

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 WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 12, 2020
3:35 PM

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The City Council of the City Council met on the above time and date via videoconference. Meeting was called to order at 3:52 p.m. Mayor Dee Margo present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alexsandra Annello, Sam Morgan, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera and Cissy Lizarraga. Cassandra Hernandez requested to be excused.
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AGENDA

1. Presentation and discussion by the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Cross-Functional Team providing information on key activities, efforts and processes.

1. Overview (Tommy Gonzalez)

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez introduced the item.

- a) COVID-19 Updates-Governor Abbott's Executive Orders and Proclamations (Karla Nieman)
- b) DHS Measures on the Border (Karla Nieman)
- c) COVID-19 Prosecutorial Updates (Karla Nieman)
- d) Evictions Updates (Karla Nieman)
- e) City Attorney's Office COVID-19 Support (Karla Nieman)

Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, and Ms. Ana Schumacher, Assistant City Attorney, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and answered questions posed by Council members.

2. Cross Functional Team Operations (Chief Mario D'Agostino)

Fire Chief Mario D'Agostino provided a general overview of the item and Ms. Angela Mora, Public Health Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the contact tracing process and challenges (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

3. Team Lead Reports:

- 1. Health Focus
 - a. Community Task Force Recommendations Update
- 2. Financial Focus

- 3. Testing Recap and Update
- 4. Community Vulnerabilities and Human Services
- 5. Economic Recovery
- 6. Operations Focus

The following City staff members presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk’s Office) and were available to answer questions posed by Council members.

- 1. Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City of El Paso Public Health Authority
- 2. Ms. Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager of Public Safety
- 3. Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
- 4. Ms. Tracey Jerome, Deputy City Manager of Quality of Life
- 5. Ms. Laura Cruz-Acosta, Strategic Communications Director
- 6. Mr. Abraham Gutierrez, Administrative Services Manager
- 7. Ms. Miranda Diaz, Business Services Coordinator
- 8. Mr. Richard Bristol, Streets and Maintenance Director
- 9. Mr. Cary Westin, Senior Deputy City Manager
- 10. Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
- 11. Fire Chief Mario D’Agostino

Mayor Margo and Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Rodriguez, and Lizarraga commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Morgan, seconded by Representative Svarzbein, and unanimously carried that the City Council retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 6:10 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:

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

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

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representative Lizarraga

ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Rivera, and unanimously carried to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council during which time the following motions were made:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX1. Public Utility Commission of Texas Docket No. 50277 Application of El Paso Electric Company to Amend Its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for an Additional Generating Unit at the Newman Generating Station In El Paso County and the City of El Paso. Matter: 19-1008-134 (551.071) (551.087)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Lizarraga, and unanimously carried that the CITY OF EL PASO continues to oppose the prudence and necessity of El Paso Electric Company's Application to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for an additional generating unit at the Newman Generating Station under Docket Number 50277 before the Public Utility Commission of Texas, due to the anticipated high costs that will be borne by El Paso ratepayers and that the Newman 6 Generating Station is not likely to be needed by 2023, which opposition is expressed in the City's following filings:

1. Motion to Intervene
2. Testimony and Exhibits of Expert Witness Scott Norwood
3. Initial Brief of the City of El Paso
4. Reply Brief of the City of El Paso
5. Exception to Proposal for Decision

These filings may be viewed at interchange.puc.texas.gov

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX2. Public Utility Commission Docket No. 50058, Application of El Paso Electric Company to Reconcile Fuel Costs, Matter no. 19-1008-133. (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Rivera, and unanimously carried that the City of El Paso authorizes the City Attorney on behalf of the City of El Paso to execute a Settlement Agreement in the *Application of El Paso Electric for Authority to Reconcile Fuel Costs*, which was filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas under PUC Docket No. 50058 on the terms recommended by the City Attorney.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX3. Ramirez, Maria Magdalena and Pedro Ramirez, as Representatives of the Estate and Statutory Death Beneficiaries of Daniel Antonio Ramirez, Deceased v. Ruben Escajeda, Jr. and City of El Paso, Texas; USDC; 3:17-CV-00193-DCG; Matter No. 17-1026-8594.(551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein seconded by Representative Rivera, and unanimously carried that outside counsel for the City of El Paso, Texas, in consultation with the City Attorney, be authorized settlement authority to resolve the case entitled *Ramirez, Maria Magdalena and Pedro Ramirez, as Representatives of the Estate and Statutory Death Beneficiaries of Daniel Antonio Ramirez, Deceased v. Ruben Escajeda, Jr. and City of El Paso, Texas; USDC; 3:17-CV-00193-DCG; D/L: 06/23/15.*

The City Attorney, through outside counsel for the City of El Paso, Texas, is authorized to negotiate a settlement agreement and sign all necessary documents to effectuate this authority under Matter No. 17-1026-8594, as recommended by the City Attorney.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX4. Deliberation regarding a Lease Agreement for property located near Downtown El Paso, Texas. (551.071) (552.072)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX5. Deliberation regarding a Lease Agreement for property located near Central El Paso, Texas. (551.071) (552.072)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX6. Deliberation regarding a Lease Agreement and the purchase of real property located near Downtown El Paso, Texas. (551.071) (552.072)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX7. Proposed strategic real estate acquisitions for facilities necessary for COVID-19 response. (551.071) (551.072)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Rivera, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this at 7:37 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk