

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

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL, 300 N. CAMPBELL
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR AND VIRTUAL
July 31, 2023
1:00 P.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 1:06 p.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Brian Kennedy, Alexsandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Art Fierro, Henry Rivera, and Chris Canales.
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AGENDA

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1. Presentation and submission of appraisal roll, certified anticipated collection rate for the current year, the No-New Revenue Tax Rate and Voter-Approval Tax Rate for FY 2023-2024 taxes.

Mr. Cary Westin, Interim City Manager, provided an overview of the items to be discussed during the presentation.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representative Hernandez commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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The City Council Special Meeting was **RECESSED** at 3:19 p.m.

The City Council Special Meeting was **RECONVENED** at 4:01 p.m.
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- 2. Presentation, discussion and action on the following budget items:**

a. FY 2022 - 2023 3rd Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office). Mr. Cortinas's presentation included an overview of the general fund revenue and expenditures by category as of May 2023 along with a recommendation for the use of excess funds such as retiring the Transportation Reinvestment Zone # 2 (TRZ 2) debt, which would result in a savings of \$20.6M of interest over the life of the loans and an additional \$7.8M towards the general fund annually.

b. Proposed FY 2023 - 2024 Budget

Mr. Cortinas continued with the presentation on the proposed budget built on City Council and Community priorities such as public safety, street infrastructure, quality of life programs, and retention and recruitment of City employees.

Among the budget recommendations was a proposed No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, utilizing additional revenue to address compensation increases, vehicle replacements for public safety, and additional funding for the Streets and Maintenance Department.

Mr. Cortinas also reviewed the list of budget requests submitted by Council members.

The following City staff members contributed to the presentation by answering questions posed by Council members:

- Mr. Cary Westin, Interim City Manager
- Mr. Juan Gonzalez, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- Ms. Nicole Ferrini, Climate and Sustainability Officer
- Mr. Terry Kebschull, Animal Services Director
- Interim Police Chief Peter Pacillas
- Ms. Ellen Smyth, Chief Transit and Operations Officer
- Ms. Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager
- Chief Mario D'Agostino, Deputy City Manager
- Mr. Richard Bristol, Streets and Maintenance Director
- Ms. Sam Rodriguez, Chief Operations Officer
- Ms. Nicole Cote, Managing Director for Office of Management and Budget and Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing

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

1ST MOTION

Motion made by Representative Kennedy, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **AUTHORIZE** the utilization of current year surplus, combined with a portion of the unassigned reserves, to pay off the entire remaining principal for Transportation Reinvestment Zone #2 (TRZ 2).

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

NAYS: None

2ND AND MOTION

Motion made by Representative Kennedy, seconded by Representative Hernandez and unanimously carried to **DIRECT** staff to return with proposals on the allocation of \$6M for City facilities and \$6.4M for street resurfacing for the FY2023-2024 budget.

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

NAYS: None

3RD AND FINAL MOTION

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried to **RECONSIDER** the item in order to have additional discussion on the proposed budget.

NO FURTHER ACTION was taken during the additional discussion of this item.

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REGULAR AGENDA - FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.9 AND SECTION 7.12 OF THE EL PASO CITY CHARTER:

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3. Introduction of an Ordinance levying FY 2023 - 2024 taxes.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the item and mentioned that the tax rate introduced today could not be raised, only lowered at the time of adoption.

Representative Hernandez commented.

The following City staff members commented:

- Mr. Juan Gonzalez, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- Ms. Josette Flores, Deputy City Attorney

Motion made by Representative Fierro, seconded by Representative Annello, and unanimously carried that the Ordinance, having been introduced pursuant to Sections 3.9 and 7.12 of the El Paso City Charter, be **ADVERTISED** for public hearing setting the tax rate of \$0.832001 of 1% of the assessed value on all property, real, personal, and mixed.

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

NAYS: None

PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 15, 2023

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Representative Mayor Pro Tempore Annello, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk