

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**San Luis City Council**  
**San Luis Council Chambers**  
**1090 E. Union Street**  
**San Luis, AZ 85349**  
**February 26, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya called the Regular City Council meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Nieves Riedel  
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya  
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera  
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz  
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales  
Council Member Lizeth Servin  
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  
Adriana Garcia, Human Resources Manager  
Alan Guevara, Police Lieutenant  
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief  
Angelica Cifuentes, Purchasing Coordinator  
Angelica Roldan, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Antonio Maldonado, Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist  
Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development  
Carlos Pacheco, Police Officer  
Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager  
Enrique Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief  
Ernesto Prieto, Police Sergeant  
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works  
Fernando Corona, I.T. Manager  
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer  
Jeremy Humphrey, Fire Battalion Chief  
Johnnie Morris, Fire Battalion Chief  
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Jose Guzman, Director of Planning & Zoning  
Jossue Cerda, I.T. Support Supervisor  
Juan Leal Rubio, Assistant Director of Development Services  
Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works

Mario Rodriguez, Finance Operations Manager  
Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk  
Miguel Ramirez, Finance Accounting Manager  
Olivia Jenkins, Administrative Services Manager  
Roula Encinas, Director of Finance  
Tomas Sanchez, City Engineer  
Victor De La Torre, Safety Officer  
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter  
Christian Cuevas, Translator  
Fabher Sanchez, Resident  
Genaro Soto, Resident  
Jose Ponce, Resident  
Lucy Lopez, Reporter  
Luis Marquez, Resident  
Manuel Rojas, Resident  
Marco Ramirez, Rotary Club  
Maria Luz Hoyos, Resident  
Mark Concha, Resident  
Martha Ulloa, Resident  
Matias Rosales, Resident  
Nydia Mendenhall, Resident  
Yolanda Urias, Resident

## **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Javier Vargas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. INVOCATION**

Ms. Yolanda Urias, Pastor, Centro Misionero Yireh, led the invocation.

## **4. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**4. A. 4. A. Proclamation on Read Across America Week March 2-6, 2025**

**4. B. Proclamation on International Women's Day March 8, 2025**

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

**4. C. Recognition to Captain Robert Solis for his dedicated 20 years of unwavering service to the Fire Department and the City of San Luis. (Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief)**

Mr. Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief, recognized Mr. Robert Solis, Fire Captain, for his 20 years of dedicated service to the City of San Luis and its residents.

Fire Captain Solis thanked Chief Ramirez, the Mayor, the City Council, residents, and family for their support throughout these 20 years of service.

**4. D. Presentation by San Luis High School on their Career Technical Education Programs. (Iris Castillo, San Luis High School CTE Instructional Leader)**

Miss Skelsey Moraga, SkillsUSA Regional Officer; Miss Chelsea Moraga, FCCLA Vice President; and Miss Violeta Acosta, SkillsUSA Chapter Leader, provided a presentation on their programs and their benefits. They invited Mayor Nieves Riedel and the City Council to visit San Luis High School.

Mayor Nieves Riedel and the City Council thanked and congratulated them for their presentation.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**5. A. MINUTES OF**

- Work Session held January 22, 2025
- Regular Council meeting held January 22, 2025

**5. B. DISBURSEMENTS**

**From February 6, 2025 to February 18, 2025**

**Total \$1,941,614.01**

**(One Million, Nine Hundred Forty-One Thousand, Six Hundred Fourteen Dollars and One Cent)**

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Mayor Nieves Riedel to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

**6. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the selection and purchase of new headworks and grit removal systems for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated that this is a major and critical piece of equipment installed in the wastewater treatment process. It is the filter or screen, which is the first step where the water comes into the plant. The city partnered with PACE Advanced Water Engineering, as consultants, who are doing the design of the plant expansion.

They assist with producing a request for proposals along with a performance set of specifications for this piece of equipment. A total of three (3) proposals were obtained. Hydrodyne Engineering was the best proposal and the best available price. The recommendation from PACE engineers and staff is to continue with the purchase of the headworks equipment from Hydrodyne in the amount of \$1,510,550.00. The purchase has a lead time or delivery time of eight (8) months, meaning that a partial part of the cost will be expensed this fiscal year, and the remainder will be paid the following fiscal year.

**MOTION:** Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz/Mayor Nieves Riedel to approve the Hydro-Dyne Engineering, Inc., bid of \$1,510,550.00 for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Phase 1 upgrades to be spent over this and the next fiscal year and authorize appropriate staff to take all actions necessary to finalize the purchase payment as scheduled. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. B Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the selection and purchase of a new Sludge Dewatering system for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, said that this is for the same project but a different piece of equipment, which is a sludge. A sludge is a watering system that falls at the end of the treatment process and extracts the water from the solids before disposing of them at the landfill. The exact process was followed through PACE Advanced Water Engineering, which performed a set of performance specifications. Bids were received and the recommendation is to move forward with the purchase from FKC in the amount of \$869,887.00; a partial part of the cost will be expensed this fiscal year, and the remainder will be paid the following fiscal year. The lead time for delivery is nine (9) months.

**MOTION:** Council Member Javier Vargas/Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve the FKC Co., LTD bid proposal for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Phase 1 upgrades in the amount of \$869,887.00 to be spent over this and the next fiscal year and authorize appropriate staff to take all actions necessary to finalize the purchase payment schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the acceptance and award of a pre-construction services contract to MGC Contractors, Inc. for the pre-construction/design phase of the West Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, mentioned that this is related to the project explained in the last two (2) items, adding that staff is following a different or alternative delivery method a Seymour approach, meaning for construction manager at risk. Through PACE Advanced Water Engineering, staff is following a process of selecting the contractor based on their qualifications and their ability to complete the project. A total of four (4) proposals from four (4) different large-scale contractors were received. MGC resulted as the best-qualified contractor from the selection process and through a series of negotiations in the amount of \$470,926.82. This proposal is only for pre-construction services.

**MOTION:** Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Mayor Nieves Riedel to accept and award the Pre-Construction Services Agreement to MGC Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$470,926.82 for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the City of San Luis Public Works Department accepting Construction Services from Yuma Valley Contractors, Inc. for the installation of new sewer service at the City of San Luis Public Works yard and adjacent parcels to the South. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works).**

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, indicated that a new well is being constructed, which will enhance the water production and treatment of the city's water process. Staff has identified the need to expand or provide a new sewer service to that parcel Wellsite No. 5. With the assistance of the consultant designer, CORE Engineering, a design was produced and incorporated into the sewer work adjacent south of the Public Works Yard. Staff requested three (3) proposals from contractors, but only two (2) responded. Based on the proposals received, the city is under the threshold that the State requires for public bidding but is above the threshold the city has for public bidding or the City Council's approval for awarding construction projects. Staff recommends the lowest bidder, who is Yuma Valley Contractors and to wait for more purchasing procedures.

Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya asked, if the money for the Escondido Lift Station is not used to do the Cesar Chavez project, what will happen to the lift station if that project does not go through.

Mr. Perez responded that staff is asking the City Council to reallocate funding from the Escondido Lift Station Relocation Project to this project because \$300,000.00 was allocated for the relocation of that lift station. However, an ADOT contractor will be doing the project. If the Cesar Chavez Project does not happen, there is no need to relocate the lift station.

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Esteban C. Rosales to accept construction services from Yuma Valley Contractors, Inc., for the installation of a new sewer main and services at the City of San Luis Public Works Yard and adjacent properties in the amount of \$208,733.70 to waive formal purchasing procedures for the reasons presented, and to approve the budget transfer as presented in the fiscal impact of this item. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. E. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the acceptance of slurry seal application services from American Pavement Preservation for the application of Type 2 slurry seal and road striping services from Franklin Striping Incorporated. (Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works, mentioned that this item is to request approval to reallocate funds from various projects to complete this year's pavement preservation program. The reallocation will allow for the application of a slurry seal on Main Street from County 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to Urtuzuastegui Street, complementing Yuma County's recent mill and overlay project on Highway 95. The slurry seal application is scheduled to take place between April and June 2025. The City of San Luis will be piggybacking on the City of Yuma's Co-Op Agreement with American Preservation and Yuma County's Co-Op Agreement with Franklin Striping Incorporated. Both Cooperative Agreements comply with Arizona's Cooperative Purchasing under A.R.S. and align with the City of San Luis Purchasing Code.

**MOTION:** Council Member Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Javier Vargas to accept Slurry Seal Application Service from American Pavement Preservation in the amount of \$178,750.71 and Road Striping Services from Franklin Striping Incorporated in the amount of \$23,466.54 and authorize the budget transfers as presented in the Fiscal Impact Statement. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. F. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2025-03. An Order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving and adopting the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of San Luis and Gadsden Elementary School District #32 (GESD #32) for funds supporting the San Luis Police Department's participation in the School Resource Officer assignment at San Luis Middle School and Southwest Junior High School. (Alan Guevara, Patrol Lieutenant)**

Mr. Alan Guevara, Patrol Lieutenant, stated that the San Luis Police Department is requesting approval for the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Gadsden School District No. 32 for a School Resource Officer assignment to San Luis Middle School and Southwest Junior High School. The term of the IGA shall be from the day effective, which is the date set forth by the Gadsden School District No. 32. through the end of June 30, 2026.

The IGA provides overtime funding for Arizona Post sworn personnel of the San Luis Police Department during the 180 days for eight (8) hours per day, as the funding allows for any time over the eight (8) hour workday, upon request of the principal or principal's designee.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera asked if the city is going to hire two (2) more officers for these two (2) schools.

Lt. Guevara responded, no, the San Luis Police Department will assign two (2) officers. The position was open to all sworn personnel. The officers who applied went through a process, and two (2) officers were selected. The grant is for this fiscal year, which ends June 30 and for the next fiscal year, the San Luis Police Department would have to reapply for the grant again.

**MOTION:** Council Member Javier Vargas/Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve and adopt Order No. 2025-03, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. G. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2354. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, authorizing the submission of an application to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant to establish a Small Business Assistance Fund. (Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development)**

Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development, explained that his department has been working on a grant for the USDA Rural Business Development program. They have reviewed a report from the Minnesota Department of Transportation that provides some insight into how some infrastructure projects could be beneficial when they are finished and operational but can also cause some reduction in foot traffic and vehicle traffic that can hurt some of the local businesses along the areas of construction. The Economic Development Department is looking at developing either a small business revolving loan fund or a grant program to help those businesses that will be located along the construction area. At the moment, the application is vague because the city was awarded this grant last year for Fuerza Local and has some experience in the process of the program and award but still do not know if it will be a grant or a small business loan. If the city is awarded, there is a two (2) month period to finalize the criteria and the parameters of the program and will bring it back for the Mayor and City Council's approval.

He added that with all the Federal freezes and what is happening at the Federal level, he thinks the program is at the state level and is safe from the freeze. Again, the city was awarded for Fuerza Local last year and was allowed to continue with the program, and this application was released after all the Federal freezes.

Mayor Nieves Riedel declared a conflict of interest as there are tenants that are leasing at Plaza Riedel and do not want those rumors that these tenants benefited because of that and wants to prevent attacks and intimidation on the tenants as well.

**MOTION:** Council Member Lizeth Servin/Council Member Luis E. Cabrera to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2354, authorizing the Economic Development Department to submit an application to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant to establish a Small Business Assistance Fund. The motion passed with six (6) Aye votes and one (1) abstention from Mayor Nieves Riedel.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Abstained
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. H. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Subdivision Case No. 2024-0865F - Los Mezquites Unit 5 Subdivision; a request by Edais Engineering Inc., on behalf of Riedel Holdings LLC, for the approval of Los Mezquites Unit 5 final plat, located east of 24th Avenue and south of Los Mezquites Unit 4 Subdivision in San Luis, Arizona. (Juan Leal Rubio, Assistant Director of Development Services)**

Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael to continue this item to the next available Council meeting, as City Administration deems proper to bring it back for Council.

**6. I. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2355. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving the First Amendment to La Esperanza Estates Subdivision Development Agreement as approved by Resolution No. 2292; repealing conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Jose A. Guzman, Director of Development Services)**

Mayor Nieves Riedel declared a conflict of interest on this item.

Mr. Jose Guzman, Director of Development Services, said that any development must make improvements on the adjacent street as part of the subdivision regulations.

In this case, improvements to La Esperanza were required on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, but instead of the improvements, it was more proper to get the amount of improvements based on the engineer cost estimate because staff was working on doing the design for 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to connect to County 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Because the requirement was to use that money for the frontage of the street only, the proposed Development Agreement Amendment is to allow the city to use that money for the whole project and not just for the frontage of the development.

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2355, as presented. Motion passed with six (6) Ayes and one (1) Abstention by Mayor Nieves Riedel

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Abstained
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

**6. J. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2356. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, reducing the City Council Members' pay by fifty percent and amending the City of San Luis Personnel Policies to remove City Council Members from dental and vision care coverage paid by the city; establishing an effective date; repealing any conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)**

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, explained that this agenda item is a repeat of the resolution on February 12<sup>th</sup>; it was amended to make a motion clearer. She added that for clarification from an earlier question, the pay would not go into effect until after the 2026 Election.

Council Member Javier Vargas thanked the people who participated in the survey posted last week on social media. 160 community members participated out of a population of 40,000. He was looking forward to seeing a lot more people present tonight who commented that they would be here as they supported the salary cut. He added that it is easier to make comments behind the screen rather than being here tonight showing their support. He is expressing this because he does not make decisions based on the results of surveys posted on Facebook but rather makes well-informed decisions, he truly believes are best for the community. He agrees with the people supporting these cuts, but also believes it is not only a matter of cutting expenses, but a matter of bringing revenues to the city. He invited those who were asking for a copy of their paychecks to come to City Hall and request a copy.

He also reminded everyone that next year will be an election year and four (4) seats will be available. He invited those who have better ideas and can do a better job to run for those positions.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera stated that before casting his vote he would like to explain the reason he is voting this way tonight. To begin with, he is casting his vote on the fundamental principle of fiscal responsibility and timely decision-making. This item does not immediately impact on the city's finances within the next 21-plus months. So, if it was carried out with a more pressing or immediate consequence, his vote would reflect that urgency; his commitment is to the well-being of the community, ensuring that every decision made here is responsible. He appreciates the effort to bring this matter forward again for a second time, but currently, he believes it is premature to act on an item that does not directly affect the city's current financial outlook. When the time comes for a meaningful impact, he is open to revisiting this discussion, so his vote is Nay.

Mayor Nieves Riedel commented that what they are hearing from the Administration and from staff that really see the real numbers is to act now and not wait until the ship is underwater. This is when the City Council will do something about it, but that is against her principles. The city should be prepared and not wait for the last minute. Every department is asking this, especially for Parks and Recreation; it has a very special place in her heart. The children of the community do not have a lot of things to do during the summer. This train that is coming this way is going to be here sooner than expected. She added that all she is trying to do is prevent the city from being underwater, in the real world, one does not wait for the train to hit you. That is what being responsible means, one prepares for the future. The city is supposed to have six (6) months' worth of funds for emergencies to keep the city afloat. The city only has money for three (3) months. It is only fair that this matter be taken to the voters to decide. She agrees with Council Member Javier Vargas to let the people decide and vote on this. She is tired of people saying that she took this position because she has money; not everybody has the talent or the determination to keep going in a business that goes up and down. She has never bankrupted a company, and she will be damned if she is part of breaking this, going into bankruptcy in this city because she is afraid of not doing the right thing. They are there to serve. In 2014, the City Administrator gave a big raise; he took it among himself, not the Mayor nor the City Council; the Mayor and City Council voted on it. She assured one thing, no single Administrator is going to tell her, the Mayor to raise their paycheck. She is not here for a paycheck; she is here to do the right thing. She is not here to fight or to play games, and this affects the community. She got elected to serve her community and work, and if the community decides that they should be working for free, then so be it. She also added that on March 5, 2025, there will be a Special Council meeting to discuss the property tax. It is obvious that the community is not interested in doing the right thing, either.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera asked Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, if any Department Director approached her that cutting the City Council's pay was something they looked forward to happening.

Ms. Torres responded no, no Director requested nor recommended that.

Council Member Lizeth Servin stated that the entire meeting felt like it had been rushed, and she wants to make herself available. Anyone who wants to meet with her and understand exactly why her reasoning behind her no vote can set up an appointment by calling City Hall, and she will meet one-on-one to explain her reasoning.

**MOTION:** Council Member Javier Vargas/Mayor Nieves Riedel to amend the February 12, 2025, motion (which was to disapprove Resolution No. 2353) and instead, to approve and adopt the resolution reducing City Council's pay by 50%, eliminating city-paid dental and vision insurance, and substituting Resolution Number 2353 for Number 2356. The motion did not pass with three (3) Ayes and four (4) Nays by Council Members Luis E. Cabrera, Maria Cecilia Cruz, Esteban C. Rosales and Lizeth Servin.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Nay
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Nay
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Nay
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Nay
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

## 7. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

There were no summaries reported at this meeting.

## 8. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. James Allen Jr., 1549 E. Babbitt Lane, San Luis, AZ, 21-year Navy veteran, addressed the Mayor and City Council on what was said concerning cutting the pay. There is a biblical principle that a workman is worthy of their hire. One becomes the worst beast in the forest and expects somebody to work without pay. They sacrificed their time, they ran, and the city got them in office, and it has to be respected even if not everyone likes what this person has to say. One cannot pick on people because it does not go one's way. People do not vote the way they want, and it has to do with the way they are being approached; they feel attacked, and their voice not heard; they feel like they are being treated like children and whoever rules above them has their foot on their neck; he added to get off their neck. He also mentioned that the Special Olympics is a very important thing; it comes once a year. This event will take place on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Gadsden School District No. 32 to the Southwest Jr. High School. He invited the Mayor, City Council, and those present to attend the Special Olympics. This is for the children with disabilities, including adults who feel like they are never even addressed their needs. There are real people here with real needs.

Taking and cutting someone's pay in half is not going to change the hole the city is in now, it makes no sense. Mr. Allen Jr., stated that Mayor Nieves Riedel turned him down when he asked for an appointment and asked for an opportunity to meet with her.

Mr. Fabher Sanchez, 3779 E. San Gabriel Street, San Luis, AZ, commented that it is embarrassing to see what they just saw. Seeing the needs is a lack of respect towards the Finance Department, for city employees, for one person who presented the issues and did not pay attention, and Elected Officials disrespect that person by saying that there are other options when there are not. And as Council Member Lizeth Servin mentioned, to travel, that is what's been done all along, and that is what put the city in the hole. He said that people do not trust anybody because of people like Council Member Lizeth Servin, who put obstacles, saying, look for me and talk to me; the people will not do it. Because of people like Council Member Luis E. Cabrera, the city is in a hole because previous City Councils and Administrations thought, like him, that the matter was not urgent. For people probably like Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz, who swears before the flag and prays at the beginning, who is going to fight for the citizens, and where there is opportunity, it is not done. For people probably like Council Member Esteban C. Rosales, who probably does not have the intention of doing something and voting, he does not know his reasoning, but a day at a time, the city cannot go on like this. He added on Council Member Javier Vargas' comment, whether it is one, ten, or twenty, the opinion of the citizens should be respected. It is unfair for him to see the City Council sitting and saying there are solutions when there are none. Some Council Members will still be in office in 2026, they will see the need then. It is a lack of responsibility from all those who voted against it. He asked when the City Council would begin to do something about it. The city needs funds, and the events that will be eliminated will be preserved with salary reduction. What is Council Member Luis E. Cabrera's concept of holding an event to hold fireworks at the parks but for people to stay at their homes and not come out on the 4th of July? The City Council needs to listen and be more responsible and know that they are birds of passage by being public servants.

Mayor Nieves Riedel commented that the City of San Luis has part-time jobs, no 401ks or retirement plans, and do not qualify for unemployment benefits, insurance, or anything else.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera commented that when they voted in favor of or against this resolution, he initially voted against it probably because he did not make himself understood. If they had voted in favor of the resolution tonight, the impact of this resolution proposed by the Mayor would not be effective tomorrow nor the day after tomorrow. As she mentioned, if the ship is drowning, as a household, he would do what is possible for his family not to drown. Like a Council Member who serves the community, of course, if the finances are in the red, which they are not, and if this resolution was effective tomorrow, then his vote would be different. This is something that can be revisited in October 2026, before January 2027, when there would be a difference in the fiscal impact on the city's budget. It is premature for the City Council to make decisions on something that they are not certain will happen, such as the elimination of the food tax and TPT tax.

He added that this is a political dirty game, and he apologized to the city's Department Directors and the Administration for being used that they were the ones asking for this, which the Acting Manager clarified is not the case. If he knew that his vote would increase the city's budget by \$90,000.00, he would even vote to eliminate the salary and benefits. He loses spending time with his daughter, yet serves this community with all his heart, although he misses his daughter.

Mayor Nieves Riedel clarified that the City Council voted to give direction to the Administration to direct Department Heads, and he does not spend precious time at the city. She asked him in the past to serve on two (2) committees, and he stated he did not have the time as he has two (2) jobs, and they come first because they do not allow him to participate.

Council Member Lizeth Servin addressed Mr. Fabher Sanchez's comments and stated that serving in the community is a privilege. She worked for the City of San Luis Parks & Recreation for 18 years and knows what organizing events is like and to serve the community. She is an elected official now first because God gave her the opportunity and electors voted for her because they trust she can make good decisions for the city. She is there; she is a mother, has a privileged job that has given her opportunities to travel for training, and has not traveled for training for the city. She added that Mr. Sanchez mentioned it was a shame to have people like them, and the Elected Officials are normal people like him, and they also have an education. When it comes to situations like these, she does not like to make a circus of it and fight amongst them, and it does not look good. If they want to cut their pay, it is fine, but they need to understand that they do not only spend time seated, but they also have to read agendas consisting of 450 pages, 3-4 hours at Council meetings, representing the city at different meetings, overall, the City Council does a lot of things that people do not see. She agrees with Council Member Luis E. Cabrera that if the city was under a financial strain, she would also reconsider her vote; however, now, the city is not in a crisis. There are 2-3 years where they can work so the city does not have a crisis; the city is not in the red, the possibility exists, but again, now, the city is not in a crisis. The community is being misinformed. The city is trying to increase employees' salaries; what a redundancy, they want to cut the Elected Officials' pay, she does not understand that. Ok, If her salary is cut to \$4,500.00 annually, however, the city is paying Mr. Sanchez \$5,000.00 for doing those video recordings of the Council meetings, so that means you will be making more than Elected Officials and they are the ones that make the decisions the affect the community and advocate for the community.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya adjourned the Regular Council meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

**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 26, 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk