

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
San Luis, AZ 85349
May 14, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mrs. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, stated that with the Mayor and Vice Mayor being absent, and as authorized by City Code Section 2.05.440 (A)(1), she called the Regular City Council meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

She added that an Acting Mayor would now be selected to chair the meeting and requested a motion to appoint one. After the Acting Mayor is selected, they may proceed with the Roll Call and the remaining items on the agenda.

MOTION: Council Member Lizeth Servin/Council Member Maria Cecilia to select Council Member Luis E. Cabrera to chair the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

PRESENT: Council Member Luis E. Cabrera
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales
Council Member Lizeth Servin

ABSENT: Mayor Nieves Riedel
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya
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
Angelica Roldan, Director of Parks & Recreation
Antonio Maldonado, Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist
Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager
Emmanuel Botello, Police Lieutenant

Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Fernando Corona, I.T. Manager
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer
Israel Lara, I.T. Technician
Johnnie Morris, Fire Battalion Chief
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Maria Barajas, Human Resources Generalist
Maria Sabori, Risk Manager
Mario Rodriguez, Finance Operations Manager
Miguel Ramirez, Finance Accounting Manager
Tomas Sanchez, City Engineer
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter
Christian Cuevas, Translator
Columba Nuñez, Resident
Fabher Sanchez, Resident
Guillermina Fuentes, Resident
Juanita Toledo, Resident
Lilia Quiñonez, Resident
Lucy Lopez, Reporter
Maria Alegria, Resident
Matias Rosales, Resident
Tori Bourguignon, Executive Director for Amberly's Place

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Esteban C. Rosales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was performed by Mr. Joel Avila, Pastor from Mano Extendida Al Ministerio.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Guillermina Fuentes, 1630 N. 9th Avenue, San Luis, AZ, stated that it is a shame that the Mayor is not present when there are items of interest to the community on the Agenda. The Mayor claims she is doing the best for the City of San Luis, but she might be doing the best for her pocket and not for San Luis. What she is doing right now and the rest of the City Council, who publicly authorized spending \$50,000.00 on the matter with Gethsemani Church, but \$100,000.00 has been paid. Is the government planning to save money or not? They turn around and want to charge the community, imposing taxes on its people. Now, they want to remove the compensation to the City Council because they dare to object to what the Mayor says.

Ms. Fuentes added that the Mayor should be ashamed for not being present when items are on the Agenda that are a need to the community. But like always, the manipulator keeps manipulating. She hopes that the City Council does what is correct for the city.

5. PROCLAMATION

5. A. Proclamation on National Public Works Week May 18 - 24, 2025

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6. A. MINUTES OF

- **Special Council meeting held March 28, 2025**
- **Regular Council meeting held April 9, 2025**
- **Special Council meeting held April 14, 2025**

6. B. DISBURSEMENTS

From April 15, 2025, to April 28, 2025

Total \$2,623,567.87

(Two Million, Six Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars and Eighty-Seven Cents)

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Council Member Lizeth Servin to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

7. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the appointment of a member to serve on the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) Yuma County Advisory Council. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, stated that at the Council meeting of January 22, 2025, the City Council appointed Council Member Javier Vargas to serve on the WACOG Executive Board. In a previous meeting, the City Council had appointed Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to serve on the Regional Council of Aging. However, there is still a vacancy on the Yuma County Advisory Council, and Council Member Lizeth Servin has expressed her desire to serve on this board if no other Council Member is interested in serving.

MOTION: Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz/Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera to appoint Lizeth Servin to serve on the WACOG Yuma County Advisory Council. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

7. B. Discussion and possible action on any all matters regarding authorization to reallocate Fiscal Year 2025 budget capacity to projects that staff requested in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, and to waive the procurement code as allowed under San Luis Purchasing Code Section 3.05.010 (F). (Roula Encinas, Director of Finance)

Mr. Miguel Ramirez, Finance Accounting Manager, said that the city has been informed that the manufactured restroom unit for East Community Park, originally budgeted at \$350,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, will not be delivered by June 30, 2025. As a result, there is available budget capacity in the current fiscal year, while the expense will now shift to the FY 2026 budget.

As part of the budget strategy to help alleviate next year's expenditures and effectively use the city's resources, staff is requesting Council's approval for the following:

1. Reallocate unused FY 2025 budget capacity from the East Community Park restroom project to fund critical capital items included in the proposed FY 2026 budget that can be purchased and received before the end of the current fiscal year.
2. To waive the formal purchasing procedures as allowed under San Luis Purchasing Code Section 3.05.010 (F) for all listed equipment purchases to facilitate the procurement process and ensure items arrive before the end of the fiscal year.

The items that are available to purchase:

- PW Admin Toyota Tacoma
- Plotter for Engineering
- Engineering Pickup Ford F-150
- Highway Users Ford F350 Service Truck
- Wastewater Bobcat Skid-Steer Loader
- Parks Ground Toro Proline H800 with high-lift dump

Additionally, staff recommends utilizing available budget capacity in FY 2025 to purchase one additional pick-up F-150 for the Engineering department. This vehicle was not included in the FY 2026 budget but is essential to the department's operations.

MOTION: Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Lizeth Servin to approve the budget transfer as presented in the fiscal impact of this agenda item to complete in Fiscal Year 2025 for capital projects requested for Fiscal Year 2026 budget, and to waive the formal procedures for the good cause presented as allowed under San Luis Purchasing Code. Additionally, to authorize the purchase of the vehicle not included in the budget for FY2026. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

7. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2361. A resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving an agreement between the City of San Luis, Arizona, and the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) for a License Agreement for Head Start Facilities. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, stated that this item is a continuing agreement with WACOG to operate the Head Start program; they own the manufacturing building on the site. This agreement allows them to use the building on federal land, for which the city holds a license or lease at Joe Orduño Park, and they will continue to use it as a Head Start facility, so that it complies with Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) requirements that it be a public purpose. The city has no obligations for the maintenance of the building's operation.

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2361. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

7. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding approving a license agreement between the City of San Luis, Arizona, and Amberly's Place for a space in the San Luis Police Department for advocacy services for domestic violence victims. (Council Members Lizeth Servin, Esteban C. Rosales and Luis E. Cabrera)

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera explained that he, along with Council Members Lizeth Servin and Esteban C. Rosales, requested that this item be included on the agenda because Amberly's Place has been a longtime partner with the community, providing vital services to victims of domestic violence. Amberly's Place has been in operation for multiple years, and the City Council was made aware that no agreement was in place. Therefore, they want to ensure that an agreement is in place and that Amberly's Place continues to provide the services.

Ms. Tori Bourguignon, Executive Director for Amberly's Place, stated that it is far greater than just domestic violence victims, as there are several other services, such as child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, and sex trafficking victims, as well as adult sexual assault. She wants to ensure that as they serve the San Luis community, the victims they assist can have a safe place to speak with an advocate, and both the victim and the advocate are safe. They work closely with their law enforcement partners. From a multi-disciplinary team perspective, they must have that connection with the San Luis Police Department. She thanked the City of San Luis for their continued support.

Mr. Emmanuel Botello, Police Lieutenant, mentioned that there are many domestic victims of violence and sexual assaults daily. Amberly's Place is not only deployed for them in cases of domestic violence. They respond to so many more things than domestic violence.

MOTION: Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve the License Agreement for Amberly's Place as presented with this agenda item. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

7. E. Discussion and possible directions to staff on any and all matters regarding reinstating a non-exclusive, revocable license for use of the building at 788 East B Street, San Luis, Arizona, by the non-profit Proverbs 31 Home P31. (Council Members Lizeth Servin, Esteban C. Rosales and Luis E. Cabrera)

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera stated that this is another organization that provides support for domestic violence victims.

As they had previously listened to Ms. Bourguignon and Lieutenant Botello in the previous item, domestic violence and abuse are things that happen in the community. He believes that any support provided to these victims is beneficial to the community, whether through non-profit organizations or other local agencies. He, alongside Council Members Lizeth Servin and Esteban C. Rosales, requested that this item be placed on the agenda to reconsider whether Proverbs 31 Home P31 will continue to provide those services in the building it has for the past few years.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz stated she would abstain from voting as she is the president of Proverbs 31 Home. She asked if she was allowed to comment as Proverbs 31 President and step down to the podium.

Ms. Kay Macuild, City Attorney, responded yes, she could, just like Ms. Bourguignon did for Amberly's Place.

Council Member Esteban C. Rosales suggested continuing this item to the next Council meeting, after Ms. Cruz's presentation, so the rest of the City Council can hear Ms. Cruz as the President of Proverbs 31 Home.

Ms. Maria Cecilia Cruz, President of Proverbs 31 Home, 1255 Ruiz Avenue, San Luis, AZ, stated that Proverbs 31 Home originated as the South Yuma County Domestic Violence Coalition in 2012. Then they began to see the need for more annual walks to bring awareness to the community. They heard cases of women and children sleeping in their vehicles, so they decided to start the non-profit. The non-profit became official in 2017. She provided an update on the shelter they envisioned for San Luis. She thanked the City Council for placing this item on the agenda.

Council Member Lizeth Servin inquired whether Proverbs 31 Home is utilizing the building or a small office, referencing the attachment on this agenda item, Report – Revenues & Expenditures.

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager, responded that the cost shown on the attachment is for the operation of the entire facility. Proverbs 31 Home used only one (1) office; other agencies were utilizing the building. There was some discussion among Council Member Lizeth Servin and Ms. Torres regarding the maintenance of the building, including utilities, internet usage, and rent. Ms. Torres added that to be consistent, staff requested the building back. At that point, she was not aware that Amberly's Place did not have a license agreement. She had previously informed Elected Officials that any license agreement should be approved by the City Council and not by her, to allow any agency to use a city building. Amberly's Place does not get charged for using the Police Department.

Council Member Lizeth Servin asked if this item is approved, will Proverbs 31 Home still be liable or responsible for paying the rental fee.

Ms. Torres responded that it is up to the City Council to decide.

Council Member Lizeth Servin suggested waiving the fee for consistency purposes.

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Council Member Lizeth Servin to approve the non-exclusive, revocable license to Proverbs 31 Home P 31 for office space at 788 East B Street, San Luis, Arizona, in the form presented and with the consistency of not being charged with the fees. The motion passed with three (3) Ayes and one (1) Abstention by Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Abstained
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

7. F. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Ordinance No. 464. An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, amending the San Luis City Code Section 2.05.440 requiring a Call to the Public at Council's regular meetings, repealing conflicting provisions, and providing for severability. (Council Members Lizeth Servin, Maria Cecilia Cruz, and Esteban C. Rosales)

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera indicated that in previous meetings, the Mayor had put back the Call To The Public. This item formalizes the inclusion of the Call To The Public on the City Council's agendas.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz said that this is very important. She would receive complaints stating that this was not right. Voters elected them, and they sit there, and they are saying that the City Council does not allow them to speak. This is the citizens' right, and the City Council needs to hear their voices and concerns whenever they have the opportunity, not just when the City Council chooses to do so. She added that this had never happened before; residents were allowed to talk, and suddenly, this change occurred.

A. Action on Reading of Ordinance No. 464 by title only

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera to approve the reading of Ordinance No. 464, by title only. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

Mrs. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 464 by title only.

B. Action on Ordinance No. 464

MOTION: Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Lizeth Servin to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 464, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

7. G. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Ordinance No. 465. An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, amending and restating the San Luis City Code Section 2.05.420, the Mayor and Council Members shall have a right to attend the City Council meetings by technological means. (Council Members Lizeth Servin, Maria Cecilia Cruz, and Esteban C. Rosales)

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera mentioned that an email was sent by the Administration stating that the City Council could request a Zoom link or a phone conference with the City Clerk to participate in Council meetings via technological means. That was not a luxury they had been offered before. This item is a formality, as it will be adopted in the City Code.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz commented that whenever an Elected Official is denied the ability to participate electronically, it prevents them from doing their job. They are prohibited from fulfilling their duties, whether they are present or traveling.

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera asked the City Council not to abuse technological means.

A. Action on Reading of Ordinance No. 465 by title only

MOTION: Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve the reading of Ordinance No. 465, by title only. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

Mrs. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 465 by title only.

B. Action on Ordinance No. 465

MOTION: Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 465, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye

8. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Esteban C. Rosales reported that today has been an eventful day. This is great for interacting with the community and showing their support. He attended the Fallen Heroes event at the Yuma Sector for Border Patrol. He also attended the groundbreaking for Harvest School earlier today; Harvest will bring another school to San Luis. Additionally, Rolls & Bowls hosted an event, which took place just before the Council meeting. Although he did not attend that event, other Council Members did. He added that tomorrow, the Arizona Congressional briefing will take place, which he plans to attend.

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera reported that he attended the Chamber Mixer, hosted by Rolls & Bowls, which is held in various locations. He added that Wendy's is now open on 10th Avenue. Additionally, on Sunday, some Council Members and economic development officials will travel to the ICSC Conference. They have been pushing to bring Panda Express to the community for a few years and will try once more, as well as other businesses, to bring them to the community.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz congratulated Harvest Prep Academy on its accomplishment of establishing a school in San Luis. The numbers indicate that there was a 100% graduation rate for Harvest Prep Academy, a 98% higher education rate. They will be offering at the old campus, once the new campus opens, CTE Program for 468 different trade skills.

Council Member Lizeth Servin reported that she is grateful for the opportunity to serve her community and have this opportunity too, because she is blessed with a great job where her boss lets her go wherever she is needed for representation in the community. But she wants to take this time, this opportunity to speak openly about the initiative that is collecting signatures against them. She wished the Mayor was here because she wanted to address her, but since this is being recorded, she is pretty sure she will listen to it, or somebody will tell her. Some of the facts is the Mayor tried to reduce and cut the City Council's salaries and benefits on three (3) different occasions. The third time, she stated in this Chamber that she would bring it for the fourth time because the Vice Mayor was not present at the meeting back then, and one can refer to the recording to verify this information.

However, instead of bringing it again for the 4th time, she encouraged this initiative named Concerned Citizens Against City Government Waste. So this is this is the group of the concerned citizens against city government waste. She said she has a copy of the petition and wanted to point out some information. The name of the applicant is Mark Concha, who is also the chairperson of this initiative, along with Alberto Leon. The initiative address is 1964 E. Cesar Chavez Boulevard, Suite 2, which is also located at Plaza Riedel. The e-mail address for the Chairman is mark@riedelholdings.com. It says Chairperson Mark Concha employer, Riedel Holdings. So as one can see from this initiative, the people who are involved in this initiative are part or affiliates to the Mayor. This message is to all constituents and citizens, letting them know that this initiative is not a survey because people are knocking on people's doors, saying that this is a survey and is being conducted by the City of San Luis and it is not. She just wanted to remind the constituents that this is an initiative called Concerned Citizens Against City Government. And for that, she wanted to ensure that the people signing the initiative truly understand what they are signing for, not just what they are hearing. She read what it says on the initiative in English and Spanish. She added that this is extreme and this is what citizens are signing and they do not know what they are signing for.

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, stated that presenting facts is fine, but Council Member Lizeth Servin needs to be careful about the statute about influencing an election.

Council Member Lizeth Servin replied that she wanted to clarify who is behind this initiative and that this election will cost the city between \$70,000.00 and \$75,000.00 because they are not saying that to constituents, they are just asking for their signatures and they are not saying that there is a fee to make this possible in the November election.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera/Council Member Lizeth Servin to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 6:54 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Acting Mayor Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	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 14, 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk