

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**San Luis City Council**  
**San Luis Council Chambers**  
**1090 E. Union Street**  
**April 24, 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 Tadeo Azael De La Hoya  
Council Member Matias Rosales  
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  
Domingo Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist  
Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager  
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer  
Joel Arizmendi, I.T. Help Desk Technician  
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Lizette Varela, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation  
Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Maria Sabori, Risk Manager  
Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk  
Miguel Ramirez, Finance Accounting Manager  
Olivia Jenkins, Operations Coordinator  
Roula Encinas, Acting Director of Finance  
Albert Leon, Resident  
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter  
Esteban Rosales, Resident  
Fabher Sanchez, Resident  
Gilberto Zarate, Resident  
James Allen Jr., Resident  
Jorge Villicaña, Resident  
Lucky Hoyos, Resident  
Lucy Lopez, Reporter  
Luis Marquez, Resident

Luisa Arreola, Resident  
Maria Robles, Resident  
Mark Concha, Resident  
Nydia Mendenhall, Resident

## **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Mayor Gloria Torres led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. INVOCATION**

Preacher Alberto Geraldo – Iglesia de Cristo led the invocation.

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

Ms. Maricarmen Lopez, Business Counselor for Small Business Development, invited the community to celebrate Small Business Week next week by participating shopping locally.

Mr. Gilberto Zarate, 848 Orquidea Street, San Luis, AZ, stated that his personal opinion regarding the people wearing the blue shirts is that they are not in agreement with something that several years, specifically in 2019, was proposed to residents. Former Mayor Gerardo Sanchez announced back then, that there would be a deficit within a period of two (2) years, four (4) years have already passed and now the city faces the problem that there are no funds. Those funds are needed for the benefit of the city. There are going to be adjustments to how things are going, personnel cuts and families will be affected. The ones previously in the City Council know and the new ones now understand that adjustments must be made. He supports the proposition, as it will benefit the city. He voices what he thinks, even if he has differences with this or that other person and supports what is right for the city. This is for a long term, but many people do not see it as a benefit for themselves and the community. The people that once supported it are now against it, why, if it is the same proposal from four (4) years ago? He added that all have to be in agreement and together in something that will benefit this city.

Ms. Luisa Arreola, 3685 E. San Pedro Street, San Luis, AZ, mentioned that she is the President of the Gadsden School District Union, and announced that historically, they are the majority. There are over 500 employees and the majority are in the union. She added that there is a group of canvassers of the association that will be knocking on doors to provide information about public education. The goal is to knock on more than 25,000 doors to bring that information to the parents and the community. What is happening with the public education? They are public servants and they have to know what is happening with their funds, because public education is getting funding cuts. There are no jobs nor teachers, not only in this community, but throughout the state because resources are being cut. The information they will provide will be so that the community can support the teachers and public servants who decide to be in these professions for their children and the community.

Ms. Mily Verdugo, 18715 Gadsden Street, Gadsden, AZ, commented that she is a local community artist and last Friday a cultural event took place called Arte en la Calle. She participated and experienced some inconveniences and failures that were seen. She will ask for a private meeting with Mayor Riedel to express her feelings because she is also an art promoter and knows all the local artists and has done her own cultural events. She knows what she is talking about and Lizeth Varela has provided her support, but unfortunately this past weekend she did not have her support. She also wanted to speak on behalf of the younger generations because they need the artistic and cultural platforms in the City of San Luis. There is a cultural center where there is no room for the artists nor art instructors, they have many obstacles. She wanted to be an art instructor and barely had two (2) or three (3) children, but the procedure was more cumbersome. She asked to be a volunteer and she was not given that opportunity, she has been waiting for two (2) months for that opportunity as a volunteer at Parks & Recreation through an internship and has not been given to her. Many of the people present know her and know that she has been a volunteer of the city and the county for more than 15 years. Last Friday, there were two (2) separate events, she can talk about the event outside, which is the one she had to experienced. She stated that they were left without electricity having so many lamps, that was one of the problems she encountered. She promotes her culture so that one can be proud politicians of ones own race.

Ms. Maria Garcia, 4173 E. Monreal Lane, San Luis, AZ, stated that she is a wife and mother of three (3) children and a citizen of the State of Arizona. She is disabled and a business owner adding that last week she was at the Senior Center. The seniors welcomed her with great joy and when she finished her event with them, the lady who assisted her told her that, that was not allowed to be done there and she would not be able to return to the Senior Center. Her question is why can't she go back? She feels that the seniors are able to make their decisions on how they can spend their money. What she is providing are accessible accessories for \$5.00. She also indicated that there is not enough accessible parking for handicap at different locations throughout the city. When she arrived to City Hall, she was not able to locate a handicap parking, there are enough handicap parking spaces at WalMart, but not at Del Sol Market. She feels that only true handicapped people should be the ones using those parking spaces.

Mr. James Allen Jr., 1549 Babbit Lane, San Luis, AZ, commented he is a United States Navy retired 21 years. He specified, he is the chairman of the committee Against 422 Proposition, the reason why he is there is because the people have not been thoroughly advised of what ramifications it will happen to all the people if they vote yes on Proposition 422. He feels that under a different setting, if the people were knowledgeable, maybe something could be done with that proposition. However, the signs that are out in the community are very vague at best and do not direct to an understanding but rather bring confusion. He added that the people in the audience wearing sky blue t-shirts with the advertisements on them are citizens of the City of San Luis. These are people that have a stake in what that proposition can do to them; the proposition can cause a lot of negative things. It is an open ended proposition that does not have an expiration date, the amount can go up and it can stabilize depending on if more persons live in San Luis.

He added, but the other thing, if the people living here right now, do not understand what 422 is, he stands with them saying no Proposition 422 by any means and they will stand by any means necessary to stop it and to advise the people of this city that they should be educated as to what it will do.

Mr. Fabher Sanchez, 3779 San Gabriel Street, San Luis, AZ, mentioned that today he had the opportunity to see the people who were putting up signs on the streets. Mr. Marquez was one of them and he approached Mr. Marquez to ask him as a citizen what the opposition was about or why. He did not know how to respond and evaded the questions and left. To him, that was wrong because that is misinforming people or simply not informing them. The issue of Proposition 422 is to inform people what is about, it is about progress and having more funds to complete things that are needed in the community. There are no funds and misinforming people nothing will be achieved. He can have a debate with anyone regarding Proposition 422 to inform people and he can also ask any of the people wearing the blue t-shirt what is the tax they pay for them to say no more taxes. There are no taxes and a few subdivisions pay for everyone's. They say that the female developers, he does not know if Mr. Marquez knows that developers deliver the subdivisions to the city and developers do not have any benefit on taxes. He asked to not misinform and harm people; this is the development and future of one's children and families. Don't be against the advancement of the future, one is no longer from 20 years ago, one is young and want progress. People wearing the blue t-shirt or has the yellow sign do not know what they are talking about. He asks residents to approach those of Proposition 422 who are young, entrepreneurs, well-known people and thinking people. Check who is behind the Committee No More Taxes and their profiles and compare them to the those behind Proposition 422. He asks to vote in favor of progress and not regression with Mr. Luis Marquez.

Mr. Jorge Villicaña, 1445 Babbitt Lane, San Luis, AZ, indicated that one of the things that has worried him about Proposition 422 is that the community was not well informed about what it was about, probably for the community to accept Proposition 422. But in reality, residents have some high taxes like 10.7% and he does not think that one (1) more tax is needed since most of the people who live in San Luis, Arizona, are field and seasonal workers. He also mentioned that there is a newspaper article that says San Luis faces a cut of \$2.7 million in state funds and will cut capital projects to what Mayor Riedel responded on the article the situation looks difficult. But he wonders, if the situation being faced in San Luis, Arizona is difficult, why is the city spending over \$50,000.00 in a lawsuit with Pastor Castro. He thinks the best decision is for the City Council to reach an agreement with this ministry that helps people a lot with the distribution of food. He wants people to know that the government is of the people and for the people. People place them and people takes them out. He asked to not be allowed to be intimidated by people and if one thinks it is a good or bad election so be it.

Ms. Adela Silva, 1139 N. Villarreal Avenue, San Luis, AZ, stated she is an active member of the Gadsden Education Association and as part of the leadership team, she is the link for the employees of the transportation department.

She added to Ms. Arreola's statement earlier that at state level the goal is to knock 3,150 doors weekly and in her area it is more than 350 doors, but the overall goal is more than 25,000 doors.

Mayor Nieves Riedel invited the public to attend the Budget Retreat this weekend to know about the magnitude of the financial problem of the city. The Budget Retreat will be held on Friday and Saturday April 26 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and April 27, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. She stated that the city's finances are bad, but assured that they are in good hands as city employees make miracles.

## **5. PROCLAMATIONS**

- 5. A. Proclamation - National Small Business Week April 28 - May 4, 2024**
- 5. B. Proclamation - Economic Development Week May 6-10, 2024**
- 5. C. Proclamation - Municipal Clerks Week May 5-11, 2024**
- 5. D. Proclamation - Building Safety Month May 2024**
- 5. E. Proclamation - National Bike Month May 2024**

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

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Regular Council meeting held March 27, 2024

### **6. B. DISBURSEMENTS FROM APRIL 4, 2024 TO APRIL 17, 2024**

**Total \$1,415,526.91**

(One Million, Four Hundred Fifteen Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Ninety-One Cents)

**MOTION:** Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya 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

## 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

### **7. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the acceptance and approval for the filing of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the City of San Luis, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023. (Roula Encinas, Acting Director of Finance and Heinfeld, Meech & Co., P.C.)**

Ms. Roula Encina, Acting Director of Finance, introduced Ms. Britney Williams, an Engagement Partner of the Audit Firm Heinfeld, Meech & Co.

Mr. Williams stated that they issued a number of reports this year related to Fiscal Year Audit 23. The first report is the Independent Auditors Opinion Report on the Annual Financial Statements as well as a Clean Opinion Report and there were no issues. They also issued an Unmodified Opinion Report and as far as the Single Audit Reporting package, page 8 indicates what their opinion was over the financial statements and over the Federal Compliance Audit, they had clean opinions on everything and there were no findings on any of the reports.

**MOTION:** Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to accept and approve the filing of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the City of San Luis for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023. 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

### **7. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the acceptance and award of a contract to Dana Kepner Company, Inc. for the Water Meter Replacement Contract and Implementation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System. (Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager)**

Mr. Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager, explained that this item is for the acceptance and the contract award to Dana Kepner Company for the water meter replacement program and implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System. A total of 4,700 water meters and antennas will be replaced and the reading system will be upgraded, which will allow staff to obtain remotely reads and set up alerts for leaks as well as detecting any temperature of the meters. With the new AMI, residents will be provided with a customer portal so they can access their water meter information. Staff had a bid opening and received three (3) proposals and Dana Kepner was the one with the highest score. Dana Kepner has installed more than ten (10) AMI solutions in Arizona.

Additionally, the City of San Luis has worked with Dana Kepner for over 20 years and know their products. The project is scheduled to begin by the end of May or early June and be completed by the end of September 2025. The total cost of the project is \$2,761,474.63 and the money received from WIFA will be used in the amount of \$2,017,065.21 with a matching fund of \$744,490.42. He added that the grant did help and had it not been for the grant, staff would have not been able to proceed with the project.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz stated she is glad staff searches for grants, although the City Council allocates funding for projects, sometimes, it is not enough. She congratulated Mr. Esparza for obtaining the grant.

Some discussion took place amongst City Council and staff regarding whether it was the same project from 2018-2019, costs and interruptions on services during the transition, the cost then was \$1.8 million.

**MOTION:** Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz/Council Member Luis E. Cabrera to accept and award a contract to Dana Kepner Company, Inc. for the water meter replacement programs and implementation of an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), as presented and to approve the budget transfer as stated in the fiscal impact. 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

**7. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the purchase of electrical equipment for the Water Well Site #5 Project. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated this is for the construction of a new well for the filtration system at Well Site No. 5 also known as the Public Works Yard. The city has already procured the filtration system as well as the pre-engineered metal building being constructed. The well was drilled by KP Ventures and is near completion. The project is seeking general contractors for putting everything together and construct the well site. He added that staff is asking for the authorization to purchase the electrical equipment needed for the service entrance, automatic transfer switch and the generator for this project. The equipment has lead times of up to a year or more; staff was not able to procure the equipment before as the design was not completed. Going into formal bid process will only add at least two (2) more months to the lead time of delivery.

Staff requested three (3) proposals from local vendors; Specialty Electric was \$204,036.00 with a lead time of 367 days, D&H Electric was \$199,900.00 with a lead time of 420 days and WW Williams was not able to provide a complete proposal. Staff recommends Specialty Electric and to waive formal procurement code.

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Javier Vargas approve the purchase of electrical equipment for Well Site No. 5 project in the amount of \$204,036.00 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

## **8. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**

### **Events by Mayor, Council Members and/or City Manager pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02 (K).**

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera reported today is Administrative Professionals Day and congratulated all the Administrative Professionals the city adding they are a great asset to the community.

Mayor Nieves Riedel reported the South West Off Road event was a success, she added it will take place again in October 2024 and many participants come from all over Mexico and different states from the United States. The city should be promoting some of these things so that the community can be brought together.

Council Member Matias Rosales reported that he and Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz attended the Yuma Regional Medical Center Shadow a Doctor Day. They toured the facility and other areas that they normally do not see when one is visiting the hospital.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz added that it was an exciting tour and she got to be in the operating room with a real patient and experienced the surgery with the robotic machine. On a separate note, she reported she attended the Senior Center where the Border Patrol came and gave a presentation with their K9.

## **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Discussion and possible action to hold an executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) on any and all matters regarding discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney regarding compensation for the City Council members. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Gloria Torres to go into Executive Session at approximately 6:57 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 Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

#### **10. MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION:** Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to go back into Regular Session at approximately 7:28 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 Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

#### **11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM:**

**Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2307. A resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, setting the compensation to be paid to City Council Members; establishing an effective date; repealing Resolution No. 1062; repealing any other conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Matias Rosales to table the 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 Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Matias Rosales	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Luis E. Cabrera to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 7:29 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 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 Regular City Council meeting of the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on April 24, 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

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