

**MINUTES**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
**San Luis City Council**  
**San Luis Council Chambers**  
**1090 E. Union Street**  
**July 19, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Nieves Riedel called the Special City Council meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Nieves Riedel  
Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera  
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz  
Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya – arrived at 6:05 pm  
Council Member Gloria Torres  
Council Member Javier Vargas

**ABSENT:** Council Member Matias Rosales

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager  
Kay Macuil, City Attorney  
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk  
Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources  
Alicia Zermeño Aguirre, Magistrate  
Antonio Maldonado, Video Production Specialist  
Domingo Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist  
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works  
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer  
Jose Luis Cisneros, Acting Director of Parks & Recreation  
Miguel Alvarez, Chief of Police  
Monica Castro, Director of Finance  
Olivia Jenkins, Operations Coordinator  
Rogelio Martinez, Administrative Coordinator  
Ruben Lopez, I.T. Technician  
Abraham Andrade, Bowls & Rolls Sushi  
Brian De La Hoya, Resident  
Elizabeth Carpenter, Developer  
Fernando Quiroz, Arizona Interagency Farmworkers Coalition  
Greg LaVann, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation  
Jessie Lopez, PPEP YouthBuild  
Juan Lomeli, Deacon Saint Jude Catholic Church  
Leticia Aragon, Bella Fashion  
Luisa Arreola, Resident

Mari Carmen Lopez, Small Business Development Center  
Mark Concha, Resident  
Nydia Mendenhall, Resident

## **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. INVOCATION**

Mr. Juan Lomeli – Deacon San Judas Tadeo Catholic Church led the invocation.

## **4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Wes Lord, 4169 E. Los Olivos Dr., San Luis, AZ, stated he has a community website that can be used by the public completely free. The community can take advantage of the resources and support this website offers. The public may access the web page at [YumaCommunityProject12.org](http://YumaCommunityProject12.org)

## **5. PRESENTATION**

### **5. A. Presentation on Educator Retention Task Force through Governor Hobbs Executive Order of February 2023 to make recommendations to improve educator retention in Arizona. (Luisa Arreola, Governor Katie Hobbs Teacher Retention Task Force Member)**

Ms. Luisa Arreola, Governor Katie Hobbs Teacher Retention Task Force Member, provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the crisis in retaining educators in Arizona. She added that surveys have been done on some teachers that have left and it is not the pay the reason they leave but the autonomy in the their classrooms and the work environment. She asked the City of San Luis for its assistance in displaying the link to the survey on the city's website and to encourage friends and family to take the survey.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **6. A. MINUTES OF**

**Special Council meeting held May 31, 2023**

**Regular Council meeting held June 14, 2023**

### **6. B. DISBURSEMENTS FROM JUNE 20, 2023 TO JULY 12, 2023**

**Total \$6,887,985.01** (Six Million, Eight Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and One Cent)

**6. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding a proposed contract with the Arizona Interagency Farmworkers Coalition, Inc. with the dollar amount to be determined by City Council for scholarships for students who are residents of San Luis for secondary education. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)**

**6. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the amended contract with the Comité De Bien Estar, Inc. for the Cancer Support Group of Yuma County for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)**

**6. E. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for City Council's line-item budget in the General Ledger Account named Council's Contractual Services for consideration of continuing as a signatory on the Intergovernmental Agreement, 4FrontED. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)**

**6. F. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding ratification of the purchase of a new 2023 Peterbilt Side Loader Truck with Scorpion body for the Public Works Department's Solid Waste Division. (Manuel Hernandez, Acting Assistant Public Works Director)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Gloria Torres/Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

**7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

**7. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding a proposed contract with the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation for regional economic development efforts. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)**

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, stated that the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYPA) is a private non-profit corporation that is funded by both private and public. Their focus is attracting commerce and industry to the region. Throughout the years, the City of San Luis has been supportive as they have been a great resource to the community. GYPA has submitted a request for funding this coming year and introduced Mr. Greg LaVann, GYEDC's Senior Vice President.

Mr. LaVann explained the City of San Luis Performance Dashboard and its elements to bring companies into the local area. He added that the job creation by community for the past 12 years has been mainly composed of San Luis residents. He announced that they will be hiring a Mexico consultant to work directly in Baja California and Sonora on behalf of the whole region going forward.

They actually met with Mr. Luis Ramirez and he is going to help GYPA identify a consultant that will be working in those markets to help promote movement of goods through this area and attract more economic development activity to this region.

Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera asked how the dollar amount is set for the municipalities.

Mr. LaVann responded that they are very grateful the City of San Luis, along the City of Yuma and Yuma County all do per capita, which is \$2.50 per resident. They have retained that number at the 2010 census since the city has grown adding that it will continue that number and in the future it might be revised.

**MOTION:** Mayor Nieves Riedel/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve the contract with GYEDC in the amount of \$63,763.00 for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

**7. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding a proposed contract with the Program of Portable Practical Education Preparation, Inc. (PPEP) with the dollar amount to be determined by City Council for technical training for students who are residents of San Luis. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)**

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, explained that the YouthBuild Program of Portable Practical Education Preparation, Inc. (PPEP) is a private non-profit corporation that provides low-income youth education to obtain their high school graduate equivalency diploma, but this funding is focused on a match for a grant they received through America AmeriCorps Youth Build Grant. They are currently requesting \$20,000.00.

Mr. Jesse Lopez, YouthBuild Program, stated that PPEP is requesting the support in the amount of \$20,000.00 to continue their program. They are currently closing cycle 21 and have 87% attendance, 85% participation and have assisted students obtain their general education diploma (GED).

Mayor Nieves Riedel commented that she had a long conversation with Council Member Gloria Torres and agrees with her. However, they do not make the rules, but they received the rules.

One of the requirements is that the students must be San Luis residents and the rules should be changed as the kids need to be educated and should be the top priority. PPEP needs to find the way to lobby or do something so the City of San Luis can continue supporting this program. The city is willing to help but does not want to break any law. She added that she will make the motion to continue funding PPEP and they will find a way to take out that it is for residents only, so that anyone that wants to go through their program should be able to.

Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera asked if the city needs to match their grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 adding that the city contributed \$30,000.00 last year.

Mr. Lopez responded they always struggle to continue the program and if the city wishes to contribute the \$30,000.00, they are welcomed.

**MOTION:** Mayor Nieves Riedel/Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera to approve the PPEP contract in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

**7. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the Small Business Development Center Request for funding for the fiscal year 2023-2024. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)**

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, indicated that the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides services such as one-one consultations and group training free of charge to assist those planning and starting a business. This is the first-time request to all of the communities; SBDC is requesting funding per capita basis in the amount of \$13,630.00.

Ms. Crystal Mendoza, Director of the Small Business Development Center, explained that their main focus is to help with economic development and their main offering to the community is to provide one on one confidential counseling if they are an entrepreneur or a small business free of charge and can receive their services an unlimited number of times. Through this process of helping San Luis residents, they have been able to also to provide a variety of different workshops. This is a vast need within the community, they are currently funded through the small business administration as well as their host college, Arizona Western College and the Arizona Commerce Authority; the current total funding is \$252,000.00.

With the salary for three (3) which is for one (1) counselor, one (1) business administrative assistant and one (1) director, their salary and their fringe benefits add to approximately \$230,000.00 of their budget, therefore that leaves them with approximately \$20,000.00 for operational expenses. They would like to hire one (1) additional business counselor, so with the city's support will help to successfully support the entrepreneurs within the City of San Luis.

Mari Carmen Lopez, Counselor of Small Business Development Center, added that some local business owners are present and would like to share their experience with SBDC, the help received during the pandemic and the COVID-19 relief funding to maintain their businesses open. It is a lot of help they provide to entrepreneurs from the community. SBDC is currently located at the public library twice a month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Rogelio Martinez, Administrative Coordinator, stated that he has been working very closely with SBDC and reaching out to the local small businesses. He has been assisting anybody in the community that would want to start a business in the City of San Luis. They have worked with other organizations including Work Force Development to help residents get hired by various companies.

Mayor Nieves Riedel asked Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, if she needs to declare a conflict of interest since SBDC went to Plaza Riedel to recruit some clients and she is still legally the owner, but she is not receiving rent payments from entrepreneurs.

Ms. Macuil responded that there would not be any pecuniary interest in this organization getting people to rent from the Plaza and would not have a conflict of interest.

Ms. Leticia Aragon, owner of Bella Fashion located at 710 Urtuzuastegui Street, San Luis, AZ, stated she has had the business for approximately 25 years. During the pandemic, it was a really difficult time for all merchants, specially for the small businesses. During these times, everything was paralyzed, there were no revenues but there were expenses. She added that Small Business Development Center was of big help because not only did they provide resources to continue with her business, but also provided counseling and training on the use of technology. She is very grateful for programs like SBDC as it helped her maintain her business and other businesses will profit from them as well.

Mr. Abraham Andrade, owner of Rolls & Bowls located at 1627 Cesar Chavez Boulevard, San Luis, AZ, stated he has been working with SBDC since 2020. They have offered him financial counseling, marketing, use of social media and workshops. He also had the opportunity to work with Arizona at Work on the job training which helps people find a job and small businesses pay up to 600 hours of work to employees. Overall, many small businesses will benefit from SBDC.

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve funding of \$13,630.00 to the Small Business Development Center and direct staff to prepare a contract for Council approval. The motion passed with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention by Mayor Nieves Riedel.

The vote was as follows:

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

**7. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding recruitment for a City Magistrate. (Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources and Kay Macuil, City Attorney)**

Ms. Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources, explained that on March 29, 2023, staff presented to the Mayor and City Council the results of the recruitment for the San Luis Municipal Court Magistrate. Since then, there has been a number of events of changes, the city lost the court administrator that had taken over the administrative operations of the court, has an ongoing assessment of operations and procedures of the court and with that there have been significant changes to the job description. Staff is seeking approval from the Mayor and City Council to reopen the recruitment of a magistrate.

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to begin the recruitment process for a City Magistrate. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

**8. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**

Mr. Miguel Alvarez, Chief of Police, reported that in the last week he had an officer that had to go home because he suffered heat dehydration and two (2) other officers that received intravenous (IV's) due to dehydration at the hospital. One of those officers was attending a citizen who was dehydrated and who later passed away at the hospital.

It is a critical season, and he tries to provide his officers with as much as possible to prevent these type of incidents.

Mayor Nieves Riedel asked if the Police Department work with senior citizens or the Senior Center during the hot temperatures since they are the most vulnerable.

Chief Alvarez responded that from time to time through their 7/11 program or if people call in to ask the Police Department to do welfare checks on their family members, which included elderly family members, when they are concerned because they do not answer the phone. They go check and there has been times where they have found people that are injured or need medical attention.

Mayor Nieves Riedel suggested coordinating some type of program with the Fire Department for senior citizens.

Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for organizing a successful 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Despite the hot weather, there were over 14,000 that attended the event.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to adjourn the Special Council meeting at approximately 6:57 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

**APPROVED:**

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Nieves Riedel, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special City Council meeting of the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on July 19, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk