

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
January 5, 2022
6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the Work Session to order at approximately 6:32 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Council Member Luis Cabrera

OTHERS PRESENT: Lizandro Galaviz, Interim City Manager
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Maria A. Roldan, Acting Director of Parks & Recreation
Axel Chayra, IT Technician
Doming Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jorge Perez, Billing & Collections Manager
Jose A. Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning
Jose L. Cisneros, Executive Assistant
Monica Castro, Director of Finance
Ralph Velez, City Consultant – via Zoom
Roula Encinas, Acting Assistant Director of Finance
Richard Jessup, Police Chief
Ruben Lopez, IT Technician
Susan K. Thorpe, Yuma County Administrator
Cesar Neyoy, Bajo El Sol Reporter

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Presentation followed by discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the Yuma County broadband middle-mile fiber backbone project. (Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, and Susan K. Thorpe, Yuma County Administrator)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, Ms. Susan K. Thorpe, Yuma County Administrator, Mr. Paul Bradley, University of Arizona, and Mr. Mark Smith, Smith Farms, made a presentation regarding the Yuma County Broadband Middle Mile Fiber Backbone Project. Ms. Torres mentioned that all of them have been making presentations to the Yuma County Board of Supervisors to negotiate with ALLO Communications, the potential company that could come in and help with this project.

Ms. Susan K. Thorpe, Yuma County Administrator, made a PowerPoint presentation, which is included with the complete agenda packet filed in the City Clerk's Office. This presentation covered the following: Goal, What is Broadband?, Six Ways Americans access the internet, Why is Rural Broadband Important? What is Being Built and Why, Why a County-owned Broadband Backbone Network?, Proposed Yuma County Network, Task Force Members and Broadband Task Force Activities, Proposals Received and Evaluated, Why ALLO Communications?, Broadband Backbone Estimated Timeline, Funding Framework, and Direction and Next Steps.

Mr. Mark Smith of Smith Farms gave a brief presentation on how the Task Force Members came up with the Yuma County Broadband Fiber Backbone Network to help serve the underserved in rural areas within the county. He added that this project would help bring different options of internet providers to improve the lifestyle of the community member and businesses. He stated that the support of this project would benefit the future, the growth, education, and all businesses; this is critical infrastructure.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that the city is aware of the necessity of broadband to the community. He added that he believes that the city needs to invest in broadband infrastructure, as it is becoming as important as regular facilities, such as water, wastewater, etc. He mentioned that he hopes that the other communities will invest in this project as it is an investment for the residents.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and allocation recommendations from staff. (Monica Castro, Director of Finance)

Ms. Monica Castro, Director of Finance, gave a summary of the November 9, 2021, Work Session, where City Council were informed that the city was awarded \$11,615,161 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); those funds are to be obligated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. The eligible categories are: to respond to a COVID-19 health emergency and its negative economic impact, Premium Pay for essential workers, Infrastructure, and Revenue Loss.

She mentioned that staff requested the City Council input during that Work Session, from which staff compiled a list of projects. Ms. Castro made a PowerPoint presentation, which is included with the complete agenda packed filed in the City Clerk's Office. This presentation covered the following: ARPA Grant, Total Projects Submitted, Shortfall, Revenue Loss, Street Proposed Projects, Miscellaneous Projects, Water, Wastewater Infrastructure, Broadband, Premium Pay and Address COVID-19 Negative Economic Impact, and Shortfall \$599,000. She asked Mayor and City Council to review the list of proposed projects and help staff to prioritize what project will be funded with ARPA funds. She clarified that if a project is not selected to be funded with ARPA funds, it does not mean that they will not be funded. Adding that staff is currently working on the preparation of next fiscal year budget, and those projects that are not considered to be funded with said funds can be considered during the budget process. She added that the projects are listed based on the department head's recommendation. She informed that the total of Street projects is \$4,212,779.00, and there is a shortfall of \$2,070,650.00. The Miscellaneous Projects total is \$857,871.00.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez suggested the following Street Projects as they can be shovel ready: 1) Co. 24th Street-Avenue H to Avenue F ½ Roadway Project (between 10th Avenue and Avenue F ½); 2) East San Luis Community Park-Perimeter Street Improvements 24th; 3) County 22nd Street Lights (4th Avenue-Sidewinder Road); 4) East San Luis Community Park-Perimeter Street Improvements 19th Avenue; 5) East San Luis Community Park-Perimeter Street Improvements 20th Avenue; 6) East San Luis Community Park-Perimeter Street Improvements San Antonio Street. He commented that all projects are important, but he believes that the mentioned projects are critical.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, commented that some of the projects could be shovel-ready, adding that some of the projects that the city could face right-of-way limitations. He mentioned that the 4th Avenue Widening between Urtuzuastegui Street and Cesar Chavez Boulevard could be phased into two (2) or three (3) fiscal years.

Council Member Matias Rosales suggested putting aside the Avenue F Widening Cesar Chavez Boulevard to San Luis Lane-Full Width, as the County 24th Street Avenue H to Avenue F ½ Roadway Project would alleviate traffic from on said area.

Ms. Castro mentioned that if both projects are suggested by Mayor and Council to be placed aside, that would clear out the shortfall, and all of the other projects can be covered with the ARPA funds if that is what Mayor and Council wish to do. She asked Mayor and City Council if they would like to remove any items from the Miscellaneous Project listing to relieve some funds for the Broadband and Water Wastewater Infrastructure.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez mentioned that the Miscellaneous Project items were placed by the department head for a reason. He suggested keeping all of the projects in the listing.

Council Member Matias Rosales suggested adding the fencing around the Police Department, as this project has been pushed back in the last two (2) years.

Mr. Richard Jessup, Chief of Police, thanked Council Member Rosales for considering this project and mentioned that if the fencing project is added to the list, this project can be finalized before the end of the current fiscal year.

Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco asked about remodeling the restrooms at the Fernando Padilla Community Center and the exterior painting in the same building. She mentioned that those are low-cost projects and asked why this project has not been done with the current budget.

Ms. Castro replied that those projects could be achieved with the current budget; they are on the list because staff wanted to consider the projects received. She stated that she would be adding the fencing in the Police Department to the Miscellaneous Projects listing. She commented that Mayor and City Council need to review the listing for Water, Wastewater Infrastructure, Broadband, Premium Pay, and Address COVID-19 Negative Economic Impact. This listing is a total of \$8,615,161.00, with a shortfall of \$484,000.00. She asked Mayor and City Council to review the listing and provide their input.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that the premium pay would not be touched; it has to stay.

Council Member Matias Rosales mentioned that the broadband project is just an estimate of the cost; it may be lower at the end.

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, mentioned that the only way to reduce the cost of the broadband project is for the county to apply for a grant from the Arizona Commerce Authority; the applications are due January 31, 2022. Like Council Member Rosales mentioned, the total cost is just an estimate as staff does not know how much will be allocated if the grant is awarded. She commented that if the amount is reduced and the total comes out higher, the city will have to find ways to fund the remaining balance.

Council Member Rosales mentioned that the Economic Development Grant Program is not enough money to help the businesses.

Mr. Torres informed that the City of Somerton provided \$100,000.00 and the City of Yuma provided \$200,000.00 in their grant program. She added that to get this program going, the city will have to hire someone.

Mayor Sanchez suggested removing the \$484,000.00 shortfall from the Water Infrastructure listing, which will not make a significant impact.

Ms. Castro thanked Mayor and City Council for working together and making the selection of projects an easy process.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Matias Rosales/Vice Mayor Africa Luna-Carrasco to adjourn the Work Session at approximately 7:30 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 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 Work Session minutes for the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on January 5, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk