

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
March 2, 2022
6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the Work Session to order at approximately 6:31 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 Matias Rosales
Council Member Gloria Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Lizandro Galaviz, Interim City Manager
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Domingo Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist
Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jonathan Dumadag, Senior IT Technician
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Jose Luis Cisneros, Acting Assistant to Council/PIO
Richard Jessup, Police Chief
Ruben Lopez, IT Technician

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Presentation of the 2021-2022 Mid-Year Report by Ms. Julie Engel, President and CEO of Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation. (Julie Engel, President and CEO of Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation)

Ms. Julie Engel, President and CEO of Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, made a PowerPoint presentation on the 2021-2022 Mid-Year Report. The presentation covered the following topics: Leading Industries, Attraction Activity, Business Retention & Expansion, Grants and Studies, and Project Shaping the Future. A copy of this presentation is filed with the complete agenda packet in the City Clerk's Office.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the Merrill Avenue Improvements Project. (Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager and Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, informed that staff is proposing to continue widening Merrill Avenue from Los Oros Street to County 22nd Street utilizing Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) funds and local funds and make it a two (2) phase project. She noted that the project would widen Merrill Avenue, remove and replace pavement, install drain pipes, sidewalks, curb, and gutter, adjust water valves and sewer manholes, and would add a turn left lane at County 22nd Street. This project will require a 35' right-of-way from the property located to the west of Merrill Avenue. Furthermore, she added that if the city council agrees with staff to widen Merrill Avenue, staff will have to work with the property owner on the west side of Merrill Avenue to acquire the right-of-way. Still, the land is a canal lateral managed by the Yuma County Water Users Association, and the canal will have to be relocated. She commented that staff has talked with a property owner representative, and they are willing to grant the right-of-way to the city.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez mentioned that more vehicles would be crossing the border with the San Luis Port I expansion. He agreed with Ms. Torres to expand Merrill Avenue to alleviate traffic in other streets.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, commented that this is a good project and will help with traffic circulation. He stated that widening would be the best choice and would benefit residents. He added that as part of the design for the roadway, a storm drain would also be included to collect stormwater for the area, which will take it to a future retention basin.

Mayor Sanchez asked staff to proceed with this project, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. C. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the recommendation to City Council to reappoint or appoint directors to the Board of the San Luis Facilities Development Corporation for the terms that expired on July 29, 2021, and to fill a vacancy. (Kay Marion Macuil, General Counsel for the Board and City Attorney)

Ms. Kay Marion Macuil, City General Counsel for the Board and City Attorney, informed that all board members' terms have expired. She explained that this corporation takes care of the San Luis Regional Detention and Support Center. Staff recommends the reappointment of all members, as they all have expressed their willingness to continue serving. She mentioned the Vice President position is currently vacant due to the passing of John Starkey. She informed that Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, has expressed his interest in serving the board, staff is recommending him to fill the vacancy. Furthermore, she explained that the board is the one that will vote to decide who would be the Vice President of their board.

Mayor Sanchez asked staff to proceed with this item, as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. D. Update, followed by discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding Avenue F expansion, including streetlights at San Luis Lane. (Council Member Luis Cabrera and Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)

Council Member Luis Cabrera commented that he would like an update of the design, right-of-way acquisition, and street lighting on San Luis Lane.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, mentioned that this project did not make it to the projects funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding. However, the design of this project will be included in fiscal year 2023 budget. He added that once the design is completed, then staff will generate right-of-way exhibits. Then, the application to the Arizona State Land Department can be submitted to obtain the right-of-way for constructing the roadway. This project will take one (1) year or longer. He added that part that the widening of the intersection goes hand in hand with the widening of the roadway. For this reason, both projects, widening of Avenue F and the expansion of the intersection. Mr. Vera commented that to execute this project, the city will have to go through the Yuma County or annex land for this project to be completed as part of the widening and the intersection belonging to the Yuma County. He mentioned that staff could start doing research at the state for the street lights to see if there is a right-of-way for the existing poles.

Council Member Cabrera stated that he was under the impression that the project's design was included in the current budget, as this was brought during the budget retreat for fiscal year 2022. He asked staff to check with the finance director to see if this was not included.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez commented that this project might off been one of the projects placed aside. Instead, staff wanted to focus on the Cesar Chavez Boulevard expansion project, which has been the city council's priority. He mentioned that once the Cesar Chavez Boulevard is ready, it will be easier to get all those other projects funded. He directed Mr. Vera to start researching the right-of-way to at least start the research and find out if a county or state right-of-way is needed for this project.

Council Member Matias Rosales asked about the estimated cost for the design of this project.

Mr. Vera replied that it is an estimated cost of \$40,000.00. He suggested researching to see if funds will be available for the design; some of the projects included in the current budget will be covered with ARPA funding; if there is funding available, it can cover this project.

Council Member Cabrera commented that for San Luis Lane, it is not necessary to have a street light, but something similar to the crosswalk by the border going into Mexico now that the Somerton School District will be built. He asked if the district was planning on doing something about the pedestrians and traffic in that area.

Mr. Vera replied that staff would address the need of a traffic signal to the Somerton School District.

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Interim City Manager, asked Mr. Vera if he has checked with the Finance Department to see if there is funding available in the current budget for the design of this project.

Mr. Vera replied that he had not had the chance but would talk to the finance director to get the design ready for the traffic signal.

2. E. Update, followed by discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding County 22nd Street and 4th Avenue street improvements. (Council Member Luis Cabrera and Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, informed that staff reached out to the owner of the parcel to the west of the intersection; there is a small piece of land that is needed to fit in the longer radiuses because the current layout which is within the city's right-of-way buses always are on the dirt. He commented that the property owner has agreed to sign off on the deed, this is expected to get done within the following week, and after that process, staff would be able to go out to bid with construction starting within a month.

2. F. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the revision of the current Personnel Policies by a professional agency or consultant. (Council Member Luis Cabrera and Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager)

Council Member Luis Cabrera stated that this item in the agenda is because he is aware that some of the policies within the Human Resources Department are outdated. He understands that there have been some struggles in getting a department head for this department. He mentioned that it would be good to find funding during the fiscal year to hire a professional agency or a consultant to look into the policies and get them updated.

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Interim City Manager, stated that this project is a priority once a department head is hired for this department. Still, there has been a challenge to find a suitable person. He mentioned that he has met with the human resources staff, and they have obtained two (2) quotes which range between \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00. He added that funding is available if the council wants staff to move forward with this project. Mr. Galaviz commented that there are a lot of policies that need to be updated and some that need to be created, as the city grows, there are policies and procedures that are falling in place.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez commented that his understanding was that the city paid Justin Pierce to work on these policies.

Ms. Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney, replied that this was approved but was unsure if he ever invoiced the city for his services.

Mr. Galaviz commented that he was one of the consultants and added that he would confirm with Mr. Pierce when staff spoke to him that information was not communicated.

Mayor Sanchez stated that he was aware that he was paid for the services, and since it was the case, staff needs to get this going. He asked Mr. Galaviz to look into this and bring this item back to the city council.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Luis Cabrera/Council Member Jose Ponce to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:22 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

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 March 2, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk