

MINUTES
Special Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
San Luis, AZ 85349
March 3, 2025
6:00 p.m.

APPROVED by the City Council
Meeting Date: 4.9.2025
City Clerk's Office: SC

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Nieves Riedel called the Special 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 Esteban C. Rosales
Council Member Lizeth Servin
Council Member Javier Vargas

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager
Kay Macuil, City Attorney
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk
Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources
Alan Guevara, Police Lieutenant
Antonio Maldonado, Multimedia Production and Operations Specialist
Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development
Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager
Enrique Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Fernando Corona, I.T. Manager
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer
Israel Lara, I.T. Technician
Maria Sabori, Risk Manager
Mario Rodriguez, Finance Operations Manager
Olivia Jenkins, Administrative Services Manager
Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police
Roula Encinas, Director of Finance
Tomas Sanchez, Engineer
Adelaida Buchanan, Resident
Alberto Leon, Resident
Brian De La Hoya, Resident
Cesar Neyoy, Reporter

Christian Cuevas, Translator
Francisco Heredia, Resident
Guillermina Fuentes, Resident
James Allen Jr., Resident
Lilia Quiñonez, Resident
Luisa Arreola, Resident
Manuel Rojas, Resident
Maria Robles, Resident
Mark Concha, Resident
Marisela Amaya, Resident
Matias Rosales, Resident
Perla De La Hoya, Resident
Rosa Walshe, Resident
Yolanda Urias, Resident

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

3. A. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the City of San Luis accepting and ratifying the proposed Change Order No. 3 from Viking Industrial Painting pertaining to the well site No. 6 water storage tank rehabilitation. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, stated that this is to ratify Change Order No. 3 for some work being performed on Well Site No. 6. Last year, the City Council approved some work on Well Sites No. 5 & 6, but then the summer months hit, and staff had to postpone the continuation of the work until the cooler months. However, on Well Site No. 6, the tank's roof was in really bad shape and needed more work than anticipated. When the contractor began working there, it was realized that a different approach was needed for the completion of the work. The change order is for \$157,155.00.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve and ratify Change Order No. 3 from Viking Industrial Painting in the amount of \$157,155.44 and approve the transfer of budget capacity as presented in the fiscal impact of this item. The 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 Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

3. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2358. A resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, eliminating the City Council Members' compensation, health benefits, reimbursement for city-business travel expenses, and cell phone stipend; establishing effective dates; repealing any conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, explained that this item removes all monetary and benefits from Council Members paid by the city, including compensation, health benefits, vision and dental. It takes away anyone who has a personal cell phone and receives a stipend for city business on that cell phone. It also takes away any reimbursement for city business travel.

Mayor Nieves Riedel commented that this is a proposal by Council Member Luis E. Cabrera, she had proposed 50% and some cuts. He emailed her and she felt obligated to place this item on the agenda.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz commented that the President of the United States receives a salary and an expense account; Congress receives a salary, and so do Senators, Representatives, Delegates, and County Supervisors. She does not understand why people think they are not worthy of what they get as compensation. They dedicate much time away from home and believe this compensation helps them. She loves what she does and to represent the city is an honor. If the city decides to take this away from them, then let it be.

Council Member Lizeth Servin commented that she was one of the Council Members who was not going to show up tonight because her daughter had a doctor's appointment for an ultrasound that she needed to get done today. But she decided to cancel it because the Mayor threatened them over social media, saying that whoever dared not to come to this meeting tonight was going to be seen as petty, egocentric and coward. She added that she wanted to let everyone know, that she is there, not just to vote on the agenda items that they have in front of them, but she is also there to let everyone know that they are not what the Mayor says they are. They are working families representing working families. She asked the Mayor to stop treating them like this because they are not her employees. They are not going to govern under dictatorship; they are there to govern under democracy; they are there for the people and by the people.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera clarified that when he sent the email, it was not because he owed any political favors to a third party, as mentioned in a video. He analyzed the financial impact of this decision, aware that some Council Members are able to travel and spend thousands of dollars more than others, due to their personal relationships with the Mayor. If they are willing to make a sacrifice, then go ahead and do it. The City Council can always revisit this item and bring it back if the city's financials are in a better place in five (5) years. The people elected him to serve the entire community and has done that for the past four (4) years. He received feedback on his proposal, with some in favor and some opposed to it. The city is not in red, but it can potentially be in red, which is why he proposed this. He mentioned that there is some misinformation given to the community and as he stated at the last council meeting, if this is approved today, the only thing that it would reflect this current year is that they would no longer be getting travel paid by the city. Travel is costly and knows that they have allocated quite a few thousand dollars for traveling for Council Members to go and represent the community, but that would be the only benefit that the budget would see now. He saw that some people were interested in not having some benefits and thought, well, the City Council can truly impact the budget, which is why he proposed this.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Mayor Nieves Riedel to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2358. The motion did not pass as there was a tie vote, three (3) Ayes and three (3) Nays by Council Members Maria Cecilia Cruz, Esteban C. Rosales and Lizeth Servin.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Nay
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Nay
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Nay
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

Mayor Nieves Riedel stated that she will place this item on the Agenda for March 12, 2025, adding that she expects everybody to be present. This is the least they can do, as they owe it to the citizens, their constituents. This is not a game; it is a serious matter.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera stated that some Council Members will be out of town traveling and will probably not be at the meeting.

Mayor Nieves Riedel responded that she canceled their travel due to his concerns.

3. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Resolution No. 2357. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, canceling and vacating the May 20, 2025, Special Election, which called for the Special Election, in and for the City of San Luis, Arizona, for a primary (ad valorem) property tax; repealing conflicting provisions including Resolution 2351; and providing for severability. (Kay Marion Macuil, City Attorney)

Ms. Kay Macuil, City Attorney, stated that this item removes the property tax ballot from the election in May. The city will save approximately \$70,000.00 in election costs.

Mayor Nieves Riedel commented that she hardly goes to the constituents and asks for their opinion, she hears them, and the comments are that if the City Council is not ready to make a sacrifice, she is ashamed to go and ask people to support the city if the City Council is not willing to make a sacrifice themselves. She reminded everyone that it was a 50% cut and Council Member Luis E. Cabrera suggested 100%. Any elected official who asks her to put something on the agenda, she will. The city cannot afford to spend \$70,000.00 to \$75,000.00 on an item that people are not supporting. She heard the people loud and clear and needed to respect the people who elected them to serve, not because they were getting paid or compensated. She added that she makes approximately 70% more than the Mayor from the City of Yuma and they are at least 3-4 times bigger than San Luis. There are numerous cities in the State of Arizona that do not compensate their elected officials, yet they serve because they love their city. There are individuals who serve on various committees and do not receive compensation.

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2357.

Council Member Luis E. Cabrera asked if this resolution needs to be passed with an emergency clause.

Mayor Nieves Riedel responded that the city was getting ready to send the information for the publication of the pamphlets, they have until Wednesday. This is the reason it is on the agenda tonight to avoid accruing any fees.

Mrs. Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk, added that she is supposed to follow up with the printer regarding proof of the publicity pamphlet, as her office had already emailed it to them. She has until Wednesday to notify the printer to continue or stop printing the pamphlets. However, she believes it would be convenient to have the emergency clause added to the resolution so that it becomes effective immediately and inform Yuma County Election Services and Yuma County Voter Registration as well.

Ms. Macuil stated that an emergency clause requires six (6) votes to pass with that clause.

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2357 with the emergency clause. The 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 Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	Aye
Council Member Javier Vargas	Aye

Mayor Nieves Riedel stated that there was no Call To The Public, and the reason for that is because of the disrespect Council Member Lizeth Servin showed towards a member of the public. Sometimes members of the public feel free to come and insult, lie, raise their voice and try to intimidate her. She has been taking this for two (2) years and suggested that some Council Members get some training, so they know they must respect when people tell them what they want. As long as she is the Mayor and sees that some Council Members cannot respect the public, this will be the consequence. She also responded that none of the Council Members are her employees. They are employed by the residents and voters of the City of San Luis, including herself, and owe them respect, whether they like it or not. She assured that some of the Council Members seated with her, would never work for her company. She knows what she is doing and will not allow anyone sitting with her to disrespect the public and expects the same respect from the public towards the Mayor and City Council.

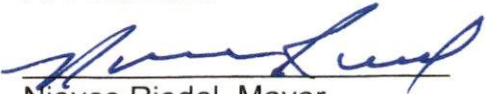
4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor Nieves Riedel/Council Member Javier Vargas to adjourn the Special Council meeting at approximately 6:24 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

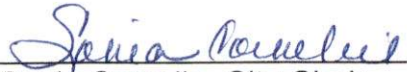
The vote was as follows:

Mayor Nieves Riedel	Aye
Council Member Luis E. Cabrera	Aye
Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales	Aye
Council Member Lizeth Servin	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 Special City Council meeting of the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on March 3, 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk