase staff would like to implement four (4) active ambulances for the City of San Luis which one (1) backup ambulance, as a new Fire Station is currently being built. He mentioned that the two (2) frontline ambulances are 2015 models and are still in good condition and could be used as a backup. He noted that some of the problems with the current units are that the AC units are failing due to the heat.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Chief Ramirez to proceed with this item as agreed by all city council members.

2. C. Update on any and all matters regarding the street intersection expansions on 4th Avenue and Cesar Chavez Boulevard and 10th Avenue and Cesar Chavez Boulevard. (Council Member Luis Cabrera and Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)

Council Member Luis Cabrera commented that he requested that this item be placed on the agenda due to several complaints he received regarding traffic on 10th Avenue and Cesar Chavez Boulevard, especially now that school has started. Although he stated that he understands that staff is working on the expansion for said boulevard, he asked Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, to please provide an update on this project.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, stated that his office had received several complaints, precisely on 10th Avenue.

He mentioned that there is a completed design for 4th Avenue, 10th Avenue, and Cesar Chavez Boulevard; the hold up on this project is that the city needs the right-of-way (ROW), the existing right-of-way does not match where the existing pavement is. He commented that his office and Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, submitted an application for the required ROW over a year ago to the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. However, it is still pending a response from those two (2) entities. He explained that some funds are budgeted for this project if the required ROW is to be approved during this fiscal year to get the project going. However, there is no estimated time when this ROW will be approved. Furthermore, he added that the layout would continue to be the same as planned. He informed that the State Land Department ROW had been received for 4th Avenue and Cesar Chavez Boulevard, and the city will have ROW in a couple of weeks. Mr. Vera informed this project has been going on for approximately four (4) years, but with this ROW, staff will be able to do some other intersections from 10th Avenue to William Books Avenue.

Council Member Luis Cabrera asked staff to post an update on social media to keep the resident informed.

Mr. Vera replied that staff would proceed to work on a post for social media to update the community.

Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr. asked if the intersection on 10th Avenue is also included in the development agreement with Comite de Bienestar and Riedel Construction.

Mr. Vera replied that, as Council Member Buchanan Jr. mentioned, the intersection is in the development agreement with both Comite de Bienestar and Riedel Construction, from which both will pay half of the cost of the project.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez asked the city council members, if they received any other complaints, to please have the resident call the city to make a formal complaint and keep a record of all complaints coming. He mentioned that it is essential that the community is aware that there are procedures for complaints; this can be addressed immediately.

Mr. Vera informed that in 6th Avenue and Cesar Chavez Boulevard, there is an agreement with Gadsden School District No. 32 (GESD#32), which states that they will be paying for half of the cost for a traffic signal once the city is ready.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez mentioned that once the city is ready for the 6th Avenue and Cesar Chavez Boulevard traffic signal, staff makes sure that GESD#32 gets proper notice to budget accordingly for this project.

2. D. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding vehicular traffic control during peak hours. (Council Member Luis Cabrera and Richard Jessup, Chief of Police)

Council Member Luis Cabrera stated that this item is the problem on the intersection of 10th Avenue and Cesar Chavez Boulevard now that school has started.

Lieutenant Marco Santana replied that as he has driven up the community during peak traffic hours adding that the other heavy traffic areas are 8th Avenue, Cesar Chavez Boulevard, County 22nd Street, and Sidewinder Road. He commented that the primary issue is manpower. He added that there had been some modifications to make sure those areas were covered; in the morning, the detectives help with traffic flow on those areas in the afternoon the administration units help those areas. He informed that the Police Department is in the hiring process for officers, at least one (1) will be hired by the end of the month and five (5) are in the process of attending the academy.

Council Member Luis Cabrera asked if a police officer is assigned to the east San Luis, as this area also has high traffic.

Lieutenant Santana replied that there are no officers assigned to specific areas; each officer drives through the community's different areas as there are not enough officers. The San Luis Police Department is among the agencies in the State of Arizona that are down on officers.

Discussion among members of the city council was held with Lieutenant Santana, but the recording was inaudible.

Council Member Luis Cabrera asked if traffic enforcement officers could help with the traffic flow.

Lieutenant Santana replied that traffic enforcement officers are not sworn in; this person is focused on the city's code enforcement dealing with parking violations. There is only one (1) person doing this task; there are two (2) positions available full-time. The issue is that interviews have been held, but they are out by the time of the background check.

Vice-Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco asked if the schools could help with traffic control at the schools.

Lieutenant Santana replied that this topic had been discussed, this year the San Luis Police Department gave a course to GESD#32 crosswalk guard, but for traffic control, this will bring liability to the city, as during the class they are directed to not do traffic control, their main job is to hold the stop sign so that kids can cross the street.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that the focus would be to hire more police officers; as the city is getting bigger, more officers are needed.

2. E. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding placement of shades and benches at the temporary taxi stand. (Council Member Luis Cabrera; Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works; Jose Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning and Richard Jessup, Chief of Police)

Council Member Luis Cabrera mentioned that he requested this item because a cab driver approached him with a border area taxi permit complaining about not having any type of shades in the designated area.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, mentioned that this item was brought up, but no direction was given as to what type of infrastructure was to be installed. He commented that the city has the right-of-way; there is room to place something in that area. He added that this is doable, and staff contacted Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) to obtain quotes for shade, and it came out at approximately \$16,000.00, but it all depends on what will be placed. He mentioned that YCAT also has some used structures available.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez informed that the previous city manager was working with YCAT to obtain a donated structure, but nothing was done. He asked if the structure was to be purchase, who would be responsible for paying for the temporary structures. Adding that it will be temporary because once the San Luis Port of Entry I expansion begins, all that area will disappear, and they will have to be moved off that area.

Mr. Vera replied that building something is not something that the city would like to do. He added that with conversations with YCAT, they mentioned that shelters could be installed at YCAT designated areas but not for private business companies to use. He noted that it would be the council's decision if they would like to install a temporary structure.

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Interim City Manager, mentioned that he will follow up on the donation and return to the city council with an update.

Mayor Sanchez directed Mr. Galaviz and Mr. Vera to please follow up on this item and provide an update.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Luis Cabrera to adjourn the Work Session at approximately 7:22 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 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 Work Session minutes for the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on September 1, 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk