

DEE MARGO  
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ  
CITY MANAGER



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

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 27, 2020**  
**9:00 AM**

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

The City Council of the City Council met on the above time and date via videoconference. Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Mayor Dee Margo present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alexsandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Sam Morgan, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera and Cissy Lizarraga.

**AGENDA**

**ITEMS 1 AND 2 WERE TAKEN TOGETHER**

1. Presentation and submission of appraisal roll, certified anticipated collection rate for the current year.
2. Presentation and submission of the No-New Revenue Tax Rate and Voter-Approval Tax Rate for FY 2020-2021 taxes.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, introduced the items and informed Members of the City Council that he would return with a strategy and a plan in response to requests to fund public safety and reduce property taxes.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation, (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office), and answered questions posed by Members of the City Council.

**NO ACTION** was taken on these items.

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3. Presentation, discussion, and action on the proposed FY 2020 – 2021 Budget.

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

Mayor Margo and Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga commented and posed questions to City staff.

The following City staff members were available to answer questions from Council members:

1. Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
2. Ms. Araceli Guerra, Information Technology Director
3. Mr. Sam Rodriguez, City Engineer
4. Ms. Tracey Jerome, Deputy City Manager
5. Ms. Ellen Smyth, Sun Metro Director
6. Mr. Julio Perez, Accessibility and Lift Services Compliance Officer
7. Ms. Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager
8. Mr. Cary Westin, Senior Deputy City Manager
9. Mr. Ben Fyffe, Parks and Recreation Director
10. Mr. Philip Etiwe, Planning and Inspections Director
11. Ms. Nicole Cote, Office of Management and Budget Director
12. Ms. Paula Powell, Animal Services Director
13. Mr. Joel McKnight, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
14. Ms. Trudy Sweeten, EP Live Assistant General Manager
15. Ms. Sol Cortez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Topics of discussion included the budget stabilization fund, a system for constituent requests, franchise fees, streets, curb cuts for ADA accessibility, library services, property appraisals, animal services, and addressing needs in response to COVID-19.

Motion made by Representative Annello, seconded by Representative Lizarraga, and carried to **TAKE** \$250,000 from the proposed increase to the Budget Stabilization Fund to **FUND** a comprehensive system for constituent requests.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: Representative Rodriguez

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**REGULAR AGENDA - FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

4. Introduction of an Ordinance levying FY 2020 – 2021 taxes.

**PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2020**

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the introduction of the Ordinance would set the tax rate at .907301 of one percent of the assessed value on all property, real, personal, and mixed.

Motion made by Representative Morgan, seconded by Representative Lizarraga, and unanimously carried that the Ordinance, having been introduced pursuant to Section 3.9 of the El Paso City Charter, be **ADVERTISED** for public hearing.

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

NAYS: None

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**ADJOURN**

Motion made by Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore Lizarraga, seconded by Representative Salcido, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Special City Council meeting at 11:38 a.m.

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

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

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Laura D. Prine, City Clerk