

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
May 8, 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
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz
Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya
Council Member Javier Vargas

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Gloria Torres
Council Member Matias Rosales

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager
Kay Macuil, City Attorney
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources
Adriana Garcia, Human Resource Manager
Antonio Maldonado, Video Production Specialist
Candy Lara, Records Management Specialist
Domingo Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist
Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Josue Cerda, IT Specialist
Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk
Miguel Ramirez, Finance Accounting Manager
Roula Encinas, Acting Director of Finance
Albert Leon, Resident
Buna George, Greater Yuma Port Authority
Cecilia Carpenter, Developer
Cristian Cuevas, Simultaneous Translator
Esteban Rosales, Resident
Fabher Sanchez, Resident
Gilberto Zarate, Resident
Greg LaVann, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corp
James Allen Jr., Resident
Jarmy Rodriguez, Resident

Jorge Villicaña, Resident
Lizeth Servin, Resident
Mark Concha, Resident

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Javier Vargas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Nigel Reynoso – Chief of Police of San Luis Police Department led the invocation.

4. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATION

4. A. Proclamation - National Peace Officers Memorial Day May 15, 2024 and National Police Week May 15-21, 2024

4. B. Proclamation - National Public Works Week May 19 to 25, 2024

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

4. C. Presentation and update on any and all matters regarding Greater Yuma Port Authority's activities. (Buna George, Executive Director to Greater Yuma Port Authority)

Ms. Buna George, Executive Director of Greater Yuma Port Authority, quickly updated their latest activities. There are eight (8) board members, two (2) appointed from each municipality. There were changes in leadership this year with Mr. Wayne Gail's retirement and Frank Rascon. There was also a retirement celebration for former Port Director John Schwam in December. She welcomed Mayor Nieves Riedel, representing the City of San Luis and Mr. Russ Jones from R.L. Jones Customs Brokers, representing the City of Yuma. There are six (6) seats that are currently filled with two (2) vacant. Unfortunately, with Mr. Gary Knight's loss, the City of Yuma has one (1) of its seats open. She continued to talk about Fostering international relationships, partnerships, trades, border crossing statistics and Magrino Industrial Park. Eighty-six (86) acres were completed and developed as of last July 2023 and the transaction was a little over seven \$7 million dollars. She mentioned that the San Luis I Port of Entry is on track, the City of Douglas is undergoing two-port solutions, and there are future projects in Nogales. She stated that the Port Authority will focus regionally, but will remain connected statewide because of federal funds being invested through the State of Arizona.

The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Agenda packet filed at the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Nieves Riedel thanked Ms. Buna for her weekly reports.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5. A. MINUTES OF - April 10, 2024 Regular Council meeting

5. B. DISBURSEMENTS FROM APRIL 17, 2024 TO MAY 1, 2024 Total \$1,528,517.30

(One Million, Five Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Thirty Cents)

5. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget for City Council's contracts. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager corrected the Fiscal Year to be 2024-2025 not 2023-2024.

5. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the contract with the Arizona Interagency Farmworkers Coalition, Inc. for scholarships for students who are residents of San Luis for secondary education. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney and Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)

Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya pointed out that there was no contract attached to item 5. D.

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, will bring back item, with attached contract on May 22, 2024.

5. E. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the amending of the contract with Dana Kepner Company, Inc. for the Water Meter Replacement Program and Implementation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System project to include the ARPA Terms and Conditions. (Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager)

MOTION: Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to amend the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and approve all the items and to bring back item 5. D. on the May 22nd Regular meeting and to approve item 5. C. correcting the Fiscal Year to 2024-2025. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

6. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2308. A resolution 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 from The Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force by Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Phoenix, Arizona, through the Phoenix Police Department and City of San Luis, Arizona, through The San Luis Police Department. (Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police)

Mr. Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police, requested approval to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Phoenix Police Department and the City of San Luis Department to receive funds from the Internet Crimes Against Children. The funds are for training, technical assistance to effectively investigate and prosecute. The amount that was awarded is \$5,000 dollars.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz asked if it is the first time they have been awarded this funding?

Mr. Nigel Reynoso, answered that they get awarded every year but the contract is only for two (2) years. They are just renewing the contract.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz asked about local children being victimized or if he could give an example?

Mr. Nigel Reynoso, stated that it is statewide, confidential and anonymous. The Phoenix Police Department is the main hub and they are the ones that distribute them to the different jurisdictions. The City of San Luis Police Department gets an alert when a case comes in.

MOTION: Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2308. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

6. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the acceptance of change order No. 2 from Viking Industrial Painting, LLC, for the Well Site #6 tank rehabilitation project. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated there is a change order request, No. 2, from Viking Industrial Painting, LLC, for the Well Site #6 tank rehabilitation project. Public Works received one (1) proposal within the change order including three (3) different options. Option number 1, Roof In-kind replacement at \$270,689.00, Option Number 2, Steel replacement with exterior structure at \$273,246.00 and option number 3, replacement with a self-supporting aluminum geodesic dome at \$119,779.00. The department recommends option number 3, aluminum geodesic dome at \$119,779.00. The change also includes a time extension for the project to start until November of this fiscal year and should be completed by March 31, 2025.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera asked about the life span of each of the options.

Mr. Jorge Perez, responded that the first two (2) options, being metal, initially need coding to protect the metal from rusting. Then with proper inspections, it can extend up to 50 years. Inspections and rehabilitation are recommended every 10 to 15 years. The aluminum option does not rust like metal, would not require coding and would require less maintenance over the years.

MOTION: Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to accept Change Order request No. 2 from Viking Industrial Painting, LLC, for Well Site # 6 tank roof replacement in the amount not to exceed \$136,904.00 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

6. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the designation of polling places and drop-off locations for the Special Election scheduled for May 21, 2024. (Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk)

Mrs. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, informed that the City of San Luis is getting ready for the Special Election scheduled for May 21, 2024. Yuma County Election Services will be assisting with this election per the IGA that is currently in place between the city and Yuma County. Arizona Revised Statutes §16-411 provides that when an election is ordered by the city, the local governing body holding the election shall designate the polling places where the election shall be held. The vote centers will be the Yuma County Library - San Luis Branch and the San Luis Medical Mall. The polling places will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date of the Special Election. The ballot drop off locations will be the Recorder's Office, located at 102 S. Main Street in Yuma, available 24/7 and the Yuma County Library - San Luis Branch, located at 1075 N. 6th Avenue in San Luis, available 24/7 and until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

MOTION: Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas, to approve the Yuma County Library – San Luis Branch and the San Luis Medical Mall to be the Vote Centers for the Special Election on May 21, 2024, as well as the drop off box locations to be the Recorder’s Office and the Yuma County Library – San Luis Branch, as presented by staff. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

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

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz reported that it was a pretty busy week, starting with the Small Business Fair. She stated it was very successful and congratulated the Economic Development team. She remembered when Jenny Torres was the only one in that department when it first started and now there are four (4). Also, the National Day of Prayer was very successful, with about 150 people in attendance. It is one of her favorite events because it brings community members and different churches together. She thanked all that attended. She also added that Council Member Matias Rosales and her, attended the memorial service for Council Member Gary Knight. She shared the boards he served, including the Yuma Metropolitan and Planning Organization, the Greater Yuma Port Authority, and State Transportation, and mentioned he was very supportive of the City of San Luis.

Mayor Nieves Riedel, stated that Council Member Gary Knight was a true public servant. She was fortunate to be in a meeting with him at Yuma Port Authority and he was very welcoming. The last words he had with her were that he felt very lucky to look into the future, be able to work with her and help the City of San Luis. She was touched and saw in his eyes he was being very sincere. Her message to everyone is to enjoy every day of your life. She added that he will be greatly missed.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz reported she also attended the San Luis Fire Department Pancake event on May 4, 2024 and stated they were the best pancakes ever. She mentioned Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, congratulated them and said it was an amazing event. There was a child who attended the event, his grandfather was a former firefighter and he was encouraged by the event to become a firefighter one day.

Mayor Nieves Riedel, stated that the Fire Department should come and make pancakes for Administration during work days at 8:00 a.m.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera reported on the City of San Luis Budget Retreat, thanked all the staff for their dedication and hard work. He stated to reflect on the challenges ahead, to remember that every obstacle is an opportunity for growth, innovation and must remain loyal in the commitment to serving the community and to find creative solutions to fiscal challenges. He stated to embrace transparency, collaboration, and accountability to navigate through these uncertain times. He has no doubt that the city will emerge stronger and resilient than ever before.

Mayor Nieves Riedel, commented that it is sad to see that the residents of the City of San Luis are invited to join the meeting and only one (1) member of the community showed up. When hard times arrive, residents pretend they were not informed and accuse the City of San Luis employees of hiding the truth. The only time people start showing up is when there is a presidential campaign. Criticism is towards the Mayor, Council Members, the City of San Luis, and their employees. She invited the community to get involved, to listen to the city's needs, to participate not with malice, but out of the goodness of their heart and be a community that looks for each other not against each other. The ones that are getting hurt are the residents of the City of San Luis. She added that if they are unwilling to participate, she does not want to hear complaints. She clarified that the budget was cut by 70% not because of a lack of money management, but because there is no money. She added that since the first day she looked at the books, she said the city is in really bad shape and something needs to be done. She also mentioned that the people who attack with comments on the internet are invited to attend the meetings. A member of the community met with her and the Acting City Administrator for two (2) hours and made no difference in his opinion. She also clarified that the money coming into the city is not for her pocketbook; she does not need to get any richer, has enough to live 100 years, and her descendants would still be okay. She added that she is trying to do the right thing for her love to this community.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera reported that on Friday, he attended the Arizona Student Association Education Colloquium at the Cultural Center. There were presentations from different districts from Yuma County, state representatives, and other leaders from the community. The discussions were about the education crisis and how to tackle it. It was a great discussion and is looking forward to the next event from ASA.

8. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. James Allen Jr., a United States Navy retired and resides at 1549 E. Babbitt Lane in San Luis, Arizona. He stated he listened to the Mayor's remarks. He would like to thank the scheduler for putting the Call To The Public at the end of the meeting to allow the people to digest other items that come across from the city. People are allowed to agree and disagree. He stated that he had three (3) signs destroyed and one (1) stolen. He added that signs cannot fight back or hurt anyone, but they cost money. It was a childish act and adults should act like adults. He made a call to the public, before they made their vote, to read the pamphlet. To make an informed decision and exercise their right.

Mr. Fabher Sanchez, 3779 E. San Gabriel Street, San Luis, AZ, stated he would like to clarify that for every person that does not support the property tax, there will always be someone in front of them who does. The purpose is to inform them on what the proposition is about and not fill them up with lies. He also asked the people opposing the proposition to respect San Luis Arizona, to respect the hard work of the people, because if the proposition does not get through it will fall on the City of San Luis. The City of San Luis will have to resolve the problem which could include people losing their employment and adjustments would likely be made. He commented that it is about a common good, for the city's development and benefits for all.

Mr. Luis E. Cabrera, a resident of San Luis, Arizona, located at 4024 E. Udall Lane, San Luis, AZ, stated that a week ago, he was at his mother-in-law's house. He mentioned Proposition 422 is going to be voted on Special Election on May 21, 2024, and finds it alarming that the group that opposes to proposition 422 is lying to the community. He heard a young woman and a young man tell her that the raise to the property taxes would be \$500.00 a month and then they said a \$500.00 a year. They stated the money would go to one person, Mayor Nieves Riedel and to help her development. He added that if people want to campaign against the proposition they have the right to do so, but it's not allowed to lie to the community. He did the calculations for the amount his mother-in-law would be paying a year and it was less than \$300.00 a year. He concluded by saying he will be doing a formal complaint about the incident and stated that the city has done a good job explaining what Proposition 422 is and how the funds will be used.

Mayor Nieves Riedel stated she would not walk to the podium because she only makes 10 cents an hour as a Mayor. She mentioned all the texts she has been receiving from two (2) people sitting there. She directed her comments to them and said that next time they do a sign, not to put developer but her complete name, Nieves Garcia Riedel; she is proud of her trade.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargs to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 6:47 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	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 May 8, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk

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