

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
February 24, 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 9:44 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 Project ARRIBA's annual report on the status of activities during the fiscal year, use of grant funds and progress in the performance measures required under the Chapter 380 Economic Development Program Agreement executed on August 29, 2023 between the City of El Paso and Project ARRIBA.

Ms. Delilah Cortez, Senior Economic Development Compliance Analyst, introduced the item.

Mr. Roman Ortiz, Chief Executive Officer for Project Arriba, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representative Limón commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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2. Presentation and update by the Success Through Technology Education (STTE), on the organization's FY2024 Annual Report, including a status update on activities during FY2024, use of grant funds and progress toward performance measures identified by the ARPA Sub-recipient Agreement executed on April 11, 2023, between the City of El Paso and STTE.

Ms. Alejandra Fuentes, Economic Development Contract Compliance Coordinator, introduced the item.

Mr. Joseph Sapien, STTE Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Stephanie Schilling, STTE Ventures Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

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

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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3. Presentation and update by the Medical Center of the Americas (MCA), on the organization's FY2024 Annual Report, including a status update on activities during FY2024, use of grant

funds and progress toward performance measures identified by the Chapter 380 Agreement executed on February 7, 2012, between the City of El Paso and MCA.

Ms. Alejandra Fuentes, Economic Development Contract Compliance Coordinator, introduced the item.

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

- Mr. Carlos Ortega, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Ms. Nancy Lowery, Senior Director of Innovation
- Ms. Michaela Linden-Johnson, Senior Director of Clinical Trials and Business Development

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Rocha and Niño commented.

Dr. German Rosas-Acosta, UTEP Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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4. Presentation and discussion on an overview of the Economic and International Development Department.

Ms. Karina Bragalla, Economic and International Development Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez and Trejo commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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5. Presentation and discussion of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) purpose, process, and timeline.

Ms. Adriana Pulecio, International Business and Trade Development Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, and Fierro commented.

The following City staff members commented:

- Mr. Robert Cortinas, Deputy City Manager
- Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Trejo, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 11:34 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 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

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

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Chávez, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 4:11 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time motions were made.

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

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EX1. City of El Paso, Texas v. Birds N Beasts, Inc. and Joe Krathwohl; Cause No. 2021DCV0301 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** certain authority to engage in settlement negotiations in the matter of Birds and Beasts and Joe Krathwohl, in Matter Number HQ#2021DCV0301, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

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EX2. Discussion on the U.S. 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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EX3. Discussion on enforcement of guarantee of public improvements on subdivision in West El Paso. HQ# 24-3248 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office in consultation with the City Manager or designee, be **AUTHORIZED** pursuant to the El Paso City Code, to enforce the guarantee of public improvements on a subdivision in West El Paso, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

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EX4. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Update Its Generation Cost Recovery Rider Related to Newman Unit 6; HQ#UTILITY-31 (551.071).

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

Representative Rocha verbally disclosed a \$1,250 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 Canales, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to file a Motion for Rehearing with the Public Utility Commission in the *Application of El Paso Electric Company to Update Its Generation Cost Recovery Rider Related to Newman Unit 6*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 56225, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-31, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

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EX5. Application of El Paso Electric Company for an Economic Development Rate for a New Data Center to be located in El Paso, Texas. HQ#UTILITY-52 (551.071)

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

Representative Rocha verbally disclosed a \$1,250 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 engage in settlement negotiations 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, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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EX6. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Change Rates - PUC#57568; HQ#UTILITY-60 (551.071)

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

Representative Rocha verbally disclosed a \$1,250 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 Niño, and unanimously carried that the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to request that El Paso Electric Company do the following:

1. Give a public presentation at City Council’s March 17, 2025 meeting; and
2. Give additional public presentations at regional community meetings from March to May 2025, in coordination with the City Manager’s Office.

Regarding the *Application of El Paso Electric Company to Change Rates* filed on January 27, 2025, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 57568, in Matter Number UTILITY-60, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

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EX7. Purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property located in Downtown El Paso. HQ#23-1582 (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX8. Discussion on economic development opportunities in El Paso, HQ#25-4367 (551.087) (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX9. Discussion on economic development opportunities in the extra-territorial jurisdiction of El Paso, HQ#24-2528 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

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

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk