

MINUTES
Special Council Meeting
San Luis City Council
San Luis Council Chambers
1090 E. Union Street
San Luis, AZ 85349
June 18, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales
Council Member Lizeth Servin
Council Member Javier Vargas
Mayor Nieves Riedel

ABSENT: Council Member Luis E. Cabrera

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
Albert Moreno, I.T. Technician
Angelica Cifuentes, Purchasing Coordinator
Angelica Fregoso, Ambulance Billing Coordinator
Angel Ramirez, Fire Chief
Angelica Roldan, Director of Parks & Recreation
Antonio Maldonado, Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist
Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development
Bianca Zarate, Ambulance Billing Coordinator
Carolina Corral, Accountant I
Debora Luna, Accountant II
Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager
Enrique Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works
Fernando Corona, I.T. Manager
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer
Guadalupe Cañez, Accounting Specialist
Jeremy Humphrey, 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
Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police
Olivia Jenkins, Administrative Services Manager
Roula Encinas, Director of Finance
Saul Palacios, Accounting Specialist
Tomas Sanchez, City Engineer
Victor De La Torre, Safety Officer
Yolanda Dueñas, Facilities Supervisor
Adelaida Buchanan, Resident
Albert Leon, Resident
Brian De La Hoya, Resident
Christian Cuevas, Meeting Translator
Columba Nuñez, Resident
Fabher Sanchez, Resident
Guillermina Fuentes, Resident
James Allen Jr., Resident
Jessica Encinas, Resident
Juanita Toledo, Resident
Lilia Quiñonez, Resident
Luisa Arreola, Resident
Maria Gonzalez, Resident
Maria Robles, Resident
Mark Concha Jr., Resident
Nydia Mendenhall, Resident

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Javier Vargas, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was performed by Ms. Elida Valenzuela, Police Chaplain.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Guillermina Fuentes, 1638 N 9th Avenue, San Luis, AZ, commented that the retaliation letters issued by the Mayor to three (3) Council Members and three (3) community members, including herself, appear to be intimidation letters. Ms. Fuentes stated that the Mayor is trying to instill fear in anyone who dares to speak up or criticize the current mismanagement of the city government.

She reminded the Mayor that she holds a public office and, as such, is subject to scrutiny and criticism just as the Mayor herself openly criticized and defamed prior mayors. Ms. Fuentes clarified that she and the others involved are not the Mayor's employees, nor her puppets, responding to every snap of her fingers. Additionally, she emphasized that having money does not give the Mayor the right to silence those who voice their honest opinions about her administration. The people of San Luis are neither blind nor deaf to the acts of retaliation and abuse that have taken place in the city. If the residents of San Luis elected the Mayor to represent them, she must accept that public office comes with accountability and criticism, especially when her performance is called into question. If she is unable or unwilling to accept this responsibility, then she is not fit to serve as the people's representative.

Mr. James Allen Jr., 1549 E. Babbit Lane, San Luis, AZ, stated that he heard during the last Council meeting that the Mayor left the meeting before the matter was discussed. He recalled that the discussion involved 10th Avenue and a land developer agreement related to city improvements, an issue that has been pending for 10 years or more. Mr. Allen emphasized that his written signature was his responsibility, and he wanted to know if anyone else at the meeting shared the same view. He stated that when an agreement is made, it must be honored, not covered up. Mr. Allen acknowledged the Mayor's status as a wealthy individual but reminded her that accountability is also her responsibility. He added that residents pay for their quality of life and that every decision made by city leaders must respect that trust. He concluded by asking the Mayor to do the right thing.

Ms. Gloria Lopez, a resident of Cerros Street in San Luis, AZ, stated that she has lived in the city for 40 years and felt it was unfair to charge \$2.00 for the Fourth of July event. She pointed out that this fee should be eliminated, as many people in the city work in agriculture and are currently out of work. She acknowledged that if a fee is being charged for the event, it should benefit the city, and she expressed a desire to see concrete improvements as a result. For example, the city needs to fix its streets and address the traffic congestion that occurs when trying to cross into Mexico.

5. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- 5. A. Proclamation- Eder Abuse Awareness Day June 15, 2025**
- 5. B. Proclamation- Juneteenth Day June 19, 2025**
- 5. C. Proclamation Waste and Recycling Workers Week, June 16-24, 2025**
- 5. D. Proclamation- LGBTQ Pride Month June 2025**
- 5. E. Proclamation- Men's Health June 2025**
- 5. F. Proclamation- National Homeownership Month June 2025**
- 5. G. Proclamation- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Month June 2025**

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

5. H. Recognition of the City of San Luis for Receiving the Industrial Commissions of Arizona Small City PEPP Safety Award. (Maria Sabori, Risk Manager and Yolanda Dueñas, Facilities Supervisor)

Ms. Maria Sabori, Risk Manager, presented to the Mayor and Council Members the award obtained from the Industrial Commission.

5. I. Presentation of Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of San Luis Finance Department for the City of San Luis' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. (Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager)

Ms. Jenny Torres, Acting City Manager presented the Certificate of Achievement to the City of San Luis Finance Department.

5.J. Presentation by the Salvation Army on their services in the City of San Luis. (Lt. Jonathan Herzog, Salvation Army)

Lt. Jonathan Herzog expressed excitement about serving the San Luis community. He shared that although The Salvation Army has long assisted the area, this will be the first time they have a physical presence within the city. The new location will be at Plaza Riedel, 1910 W. Cesar Chavez Blvd. Lt. Herzog expressed profound gratitude to Mayor Nieves Riedel, who The Salvation Army recognized for providing space in one of the Plaza Riede locations, free of charge for three (3) years.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6. A. MINUTES OF

- Special Council meeting held April 30, 2025
- Regular Council meeting held May 14, 2025

6. B. DISBURSEMENTS

From May 22, 2025, to June, 2025

Total \$3,064,463.95

(Three Million, Sixty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars and Nine-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 Maria Cecilia Cruz	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 required traffic control improvements as part of the Port of Entry Expansion Project. (Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works)

Mr. Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works, sought Mayor and Council to authorize approval for the Construction Services from Westmoor Electric, Inc. and to waive formal procurement procedures in this project for \$68,964.00, and approve the budget transfer as presented in the fiscal impact statement.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/ Mayor Nieves Riedel to direct staff to contract construction services from Westmoor Electric, Inc., for \$68,964.00, to waive formal procurement procedures, and to approve the budget transfer as presented in the Fiscal Impact Statement. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	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 the acceptance and award of a construction manager at risk (CMAR) pre-construction services contract to PCL Construction, 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, requested approval from Mayor and Council to expand the West Wastewater Treatment Plant to increase its treatment capacity from 1.5 million gallons per day to 3 million gallons per day. Staff requested Council's approval to award the Pre-Construction Services Agreement to PCL Construction, Inc. for \$339,214.96.

MOTION: Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/ Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to accept and award Pre-Construction Services Agreement to PCL Solutions for \$339,214.96 for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	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 all matters regarding the City of San Luis accepting the proposed change order No. 1 from Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering, Inc. (PACE) pertaining to the design of the West Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated that the City of San Luis contracted with Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering, Inc. (PACE) to perform design and construction administration of the West Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. PACE submitted a cost estimate proposal for completing the water reuse pump station design and conducting the power system study. Staff asked for Council's approval of PACE's Change Order No.1 for \$125,470.00.

MOTION: Council Member Lizeth Servin/ Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve Change Order No.1 from Pacific Advance Civil Engineering, Inc. (PACE) in the amount of \$125,470.00 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	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 budget transfer to complete safety improvements at the Price Center Building. (Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works)

Mr. Jorge Perez, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated that the City Administration, along with Risk Management and other city departments that use the Price Center building, came together to identify improvements on the south side of the building to address safety concerns. The inspection was completed by Building Safety and the Fire Inspector, and produced recommendations that will help enhance the building for a better use of the facility. Staff requested Council's approval of a budget transfer in the amount of \$35,000.00 from Wastewater Account 310-311-90015, Capital Outlay to Account 802-820-70020 Building Maintenance/Repairs.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/ Mayor Nieves Riedel to approve the budget transfer from Account 310-311-90015 Capital Outlay to Account 802-820-700020 Building Maintenance, in the amount of \$35,000.00 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	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 a Notice of Intent to amend the collection fee for Utility and Ambulance Accounts. (Roula Encinas, Director of Finance and Edgar Esparza, Building and Collections Manager)

Mr. Edgar Esparza, Billing and Collections Manager, and Ms. Roula Encinas, Director of Finance, presented a Notice of Intent to amend collection fees for utility and ambulance accounts. On March 8, 2020, the City of San Luis entered into an agreement with Valley Collection Services, LLC (VCS), to recover any debt on its utility and ambulance accounts. Mr. Esparza presented a demographic graph showing Billing and Collections accounts, as well as ambulance billing amounts, versus those collected by Valley Collection Services. In the last five (5) years, Billing and Collections has sent a total of \$46,239.43, and VCS has only collected \$11,678.98. For ambulance billing, a total of \$1,224,995.27 was sent, and VCS has only collected \$22,653.95.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to approve the Notice of Intent as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	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. Discussion and possible action on any all matters regarding authorization for the purchase of forty-eight (48) touchscreen mobile data computers using the State of Arizona Department of Public Safety Local Border Support funds. (Alan Guevara, Lieutenant)

Mr. Alan Guevara, Police Lieutenant, asked for the approval to purchase 48 touchscreen mobile data computers, vehicle docks and adapters. Mobile data computers will be assigned to all staff engaged in law enforcement.

MOTION: Council Member Lizeth Servin/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve the purchase of forty-eight (48) touchscreen mobile data computers and components, for a total amount not to exceed \$396,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	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 Order No. 2025-05. 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, Arizona and Yuma Union High School District #70 (YUSD #70) for funds supporting the San Luis Police Department's participation in the School Resource Officer assignment at San Luis High School. (Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police)

Mr. Nigel Reynoso, Chief of Police, mentioned that this is for an intergovernmental agreement for a School Resource Officer assigned to the high school. The term of the agreement will end on June 30, 2028. The agreement provides overtime funding for an SRO at the high school for a period of 180 school days, with an eight-hour daily schedule.

MOTION: Council Member Javier Vargas/Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to approve and adopt Order No. 2025-05 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	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 all matters regarding Resolution No. 2363. A resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving the Longevity Pay Plan of March 26, 2025, for Contract employees. (Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources)

Ms. Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources, stated that on March 28, 2025, the City Council approved the implementation of a Salary Policy for City of San Luis employees. While this plan allows contracted employees to receive this incentive, its implementation requires additional authorization pursuant to state law and the City of San Luis Code. By approving Resolution No. 2363, the city will ensure that the implementation of the longevity plan complies with all applicable laws.

MOTION: Council Member Lizeth Servin/Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz to approve Resolution No. 2363, as presented. The motion passed with five (5) Aye votes and one (1) Nay vote by Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya.

The vote was as follows:

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz	Aye
Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya	Nay
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 Lizeth Servin reported that she, along with Council Member Javier Vargas and Mayor Nieves Riedel, attended Mexico City last week to talk about Mexico City Bridges Border Crossing. The purpose of the visit was to talk about the expansion of Port of Entry No. 1. She stated that it is a \$155 million expansion investment that the City of San Luis is going through right now, and it has three (3) phases and Phase #1 is to be ready next fall of the year 2026. Additionally, she noted that one of the purposes was to inform the Government of Mexico that they are prepared to open the 16 lanes next year, which is part of the first phase of the project, extending through Archibald Street and Morelos. Council Member Lizeth Servin emphasized the importance of continuing to attend those meetings to advocate for the community. She and Council Member Javier Vargas met with the authorities of Sonora and were impressed that many Ports asked for funding from the Federal government. They stated that it is very important to be there because that shows that they care about their community.

Council Member Esteban C. Rosales reported that he attended the groundbreaking event for Comité de Bienestar, which took place yesterday, and stated that it was an honor to attend and represent the city.

Mayor Nieves Riedel reported that she had a meeting today with Ms. Amanda Aguirre from the Medical Mall and stated that early next year, the City of San Luis will have its hospital, where mothers will start delivering their babies.

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz reported that on Saturday, June 7th, she attended an event along with some Council Members, who greeted and spoke to members of the community, which had a great turnout. Some constituents made comments regarding the Post Office issue. She stated that they are working on the issue and are advocating for it, taking it to the Postmaster and Congressman, but it's not getting anywhere. However, she believes they will travel to Washington, D.C., to resolve the issue. Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz stated that they don't want to rush into making any decisions quickly because if they rush and make a decision, then they will have additional issues to deal with.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor Nieves Riedel/ Vice Mayor Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at approximately 7:11 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 Special City Council meeting of the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, held on June 18, 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk