

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
February 28, 2024
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 Gloria Torres
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz
Council Member Matias Rosales
Council Member Javier Vargas

ABSENT: Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager
Kay Macuil, City Attorney
Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk
Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Angelica Roldan, Director of Parks & Recreation
Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development & Government and Foreign Affairs
Edgar Juarez, Facilities Project Coordinator
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Miguel Ramirez, Finance Accounting Manager
Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police
Olivia Jenkins, Operations Coordinator
Roula Encinas, Acting Director of Finance
Ruben Lopez, IT Technician
Cristian Cuevas, Simultaneous Translator
Mark Concha, Resident
Alberto de Leon, Resident
Marcos Pinzon, Resident
Mercedes Pinzon, Resident

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Nigel I. Reynoso, Chief of Police, performed the invocation.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

5. PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATIONS

5. A. Proclamation – Read Across America Week March 2-6, 2024

Mrs. Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, read the proclamation by title only.

5. B. Presentation by GESD staff and parent(s) regarding the invitation Gadsden Elementary School District Marching Band and Grupo Norteño received from London, England to participate in the London parade in December 2025. (Karla Mota, Parent)

Mr. Jesus Quintero, Director of the Gadsden Elementary School District (GESD) Marching Band, gave a brief presentation of the marching band. He informed that the marching band has been invited for the second time to participate in the London New Year's Parade in London, England on January 1, 2025, and the Grupo Norteño for their first time. He stated that his presentation is to request the city's financial support to make this trip come true. He mentioned that the parents have been working very hard to make this happen. A total of 110 students will be participating in this event.

Council Member Javier Vargas thanked them for putting San Luis's name on the map, as this makes the city proud. He also thanked the local businesses for supporting the local students.

Vice Mayor Gloria Torres, thanked the parents for always supporting their children to be able to participate on this type of events.

Mayor Nieves Riedel commented that the parents had a fundraiser at La Bodega Kitchen and Riedel Construction matched the funds on this event.

5. C. Presentation of new City of San Luis Police Officers. (Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police)

Mr. Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police, introduced new City of San Luis Police Officers Brenda Acosta, Cristian Gonzalez, Edgar Renteria, and Nayeli Soto, whom graduated from the 2024 Law Enforcement Academy Class #51.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6. A. MINUTES OF

- Regular Council meeting held January 24, 2024

6. B. DISBURSEMENTS FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2024 TO FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Total \$1,344,376.38

(One Million, Three-Hundred Forty-Four Thousand, Three Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars and Thirty-Eight Cents)

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 Matias Rosales	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 appointment of two (2) members to serve on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board for the Police and Fire Departments. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)

Mrs. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, informed that both boards have two (2) vacancies; the Citizen Member vacancy is due to the resignation of Monica Castro former Director of Finance and the other vacancy is because the term has ended and it was filled by Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya. She stated that due to the regulations, staff is recommending to appoint Ms. Roula Encinas, Acting Director of Finance, to fill the vacant position of Citizen Member and per Arizona Revised Statutes the Chairman should be the Mayor or her designee.

Mayor Riedel designated herself as the Chairman to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board for the Police and Fire Departments and designated the appointment of Ms. Roula Encinas, Acting Director of Finance to be the Citizen Member to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board for the Police and Fire Departments.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Vice Mayor G. Torres to approve the designation and appointments of the Mayor. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the employment contract of Chief of Police Nigel I. Reynoso. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)

Mrs. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, presented the Employment Contract with Chief of Police Nigel I. Reynoso. She informed that the contract includes a clause that states that if the City Council without cause before December 30, 2025, the Chief may return to the force in position other than the Chief of Police through at least December 30, 2025, so as not to disrupt his retirement in the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System. If he is not terminated before that date, the severance package would include three (3) month's salary.

MOTION: Mayor Nieves Riedel/Council Member Javier Varga to approve the Employment Contract with Chief of Police Nigel I. Reynoso, as attached to the agenda item. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding adopting a Notice of Intention to amend the fees to the Public Records Request Fee Schedule. (Nigel I. Reynoso, Chief of Police)

Mr. Nigel I. Reynoso, Chief of Police, presented the Mayor and City Council with the Notice of Intention to amend the Public Records Request Fee Schedule. He informed that the fee update is necessary to ensure the fees collected are reasonable and in line with the costs associated with processing body camera footage.

He added that based on Senate Bill 1148, which provides approval to implement the fees to \$46.00 per video hour for the time reviewing, transmitting, making a copy and redacting a video recording for public release. It takes approximately three (3) hours to review and redact one (1) hour of footage. He mentioned that since body cameras were implemented, there has been an increase requesting body camera footage.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Gloria Torres/Council Member Luis E. Cabrera to approve the Notice of Intent 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the engagement of WestLand Engineering and Environmental Services to conduct a service line material inventory. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, informed that the services to be provided by WestLand Engineering and Environmental Services is to provide an inventory on the type of material of all services lines built in 1986, when the No Lead Act became effective. This inventory is required by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. The project will cost approximately \$55,197.00.

MOTION: Council Member Matias Rosales/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve WestLand Engineering and Environmental Services proposal in the amount of \$55,197.00. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. E. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the transfer of funds to finish projects for the current Fiscal Year 2023-2024. (Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief)

Mr. Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, informed the Mayor and City Council during a council meeting when they approved the purchase of a new fire truck, that per the vendor no down payment was required and staff had budgeted up to \$220,000.00.

Since there will be no down payment, staff is requesting approval of the transfer of funds and the purchase of the of equipment which will consists of a flagpole for Fire Station #2 in the amount of \$13,000.00, three (3) Lucas Auto Pulses in the total amount of \$60,000.00, Zoll Cardiac Monitors in the amount of \$50,000.00, 15 SCBA Regulators in the total amount of \$30,000.00, a finish block wall at Fire Station #2 in the amount of \$25,000.00 and the design of the bay for Fire Station #2 in the amount of \$41,000.00, with a grand total of amount of \$219,000.00. Chief Ramirez mentioned that by utilizing this year's Capital Improvement Project budget will alleviate some expenses that were going to be done in the next fiscal year.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Luis E. Cabrera to approve the transfer of funds and the purchases listed in the agenda item in an amount not to exceed \$220,000.00. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. F. Public Hearing followed by discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the recommendation of an Application for Extension of Premises/Patio Permit to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to authorize La Bodega Kitchen and Bar to sell alcohol on March 8, 2024, during the Southwest Off-Road Series (SOS) Registration Event. (Ruben Walshe, La Bodega Kitchen and Bar)

Mayor Nieves Riedel declared a conflict of interest and stated that she will abstain from voting on this item.

A. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Javier Varga to open the Public Hearing. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

1. Staff/Applicant Presentation

Mrs. Mercedes Pinzon from La Bodega Kitchen and Bar, informed that their request if to sell beer in the extension of the premises during the Southwest Off-Road Series (SOS) Registration event to be held March 8, 2024 and on March 9, 2024, during the Su Majestad La Brisa concert. She informed that the facilities has the required insurance to cover this event as well as security.

2. Call to the public on this item

There were no comments from members of the public.

B. Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Matias Rosales to close the Public Hearing. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

C. Action on Application for Extension of Presmises/Patio Permit to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control

MOTION: Council Member Matias Rosales/Council Member Javier Vargas to recommend approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control the Application for the Extension of Presmises/Patio Permit of La Bodega, LLC, as presented from March 8, 2024 through March 10, 2024. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

7. G. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2304. A resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving the sale, execution, and delivery of pledged excise tax revenue refunding obligations, series 2024; approving the form and authorizing the execution and delivery of necessary agreements, instruments, and documents; delegating authority to determine certain matters with respect to the foregoing; and declaring an emergency. (Mark Reader, Managing Director at Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc.)

Mrs. Roula Encinas, Acting Director of Finance, indicated that this resolution seeks approval for the refunding of the Bond Series 2014A to capitalize on the current lower interest reate resulting in significant savings for the city. She introduced Mr. Mark Reader, Managing Director at Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc., who is also collaborating with the city on the Primary Tax Election and other infrastructure projects.

Mr. Reader provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the benefits and process of refunding the Bond Series 2014A. The presentation is filed with the complete agenda packet at the City Clerk's Office.

There was a question and answer dialogue amongst Elected Officials and Mr. Reader such as if there will be costs incurred for the refinancing, if the funds from the savings are applied to the payments would Mr. Reader know how sooner the city could get out of debt instead of utilizing that money if the city continues paying how it has with new rates.

Mr. Reader responded there are some costs incurred during this process and they have not extended nor shortened the number of years. It would be up to the city how it would like to do that, they just took the savings level each year for the city's budgetary purposes. They can run some additional scenarios and pay off the debt early. This resolution authorizes them to work with city staff to structure to the city's wants in regards to the savings.

MOTION: Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2304 and declare an emergency. 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 Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

8. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz reported she attended the Night of Hope by Not In Our City, an anti-human trafficking event on February 18, 2024. This event raised awareness and education to take a stand against human trafficking in Arizona. She added she attended the meet and greet with Arizona Chief Justice Robert Brutinel from the Arizona Supreme Court and Vice Chief Justice Ann Scott Timmer as they visited Yuma County.

Mayor Nieves Riedel reported she sees as a threat to the city's local economy are the long hours that takes to cross back from Mexico to the United States. She urge citizens to contact their Representatives, Congressmen and Legislators as everybody is being affected.

Council Member Matias Rosales reported he attended two (2) meetings last week with Customs and Border Protection to meet with the Mexican Consul Dulce Maria Valle at the consulate and one (1) of the topics was the delays and asking the Consul to get in touch with the Mexican Aduanas and immigration officers to see how they can help with this issue.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera reported the Mascotamania event was very well advertised and attended; he thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for their hard work.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice Mayor Gloria Torres/Council Member Luis E. Cabrera to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 6:48 p.m. 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 Matias Rosales	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 February 28, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk