

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
December 13, 2023
6:00 p.m.

APPROVED by Council
Date: 11/01/2024
Clerks Office: S. Cornelio

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 Matias Rosales
Council Member Gloria Torres
Council Member Javier Vargas

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager
Kay Macuil, City Attorney
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources
Antonio Maldonado, Video Production Specialist
Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer
Gilberto Torres, Wastewater Operations Manager
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Nigel Reynoso, Acting Chief of Police
Olivia Jenkins, Operations Coordinator
Roula Encinas, Finance Operations Manager
Xochitl Lopez, Administrative Coordinator
Buna George, Greater Yuma Port Authority
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter
Christian Cuevas, Simultaneous Translator
Estepan Rosales, Resident
John Shwamm, Port of Entry Director
Jolene Reynaga, Customs & Border Protection
Luis Ramirez, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National
Mark Concha, Resident
Mariana Sandoval, Arizona State Representative
Martin Rodriguez, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Nigel Reynoso, Acting Chief of Police, led the invocation.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jose Villa, resides on Cesar Chavez Street, San Luis, AZ, stated that they have been formally complaining to the Police Department regarding the traffic and specially the noise disturbance from the businesses, La Malquerida and Jardin de Eventos. This problem has existed for years and the City Council does not take citizens seriously as they have complained about this in the past during Council meetings and do not do anything about it. He understands that probably Mayor Nieves Riedel inherited the problems from the previous City Council but hopes she can help them with those problems. The music in their neighborhood is played through 2:00 a.m. and also the home driveways are blocked due to the cars parking there that are visiting those business. The Police has been called and they do not show up, they also ignore residents. It has been a long time and enough is enough, they are tired of being ignored and if the local government does not do anything about this, then they will go higher to solve this.

Mr. Carlos Peña, 834 Cesar Chavez Street, said that they have already spoken many times, they have come to meetings and they ignore them. He lives in front of one of the businesses and the music has been playing until 5 in the morning. He has to get up at 2:50 in the morning to go to work and on Friday the music played until after 2:30 a.m. Also, cars block the entrances to the driveways, so these are problems and they are fed up. They call the police and they do not go, and if they do, they do not do anything. He added that he also pays taxes and they deserve better treatment from the Police Department. If he had the music on until late at night, and someone complained, the police would go and turn off the music after 11:00 p.m. They need the City Council to help them with this problem, otherwise they will have to go higher because they have had the same problem for a long time and nothing is solved.

Mr. Ernesto Prieto, Police Sergeant, said that he helps coordinates the boxing program for the City of San Luis. He introduced boxer Ariel "Panterita" Samano and thanked the City of San Luis for the support that has always been provided. Mr. Samano is at 12 and 0, nine (9) knockouts; his most recent fight was two (2) weeks ago and won on the 3rd Round via knockout. In 2024, the City of San Luis will have a juvenile world champion, he is negotiating the fight.

Mr. Samano thanked the Mayor and City Council for the all support given to the boxing program.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5. A. Presentation and recognition to Mr. John A. Schwamm, San Luis, Arizona Port of Entry Director. (Mayor Nieves Riedel and Council Members)

Council Member Matias Rosales presented Mr. Schwamm with a recognition plaque. He provided some history regarding Mr. Schwamm's law enforcement experience adding that he has been a major support in making things workout at the Port of Entry for his officers and residents. He also thanked him for the support provided by him and his officers on the \$330 million received for the new Port of Entry.

Mr. Schwamm thanked the City of San Luis and added that Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, was a big advocate for the new Port of Entry and focused on working for the community.

Ms. Mariana Sandoval, State Representative, presented Mr. Schwamm with the outstanding achievement of recognition for his years of service for the San Luis Port of Entry as Director with United States Customs and Border Protection Agency.

Senator Kyrsten Sinema's Office, presented Mr. Schwamm with a letter to recognize its partnership and for the work done as he has been a vital part of the community.

Mayor Nieves Riedel stated that everything said about Mr. Schwamm tonight is true, but only a few people know his human side. He has done wonderful humanitarian deeds and does not let people know that but they know. Furthermore, she thanked Mr. Schwamm for all he has done for the City of San Luis and its residents, he will be missed and wished him well on his retirement.

5. B. Presentation and recognition to Mr. Luis Ramirez, President of Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC, for his work, dedication and support in international relationships and national matters that are of importance to the City of San Luis, Arizona. (Mayor Nieves Riedel and Council Members)

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz provided some history on Mr. Ramirez and added that the City of San Luis is very grateful for what he has done for the City of San Luis, he was presented with a recognition plaque.

Mr. Ramirez thanked the Mayor, City Council and staff for the vote of confidence and announced that the Cesar Chavez Boulevard project will receive a \$25 million grant from the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program.

5. C. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to the City of San Luis East Wastewater Treatment Plant for its acceptance into the Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP) from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). (Gina Bunn, ADEQ Community Liaison)

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, introduced Ms. Gina Bunn, ADEQ Community Liaison.

Mr. Bunn stated that they have a voluntary environmental stewardship program at their agency. She presented a bronze level which is earned and presented to facilities that do not have any violations with any environmental regulated agency within the past three (3) years. The City of San Luis East Wastewater Treatment Plant has clearly demonstrated environmental excellence in groundwater protection. She presented a certificate of recognition from ADEQ for their operations at the East Wastewater Treatment Plant and congratulated everyone who was part of this success.

Mr. Gilberto Torres, Wastewater Operations Manager, thanked his staff and all those involved for this achievement.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6. A. MINUTES OF

- Regular Council meeting held November 8, 2023

6. B. DISBURSEMENTS FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2023 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Total \$756,717.14

(Seven Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred, Seventeen Dollars and Fourteen Cents)

MOTION: Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/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 Matias Rosales	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 Order No. 2023-13. An Order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, authorizing and directing the entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Yuma County, Arizona, for the provision of election services for years 2024-2029. (Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk)

Ms. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, explained that this intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Yuma County is for the assistance or delivery of election services to the City of San Luis for a term of five (5) years. She added that the current IGA will expire on February 20, 2024. Staff recommends approval of the IGA

MOTION: Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve and adopt Order No. 2023-13. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2023-14. An Order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, accepting a Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Grant; providing matching funds; authorizing the entering into an agreement with WIFA repealing conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager)

Mr. Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager, stated that this item is for the grant awarded from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) in the amount of \$2,017,065.29 and to accept the grant terms and conditions. Back in June of this year, the City of San Luis was notified that the Water Infrastructure Authority (WIFA) was accepting applications for their Water Conservation Grant Fund (WCGF), which was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The Water Conservation Grant Fund aims to promote programs that are expected to result in long-term reductions in water use and improvements in water use efficiency. Also, the grant program requires a 25% match for the conservation program. On June 28, 2023, the City of San Luis submitted an application for the implementation of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and meter replacement program. Within this program, staff will be replacing nearly 5,000 meters that are close to their life cycle, and implement the AMI network throughout the city.

The estimated total cost for the program is \$2,689,420.29. WIFA received 105 applications for the Water Conservation Grant Program. After three (3) rounds of review, WIFA awarded the amount of \$2,017,065.29 to the City of San Luis. The matching funds for the city to complete this program is \$672,355.08. The matching funds are available in the Water Fund. In addition to the matching funds requirement, the grant funds must be spent by June 2026.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve and adopt Order No. 2023-14. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2023-15. An Order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona authorizing and directing the entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department of Revenue regarding the unified tax administration, licensing, collection, and auditing of transaction privilege tax, use tax, severance tax, jet fuel excise and use tax and rental occupancy taxes imposed by the State, cities or towns. (Roula Encinas, Finance Operations Manager)

Ms. Roula Encinas, Finance Operations Manager, stated that pursuant to A.R.S. § 42-6001, the Arizona Department of Revenue must collect and administer any transaction privilege and affiliated excise taxes imposed by an Arizona municipality and must enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the city to provide a uniform method of administration, collection, audit and licensing of sales taxes. Staff recommends approval of the IGA.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Gloria Torres to approve and adopt Order No. 2023-15. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2023-16. An Order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, to authorize the City of San Luis Police Department to receive funding for the Impaired Driver/DUI Alcohol Enforcement and STEP/Selective Traffic Enforcement Projects by approving Highway Safety Contracts 2024-AL-029, 2024-OP-018, and 2024-PTS-057 between the City of San Luis, Arizona through the San Luis Police Department and the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety. (Nigel Reynoso, Acting Chief of Police)

Mr. Nigel Reynoso, Acting Chief of Police, indicated that the San Luis Police Department is requesting approval for the use of funds awarded to the department in the amount of \$50,000.00. \$20,000.00 will be used for the impaired driver/DUI alcohol enforcement, \$5,000.00 for the occupation protection awareness, education materials and supplies and \$25,000.00 for the selective traffic enforcement project. These funds are utilized during the holiday season, which allows additional deployment of staff out on the road.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve and adopt Order No. 2023-16. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. E. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2298. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, requiring City Council approval of the designs and colors of the various City of San Luis insignia, including, but not limited to, the city seal, department logos, badges for the Police and Fire Departments; repealing conflicting provisions, and providing for severability. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, stated that the city does not have any specific guidelines or policy on changes to badges, city seal or department logos. This was brought to staff's attention and what is being considered is bringing the resolution to the City Council to have the authority to allow any changes when requested. What staff has seen is that there are departments that have changed their logos which results in changing uniforms and it involves costs.

Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera asked if it would be possible to formally approve all department logos and badges in a future meeting, have all the departments submit their official logos and have them approved by the City Council through a resolution?

MOTION: Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2298. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. F. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the appointment of a Vice Mayor. (City Council)

Mayor Nieves Riedel commented that when she was sworn-in one (1) year ago, an election of a Vice Mayor took place. She mentioned back then that she would give the opportunity to other Council Members to serve as Vice Mayor. She thanked Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera for serving as the Vice Mayor.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz thanked Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera and added that being a Vice Mayor is a great privilege to be side by side by the Mayor.

Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity granted to have served as the Vice Mayor. He also thanked staff, community members and his family for the support.

He recommended Council Member Gloria Torres be the next Vice Mayor.

Council Member Gloria Torres stated that she does accept the nomination, it would be an honor and privilege to serve as the Vice Mayor.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz asked if another nomination can be made. She added that Council Member Gloria Torres has already been a Vice Mayor in previous years. She nominated Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya, as far as he having a little bit more experience being a City Manager.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Matias Rosales to appoint Council Member Gloria Torres to be the next Vice Mayor. Motion passed with four (4) ayes and three (3) nay votes by Council Members Maria Cecilia Cruz, Tadeo Azael De La Hoya and Javier Vargas.

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	Nay
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Gloria Torres	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Nay

8. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera thanked staff for assembling the City Council's float for the Christmas Lights Parade, it was a very well attended event. He also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for organizing the parade as well as the Police Department for keeping the community safe during the event.

Mayor Nieves Riedel reported she attended the employees' recognition dinner, she thanked all those that attended and the Human Resources Department for organizing this event for employees.

Council Member Gloria Torres reported she has received positive comments on the Christmas Lights Parade and thanked staff for organizing it.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz reported she attended the Yuma Coalition to end homelessness as well as the Police Department. She shared that the number of homeless in the State of Arizona is estimated at approximately 14,000 and there are approximately 500 homeless in Yuma County. Some of the recommendations were that hopefully nonprofits and other organizations can come together and collaborate to see if there is something that one can do. They will commence meeting every other month and she would like to continue attending the meetings in hopes of finding a solution. She will pass on some informational pamphlets to the City Clerk for distribution. There are some other issues with residents from San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, they are not homeless, but they are making the choice of sleeping on the streets due to the long lines to cross from Mexico.

Council Member Matias Rosales reported he attended the Congressional briefing in Tucson in regards to the ports of entry, where one of the topics was the closing of the Lukeville Port of Entry. All the regional communities as well as the port authorities are working together and trying to address the staffing issue. There were 11 from the 13 congressional that were represented. On a separate note, he thanked the Police Department for the placement of chain barriers, the traffic cutting through parking lots to cross to Mexico has gone down. He missed the employee recognition dinner and hoped everyone that attended had fun.

Mayor Nieves Riedel commented that some employees assisted Ms. Olivia Jenkins, Operations Coordinator, with the assembling and decoration of the City Council's float for the Christmas Lights Parade. She added that if the City Council wants a float next year, the City Council needs to work on it and not city employees. It is a lot of hard work and staff put in a lot of effort towards it. Mayor Nieves Riedel thanked Ms. Jenkins and staff for their time, effort and dedication towards the float.

Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera added that next year the Department Director should join the City Council on the float; he thanked staff for their efforts in putting it together. He also mentioned that the 4FrontEd met last week and Mr. Nazer Mendez is leaving effective December 31, 2023, therefore the contract on the new director will placed on the agenda for approval in a future council meeting. Mr. Mendez's wife is part of the Consulado de Mexico and was re-appointed to serve in the Consul in Tucson, so he is relocating. He also mentioned that the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was lovely.

Council Member Matias Rosales added that he has experienced in the past working on the float and it is hard and time consuming; he thanked staff for organizing it.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Vice Mayor Luis E. Cabrera to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 7:06 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 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 minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on December 13, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk