

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
San Luis, AZ 85349
September 10, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Nieves Riedel called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Nieves Riedel
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera (via Teams)
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales
Council Member Lizeth Servin
Council Member Javier Vargas

ABSENT: Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager
Kay Macuil, City Attorney
Melissa Lopez, Deputy City Clerk
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Angelica Roldan, Director of Parks & Recreation
Antonio Maldonado, Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist
Danae T. Figueroa, Magistrate
Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager
Emmanuel Botello, Police Lieutenant
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Israel Lara, I.T. Technician
Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Julissa Alejandra Peru, Court Administrator
Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works
Maria Barajas, Acting Human Resources Manager
Maria Sabori, Risk Manager
Mario Rodriguez, Finance Operations Manager
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
Alex Bejarano, Public Relations RCFBH
Amanda Aguirre, President & CEO RCFBH
Brian De La Hoya, Resident

Christian Cuevas, Meeting Interpreter
Edna Lugo, Magistrate – City of Somerton
Fabher Sanchez, Resident
Glenn Gimbut, Attorney
Guillermina Fuentes, Resident
Joseph Reynoso, Police Chaplain
Luis Marquez, Resident
Luisa Arreola, Resident
Manuel Rojas, Resident
Maria Gonzalez, Resident
Maria Robles, Resident
Mark Concha Jr., Resident
Perla De La Hoya, Resident

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was performed by Mr. Joseph Reynoso, Police Chaplain.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Luis Marquez, 1254 E. America Street, San Luis, AZ, stated he has lived in the city for 50 years and is a retired police officer from the San Luis Police Department. He serves at the president of the Gadsden School District and is currently facing a recall promoted by a person who is very rich. He reminded everyone that this position is elected and volunteered. The community elected him, not those who want to recall him; that election was not a coincidence but the voice of the community. His name will appear on the ballot for the November 4, 2025, Election and asked for the support of the electors. His colleague, Ms. Liliانا Arroyo, is also facing a recall and together they will be committed to maintaining the focus on the education of the children. He spoke about the achievements of the school district and his children. He thanked those who have supported and trusted him throughout the years.

Ms. Guillermina Fuentes, 1630 N. 9th Avenue, San Luis, AZ, thanked those Council Members who had worked on the issue and appreciated that there is an item on the agenda that pertains to a personal dispute they made a case of. She knows there is a resolution to that matter and hopes the City Council does not change opinion and finalize this fight that someone from the City Council initiated. She asked the City Council to pay attention when a developer builds, that they do it well and that they do not leave or do their dirty work.

5. PROCLAMATION

5. A. Proclamation on Hispanic Heritage Month - September 15, 2025 to October 15, 2025

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6. A. MINUTES OF

- Special Council meeting held August 1, 2025
- Work Session held August 6, 2025

6. B. DISBURSEMENTS

From August 21, 2025 to September 3, 2025

Total \$2,372,343.35

(Two Million, Three Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand, Three Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents)

MOTION: Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

7. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding continuing temporary staffing services through HireQuest Inc. (Maria Barajas, Acting HR Manager)

Ms. Maria Barajas, Acting Human Resources Manager, stated they are seeking the City Council's approval to continue using the temporary staffing services through HireQuest. They have provided support during special projects. Based on last year's expense, staff anticipates exceeding the allowed amount. She also asked the City Council to waive formal purchasing procedures and to ratify Purchase Order No. 2026-00000603.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve the use of HireQuest Temporary Services, ratify Purchase Order #2025-00000603 and waive formal procurement procedures as allowed under City Code § 3.05.010(F) for the reasons presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding County 22nd and 4th Avenue Roadway Improvements Change Order. (Tomas Sanchez, City Engineer)

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, explained that the change order is to include additional quantities on this project. The reason for the request is mainly because they are paving on both sides of the existing road and there is a portion that is deteriorating. Initially, this repair was going to be included, but the quote was too high. Even now, it is not in the budget; however, if approved, the funds will be obtained from the GSA line item, which is also scheduled to be completed this year. At this point, the amount needed for the project has come significantly below what was estimated by the GSA. The necessary equipment for the project has been ordered. The remaining work will be performed by staff. The idea is to save some funding, work and inconveniences.

There were comments from the Mayor, Council Member Luis E. Cabrera, and Mr. Vera regarding the increase in cost over time and how this road will serve the traffic flow.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve the Co. 22nd and 4th Avenue change order in the amount of \$198,074.00 for DPE Construction, Inc., to authorize a budget transfer and to waive formal purchase procedures for the reasons presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2025-08. An Order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, to authorize the San Luis Municipal Court to receive funding for the Access to Justice Grant by approving Agreement A2J #1 between the City of San Luis, Arizona, through the San Luis Municipal Court and the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts. (Julissa Alejandra Peru, Court Administrator)

Ms. Julissa Alejandra Peru, Court Administrator, mentioned that the San Luis Municipal Court needs to upgrade its internet network from 5 MB to 30 MB to meet the demands of a growing population and increasing case filings. The current network is over capacity, causing frequent disruptions to virtual hearings, filings and other essential systems. She added that this upgrade is critical for ensuring stable court operations, improving customer service and upholding public safety. The Municipal Court operates entirely on the state's network, utilizing the city's Wi-Fi network solely to enable the prosecutor, defense counsel, and defendants to submit documents and evidence to the court.

Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya inquired why this item was being presented to the City Council if it was valued at less than \$5,000.00. Will this happen with all contracts, or is something specific triggering this?

Ms. Peru responded that it is being presented because it is an agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts. Additionally, according to the procurement policy, she understands that the budget will be adjusted since new funds will be added to it.

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, added that it is a grant, and as such, it requires the approval of the governing body.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve and adopt Order No. 2025-08. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. D. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2025-09. An Order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, to authorize the San Luis Municipal Court to receive funding for the Access to Justice Grant by approving Agreement A2J Grant #2 between the City of San Luis, Arizona, through the San Luis Municipal Court and the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts. (Julissa Alejandra Peru, Court Administrator)

Ms. Julissa Alejandra Peru, Court Administrator, stated that the San Luis Municipal Court urgently needs a new video conferencing system as the current unit is at the end of its life and must be replaced to comply with a statewide technology upgrade. Since the San Luis and Somerton Municipal Courts share the same platform due to the limited space at the detention center, the new unit will be beneficial for both courts.

She added that this upgrade is crucial for upholding due process and protecting constitutional rights. Withholding a replacement, the court faces significant risks, including legal issues and operational delays. This grant was a collaborative effort supported by a letter from the City of Somerton Administrator, the Interim Yuma County Detention Center Administrator and Presiding Judge Haws.

MOTION: Council Member Lizeth Servin/Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve and adopt Order No. 2025-09. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. E. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2025-10. 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 the City of Yuma for use of the City of Yuma Public Safety Training Facility. (Emmanuel Botello, Lieutenant)

Mr. Emmanuel Botello, Lieutenant, explained that the San Luis Police Department is requesting approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of San Luis and the City of Yuma. The purpose of this IGA is to use their public safety training facility in Yuma, located on Avenue 4E. This will enable the San Luis Police Department to utilize the facility for training purposes as needed. The agreement shall be for a term of five (5) years, commencing on the effective date of the last party's signature.

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve and adopt Order No. 2025-10, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. F. Public hearing followed by discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2374. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, increasing the fee for collection services on delinquent water and wastewater accounts. (Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager)

A. Staff Presentation

Mr. Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager, indicated that as the City of San Luis is looking into assigning all the utility accounts to Brown's Collection Services, the city will need to increase the collection fee, as Brown's Collection Services charges a 25% commission. As a result, staff is recommending increasing the collection fees to 25% on all accounts assigned to Brown's Collection, a 30% collection fee on all accounts under \$25.00, and a 40% collection fee on referred accounts outside the state. The collection fee will be added to the customer's account balance to ensure the city receives 100% of the outstanding amount.

Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya asked what the estimated amount owed to the city is.

Mr. Esparza replied that currently, there are 290 accounts in collections for \$35,000.00 and the average account balance is approximately \$120.00.

B. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to open the Public Hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

C. Call to the public on this item

There were no comments from the public on this item.

D. Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Mayor Nieves Riedel to close the Public Hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

E. Action on Resolution No. 2374

MOTION: Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2374, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. G. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the proposed agreement between Brown's Collection Service and the City of San Luis for the implementation of a collection agency to achieve maximum recovery of debt. (Roula Encinas, Finance Director, and Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager)

Mr. Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager, mentioned that this item is a continuation of the previous item to approve a contract with Brown's Collection Service for the collection of utility accounts and ambulance billing accounts. Brown's Collection Service has over 50 years of experience in collecting bad debt accounts. Additionally, they are a local agency to the Yuma County area, which will help with the collection rate. Brown's Collection Services charges a 25% commission.

As a result, staff is recommending increasing the collection fees to 25% on all accounts assigned to Brown's Collection, a 30% collection fee on all accounts under \$25.00, and a 40% collection fee on referred accounts outside the state. Staff contacted other customers of Brown's Collection Service and received positive feedback about the service from notable organizations, including the City of Somerton Ambulance, Yuma County Public Health Services, Yuma County House Department, Yuma Juvenile Court Center, Yuma School District One, and OnVida Health, among others. Attached to this agenda item is a list of the customers being served by Brown's Collection Service.

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Council Member Javier Vargas to approve the Brown Collection Service Agreement, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. H. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2025-11. An Order of the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving the settlement agreement for Case No. 2:24-cv-00534 Gethsemani Baptist Church versus the City of San Luis in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona; repealing conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, explained that this item is for the Gethsemani lawsuit. The outside and Gethsemani attorneys are still working diligently to finalize the drafts. Just yesterday, it was decided to, in addition to the settlement agreement, also file a motion with the court for a consent decree and suggest a joint consent decree. Ms. Macuil asked that this item be continued until all the documents are done, potentially by Friday. If possible, a Special Council meeting can be held next Wednesday, September 17, 2025, provided a quorum is present.

There were some questions and answers between the City Council and Ms. Macuil regarding the delay, and who initiated the lawsuit. Ms. Macuil explained on the delay that occurred as documents were being reviewed, exchanged, and modified until all parties reached an agreement. Ms. Macuil stated that Gethsemani had sued the City of San Luis.

MOTION: Mayor Nieves Riede/Council Member Javier Vargas to continue this item for a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

7. I. Public Hearing followed by discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2375. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, amending Resolution No. 2334 previously adopted October 2, 2024, concerning the issuance of debt by the Industrial Development Authority of the City of San Luis, Arizona, the proceeds of which are to be lent to the Regional Center for Border Health, Inc., and declaring an emergency. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)

(6 votes in favor are required to pass immediately as an emergency per A.R.S. § 19-142.)

A. Presentation by Staff and the Regional Center for Border Health, Inc.

Mr. Glenn Gimbut, Attorney for the San Luis Industrial Development Authority (IDA), stated that this does not involve \$1.00 of city money. The IDA adopted its resolution on Monday, September 8, 2025. On October 2, 2024, the City Council approved a resolution authorizing the IDA to issue bonds up to \$80 million. Dealing with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Trump Administration has been interesting. Here they are in September, and they have not even nominated any of the political appointees. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has done its work with the permanent staff and has made things challenging. There is a pending request for a parity agreement with the USDA, which does not involve \$1.00 to the federal government, but the investors require it for a proposed bond issue. The proposed contractor for the project is Oakland Incorporation, a national corporation that specializes in hospital construction. In time, their bid has changed, other costs have changed and therefore, it is projected that this bond issue will now be \$93 million. He asked for an increase in the amount of bonds to be authorized to \$100 million. He added that the TERA hearing is valid for only one (1) calendar year; the calendar year runs out on October 2, 2025. Therefore, this needs to be in place as an amending resolution before this deadline, which is why this resolution contains the emergency clause, as there are not the 30 days to spare. This is an IDA bond issue; by state statute, neither the city nor the IDA will be liable for a dollar of it. It is solely on the faith and credit of Regional Center for Border Health (RCFBH). Mr. Gimbut, for the record, indicated that Mayor Nieves Riedel does not have a conflict of interest. To have a conflict of interest, she would need to gain or lose something by the City Council's action tonight.

Ms. Amanda Aguirre, President and CEO for RCFBH, stated they are requesting an amendment to Resolution No. 2334, which was approved last year, for the future construction of the San Luis Hospital. She added that all the requirements are in place for this hospital. She thanked the City Council for their continued support for the future vision of a new hospital in the City of San Luis.

Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya asked if the bonds were to default, the city nor the IDA will not be liable.

Ms. Macuil replied that that was correct; it is just a vehicle for the bonds to be tax-free for the bondholders. There is no liability; a statute clearly states that the city is not liable.

B. Open Public Hearing

Mayor Nieves Riedel opened the Public Hearing.

C. Call to the Public

There were no comments from the public on this item.

D. Close Public Hearing

Mayor Nieves Riedel closed the Public Hearing.

E. Discussion and Action on Resolution No. 2375

MOTION: Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2375 and declare an emergency. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

8. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Esteban C. Rosales reported that he, along with Council Members Maria Cecilia Cruz, Lizeth Servin, and Javier Vargas, attended the groundbreaking for the City of Douglas new commercial port of entry. The City of San Luis was acknowledged during the event by stakeholders, state-level representatives and members from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Mayor Nieves Riedel reported that yesterday, a 17-year-old boy lost his life. It is disgusting to hear and read comments on social media from people trying to make this incident a political issue. This was an accident, there was no alcohol or drugs involved, and it happened on a plain terrain. People need to respect others when they are grieving. She apologized for those comments from people who cannot show respect for other people's pain when they lose a loved one. The accident involved three (3) kids from high school, and it is being investigated.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera reported that the event Conversations with the Council took place on Saturday, September 6, 2025, where the five (5) Council Members were present listening to the input from the community. He thanked those who were present at this event.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Javier Vargas to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 6:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye
Mayor Nieves Riedel	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 September 10, 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk