

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 WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 17, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY
9:05 A.M.

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The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 9:24 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, Lily Limón, and Chris Canales.

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AGENDA

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1. Presentation and discussion by the Capital Improvement Department on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Mid-Year update for active, programmed and completed capital projects for FY 2025.

Mr. Gilbert Guerrero, Capital Improvement Assistant Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Mayor Johnson commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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2. Budget Update - 5 Year Financial Forecast.

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

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

Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager, commented.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Ms. Lisa Turner
2. Ms. Keshia Bailey

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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3. Presentation and update from El Paso Electric (EPE) on its Application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas to Change Rates.

Mr. Omar Martinez, Strategic and Legislative Affairs Assistant Director, introduced the item.

Mr. Daniel Perez, El Paso Electric Regional Director of Government Affairs, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Mr. James Schichtl, El Paso Electric Vice President of Customer and Regulatory Solutions, commented.

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Limón, and Canales commented.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Ms. Lisa Turner
2. Mr. Leo Mendoza
3. Ms. Keshia Bailey

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Niño, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 11:56 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 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Maldonado-Rocha, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 2:48 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time motions were made.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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EX1. Discussion on the Office of Management and Budget's "Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan and other Financial Assistance Programs" Memorandum; M-25-13; Executive Office of the President; (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX2. Ricardo Rubio, et al v. City of El Paso Department of Public Health, et al; Cause No. 2018DCV0735 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to participate in a mediation and engage in settlement negotiations in the matter *Ricardo Rubio, et al v. City of El Paso*, Cause No. 2018DCV0735, and to take all steps

necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

NAYS: None

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EX3. Ariel Perez, et al v. Bowling Enterprises, LTD, Northtowne Village Joint Venture, and CEA Engineering Group, Inc., 2023DCV2046; HQ#426 (551.071)

Mayor Johnson verbally disclosed contributions received from Bobby Bowling and Randall Bowling.

Representative Acevedo verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from Randall Bowling and \$1,000 from Bobby Bowling.

Representative Niño verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from Randall Bowling and \$1,000 from Bobby Bowling.

Representative Fierro verbally disclosed contributions received from Bobby Bowling and Randall Bowling.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Boyar Trejo, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office, in consultation with the City Manager, be **AUTHORIZED** to enter into a settlement agreement related to the matter *Ariel Perez, et. al. v. Bowling Enterprises, Ltd., Northtowne Village Joint Venture, and CEA Engineering Group, Inc.* in cause no. 2023DCV2046, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

NAYS: None

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EX4. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Change Rates - PUC#57568; HQ#UTILITY-60 (551.071)

Mayor Johnson verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Acevedo verbally disclosed a \$1,750 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Maldonado-Rocha verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Niño verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Limón verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX5. Texas Gas Service Test Year 2024 Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program Interim Rate Adjustment for the Incorporated Areas of the West North Service Area; HQ#UTILITY-62 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to hire and retain outside counsel and any other necessary consultants, and to suspend the implementation of the Interim Rate Adjustment for an additional forty-five (45) days after the effective date, as provided in Section 104.301(a) of the Texas Utilities Code in the *Texas Gas Service Company, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc.'s Test Year 2024 Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program Interim Rate Adjustment for the Incorporated Areas of West North Service Area*, filed on February 11, 2025, in HighQ Utility-62, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

NAYS: None

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EX6. Application of El Paso Electric Company's Macho Springs Reassignment - PUC#57760; HQ#UTILITY-63, (551.071)

Mayor Johnson verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Acevedo verbally disclosed a \$1,750 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Maldonado-Rocha verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Niño verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Limón verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to hire and retain outside counsel and any other necessary consultants, and to file an intervention in the *El Paso Electric Company's Application to Reassign up to 35,000 MWHs of the calendar year 2025 production from the Macho Springs Purchased Power Agreement*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 57760, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-63, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

NAYS: None

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EX7. Application of El Paso Electric Company for an Economic Development Rate for a New Data Center to be located in El Paso Texas - PUC#56903; HQ#UTILITY-52 (551.071)

Mayor Johnson verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Acevedo verbally disclosed a \$1,750 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Maldonado-Rocha verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Niño verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Limón verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Boyar Trejo, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to enter into a settlement agreement in the *Application of El Paso Electric Company for an Economic Development Rate for a New Data Center to be located in El Paso, Texas*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 56903, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-52, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

NAYS: None

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EX8. Temporary restraining order regarding Sun Metro Facility fire of February 11, 2025. Cause No. 2025-CPR00364 (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX9. Discussion on an economic development opportunity in Central El Paso, HQ#24-3471 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX10. Discussion on purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property located in Downtown El Paso; HQ#24-3125 (551.071) (551.072)

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 2:56 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