

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
ALEXSANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3
JOE MOLINAR, DISTRICT 4
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA L. RODRIGUEZ, DISTRICT 6
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
July 6, 2021
9:05 AM

Due to the temporary suspension of specified provisions of Open Meetings laws due to the COVID-19 emergency this meeting was conducted via telephonic and videoconference formats.

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The City Council of the City Council met on the above time and date via videoconference. Meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m. Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Alexsandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera and Cissy Lizarraga. Mayor Oscar Leeser arrived at 10:35 a.m.

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AGENDA

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1. Presentation and discussion by the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Cross-Functional Team providing information on key activities, efforts and processes.

1. Overview (Tommy Gonzalez)

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, introduced the item and provided an update on the City's vaccination rates by stating that 77% of the population age 12 and over had received a first dose with 66% of the population now fully vaccinated. Mr. Gonzalez explained that the City is able to vaccinate any eligible person who visits a City vaccination site and noted that hospitalizations were up due to the scheduling of procedures that were on hold due to the pandemic.

Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, informed Council that the Emergency Ordinances would be brought forward for consideration in two weeks.

Fire Chief Mario D'Agostino explained the process for vaccinating maquiladora workers from Cd. Juarez at the U.S. port of entry.

2. Team Lead Report:

- 1. Health Focus (Hector Ocaranza, M.D.)**
- 2. Data Analysis (David Coronado)**

Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Public Health Authority, provided an update on the current pandemic situation by explaining there had been an improvement in the vaccination rate, stating the

number of positive cases remained low, and outlining the different types of SARS-CoV-2 variants while encouraging everyone to get vaccinated.

Mr. David Coronado, International Bridges Director, provided statistical information related to the economic situation by stating the unemployment rate of 6.4% is an improvement from last year's figure. He also explained that compared to last April/May of last year, home sales and retail sales activity had increased and said manufacturing activity and trade levels were exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

3. City Manager Wrap Up (Tommy Gonzalez)

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, closed the presentation by restating the City's vaccination rates and said El Paso is leading in State vaccination rates among the senior and 12-15 age categories indicating the strategies put in place were working.

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Svarzbein, Hernandez, and Molinar commented.

The following members of City staff responded to questions from Members of the City Council:

- Ms. Laura Cruz-Acosta, Strategic Communications Director
- Ms. Araceli Guerra, Managing Director of Internal Services
- Mr. Bryan Crowe, General Manager, Destination El Paso

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Representative Salcido, seconded by Representative Hernandez and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 10:26 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk