

RENARD U. JOHNSON
MAYOR

DIONNE MACK
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
ALEJANDRA CHÁVEZ, DISTRICT 1
JOSH ACEVEDO, DISTRICT 2
DEANNA MALDONADO-ROCHA, DISTRICT 3
CYNTHIA BOYAR TREJO, DISTRICT 4
IVAN NIÑO, DISTRICT 5
ART FIERRO, DISTRICT 6
LILY LIMÓN, DISTRICT 7
CHRIS CANALES, DISTRICT 8

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 31, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY
9:00 A.M.

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The City Council met at the above place and date. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. Mayor Renard Johnson was present and presiding. The following Council Members answered roll call: Alejandra Chávez, Josh Acevedo, Deanna Maldonado-Rocha, Cynthia Boyar Trejo, Ivan Niño, Art Fierro, and Lily Limón. Late arrivals: Chris Canales at 9:11 a.m.

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AGENDA
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1. FY 2024 - 2025 - 3rd Quarter Financial Report.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representatives Chávez, Niño, and Fierro commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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2. Presentation and submission of appraisal roll, certified anticipated collection rate for the current year, the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate and Voter-Approval Tax Rate for FY 2025-2026 taxes.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representative Chávez commented.

Mr. Michael Hradek, citizen, commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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3. Presentation, discussion and action on the FY 2025 - 2026 Proposed Budget.

The following City staff members presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office):

- Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
- Ms. Sasho Andonoski, Management and Budget Director

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales commented.

The following City staff members commented:

- Mr. Juan Gonzalez, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager
- Ms. Veronica Gomez, Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing Assistant Director
- Ms. Nicole Cote, Deputy City Manager
- Mr. Randy Garcia, Streets and Maintenance Director
- Mr. Joe Montisano, Zoo Director

1ST MOTION

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Niño, and unanimously carried to **REVISE** line 12 of the Draft Budget Resolution to insert the word “including” before “for City Council...” as follows:

*12. That the City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to accept and appropriate funds associated with donations made to the City in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. All donations made to the City, **including** for City Council Special Projects Funds or Discretionary Accounts shall be considered City funds and shall be subject to all relevant federal, state, and local policies governing the use and expenditure of such funds.*

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Nino to amend item 31 of the Draft Budget Resolution to read:

That City Council Members must notify the City Manager, or designee, of any expenditure from budgeted City Council Special Projects or Discretionary Accounts, so that City staff may maintain a current balance of each City Council Member's year-to-date expenditures from said accounts. City Council must identify the municipal purpose of all expenditures. **The City Council, as the governing body, shall have sole and final discretion in determining what constitutes a municipal purpose, provided that the expenditure serves a public purpose, retains public control to ensure the public benefit is achieved, protects the public's investment, and ensures that the municipality receives a return benefit.** Pursuant to the Resolution dated November 8, 1994, allocations of discretionary funds up to \$1,000 for activities and purposes that are administrative in nature shall be approved in the same manner as expenditures from the City's General Fund. All PCard transactions—including those by City Council Members, their staff, and all other City departments that have a PCard—shall be posted on the City's website. Additionally, all Special Projects, Discretionary, and PCard transactions shall be included on the monthly City Council Agenda for notation and shall identify the applicable City Council Member, their staff, and City staff. **Allocations from the City Council's General Fund budget—including outside contracts and salaries and benefits—shall roll over from year to year.** All expenditures under this section shall comply with applicable city and state laws and policies.

2ND MOTION

Motion made by Representative Niño, seconded by Representative Acevedo, and carried to **AMEND** the proposed revision to line 31 of the Draft Budget Resolution by adding “**into the District’s discretionary fund**” after “shall roll over from year to year”.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, and Canales

NAYS: Representative Limón

3RD MOTION

Motion made by Representative Acevedo, seconded by Representative Niño, and carried to Add “**Prior to the use of a P-Card for a proposed expenditure**” before “the City Council, as the governing body, shall have sole and final discretion...”

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, and Canales

NAYS: Representative Limón

4TH MOTION

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Maldonado-Rocha, and unanimously carried to restore the language on Item 31 that reads “**The City Manager or designee shall implement appropriate processes when utilizing discretionary funds through other procurement or reimbursement processes** before “Additionally all Special Projects, Discretionary, and PCard transactions.....

And

Strike out “ and all other City departments” after “All P-Card transactions—including those by City Council Members, their staff, ~~and all other City departments~~”

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón and Canales

NAYS: None

5TH MOTION

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Niño, and carried to **AMEND** Line 31 of the proposed Budget Resolution to read:

31. That City Council Members must notify the City Manager, or designee, of any expenditure from budgeted City Council Special Projects or Discretionary Accounts, so that City staff may maintain a current balance of each City Council Member’s year-to-date expenditures from said accounts. City Council must identify the municipal purpose of all expenditures. Prior to the use of a P-Card for a proposed expenditure The City Council, as the governing body, shall have sole and final discretion in determining what constitutes a municipal purpose, provided that the expenditure serves a public purpose, retains public control to ensure the public benefit is achieved, protects the public’s investment, and ensures that the municipality receives a return benefit. Pursuant to the Resolution dated November 8, 1994, allocations of discretionary funds up to \$1,000 for activities and purposes that are administrative in nature shall be approved in the same manner as expenditures from the City’s General Fund. The City Manager, or designee, shall implement appropriate

processes when utilizing discretionary funds through other procurement or reimbursement processes All Special Projects, Discretionary, P-Card transactions—including those by City Council Members, their staff, that have a P-Card—shall be posted on the City's website. Additionally, all Special Projects, Discretionary, and P-Card transactions shall be included on the monthly City Council Agenda for notation and shall identify the applicable City Council Member, their staff, and City staff. Allocations from the City Council's General Fund budget—including outside contracts and salaries and benefits—shall roll over from year to year into the District's discretionary funds. All expenditures under this section shall comply with applicable city and state laws and policies.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, and Canales

NAYS: Representative Limón

6TH AND FINAL MOTION

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the action requested on Slide 55 of the presentation as follows:

1. Reduce tax rate from **76.1** to **75.9** cents (\$972K)
2. Reduce use of fund balance from **\$4.0M** to **\$3.25M** (\$750K)
3. Restore funding for vacancies by \$750K
4. Restore funding for facility improvements/repairs from \$4.4M to \$4.9M (\$500K)

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

REGULAR AGENDA - FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

4. Introduction of an Ordinance levying FY 2025 - 2026 taxes.

Motion made by Representative Niño, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried that the Ordinance having been introduced pursuant to Sections 3.9 and 7.12 of the El Paso City Charter, be **ADVERTISED** for public hearing setting the tax rate of \$0.759649 per \$100.00 of taxable value .

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, commented.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 12, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Maldonado-Rocha, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 9:04 a.m. pursuant

to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 - 551.089 to discuss the following items:

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, and Limón

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representative Canales

Motion made by Representative Niño, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 9:46 a.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time a motion was made.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representative Maldonado-Rocha

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EX1. Legal consultation regarding City Manager's and City Attorney's employment contracts. HQ#4883 (551.071) (551.074)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the CITY OF EL PASO **AUTHORIZES** the Mayor, with the assistance of outside legal counsel and in response to HB 762, to negotiate and execute amendments to the City Manager and City Attorney Agreements to remove Severance terms in the Employment Agreements and develop separate Severance Agreements.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representative Maldonado-Rocha

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EX2. Discussion on economic development opportunities in Northeast El Paso, Texas. HQ#25-5335 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Maldonado-Rocha, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk