

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

CARY WESTIN
INTERIM CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
BRIAN KENNEDY, DISTRICT 1
ALEXSANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3
JOE MOLINAR, DISTRICT 4
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5
ART FIERRO, DISTRICT 6
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7
CHRIS CANALES, DISTRICT 8

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
November 20, 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY
9:05 A.M.

.....
The City Council of the City of El Paso met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Brian Kennedy, Alexsandra Annello, Joe Molinar, Art Fierro, Henry Rivera, and Chris Canales. Isabel Salcido joined virtually. Late arrival: Cassandra Hernandez at 9:43 a.m. Early departures: Henry Rivera at 11:25 a.m., Isabel Salcido at 11:45 a.m., and Cassandra Hernandez at 12:30 p.m.

.....
AGENDA
.....

1. For Notation Only: Formal Report of the Financial Oversight and Audit Committee meeting held on October 16, 2023.
 1. Administrative Procedures for Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget Transfers.
 2. Discussion and Action on the Special Audit Requests from the May 9th City Council Meeting, Item 20.
 - No action was taken on this item.
 3. Discussion and Action on FY 2022-2023 Audit Plan 4th Quarter Updates.
 - Motion made by Representative Molinar, seconded by Representative Annello and approved by Representative Kennedy, Representative Annello, Representative Fierro and Representative Molinar to accept the 4th Quarter Update.
 4. Discussion and Action on the FY 2023-2024 Annual Internal Audit Plan.
 - Motion made by Representative Molinar, seconded by Representative Kennedy and approved by Representative Kennedy, Representative Annello, Representative Fierro and Representative Molinar to bring the amended FY 2023-2024 Annual Internal Audit Plan to City Council.
 5. Discussion on Client Surveys.

Mr. Eduardo Calderon, Chief Internal Auditor, provided a briefing of the October 16, 2023 meeting.

NO ACTION was taken on this item

-
2. **ITEM:** Discussion and Action for City Council to approve the following Internal Audit Department documents:
 - 2023-2024 Internal Audit Charter.
 - 2023-2024 Annual Internal Audit Plan.

Representative Kennedy commented.

Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, commented.

Motion made by Representative Kennedy, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the 2023-2024 Internal Audit Charter and the 2023-2024 Annual Internal Audit Plan.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representative Hernandez

3. Presentation and discussion of the Women's Rights Commission Annual Report.

Ms. Tracey Jerome, Senior Deputy City Manager, introduced the item.

Ms. Marina Monsisvais, Chair for the Women's Rights Commission, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Annello, Molinar, and Canales commented.

Ms. Lisa Turner, citizen and member of the Women's Rights Commission, commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

4. Presentation and discussion as part of the upcoming Strategic Planning Session providing a fiscal overview and operations update for the following key areas:

1. Fiscal Overview
2. Grant Funded Programs Overview
3. Streets Focus

Mr. Cary Westin, Interim City Manager, introduced the item.

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

- Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
- Mr. Omar Martinez, Grants and Strategic Initiatives Manager
- Mr. Richard Bristol, Streets and Maintenance Director

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Annello, Hernandez, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales commented.

Mr. Sam Rodriguez, Chief Operations Officer, commented.

Ms. Lisa Turner, citizen, commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

5. **ITEM:** Discussion and action on the amendments directed by the City Council to City Code chapter 2.92.080 to require additional disclosures regarding contributions or donations from

individuals or business entities receiving a benefit from the City, 2.92.120, 2.92.130(A)(5) and 2.92.160(B) to include jurisdiction over candidates, political committees and individuals or business entities in certain circumstances, 2.92.160(C) to include that the Chief Internal Auditor reports to the Council, 2.92.170(A) to adjust the time for response to be due to 14 days after the City Attorney refers a complaint to the commission and 2.92.200(D) to authorize the commission to issue a fine of up to \$500.

Ms. Kristen Hamilton-Karam, Deputy City Attorney, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk’s Office) containing recommendations from staff and the Ethics Review Commission.

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Hernandez, and Molinar commented.

Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, commented.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Annello, seconded by Representative Kennedy, and carried to **ACCEPT** staff recommendations and **INCORPORATE** the recommendations from the Ethics Review Commission however, exclude the recommendation that removes obligations from individuals or business.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Salcido, and Canales
NAYS: Representatives Hernandez and Molinar
NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Fierro and Rivera

.....
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Annello, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 11:45 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 executive session items:

- Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY
- Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
- Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, and Canales
NAYS: None
NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Fierro and Rivera

Representatives Rivera and Salcido were not present during executive session and Representative Annello joined at 12:20 p.m.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Annello, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 12:59 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time motions were made.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Molinar, Fierro, and Canales
NAYS: None
NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez, Salcido, and Rivera

.....
EX1. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Change Rates to Open Access Transmission Tariff, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); Docket No. ER22-282-000. Matter No. 21-1008-183 | HQ#UTILITY-25 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Annello, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney’s Office, in consultation with the City Manager, is **AUTHORIZED** and **DIRECTED** to neither agree to nor contest the settlement in El Paso Electric Revisions to the Open Access Transmission Tariff, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Docket No. ER22-282-000 HighQ# Utility-25, and to take all steps necessary, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Molinar, Fierro, and Canales

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez, Salcido, and Rivera

.....
EX2. Discussion on Contract of Sale for 323 Chihuahua Street, El Paso, Texas. Matter HQ#23-859; (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Annello, seconded by Representative Kennedy, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney’s Office in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to terminate the Contract of Sale between 323 Chihuahua L.L.C. and the City of El Paso for the purchase of 323 S. Chihuahua Street, El Paso, Texas, pursuant to the terms of said Contract, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Molinar, Fierro, and Canales

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez, Salcido, and Rivera

.....
EX3. Economic Incentives for an Infill Development located in Northeast El Paso. Matter HQ#23-1765 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

.....
EX4. Discussion on potential economic development opportunities in Northeast El Paso. Matter No. 22-1007-2864 |HQ#23-478 (551.072) (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

.....
ADJOURN

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Annello, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Molinar, Fierro, and Canales

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez, Salcido, and Rivera

.....
APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk