

MINUTES
Work Session
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
March 1, 2023
6:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Nieves Riedel called the Work Session to order at approximately 6:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Nieves Riedel
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz
Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya (via Zoom)
Council Member Matias Rosales
Council Member Gloria Torres
Council Member Javier Vargas

OTHERS PRESENT: Ralph Velez, Interim City Manager
Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney
Jenny Torres, Assistant City Manager
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Doming Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist
Francia Alonso, Acting Public Information Officer
Jose A. Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning
Manuel Hernandez, Project Manager
Miguel Alvarez, Interim Chief of Police
Richard Bauermann, Fire Inspector
Ruben Lopez, IT Technician
Lucy Lopez, San Luis AZ News
Cesar Neyoy, Bajo El Sol

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

2. A. Presentation by Kimley Horn Inc. on the San Luis POE Impact Study. (Jenny Torres, Assistant City Manager, and Chris Joannes, Project Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Assistant City Manager, informed that in 2021 the City Council focused on developing a Traffic Impact Study for the San Luis Port of Entry I because of the impact the modernization of the port entry will have in the downtown area, specifically traffic. He mentioned that the Department of Transportation and Yuma Metropolitan Organization partnered with the city to conduct this study. The study included an origin/destination, parking, and circulation study. She added that the city contracted with Kimley Horn, Inc., to develop this study.

Mr. Chris Joannes, Project Manager for Kimley Horn, Inc., made a PowerPoint Presentation that included Traffic Data Collection, Origin/Destination Analysis, Vehicular and Pedestrian Intercept Survey, Circulation Analysis, Parking Analysis, and Final Report. A copy of this presentation is included with the complete agenda packet filed with the City Clerk's Office.

2. B. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding parking in alleys and the San Luis City Code § 10.15.235. (Miguel Alvarez, Interim Police Chief)

Mr. Miguel Alvarez, Interim Police Chief, informed that the reason staff is asking to change the alley parking is that it affects public safety; staff received comments and complaints from local business owners that alleys are crowded and unsafe. They have also commented that emergency personnel has trouble in those alleyways.

Mr. Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, mentioned that one of the captains brought this issue to his attention as they had encountered issues while attending emergency calls in the alleyways and had no way to get through with an emergency vehicle. He stated that there had been sometimes when emergency personnel had to get off the emergency vehicle and walk toward the residence to attend to the emergency. Chief Ramirez presented the Mayor and City Council with pictures of the ladder truck in the alley. He stated that his department's primary concern is to provide timely service to the residents and strive to decrease the response times. He mentioned that those times are provided by the Arizona Department of Highway Safety, which is the agency that governs the Certificate of Necessity; if those times are not met, then the city will lose the privilege of transporting residents. He added that the department is audited every one (1) to three (3) years, where they look at the response times. Furthermore, he stated that the golden hour in medical emergencies and fires that get toned out is critical. Something needs to be done to better serve the City of San Luis residents within the downtown area.

Mr. Jose A. Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning, mentioned that his main concern is that there are currently nine (9) properties that only have access through the alley; however, they do have parking inside their property, and that will not be an issue if no parking is allowed on the alleyways.

Vice-Mayor Luis Cabrera stated that this is a security and safety concern. He asked if staff had contacted families living on the alleys.

Mr. Guzman replied that staff mailed 126 letters to all residents to invite them to this meeting.

Members of the City Council all agreed that there is a safety concern and that something needs to be done to resolve this matter.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz stated that she understands there is a safety concern, but the city must also find a solution for these vehicles to park.

Mayor Nieves Riedel stated that the traffic study gives an idea of the needs, and this help staff find a solution.

Council Member Javier Vargas stated that a solution is needed on this issue as the city will remedy one problem but will bring another to the residential areas. The vehicles will start parking in those areas creating a problem for residents. He asked if this problem has been going on for several years and asked why it is being discussed until today.

Chief Ramirez replied that the captains addressed this problem approximately six (6) months ago, as they have had issued going through the alleyways.

Council Member Matias Rosales mentioned that there is parking where those vehicles can park, but they elect not to. There are parking meters, private parking lots, etc. He commented that this could be controlled for residential areas by providing residents with a decal showing that they are residents. This issue is just a matter of the City Council agreeing to find a solution and support city staff.

Mr. Manuel Hernandez, Public Works Project Manager, stated that parking on alleyways also creates a problem for his department, especially for the Solid Waste Division, as the trucks always have trouble going in and servicing the residences.

Vice Mayor Luis Cabrera suggested having staff talk to the company's owners and suggest they provide parking to their workers.

Mayor Riedel mentioned that since the Fleet Services Division will be moving soon, the vacant land will be an excellent opportunity for the city to invest in public parking, which will help the downtown area.

Council Member Rosales asked staff to provide notices to the residents and those that park in the alleys so that they be aware that no parking will be allowed.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Javier Vargas to adjourn the Work Session at approximately 7:17 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

APPROVED:

Nieves Riedel, 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 1, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk