

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**San Luis City Council**  
**San Luis Council Chambers**  
**1090 E. Union Street**  
**San Luis, AZ 85349**  
**April 22, 2026**  
**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:** Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz  
Council Member Azael De La Hoya (left at 7:01 p.m.)  
Council Member Esteban C. Rosales  
Council Member Lizeth Servin  
Vice Mayor Javier Vargas  
Mayor Nieves Riedel

**ABSENT:** Council Member Luis E. Cabrera

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jenny Torres, City Manager  
Joe Estes, Interim City Attorney  
Sonia Cornelio, City Clerk  
Adela Cortez, Director of Human Resources  
Angelica Roldan, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Antonio Maldonado, Multimedia Production &  
Operations Specialist  
Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development  
Cesar Magallanes, Crew Leader Supervisor  
Domingo Sosa, Graphics and Media Specialist  
Edgar Esparza, Billing & Collections Manager  
Edgar Juarez, Project Coordinator  
Enrique Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief  
Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works  
Francia Alonso, Public Information Officer  
Jeziel Banos, IT Help Desk Technician  
Manuel Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Maria Barajas, Human Resources Manager  
Miguel Ramirez, Finance Accounting Manager  
Olivia Jenkins, Acting Assistant City Manager  
Roula Encinas, Director of Finance  
Tomas Sanchez, City Engineer  
Victor De La Torre, Safety Officer  
Xochitl Lopez, Office Supervisor

Christian Cuevas, Meeting Interpreter  
Fabher Sanchez, Resident  
Gina Bunn, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
(ADEQ) Liaison  
James Allen Jr., Resident  
Maria Robles, Resident  
Scarlett Harper, JP2 Judge/Resident

## **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. INVOCATION**

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

## **4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. James Allen Jr., 1549 E. Babbitt Lane, San Luis, AZ, stated that this is the last year for the trash and water increases, voted on by the Council for a five-year period, which are in effect, possibly as of January 2027. He asked citizens what they wanted to know about what would happen once that benchmark passes. Is the City Council considering doing something similar again?

Ms. Maria Robles, 1195 California Street, San Luis, AZ, reminded that in 1979, during the fight for justice and social equality for farm workers, Mr. Justo Contreras died in a strike in Calexico, California. He was a 27-year-old willing to risk his life to fight for the movement. She is proud that in the current Council, there is a voice and representation. Ms. Robles added that they are the history and the movement. There are judges, courts, and those who judge; they should be proud that the movement brought dignity and justice. She has contact with an attorney, a first-generation son of a farm worker who attended a university. She provided some background on his childhood, when he worked in the lemon groves along with his family, and on the kids who did not have an opportunity to go to school or to have fair housing.

## **5. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATION**

- 5. A. Proclamation on Denim Day - April 29, 2026**
- 5. B. Proclamation on Inclusive Post Secondary Education (IPSE) Day - May 1, 2026**
- 5. C. Proclamation on International Firefighters' Day - May 4, 2026**
- 5. D. Proclamation on 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week - May 3-9, 2026**
- 5. E. Proclamation on National Small Business Week - May 3-9, 2026**
- 5. F. Proclamation on Public Service Recognition Week - May 3-9, 2026**
- 5. G. Proclamation on Economic Development Week - May 4-8, 2026**

- 5. H. Proclamation on National Police Week - May 10-16, 2026 and Peace Officers' Memorial Day - May 15, 2026**
- 5. I. Proclamation on Building Safety Month - May 2026**
- 5. J. Proclamation on National Bike Month - May 2026**
- 5. K. Proclamation on National Water Safety Month - May 2026**

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

She also mentioned that members of the Greater Yuma Water Safety Alliance were present to support the National Water Safety Month Proclamation.

Mayor Nieves Riedel acknowledged their presence and thanked them.

Ms. Angelica Roldan, Director of Parks & Recreation, who also participates in the committee, introduced the members of the Greater Yuma Water Safety Alliance: City of Yuma Council Member Carol Smith; City of Yuma Deputy Administrator Jen Rachel; City of Yuma Communications Manager Jen Miller; and from Exceptional Health, Lisa Basil. Ms. Roldan and Ms. Rachel made some brief remarks.

**5. L. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to the City of San Luis Solid Waste Division for its acceptance into the Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program (VEP) from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). (Gina Bunn, ADEQ Community Liaison)**

Ms. Gina Bunn, ADEQ Community Liaison, presented the City of San Luis with a certificate recognizing the solid waste transfer station's strong compliance record. In 2023, the city also received recognition for good stewardship of the East Wastewater Treatment Plant. She explained that the Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP), created by the state legislature, honors organizations that exceed environmental requirements. San Luis has now been accepted into the program at the bronze level for its solid waste transfer station, based on three (3) years with no environmental violations. Ms. Bunn mentioned that if the city maintains this record over the next three (3) years, its bronze membership will automatically renew. The city may also apply for higher levels of recognition through the VESP program.

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, recognized and thanked his staff in that division for ensuring they were compliant.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **6. A. MINUTES OF**

**- Regular Council meeting held March 25, 2026**

### **6. B. DISBURSEMENTS**

**From April 2, 2026 to April 14, 2026**

**Total \$2,419,487.84**

**(Two Million, Four Hundred Nineteen Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars and Eighty-Four Cents)**

**6. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2026-03. An order of the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, authorizing joining the Remnant Defendants Opioid Settlement Agreement. (Jenny Torres, City Manager and Joe Estes, Interim City Attorney)**

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

The vote was as follows:

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz     | Aye |
| Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya | Aye |
| Council Member Esteban C. Rosales     | Aye |
| Council Member Lizeth Servin          | Aye |
| Vice Mayor 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 the City of San Luis Fire Station No.1 Roof Repair Project. (Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, stated that an assessment was conducted to determine which repairs were needed. The project was advertised as required by state statute. Bids were received, reviewed and it was determined that the contract be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder. This is for an almost 20-year-old roof.

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Javier Vargas/Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya to award the contract to EcoEnergy Solutions, LLC for the San Luis Fire Station No. 1 roof repair in the amount of \$138,375.00, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

**7. B. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the City of San Luis Well Site 3 Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project. (Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works)**

Mr. Eulogio Vera, Director of Public Works, explained that the City of San Luis Well Site 3 storage tank was rehabilitated approximately ten (10) years ago. An assessment was done and it needs Well Sites No. 3 and No. 4 were in the budget to be completed this fiscal year; however, due to conditions at Well Site No. 4, staff had to push it to next year. He added that repairs and improvements will be made to bring it into code. The project was advertised, and two (2) bids were received. Pittsburg Tank and Tower is the lowest responsible bidder; therefore, staff recommended awarding the contract to them. He added that all the metal tanks need to be replaced, except for the last one, which is concrete. Metal tanks are generally recodedre-coded every ten (10) to 15 years. Mr. Vera briefly spoke about other well sites and the repairs needed.

**MOTION:** Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz/Vice Mayor Javier Vargas to award the contract to Pittsburg Tank & Tower Maintenance, Co., Inc. for the construction of the City of San Luis Well Site 3 Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$640,046.00, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

**7. C. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the City of San Luis Merrill Avenue Improvements — County 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to Los Oros Street Phase 2 (CDBG #108-26) project. (Tomas Sanchez, City Engineer)**

Mr. Tomas Sanchez, City Engineer, stated that staff is seeking approval to accept and award a construction contract to Gutierrez Canales Engineering for this project in the amount of \$898,656.99. The project will consist of widening Merrill Avenue from Nancy Street to County 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. The city will match the first part of Phase One of Merrill Avenue. He added that the project was advertised, and a total of three (3) bids were received. Gutierrez Canales was selected as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The Economic Development Department secured a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$480,965.00, and there is \$665,000.00 in this fiscal year. The duration of this project will be approximately four (4) months.

**MOTION:** Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Mayor Nieves Riedel to award the contract to Gutierrez Canales Engineering, PC for Merrill Avenue Improvements – County 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to Los Oros Street Phase 2 CDBG Project in the amount of \$898,656.99, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

**7. D. Presentation to City Council followed by discussion and possible direction to staff on any and all matters regarding the nominations for Opportunity Zones for the City of San Luis. (Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development and Government Affairs)**

Mr. Armando Esparza, Director of Economic Development and Government Affairs, provided a brief overview of Opportunity Zones (OZs). Opportunity Zones are a program that has existed since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and was recently reauthorized by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. It is a program designed to attract investment from companies and individuals with capital gains, offering tax benefits when they reinvest in qualifying census tracts and when they exit their investment. He spoke about the nomination process, eligible census tracts in San Luis, Census Tracts 04027011403 and 04027011601 and recommendations.

There were questions and answers between Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya and Mr. Esparza on assistance from outside advisors.

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Javier Vargas/Council Member Esteba C. Rosales to direct staff to recommend Census Tracts 04027011403 and 04027011601 to the Arizona Commerce Authority for Opportunity Zone Designation. The motions passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

## 8. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz reported that she and Ms. Crystal Figueroa, Director of Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization, attended the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council. An update was provided from the Dorne Policy Group regarding HB2304 – Statewide Priority Projects, which encompassed 72 road transportation projects. Additionally, they were informed about HB2760 – the Smart Fund Bill, which sought to appropriate \$15 million, but did not advance, although they were pleased that it received a hearing. Since there is no funding, they will continue to advocate for the county’s transportation needs.

Council Member Esteban C. Rosales thanked staff for organizing the city’s budget retreat on April 17 and 18 and the departments for presenting their breakdowns of what the City Council will have to decide on for the city. He also reported that he, along with Vice Mayor Javier Vargas and Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the awnings at various local schools.

Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya added that almost half a million dollars was spent on the shades for the three (3) schools without going to the voters for a bond issue, which is very important to the community. The shades are protective of a couple of the newest inclusive playgrounds. He also announced that there is a post on social media on one (1) eighth-grade math teacher from San Luis Middle School, Ms. Arlene Cajeola, who was nominated for the Teachers of Tomorrow, Teacher of the Year Award. She is the only one, not only in Yuma County but in the state, nominated and invited residents to vote for her, so she can place San Luis and Gadsden School District at the national level.

Mayor Nieves Riedel acknowledged the presence of Judge Harper and thanked her for covering the city’s court needs. She clarified that Judge Harper is doing it pro bono; she is not getting paid.

Council Member Lizeth Servin acknowledged the city's communications team, which continues to do a great job with the city's website. The new website is really nice, vibrant, colorful and user-friendly. She reported attending the Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA) Board meeting and the Financial Sustainability Committee last week. Things are moving forward with the transportation, but budget changes are coming, just as with the city. She mentioned she also attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new daycare from Somerton, in San Luis and is really happy, as daycare services are much needed in the City of San Luis and throughout Yuma County. She extended an invitation to the community, off-roaders, clubs, and staff to join the Second Annual Desert Cleanup on Saturday, beginning at 7:00 a.m. She reminded that Yuma County continues to work on the south solid waste transfer station between Avenues D and E. Yuma County secured some grant funding to provide this service to the community.

Vice Mayor Javier Vargas reported that last week, as a member of the Yuma Port Authority, he welcomed a delegation from Taiwan visiting the region to explore it. They toured the area and saw the many options and opportunities the region offers.

## **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Discussion and possible action to hold an Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-431.03(A)(3), and (4) on any and all matters regarding the litigation of San Luis v. Border Ranches II and San Luis v. Rogers; consultation for legal advice with the city attorneys, in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys and representatives about the City Council's position on contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to resolve litigation (under subsection 4) allowed in executive sessions. (Joe Estes, Interim City Attorney and Outside Counsel Sims Mackin Ltd.)**

**MOTION:** Council Member Tadeo Azael De La Hoya/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to go into executive session at approximately 6:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

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

## 10. MOTION TO GO BACK TO REGULAR SESSION

**MOTION:** Mayor Nieves Riedel/Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to go back to regular session at approximately 7:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz | Aye |
| Council Member Esteban C. Rosales | Aye |
| Council Member Lizeth Servin      | Aye |
| Vice Mayor Javier Vargas          | Aye |
| Mayor Nieves Riedel               | Aye |

## 11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM:

**Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding Order No. 2026-02, an Order of the City Council of the City of San Luis, Arizona, approving the settlement agreement for Case No. S1400CV202300365 the City of San Luis versus Border Ranches II and S1400CV202300366 the City of San Luis versus Rogers in the Yuma County Superior Court; repealing conflicting provisions; and providing for severability. (Joe Estes, Interim City Attorney)**

Mr. Joe Estes, Interim City Attorney, stated that the settlement agreements are in the packet being presented and that it is recommended the city agree to and enter into those agreements.

**MOTION:** Council Member Esteban C. Rosales/Mayor Nieves Riedel to approve Order No. 2026-02 accepting the terms of the attached settlement agreements.

The vote was as follows:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz | Aye |
| Council Member Esteban C. Rosales | Aye |
| Council Member Lizeth Servin      | Aye |
| Vice Mayor Javier Vargas          | Aye |
| Mayor Nieves Riedel               | Aye |

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Mayor Nieves Riedel/ Council Member Esteban C. Rosales to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at approximately 7:07 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Maria Cecilia Cruz | Aye |
| Council Member Esteban C. Rosales | Aye |
| Council Member Lizeth Servin      | Aye |
| Vice Mayor 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 April 22, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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