

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

CARY WESTIN
INTERIM CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
BRIAN KENNEDY, DISTRICT 1
JOSH ACEVEDO, 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
April 8, 2024
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY*
9:05 A.M.

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The City Council of the City of El Paso met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Brian Kennedy, Josh Acevedo, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Art Fierro, Henry Rivera, and Chris Canales. Cassandra Hernandez requested to be excused.

*The Work Session convened in the Main Conference Room due to technical issues. Council immediately retired into Executive Session and reconvened in Council Chambers thereafter.

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AGENDA
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1. Presentation update on Aerospace, Defense, and Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan, Key Partners, and Target Industries.

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

- Mr. Sam Rodriguez, Chief Operations Officer
- Ms. Karina Brasgalla, Economic and International Development Interim Director
- Mr. Omar De La Rosa, Redevelopment Manager

Dr. Ahsan Choudhury, Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Texas at El Paso, presented a PowerPoint presentation related to the topic.

Mayor Leeser and Representative Salcido commented.

Ms. Lisa Turner, citizen, commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION
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Motion made by Representative Salcido, seconded by Representative Rivera, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 9:21 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:

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

AYES: Representatives Acevedo, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales

NAYS: Representative Kennedy
ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Salcido, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 10:19 a.m. and **RECONVENED** the meeting of the City Council in Council Chambers at which time motions were made.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Acevedo, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX1. Claim of Mr. Ricardo Leon; Claim No. 158 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office, in consultation with the City Manager, be authorized to **DENY** the Claim of Mr. Ricardo Leon, in HQ Matter Number 158, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Acevedo, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX2. Anna Barnes v. City of El Paso, Texas, et al; USDC; Case No. 3:22-CV-161; (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Representative Rivera, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office be authorized to **HIRE** and **RETAIN** the services of necessary experts in the matter of *Anna Barnes v. City of El Paso, Texas et al.*, in HQ Matter Number 3:22-cv-161-KC, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Acevedo, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX3. William C. Haywood v. City of El Paso; Gregory Allen, Officer Otero; McKinney; Guevara; Escajeda; Dela Paz; Case No. 3:20-cv-00114 Matter 20-1026-11325 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office be authorized to **HIRE** and **RETAIN** the services of necessary experts in the matter of *William C Haywood v. City of El Paso, et al.*, in HQ Matter Number 3:20-cv-00114, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Acevedo, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX4. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Update Schedule No. Covid-19 in Compliance with Docket No. 52195 - PUC#56422; HQ#UTILITY-35 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Representative Rivera, 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 to Update Schedule No. Covid-19 in Compliance with Docket No. 52195*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 56422, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-35, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Acevedo, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX5. Application of El Paso Electric Company for Approval of a Distribution Cost Recovery Factor - PUC# 56425; HQ#UTILITY-37 (551.071)

Representative Acevedo verbally disclosed a \$750 campaign contribution from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee (PAC).

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Representative Molinar, 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 of a Distribution Cost Recovery Factor*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 56425, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-37, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Acevedo, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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EX6. Discussion on potential economic development opportunities in Northeast El Paso, Texas. HQ#23-1857 (551.072) (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Acevedo, Molinar, Salcido, Fierro, Rivera, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Representative Hernandez

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk