

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
June 1, 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-joined at 6:38 p.m. via Zoom
Council Member Mario Buchanan Jr.
Council Member Luis Cabrera
Council Member Matias Rosales

ABSENT: Council Member Gloria Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager
Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Domingo Sosa, Graphics & Media Designer
Edgar Esparza, Acting Billing & Collections Manager
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Jose A. Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning
Jose L. Cisneros, Executive Assistant
Miguel Ramirez, Accountant II
Monica Castro, Director of Finance
Nigel Reynoso, Police Lieutenant
Ralph Velez, City Consultant
Roula Encinas, Acting Assistant Director of Finance
Cesar Neyoy, Bajo El Sol
Nidya Mendenhall, Resident
Nieves Riedel, Resident

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the approval of the Lighting and Retention Basin Assessment Districts Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. (Roula Encinas, Acting Assistant Director of Finance)

Ms. Roula Encinas, Acting Assistant Director of Finance, presented to Mayor and City Council the Lighting and Retention Basin Assessment Districts budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. She explained that the districts are local taxes levied on homeowners to fund the maintenance of the retention basin and the street lighting located within the subdivisions where the improvement

districts were created. She added that the total assessment district budget for fiscal year 2022-2033 is \$642,640.00. She informed that the County of Yuma requires City Council's approval to levy the assessments.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez directed Ms. Encinas to proceed with this item as agreed by all members of the City Council.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding the creation of a time capsule. (Council Member Jose Ponce and Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager)

Council Member Jose Ponce commented that this item was presented to the city manager approximately three (3) years ago, but nothing has been done. He mentioned that he had brought it back for discussion to see if this was something that could be done.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez commented that his understanding is that there are two (2) time capsules in the city.

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager, replied that staff had scheduled to do a 40th Anniversary time capsule, but COVID-19 came on board, and everything was canceled. He commented that the recommendation was to come back with the plan for the 45th Anniversary in 2024. This information was provided to Council Member Jose Ponce, and it was also discussed to bring this before the city council to see if the direction is to do something different. He stated that if council desires to move this up and do it as planned during the 40th Anniversary or wait until the 45th Anniversary.

Vice-Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr. commented that he believes there is a time capsule in the Yuma County Library.

Mr. Galaviz stated that the idea during the 40th Anniversary time capsule was to place it by the flag poles at City Hall, and it would be up to the city council if the time capsule was going to be for 25 years, 40 years, or 100 years.

Council Member Matias Rosales asked if the city ever had a time capsule.

Mr. Galaviz replied that not to his understanding.

Mayor Sanchez also commented that his understanding was that there are two (2) time capsules, one (1) at the Yuma County Library and one (1) in the city, but he did not know where. He asked Mr. Galaviz if research could be done to find out if there is one in the city.

Mr. Galaviz stated that the rumor was that there was one located by the entrance of City Hall, but there is no record of it.

Mayor Sanchez directed Mr. Galaviz to research this.

Mr. Galaviz stated that if there is non, staff recommends doing the 45th Anniversary time capsule but will look into the council's direction.

Council Member Jose Ponce stated that he would like to move forward with this project.

Council Member Luis Cabrera asked how time capsules work.

Mr. Galaviz replied that a time capsule is to encapsulate items with the intent to inform people of what was going on when the time capsule was done.

Mayor Sanchez directed Mr. Galaviz to start the process now and if this can be done by the end of 2022 or at the beginning of 2023.

2. C. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding benefits for City of San Luis employees. (Council Member Jose Ponce and Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager)

Council Member Jose Ponce mentioned that currently, the city has 25 part-time employees that do not receive employee benefits; they work 20 to 30 hours a week. He commented that the city spends \$200,000.00 on city council's salaries/benefits. He added that he feels it is unfair as he believes that city council is not even close to the hours that those employees work. Council Member Ponce presented Mayor and City Council salary samples from different cities/towns in Arizona. He proposed Mayor and City Council cut some of the benefits and show the community that city council does care about them and that council is not here because of the "freebies." He also proposed to utilize the money from the benefits to cover those 25 part-time employees.

Mayor Sanchez asked Mr. Ponce if his proposal is to make those part-time employees full-time.

Council Member Ponce replied that yes, that is his proposal.

Mayor Sanchez asked Council Member Ponce if he thinks that those \$200,000.00 will cover the 25 employees to become full-time.

Council Member Ponce responded that the city is spending \$200,000.00 from taxpayer money to pay the council, which is not fair.

Mayor Sanchez asked Council Member Ponce if he values his work.

Council Member Ponce replied that he does, but the part-time employees work 30 hours a week.

Mayor Sanchez asked Council Member Ponce if he would like to make those 25 part-time employees a full-time employees.

Council Member Ponce stated that his proposal is to keep the monthly salary, eliminate City Council benefits, and utilize the money for something else.

Council Member Matias Rosales asked Council Member Ponce if he is talking about giving employees the council's benefits.

Council Member Ponce replied that yes, that is his proposal, as most of the council members have a full-time jobs. He added that even though he is the only one (1) without a job, he is willing to give up his benefits as long as money is saved for the community. He suggested making a survey throughout the city on social media and see what the community thinks. He commented that this year is an election year, which is an excellent way to show people that the council is here to help the community and not to get “freebies.”

Council Member Rosales asked what “freebies” he was referring to and informed that sometimes he spends over 30 hours for the city and that there is no “freebie.” He asked Council Member Ponce if he would like to donate his pay and benefits. He is more than welcome to do that.

Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco thanked Council Member Ponce for bringing this item for discussion as it is a great idea, and she supports him. She added that she did not realize that the city spends over \$200,000.00 on council’s benefits. She agreed with Council Member Rosales that many hours are put up, but it is also the council’s civic duty.

Council Member Ponce commented that to pay the mayor and council, they must go through the voters insome cities.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez agreed with Council Member Ponce and stated that one of them is the City of Yuma, but they are a charter city, while the City of San Luis is not a charter city.

Council Member Luna-Carrasco stated that, especially after the budget session, the director of finance stated that budgeted cuts were needed. She added that this would be a good area to make a cut. She mentioned that that amount of money is not feasible to make all those 25 employees full-time, but maybe five (5) or ten (10) would be a start.

Council Member Luis Cabrera stated that he agrees with Council Member Ponce and Council Member Rosales. He mentioned that his understanding is that the city pays over \$7,000 for health insurance. He stated that in those 25 positions, some are temporary positions, like the lifeguards. He asked what canthe city do with a lifeguard do in December? He agreed that it is a good way to save the city money. He added that this could be brought up when Council Member Gloria Torres is present.

Council Member Matias Rosales stated that his understanding of the \$200,000.00 is not only the health insurance and salaries but also travel budget. He added that the council approved the benefits sometime ago, and it was approved, and some of the current council members were present when this was approved. He mentioned that it is Council Member Ponce’s choice; if he feels he needs to give up his benefits, he is more than welcome to do so. He agreed with Council Member Cabrera, as full-time jobs cannot be given to all part-time employees. The department head submits their budget requests as they need them for the positions, and if they request part-time employees, then that is their choice.

Council Member Jose Ponce stated that this is his recommendation and commented that the council could also ask the Finance Department to provide a breakdown of how much would be saved.

Council Member Rosales replied that the information is in the budget book provided by the Finance Department.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice-Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Luis Cabrera to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:38 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 Matias Rosales	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 June 1, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk