

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
May 12, 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 9:02 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, and Lily Limón. Late arrivals: Art Fierro at 9:04 a.m. and Chris Canales at 9:05 a.m.

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AGENDA

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1. Presentation, discussion by the El Paso Central Appraisal District's Executive Director and Chief Appraiser Dinah Kilgore on the City of El Paso's 2025 Pre-Preliminary Values and Protest Period.

The following Central Appraisal District representatives presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

- Ms. Dinah Kilgore, CAD Executive Director
- Mr. David Stone, CAD Deputy Chief Appraiser

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

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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2. **ITEM:** Discussion and action on Board and Commission cross functional team update as directed by City Council on January 22, 2025.

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

- Ms. Laura Prine, City Clerk
- Ms. Laura Cruz-Acosta, Strategic Communications Director

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

The following City staff members commented:

- Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager

- Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney
- Mr. Russell Abeln, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- Ms. Josette Flores, Deputy City Attorney
- Ms. Diana Nunez, Assistant City Clerk

Ms. Diana Ramirez, citizen, commented.

1ST MOTION – Main Motion

Motion made by Representative Fierro, seconded by Representative Limón to approve staff's recommendation.

Primary Amendment

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to **AMEND** staff's recommendations as follows:

- Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAD) – accept staff's recommendation to reduce the membership from 18 to 9 however keep the same appointment process so that each member of Council has an appointee for each of those nine seats
- Uptown Parking Benefit District Advisory Committee – hold quarterly meetings instead of biannual
- Add a climate and sustainability purview to the City Plan Commission's objectives
- Open Space Advisory Committee - Consolidate with CPC instead of Parks and & Recreation and accept staff's recommendation to align oversight of the 10% stormwater fund with Financial Oversight and Audit Committee

2ND MOTION – Divide the Question

Motion made by Representative Acevedo, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried to **DIVIDE THE QUESTION** so the vote on the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) could be taken separately

3RD MOTION – First part of the Primary Amendment

Motion made by made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Limón, to to **AMEND** staff's recommendations as follows:

- Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAD) – accept staff's recommendation to reduce the membership from 18 to 9 however keep the same appointment process so that each member of Council has an appointee for each of those nine seats
- Uptown Parking Benefit District Advisory Committee – hold quarterly meetings instead of biannual
- Add a climate and sustainability purview to the City Plan Commission's objectives

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

NAYS: Representative Fierro

4TH MOTION – Second part of the Primary Amendment

- **CONSOLIDATE** the oversight portion of the Open Space Advisory Board with the City Plan Commission (CPC) instead of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

and accept staff's recommendation to align oversight of the 10% stormwater fund with Financial Oversight and Audit Committee

AYES: Representatives Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Niño, and Fierro

Mayor Johnson broke the tie by voting "NAY". THE MOTION FAILED.

Amendment to the Main Motion

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Acevedo, to **REJECT** staff's recommendation to reduce board membership from 9 members to 5 members on the following boards:

- City Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Uptown Parking Benefit District Advisory Committee
- Committee on Border Relations

5TH MOTION – Secondary Amendment to Previous Amendment

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to **EXCLUDE** the Uptown Parking Benefit District Advisory Committee from the amendment.

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

NAYS: None

6TH MOTION - Amendment

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Acevedo, and carried to **REJECT** staff's recommendation to reduce board membership from 9 members to 5 members on the following boards:

- City Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Committee on Border Relations

7TH MOTION

Motion made by Representative Acevedo, seconded by Representative Limón, and carried to **ACCEPT** Option 2 for the Open Space Advisory Board and **AMEND** the recommendation so that it reads as follows:

Option 2: Retain and Redefine

- Update enabling Resolution to redefine intent and purpose
- ~~Biannual~~ Quarterly meetings

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

NAYS: Representative Fierro

8TH MOTION

Motion made by Representative Acevedo, seconded by Representative Boyar Trejo, and carried to **TABLE** the item in order to receive legal advice in executive session

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

NAYS: Representative Canales

9TH MOTION

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried to **TAKE** the item **FROM THE TABLE**

10TH MOTION

Motion made by Representative Acevedo, seconded by Representative Boyar Trejo, and carried to **DIRECT** the City Manager and City Attorney to engage the Women's Rights Commission with a presentation to gather their input on moving the commission under the Community and Human Development Department, redefining their scope, and moving the meetings to every other month instead of quarterly as presented.

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

NAYS: Representative Chávez, Fierro, and Limón

11TH MOTION

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to **REQUIRE** for all boards, committees, commissions, and other bodies with an advisory function:

- the development of an annual report including a summary of activities and any recommendations to the City Council arising from the body's discussions throughout the year (which must be delivered to Council in writing by a prescribed deadline, and can be presented during a Council meeting by the membership if desired)
- at least annually a presentation from the staff attorney assigned to the body about that body's charge, purview, legal requirements, etc.

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

NAYS: None

12TH MOTION

Motion made by Representative Acevedo, seconded by Representative Canales, and carried to

- create an Ad Hoc Bond Development Advisory Committee that meets during the development of future bonds
- to update the enabling resolution for the Bond Oversight Advisory Committee to redefine the intent and purpose, to require biannual meetings, and include the 2019-2022 bond projects and any future bond projects.

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

NAYS: Representative Fierro

13TH AND FINAL MOTION

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously to **ACCEPT** Staff's recommendations **AS REVISED** to:

- Develop and adopt a uniform Ordinance to standardize boards and commissions by addressing
 - Membership requirements and composition
 - Board terms
 - Responsibilities of board members to include a Code of Conduct agreement, handbook
 - Clarification of operational and advisory roles
 - Standardize boards to be enacted by Resolution instead of Ordinance
 - Closed session guidelines
 - Mandatory annual training for all board liaisons and relevant City staff
 - Streamline directives, reports and communications from boards/commissions via City Manager's Office
 - Requirement for all boards, committees, commissions, and other bodies with an advisory function:
 - the development of an annual report including a summary of activities and any recommendations to the City Council arising from the body's discussions throughout the year (which must be delivered to Council in writing by a prescribed deadline, and can be presented during a Council meeting by the membership if desired)
 - at least annually a presentation from the staff attorney assigned to the body about that body's charge, purview, legal requirements, etc.
- Consolidate Capital Improvements Advisory Committee with City Plan Commission
- Add a climate and sustainability purview to the City Plan Commission's objectives
- Reduce membership for Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board from 18 to 9 however keep the same appointment process so that each member of Council has an appointee for each of those nine seats
- Reactivate the Youth Advisory Board
 - Fill vacancies administratively process through the City Manager's Office
 - Expand eligibility
- Reinstate the Uptown Parking Benefit District Advisory Committee
 - reduce the membership to five
 - expand boundaries
 - hold quarterly meetings
- Reactivate the Committee on Border Relations with nine members
- Sunset the City of El Paso Health Facilities Development Corporation
- Sunset the Construction Board of Appeals
- Sunset the Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Committee
- Create an Ad Hoc Bond Development Advisory Committee that meets during the development of future bonds
- Bond Overview Advisory Committee
 - Update the enabling resolution to redefine intent and purpose
 - Include 2019 and 2022 bond projects and future bond projects
 - Require biannual meetings

- Direct the City Manager and City Attorney to engage the Women's Rights Commission with a presentation to gather their input on moving the commission under the Community and Human Development Department, redefining their scope, and moving the meetings to every other month.
- Open Space Advisory Committee
 - Update the enabling Resolution to redefine intent and purpose
 - Require quarterly meetings.

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

NAYS: None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION, for Items EX2 through EX7**, at 12:09 p.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 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

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

NAYS: None

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The Executive Session was **RECESSED** at 1:40 p.m. for a lunch break.

The Executive Session was **RECONVENED** at 2:52 p.m.

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Motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 4:18 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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ITEM EX1 WAS TAKEN IN OPEN SESSION

EX1. Discussion on purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property in El Paso; HQ 25-4751

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

- Ms. Yvette Hernandez, Deputy City Manager
- Fire Chief Jonathan Killings
- Police Chief Peter Pacillas

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Acevedo, Boyar Trejo, and Fierro commented.

The following City staff members commented:

- Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager
- Mr. Mario D'Agostino, Deputy City Manager

Motion made by Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore Fierro, seconded by Representative Maldonado-Rocha, and carried to **APPROVE** the relocation of the Public Safety Complex from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to Global Reach Dr.

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

NAYS: Representative Boyar Trejo

EX2. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Reconcile Fuel Costs - PUC#57149; HQ#UTILITY-55 (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 engage in settlement discussions in the *Application of El Paso Electric Company to Reconcile Fuel Costs*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 57149, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-55, 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

EX3. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Adjust its Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor - PUC#58052; HQ#UTILITY-66 (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 file an intervention in the *Application of El Paso Electric Company for Approval to Revise its Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 58052, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-66, 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

EX4. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Change Rates - PUC#57568; HQ#UTILITY-60 (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 do the following:

1. Schedule a public hearing on 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, during the June 24th City Council meeting;
and

2. Request that El Paso Electric attend, participate, and provide a presentation at the above meeting, once scheduled.

and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate the intent of this motion.

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

NAYS: None

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EX5. Legal consultation regarding the impact of recent Federal Executive Orders on City Operations. HQ#4925 (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX6. Legal consultation regarding municipal transportation user fees. HQ#23-1161 (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX7. Legal consultation regarding employment, evaluation process and duties for City Council appointed employees, City Manager, City Attorney, and Chief Internal Auditor. HQ#23-1161 (551.071) (551.074)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Motion made by Representative Maldonado-Rocha, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 4:46 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