

**APPROVED** by Council

Date: 9/27/23

Clerks Office: M Lopez

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**San Luis City Council**  
**San Luis Council Chambers**  
**1090 E. Union Street**  
**August 23, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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

Mayor Nieves Riedel called the Regular 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  
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  
Alan Guevara, Police Lieutenant  
Domingo Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist  
Enrique Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief  
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works  
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer  
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Lizette Varela, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation  
Manuel Hernandez, Acting Assistant Director of Public Works  
Marco Santana, Police Lieutenant  
Ruben Lopez, I.T. Technician  
Alberto Leon, Resident  
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter  
Gary Snyder, Resident  
Guillermina Fuentes, Resident  
Larry Dean, San Luis Frontera Rotary Club  
Lizette Esparza, Visitor  
Luis Marquez, Resident  
Manuel Castro, Resident/Pastor  
Mark Concha, Resident  
Rosa Varela, Resident

## **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Javier Vargas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. INVOCATION**

Mr. Manuel Castro – Pastor for Gethsemani Baptist Church, led the invocation.

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

Ms. Elizabeth Valenzuela and Ms. Delia Quiñonez, residents, provided a letter on behalf of Father Rudy Valenzuela from Parroquia Del Espiritu Santo, addressed to Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, thanking her, the Mayor and City Council for the assistance provided in storing the church benches, for the use of the needy chapels in San Luis Rio Colorado.

Mr. Luis Marquez, 1254 America Street, stated that he has been a resident of San Luis, Arizona, since 1971, he is a former police officer that serve this community for 20 years and currently serves as the President for the Gadsden School District; has been serving in the board for the past 33 years. He added that there is a video in the social media that he thinks is referring to him. In the video, it talks about an ignorant, President of the school board and a former/retired police officer; there is a saying that says if the suit fits you, put it on. He says it fit him in two (2) categories but not the ignorant part. If people did not want him, why would the community elect him nine (9) times, serving 33 years for the Gadsden School District and 25 years as the board president. He has not given a reason for that video and in the time, he has volunteered his time for many years, there has never been a complaint about him. He has never expressed that he is against the union, on the contrary he supports the union. Mr. Marquez indicated that Mr. Mark Concha who is employed by a local construction company, approached him two (2) weeks ago after a Council meeting and Mr. Concha advised him, he had taken a recall packet against him, to what he responded, that his wife has been trying to talk him out of the district and if Mr. Concha is successful in recalling him, his wife would love him. Anyone that wants to support the recall can do it, it is their right, the only sad thing about this is that there was an election in November and almost 1,300 voters voted him in to serve in the board, it has been eight (8) months and they want to recall him, might as well wait for the next election next year as there will be two (2) vacancies. Two (2) years ago, he received a letter from a person whom he received from its attorney advising him not to talk about this person. This person does not let him alone and his theory is that he believes it is because this person does not like this other person and is his friend and he likes her very much, she is family to him. He wanted to let the community know that he is there for the community and has serve and done a lot for it. He feels harassed by this person and wants to make it known that if something happens to him or his family, he makes this person responsible.

Mr. Gilbert Zarate, resident, commented that he and Mr. Luis Marquez, have not been good friends but we respect each other. He was going over some of his files and came

across a thank you letter dated June 18, 2003, addressed to Mr. Marquez. He read "For all the community programs in which you have dedicated to the team of officers from the San Luis, Arizona, Police Department, I would like to share a few words of gratitude from all the people who work at Riedel Construction. It was an honor and privilege to have participated in the programs that you led that made a difference in the lives of so many young people in this community. Your enthusiasm and dedication serve as an example to follow. The doors of this company will always be open for you and for any other person who organizes, shares our ideals and desires to improve the quality of life in our city. To close, personally, if I find myself on a deserted island with my friends, I would like you to be one of those people, sincerely Nieves Riedel." It caught his attention and takes his hat off to Mayor Nieves Riedel in this letter addressed to Mr. Luis Marquez, who has been a person who has served this community. They both have their differences, but he has given himself from the heart, without receiving anything in return, collecting blood, helping children and families. There is no one who can fill those shoes that this man has made for this community, there will never be another man to fill that role. He has a very beautiful family, on a personal note, he found out from his son that Ana and Luis brought clothes for his son and he never imagined that he would care about his son. Even though, there are differences between them, but that personal gesture from him and his wife will never be forgotten and will never be able to pay him. He watched the video and it caught his attention and searched his things and then found this letter. He sees that Mayor Nieves Riedel had a very personal appreciation for his social activities in this community and believes that all can live in peace without going around making recalls. A few days ago, he took out a recall packet, does not know what he will use it for, but one can avoid many things by trying to live well. Mayor Nieves Riedel has just started a period as mayor, Mr. Marquez too, and asked if it is difficult for them to carry the party in peace. One must give the opportunity to continue working. Why look for problems when one does not need them because there are already too many. Mayor Nieves Riedel represents all here and he represents the school. Now, he come as a mediator, wanting to make peace between the two, but that is not what it is about, it is about living together as a family and community, one has to give them one (1) more chance.

Ms. Miriam Hurtado, resident, stated that she has been working for the Gadsden School District for the past 22 years and has known Mr. Luis Marquez for that time. Mr. Marquez has been respectful to her and is sure he has been that way with all the teachers. That person that is saying that he is not respectful has never attended a school board meeting. She is sad that if the recall goes through, the district will have to pay for it, when those funds can be used towards the children. If that person wants to promote and continue with, he recall, then that person should pay for it. She added that one is there to live in peace and help the community and asked this person to open their eyes to find out what is happening at the school district before expressing all the teachers. She is a teacher for over 22 years.

## **5. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **5. A. National Senior Citizens Day August 21, 2023**

### **5. B. Women's Equality Day August 26, 2023**

### **5. C. Childhood Cancer Awareness Month September 2023**

### **5. D. Library Card Sign-Up Month September 2023**

### **5. E. National Suicide Prevention Month September 2023**

Mrs. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, read the proclamations by title only.

### **5. F. Presentation of award to Alberto Leon, Humberto Benitez, and Fabher Sanchez for assisting the San Luis Police Department. (Marco Santana, Lieutenant)**

Mr. Marco Santana, Lieutenant, said that the City of San Luis Police Department has been very blessed by having citizens that have assisted Police Officers in need. He briefly explained that they encounter with different situations and offenders. The City of San Luis Police Department recognized Mr. Alberto Leon, Mr. Humberto Benitez, and Mr. Fabher Sanchez for assisting the officers to capture an offender indicted of 11 felonies counts. He added that the Citizen Award for Valor is given to private citizens for voluntarily placing their safety at risk to aid a Police Officer or fellow citizen during a criminal act or life-threatening situation.

Mr. Alberto Leon, Mr. Humberto Benitez and Mr. Fabher Sanchez thanked the City of San Luis Police Department, Mayor, City Council and their families.

Mayor Nieves Riedel thanked the gentlemen for their brave actions adding she feels very proud of them.

### **5. G. Presentation on any and all matters regarding the National Community Partnership Liaison for Outreach Program Services of America, a non-profit organization. (Pedro Osuna, National Community Partnership Liaison)**

Mr. Pedro Osuna, National Community Partnership Liaison, explained that Outreach Program Services of America is a non-profit organization that assists low-income people through a federal fund known as Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). This is a support for the community where people can receive a voucher or credit through the program up to \$75.00 towards the monthly internet service with any internet provider for up to five (5) years. He added that they also have a program where minors if eligible, can obtain a tablet or computer. In collaboration with ARIZONA@WORK, Comite De Bien Estar and Campesinos Sin Fronteras have achieved their goal of 92%. He explained the requirements to qualify for the program, which are attached to the agenda packet filed at the City Clerk's Office. They also have other types of assistance such as

scholarships for vocational careers and on the job training. He invited everyone to the event at Comite De Bien Estar on August 29, 2023.

He also spoke about grant opportunities for organizations, currently there are \$800.9 million for non-profit organization to be able to have free internet in the community. They are surprised that no one in Yuma County has applied for these funds to be able to provide free internet to the community.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**- Regular Council meeting held July 26, 2023**

### **6. B. DISBURSEMENTS FROM AUGUST 3, 2023 TO AUGUST 15, 2023**

**Total \$1,010,352.29**

**(One Million, Ten Thousand, Three Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars and Twenty-Nine Cents)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Gloria Torres/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. 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 the acceptance and award of a construction contract for a new groundwater well at the City of San Luis Well Site #5 located at 1311 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated that staff is asking for authorization to award a construction contract for a groundwater well to be located at Well Site #5 also known as the Public Works Yard. The city conducted a formal bidding process and only one (1) bid was received from KP Ventures Well Drilling & Pump. The consultant has evaluated the proposal; the consultant and staff recommend approval of award of construction. Mr. Perez provided some history of the project.

**MOTION:** Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to accept the construction contract for a new ground water well at Well Site #5, by

KP Ventures WII Drilling & Pump Co., LLC not to exceed \$1,094,693.90. 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 the purchase of a new ambulance. (Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief)**

Mr. Enrique Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief, explained that there have been some changes to the initial purchase of the ambulance approved by the Mayor and City Council in February 2023. Throughout the years the City of San Luis Fire Department has been an innovative Fire Department, as the city grows so does the need of the public safety. Currently, the Fire Department's fleet is five (5) ambulances with one (1) being repaired as it was involved in an accident late last year. Staff was very diligent to obtain the best ambulance at the best price. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the chassis that was allocated for the ambulance built had too many recalls that the manufacturer pulled it from the assembly. This delays the built up to two (2) years. Republic EVS was able to find the city a chassis from a dealership, but the cost is slightly higher than the price initially obtained from the manufacturer. The initial allocated amount for the original purchase was \$233,591.00. With the new changes there will be two (2) separate purchases need to be done. One (1) purchase will be for \$65,995.00 for the chassis and the second purchase will be for \$180,170.00 for the ambulance box and compartment, totaling \$246,165.00. The San Luis Fire Department wants to utilize the purchasing powers available through the Houston-Galveston Area Council contract #AM10-18 under the authority of the San Luis City Code, Chapter 3.05 Purchasing, Section 3.05.090, Cooperative Purchasing and is seeking council approval. The delivery date will be late December 2023 or early January 2024.

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve the purchase of a new ambulance in the amount of \$246,165.00 and reallocate ARPA funds as presented on the fiscal impact. 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



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 Javier Vargas	Aye

### **1. Presentation by staff and/or applicant**

Mr. Larry Dean, Rotary Club Representative, stated that they are interested in applying for the Special Event Liquor License for the Baseball Exhibition Game. They will provide security and fending during the venue and all proceeds will go back to the community.

### **2. Call to the public on this item**

There were no comments from the public on this item.

### **B. Close Public Hearing**

**MOTION:** Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera to close the Public Hearing. 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

### **C. Action on Special Event Liquor License Application to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control**

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Javier Vargas to recommend approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control for the Special Event Liquor License application submitted by the San Luis Frontera Rotary Club as presented. Motion passed with five (5) ayes and one (1) nay vote by Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Nay
Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye



Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz reported that she attended a meeting with the Arizona Department of Transportation and in October 2023 they will go back to instruct truck drivers through workshops and industrial classes to promote and ensure the safety movement of goods through the city's southern international port of entry.

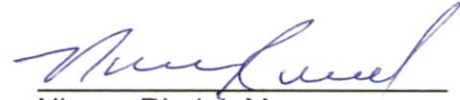
## 9. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 6:54 p.m. 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:**

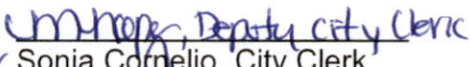
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nieves Riedel, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
For 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 August 23, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

  
For Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk