

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 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY
9:00 A.M.

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The City Council met at the above place and date. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. Mayor Renard Johnson was present and presiding. The following Council Members answered roll call: Alejandra Chávez, Deanna Maldonado-Rocha, Cynthia Boyar Trejo, Ivan Niño, and Art Fierro. Late arrivals: Lily Limón at 9:07 a.m., Chris Canales at 9:19 a.m., and Josh Acevedo at 9:21 a.m.

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AGENDA

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1. For presentation and discussion: FY 2026 - 2027 Budget as presented by the City Manager.

Department Budget Profiles

The second day of the budget workshop commenced with the continuation of the City departments' preliminary presentations for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget. Departments presented their proposed budgets, highlighted key operational priorities, outlined anticipated expenditures and funding needs, and responded to questions and feedback from the Mayor and City Council as part of the ongoing budget review process.

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

- Ms. Norma Martinez, Libraries Director
- Ms. Annabelle Casas, Municipal Court Director
- Mr. Ben Fyffe, Quality of Life Managing Director
- Ms. Mary Lou Espinoza, Capital Assets Manager
- Ms. Tammy Fonce, Public Affairs Officer
- Mr. Alex Hoffman, Capital Improvement Planning Assistant Director
- Ms. Margarita Marin, Comptroller
- Mr. Pablo Caballero, Parks and Recreation Director
- Mr. Kevin Smith, Planning and Inspections Deputy Director
- Police Chief Peter Pacillas
- Mr. Vinney Taneja, Public Health Director
- Ms. Claudia Garcia, Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing Director
- Mr. Ian Voglewede, Strategic and Legislative Affairs Director
- Mr. Randy Garcia, Streets and Maintenance Director
- Mr. Anthony Dekeyzer, Sun Metro Director
- Ms. Maria Pasillas, Tax Assessor and Collector

- Mr. Gary Lunsford, Zoo Director
- Ms. Julie Baldwin-Munoz, Chief Strategy Officer

The presentation outlined the preliminary FY 2027 budget proposals for a wide range of City of El Paso departments, highlighting each department's mission, proposed funding levels, major budget variances, key programs, and alignment with the City's Strategic Plan. Most departments reported budget increases primarily driven by salary adjustments, inflationary pressures, contractual obligations, and operational costs, while several also reflected staffing changes, grant fluctuations, or organizational restructuring. Throughout the presentation, departments emphasized responsible stewardship of public funds while maintaining or expanding services that support public safety, quality of life, economic mobility, infrastructure, and good governance.

Several departments presented initiatives focused on improving services and addressing community priorities. The Public Library highlighted literacy programs, Career Online High School, family programming, and services for young adults. Municipal Court emphasized expanded customer service, flexible payment options, court navigation, and improved technology. Museums and Cultural Affairs focused on educational programming, exhibitions, creative sector investments, and signature events, while Parks and Recreation outlined investments in parks, recreation centers, aquatics, sports, senior programming, and maintenance of public spaces. Planning & Inspections, Real Estate, Urban Planning & Design, and Strategic Communications concentrated on streamlining permitting, improving property management, increasing housing opportunities, strengthening public engagement, and enhancing communication with residents.

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The Special City Council meeting **RECESSED** at 11:00 a.m. for a break.

The Special City Council meeting **RECONVENED** at 11:10 a.m.

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The presentation also highlighted significant investments in essential public services and core government operations. The Police Department, Public Health Department, Streets & Maintenance, Sun Metro, Office of the Comptroller, Purchasing & Strategic Sourcing, Tax Office, Zoo, Strategic & Legislative Affairs, and the City Manager's Office each outlined initiatives to improve operational efficiency, financial accountability, infrastructure maintenance, public transportation, emergency response, health services, procurement, tax administration, conservation, legislative advocacy, and strategic planning. Across all departments, the proposed FY 2027 budget emphasized measurable performance outcomes, modernization of operations, data-driven decision-making, and continued delivery of high-quality services while aligning departmental goals with the City's long-term strategic priorities.

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

The following City staff members commented and were also available to respond to questions posed by Council members:

- Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager
- Mr. Sasho Andonoski, Office of Management and Budget Director
- Ms. Carolyn Patrick, Chief Information Officer
- Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
- Ms. Nicole Cote, Deputy City Manager

Motion made by Representative Niño, seconded by Representative Boyar Trejo, and carried to **DIRECT** the City Manager to conduct a further citywide operational efficiency review focused on materials and supplies, outside contracts, and professional services expenditures as part of the FY2027 budget evaluation process, including analyzing and seeking opportunities for reasonable operational cost savings, while maintaining essential frontline city services.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Boyar Trejo, Niño, and Limón

NAYS: Representatives Maldonado-Rocha, Fierro, and Canales

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Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 1:07 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