

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
July 13, 2022
7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez called the Regular City Council meeting to order at approximately 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gerardo Sanchez
Vice Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr.
Council Member Luis Cabrera
Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco (via Zoom)
Council Member Jose Ponce
Council Member Matias Rosales
Council Member Gloria Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager
Kay Macuil, City Attorney
Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk
Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources
Aracely De La Hoya, Senior Center Manager
Crystal Ochoa, Acting Assistant to Council/PIO
Domingo Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist
Edgar Esparza, Acting Billing and Collections Manager
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Jose Luis Cisneros, Executive Assistant
Karla Lastra, Office Assistant
Marco A. Santana, Police Lieutenant
Maria A. Roldan, Acting Parks & Recreation Director
Miguel Ramirez, Accountant II
Monica Castro, Director of Finance
Ralph Velez, City Consultant (via Zoom)
Roula Encinas, Accountant II
Ruben Lopez, I.T. Technician
Albert Escalante, Mural Instructor for ARIZONA@WORKS
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter
Columba Nuñez, Resident
Esteban Rosales, Resident
Juan Castillo, Manager of Youth Services for ARIZONA@WORKS
Lisa Rosales, Resident
Lizeth Servin, Resident

Lucy Lopez, Reporter
Maria Robles, Resident
Matthew Rosales, Resident
Nieves Riedel, Resident/Riedel Construcion
Nydia Herrera, Executive Director for ARIZONA@WORKS
Nydia Mendenhall, Resident

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Gloria Torres led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Marco A. Santana, Police Lieutenant, led the invocation.

4. PROCLAMATION

4. A. - Parks and Recreation Month July 2022

Mrs. Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department and thanked them for their hard work.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. A. MINUTES OF

- Regular Council meeting held June 22, 2022

5. B. Disbursements from June 14, 2022, to July 05, 2022

- Total Disbursements \$3,802,399.91

(Three Million, Eight Hundred-Two Thousand, Three Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and Ninety-One 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 Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Africa Luna Carrasco	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 entering into a construction contract with DPE Construction, Inc. for Rancho Los Oros Phase II project (CDBG 134-22). (Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, indicated that a grant was received from the Arizona Department of Housing for this project; staff went out to bid and two (2) bids were received, one (1) from DPE Construction and the second from Gutierrez Canales Engineering. Staff reviewed its budget and was short \$180,000.00, however after meeting with the Finance Department, the funding was available to fulfill the entire scope of work. She asked the Mayor and City Council to award the contract to DPE Construction in the amount of \$1,191,750.00 for Rancho Los Oros Roadway Improvement – Phase 2. The construction is expected to begin August and should be completed in approximately six (6) months.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Luis Cabrera to approve the Construction Contract for DPE Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,191,750.00 and approve budget transfer as presented in this agenda item. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Africa Luna Carrasco	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 the award of a construction contract to DPE Construction, Inc. for the Mesa Street Phase I improvement project (CDBG 119-22). (Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager, explained that a grant from the Arizona Department of Housing was received in the amount of \$626,215.00. Staff went out to bid and two (2) bids were received from DPE Construction and Gutierrez Canales Engineering. The lowest bid is from DPE Construction for \$2,097,900.00; staff allocated some funding however there is a shortage of \$601,000.00. She added that in order to fulfill the scope of work, staff is asking for two (2) items; one (1) is to add Phase 2 funding into Phase 1 and adding additional funding to be evaluated at a future point if there is funding in the budget to be able to get this project done.

MOTION: Council Member Matias Rosales/Council Member Gloria Torres to approve the Construction Contract to DPE Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$2,097,000.00 and budget transfer as presented in this agenda item. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Africa Luna Carrasco	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 a Mural Project with ARIZONA@WORK. (Maria A. Roldan, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation)

Ms. Maria Roldan, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that staff has been working with ARIZONA@WORK for a mural project for the city. This project will consist of various locations by local artists throughout the city the first one being PPEP Park. This task will not only reduce vandalism but will also help beautify our neighborhoods.

Mr. Juan Castillo, Manager of Youth Services for ARIZONA@WORKS, mentioned that they want to extend their services to the City of San Luis residents. He added that they have worked with various cities for mural projects. Furthermore, local youth get a minimum wage incentive as part of their participation.

Mr. Albert Escalante, Mural Instructor for ARIZONA@WORKS, said that the artists are started with a two (2) week course in learning the basics of drawing and on how to mix the paints and explained the process of coming up with concepts.

Ms. Nydia Herrera, Executive Director for ARIZONA@WORKS, cited that they are excited and grateful to be working with the City of San Luis on this project and get the youth involved and engaged.

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager, added that the youth involved are local students and hopes that this is done every year as a summer program.

Council Member Gloria Torres asked about the status for the Cesar Chavez mural.

Mr. Galaviz responded that the summer came and that is a big project so staff is preparing for the winter season with the individual who will be painting this mural. Mr. Jose Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning, is leading this project and will ask him to provide an update on this project at the next Council meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Luis Cabrera/Council Member Jose Ponce to approve approve the purchase of supplies for a mural at PPEP Park through ARIZONA@WORK in the amount of \$5,000.00 and chose option number two (2) for the project. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

6. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2223. A resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving and adopting a salary adjustment to the classified service; superseding any conflicting provisions of existing regulations, policies or procedures; providing for severability; and declaring an emergency. (Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager)

(6 votes in favor are required to pass immediately as an emergency measure per A.R.S. § 19-142)

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager, explained that the City of San Luis Council approved the classified service salary classifications and a pay grade schedule by Resolution No. 2051-A on July 9, 2018. Over the past four (4) years, the city has incrementally increased the pay rate within budgetary and statutory constraints to meet the pay-rate goals of that plan to get all employees to at least the recommended starting pay. Staff has prepared two (2) resolutions with the option of adding contracted employees or removing them. He added that in the past contracted employees have been part of this; the contracted employees are City Manager, City Attorney, Magistrate, Fire Chief and Chief of Police. If they are not included in this resolution then they would be back in September when they have their renewals.

Ms. Monica Castro, Director of Finance, stated that staff has made every effort to have the salary adjustment; the goal of the salary studies is to bring the employees to the salary they should be based on their time in the position. When this began, employees were at 60% below where they should have been and it has been a gradual increase year after year. Last year, staff was able to accomplish 100% for the majority of the employees, but based on the circumstance of the minimum wage increase, the pay scale had to be revised and adjust for those increases. The study is considering increases for employees with several years in the city, between 4% and 12%. For those employees that are already within range, they will still obtain an increase between 1.5% and 3%. Employees that are within the range and are new employees that are in the probation phase will not obtain an increase.

The city has hired new employees at the old rate and if their salary needs to be adjusted to be in accordance with the new scale and are still in the probation phase, they will obtain an increase. She added that this approach is putting the city a little over the budget, however in meetings with Department Heads of this project whom have been very supportive, believe that at the beginning of the year, there is some delay in the vacancies, but staff believes that they will be able to cover it. This resolution includes a clause asking the City Council for authorization for budget transfers if needed. The budgeted amount for the salary adjustment is \$705,000.00, it is estimated that it will be approximately \$816,000.00 and staff highly believe that the funds will be found within the different departments. If contracted employees are included in the resolution, it will not have a huge impact in the budget, there are five (5) contractual employees.

Mr. Galaviz stated that approximately \$1.2 million was for open positions last year that were not filled because of market or competitive reasons. Furthermore, he added that this resolution contains an emergency clause for the reason for this to be effective immediately with a commencing date of July 2nd pay period if the Mayor and City Council agree.

MOTION: Council Member Matias Rosales/Vice Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr. to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2223 to include contracted employees in the salary adjustment and declare an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

6. E. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding modification of health benefits for Elected Officials. (Council Members Luis Cabrera, Africa Luna-Carrasco and Jose Ponce)

Council Member Jose Ponce stated that to make things easier on this items, tax payers should be asked on the medical benefits for Elected Officials via a survey.

Council Member Gloria Torres stated that if a change is done, it will affect the City Council in January and suggested to wait on this item as the election is around the corner and then the City Council can decide on this. She added that if the concern is the amount of money being spent on this benefit, then probably dependents should be removed and not be option to add them as that costs a lot of money to the city. She believes that as Elected Official, they probably should have the health benefit as they are the ones serving in this position and it is like a second job. This is similar like when appointing a Vice Mayor, that new City Council Members should also opine in the item.

Council Member Matias Rosales stated that if that is what the rest of the City Council decides to have a survey done to residents on this matter to move forward and then have staff return to the City Council with this item for results; by then the elections are going to be over. The impact on the budget is not big as the budget has already been approved for this year.

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez stated that a survey can probably help, but agreed with Council Member Gloria Torres, it is a second job and it is costing the city an extra \$17,000.00 and for family coverage it cost the city \$17,000.00 to \$18,000.00 and does not have a big impact on the budget. If the City Council wants to make changes, he is fine with it; this will affect future City Councils and which changes every two (2) years.

Council Member Africa Luna-Carrasco stated that she is ok with the survey.

Council Member Luis Cabrera stated that a survey is good and asked what would be the timeline when it can happen. He asked how a change affects the City Council.

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, explained that if there is a change, it will be effective in January and will affect all Council Members until there is a change which then is effective when a City Council election takes place immediately January after that particular election year.

Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager, responded that it can be put together depending what the City Council wants it to say or the information City Council approves to be disseminated to the residents and consult the City Attorney to make sure that all the requirements are met for a survey. He added that surveys can be performed in different ways such as online or in person. He added a possible duration of one (1) month will be enough for the preparation of this. He will meet with those involved in this internally and update the City Council.

MOTION: Council Member Luis Cabrera/Council Member Jose Ponce to direct staff to work on a survey regarding Council health benefits and return with option that are feasible and meet all legality issues. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Africa Luna Carrasco	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 that the city is fortunate to receive the \$33 million from the state. He thanked Ms. Lisa Otondo and Mr. Bryan Fernandes for what they did by working with the Senate and the House of Representatives for this funding. He also thanked Governor Doug Ducey for not vetoing this because there was a risk for rejecting it. It had been a while since the last time the state granted the award to a contract or a budgeted item for a single project not related to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). He also thanked the state for considering the Cesar Chavez Boulevard.

Council Member Matias Rosales reported that he was appointed by Governor Doug Ducey to the Arizona Department Real Estate Advisory Board for a six (6) year term. He added it is an honor to accept the appointment and represent Yuma County and provide the feedback to the state in regards to real estate issues in the community.

Council Member Luis Cabrera reported that he attended the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Conference in Chicago along with Mr. Lizandro Galaviz, Acting City Manager. He added that at this conference they spoke about how the latino community has the power to make a change and another topic was self care. For staff and City Council to take those days to take care of themselves so they can take care of the community because as public servants they are always with their hands tied and busy and do not take a moment to step back. He also reported that he attended the South Phoenix Opening of Senator Mark Kelly to show representation from the City of San Luis and it was a great small event and is excited to work alongside Ms. Jenny Torres, Economic Development Manager. On a separate note he thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for the 4th of July event.

8. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr./Council Member Gloria Torres to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 7:47 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Gerardo Sanchez	Aye
Vice Mayor Mario Buchanan Jr.	Aye
Council Member Luis Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Africa Luna Carrasco	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 13, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk