

**MINUTES**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
**San Luis City Council**  
**San Luis Council Chambers**  
**1090 E. Union Street**  
**February 7, 2024**  
**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 Gloria Torres  
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera  
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz  
Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya  
Council Member Matias Rosales (at approximately 6:02 p.m.)  
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  
Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development and  
Government Foreign Affairs  
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works  
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Marco Santana, Police Lieutenant  
Maria Sabori, Risk Management  
Miguel Ramirez, Finance Accounting Manager  
Roula Encinas, Finance Operations Manager  
Ruben Lopez, I.T. Technician  
Yolanda Dueñas, Facilities Supervisor  
Alberto Leon, Resident  
Alberto Limon, Resident  
Mark Concha, Resident  
Victor Cerda, Resident

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Mayor Gloria Torres led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION**

#### **3. A. Proclamation - Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month February 2024**

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

#### **3. B. Presentation on Pepe Belmonte Foundation by resident Alberto Limon. (Jesus Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development)**

Mr. Jesus Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development, introduced the community members to present on their Art for Children Foundation.

Mr. Victor Cerda, Representative of Pepe Belmonte Foundation, composed of Ms. Tuli Medina, Ms. Ilian Marquez, Mr. Alberto Limon and Mr. Julio Lopez. The theme is "Think Like a Parent and Create Like a Child". He provided a presentation focused on promoting the art for the human development with a special focus on children and youth of the City of San Luis, Arizona. Mr. Cerda added they have been working on this foundation for the past year, have registered as a non-profit organization and will be soliciting financial assistance from the city towards this foundation. The presentation is attached to the complete Agenda Packet filed at the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Nieves Riedel thanked Mr. Cerda for the presentation.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **4. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the United States General Services Administration to improve Urtuzuastegui Street as part of the Port of Entry expansion project. (Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)**

**MOTION:** Council Member 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 Gloria Torres	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 Javier Vargas	Aye

## **5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

### **5. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the purchase of a new Engine Pumper Fire Truck. (Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief)**

Mr. Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, explained that this item was discussed during the Budget Retreat last year regarding the need of new pumper for replacing one (1) of their fire trucks. After discussing with the vendor approximately two (2) months ago, they are nearly 40 to 48 months out from time of purchase to delivery. Speaking to the representative today, they are not seeing decreases in time, they might actually see an increase of maybe 48 to 50 months. The current pumper is a nine (9) year-old truck from 2015. If the new engine pumper fire truck is purchased, the current engine will be approximately 13-14 years old. Usually, fire trucks' time frame is 20 years old, depending on the type of maintenance performed. He added that another thing to consider is the increase in pricing, if they order the Engine Pumper Fire Truck now the cost is \$1.2 million. The Fire Department had budgeted \$220,000.00 to put down this year which will not be put down. He will be presenting in a future council meeting as they will be using those funds for other Capital Improvement Project for the department. If this gets approved tonight, what he will do for the next three (3) fiscal years is he will give a \$400,000.00 payment instead of having a \$1.2 million purchase in a lump sum. This engine will be a front line truck, it is different from the ladder truck they recently purchased as it has different capabilities, he is being proactive and are looking at the city's growth and if in six (6) years from now there is a need for a third Fire Station, the trucks are already here.

Mayor Nieves Riedel thanked Chief Ramirez for planning and being pro-active as well as Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, for being pro-active on the street lights for three (3) different projects.

Vice Mayor Gloria Torres asked if Fire Station No. 2 is operating on the east side of the city.

Chief Ramirez responded they opened Fire Station No. 2 on November 8, 2023 and the ribbon cutting will take place on February 14, 2024. The crews consist of seven (7) with a ladder truck, rescue truck and an ambulance.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera asked if this is the recommended vendor or if there are other alternatives?

Chief Ramirez replied that all their trucks are from Pierce and are trying to keep uniformity, it is the top-of-the-line vehicle all American made.

**MOTION:** Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve the purchase of a new Engine Pumper Fire Truck in the amount of \$1,235,951.52 to be paid in the next three (3) fiscal years. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Gloria Torres	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 Javier Vargas	Aye

**5. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the purchase of a new Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) for the Water Well Site #5 Project. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, indicated that this is for the project at Water Well Site #5 construction. The Department of Public Works is working on building a new well with the new filtration system at the Public Works Yard. The project includes a metal building that will house the filtration system. The design is so far along that it has been produced for the building; staff is being pro-active and seeking purchase of the building ahead of time as it entails a lead time of approximately 18 to 20 weeks. If staff goes to bid for the metal building, it will add a couple additional months to the timing. He added that staff is requesting approval of the purchase of a metal building and to waive formal procurement procedures. Staff requested quotes from different vendors and obtained two (2) as one refused to provide one. The lowest quote is for \$71,471.25 from an Arizona vendor.

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve the purchase of a pre-engineered metal building from Bunger Streel in the amount of \$71,471.25 and to waive formal purchasing procedures for the reasons presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Gloria Torres	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 Javier Vargas	Aye

**5. C. Discussion and possible action for the removal and appointment of a Trustee for the City of San Luis Employee Benefits Trust. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager and Executive Advisor to the Trust)**

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager and Executive Advisor to the Trust, explained that a request was received from a Council Member asking for an opportunity to serve on this board. Staff looked into the Declaration of Trust of the Trustee Board and noticed that in the original Declaration of Trust, it indicated that the terms are staggered. The Trust is composed of five (5) members. In 2019, there was an amendment to the Trust, where each board member would serve five (5) years and then would be able to serve for three (3) consecutive five (5) years, totaling 15 years. As the Executive Advisor, she does not agree, and believes that the opportunity for other people to serve should be given. The board can have one (1) Council Member, one (1) employee and three (3) community members. The Mayor does have the authority to designate a replacement of the trustees. She asked the Mayor and City Council to evaluate the need to replace one (1) of the board members and there is currently one (1) Council Member serving. The Mayor can recommend and the City Council can approve. She thinks the Declaration of Trust should be amended to provide the opportunity to other Council Members, employees and community members to serve on this board.

Council Member Matias Rosales asked who has been there the longest?

Ms. Torres responded that the majority of the members have been serving on the board since 2013. Mr. Gustavo McGrew, Ms. Maria Gonzalez and Ms. Emma Torres were appointed in 2013. Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya was appointed when he was elected one (1) year ago.

Council Member Matias Rosales opined that it is too soon for Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to be replaced. Any board one serves on, has to learn and go through the process, the Trustee Board for him is one of the most important things for employees. Changing it too often or too quick is not a good idea, now if the change was from the members that have been serving on the trust since 2013 then the possibility of discussing exists, unless there is a different reason why staff is trying to change it so quick. He asked who is the one that wants to serve on this board?

Mayor Nieves Riedel stated that when she first became Mayor, Council Member Javier Vargas asked her if he could serve on this board and then Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya also commented to her that he wanted to serve on this board. She added that knowing his expertise, she was under the impression that it was for one (1) year. She is sure that Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya with the years he served before and this year, he is in a position where he can help other Council Members that are new to be able to serve and learn. It was brought to her attention about the five (5) years, another five (5) years and then another five (5) years...she does not agree with this. With this new Council Member will come to serve as Elected Officials and not have the opportunity to serve on the boards. Luckily as the Mayor, she can ask for the removal and nominate in this instance Council Member Javier Vargas. He does not serve in any board, has the interest and for the best interest of being fair to everybody, she believes that the other Council Members deserve the opportunity as well that are willing to participate and learn.

Council Member Matias Rosales said that the three (3) fives (5's) must have been an oversight when the amendment was done and does not know how that happened, but his perspective on the Council side, if a Council Member has been elected for four (4) years, this is an important board and want that person to learn and do the functions for the city. Changing that part of the Council might be too soon, maybe the policy can be reviewed and say a Council Member could be there for at least two (2) years at a time, because one does not learn everything that fast, especially in this board. Medical wise, trustees and benefits for city employees are very important. Unless Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya is wanting to out.

Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya commented that he remembers that conversation he had with Mayor Nieves Riedel regarding boards and commissions, telling her that he did not want to serve on a specific board or commission as he did not want to create animosity amongst Council Members and the only he had experience on was the Employee Benefit Trust because they do not want to raise the employees contributions and medical expenses. In that same conversation, he has tried to help Council Member Javier Vargas as much as he can. He has been involved as a staff member which is being different as an Elected Official chairing this board for a year. He added that Mayor Nieves Riedel is correct that she has full authority to recommend removal and recommend whomever she thinks is best. However, he would of revised the Declaration of Trust to allow ex-officio members. This board is very important, especially for city employees. He gets very passionate when it comes to city employees, he understands he asks a lot of questions but that is part of his job as well. He admitted it feels odd to be removed from this board from the City Council on his first year, when there are people that have been there since the board started 14 years ago. But that is fine, it is her purview at her direction and just like in that meeting, he said he did not want to lose friendships or create animosity between the seven (7) Council Members. He is there to serve the residents of the City of San Luis and has proven his loyalty and allegiance to where every she sends him, he goes. It is not a complaint, he is happy to do so.

Mayor Nieves Riedel stated that the people that know her for the longest time, know she is very consistent in her decisions. Council Member Luis E. Cabrera wanted to serve another year as the Vice Mayor, but she promised that everybody was going to serve one (1) year as the Vice Mayor and give them the opportunity, whereas before the Vice Mayor served for years.

Council Member Matias Rosales asked Council Member Javier Vargas if he has been attending or has attended the Employee Benefit Trust Board meetings?

Council Member Javier Vargas replied he has not.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz asked when is Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya's last date for this term?

Mayor Nieves Riedel responded that he can stay there for up to 15 years, but the Declaration of Trust indicates that the Mayor has the right to decide and she tries to be fair to everyone. This is not personal, she like Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya and considers him her friend and it is not a reflection that he is not doing a good job but can do a better job being a mentor.

Council Member Matias Rosales clarified that as an Elected Official he can be there for the length of his term but the 5, 5, 5 years are for the three (3) members of the community. He commented he has seen Council Member Javier Vargas being very active by attending other meetings such as the Economic Development and the Greater Yuma Port Authority, but his concern is changing the member so soon as this board is very important and Council Member Javier Vargas has not attended an Employee Benefit Trust Board meeting and he does not agree with the change right now.

Council Member Javier Vargas clarified that when he approached about this position last year, he did not know there were other people interested in this, but with Mayor Nieves Riedel trying to be consistent with the changes every year, he offered to fill this position as long as no one else was interested and added that if someone else is also interested in the position to go for it.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera remarked that he would be honored to serve on the board if it is ok with Council Member Javier Vargas and the rest of the City Council. He is very invested in the employees and community and have the best for everyone and not just one (1) group. One has to keep in mind that there are board members that have been there for many years that can mentor them in a way, there is Ms. Jenny Torres as an advisor and the Human Resources Department to support them in learning the role. If he is appointed he feels good about making any good recommendations as a person on the board for the benefit of city employees.

Ms. Torres indicated that with the new broker, she has asked them to and provide a one-on-one to the Trustees of the Board what their job is going to do and what the responsibilities will be.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz asked if Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya has missed an Employee Benefit Trust Board meeting?

Council Member Tadeo De La Hoya responded he has not missed any meeting and from day one he too was elected Chairman to the board.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz agrees with everything Council Member Matias Rosales has stated.

Council Member Matias Rosales observed that Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya is the Chairman, so if he is removed the board would have to appoint a new Chairperson? He was appointed by the members that have been there for years and they did it because they know Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya's expertise.

Ms. Torres mentioned that Ms. Emma Torres is the Vice Chairwoman and assumes she might want to take over the role of Chairwoman.

**MOTION:** Council Member Matias Rosales/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to leave Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya as a Trustee as he currently seats in the board. Motion did not pass with three (3) aye votes and four (4) nay votes by Mayor Nieves Riedel, Vice Mayor Gloria Torres, Council Members Luis E. Cabrera and Javier Vargas.

The vote was as follows:

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

**MOTION:** Mayor Nieves Riedel/Vice Mayor Gloria Torres to remove Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya as Trustee from the San Luis Employee Benefits Trust. Motion passed with four (4) aye votes and three (3) nay votes by Council Members Maria Cecilia Cruz, Tadeo Azael De La Hoya and Matias Rosales.

The vote was as follows:

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

**MOTION:** Mayor Nieves Riedel/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to appoint Council Member Javier Vargas as Trustee for the San Luis Employee Benefits Trust.

Council Member Javier Vargas mentioned that he feels honored to be appointed to this board but if the City Council wants to appoint someone else.

Council Members Tadeo Azael De La Hoya and Matias Rosales remarked that he had asked for it, to take it.

Motion passed with five (5) aye votes and two (2) nay votes by Council Members Maria Cecilia Cruz and Matias Rosales.

The vote was as follows:

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

**5. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2302. A Resolution of the City of San Luis, Arizona Mayor and Common Council, designating the Chief Fiscal Officer for officially submitting the fiscal year 2022- 2023 expenditure limitation report to the Arizona Auditor General. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)**

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, stated that the Arizona Auditor General is requesting that any changes in the Chief Fiscal Officer (CFO) has to be updated with their office. Ms. Roula Encinas, Acting Director of Finance, is helping temporarily with this position to help with the process of submitting the annual expenditure limitation.

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve Resolution No. 2302 designating Roula Jouanne De Encinas as the C.F.O. to submit the annual expenditure report to the Auditor General as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Gloria Torres	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 Javier Vargas	Aye

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Gloria Torres to adjourn the Special Council meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Gloria Torres	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 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 February 7, 2024. 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