



# El Paso Animal Services

**MAYOR**

Renard U. Johnson

## Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

February 19, 2026

Special Meeting

**CITY COUNCIL**

**District 1**

Alejandra Chávez

**District 2**

Dr. Josh Acevedo

**District 3**

Deanna M. Rocha

**District 4**

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

**District 5**

Ivan Niño

**District 6**

Art Fierro

**District 7**

Lily Limón

**District 8**

Chris Canales

**CITY MANAGER**

Dionne Mack

**Call to Order- Establish Quorum**

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held virtually by Chair Chris Canales at 5:06 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Laura Sánchez	X	
Silvia Serna	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco		X
Celinda Crews	X	
Vacant		
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Mary Bardouche	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Raquel Ellis	X	
Tess Passero	X	
Megan Sesker	X	
Chris Canales	X	

Animal Services staff present: Maria Arciniega,

Richard Bristol, Mona Heydarian

**1. Regular Agenda**

- Discussion and action to change the date, time, and location of the monthly ASAC meetings for the current fiscal year- City Attorney’s Office, Mona Heydarian I.

The following members of ASAC commented:

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director  
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906  
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov





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## CITY COUNCIL

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Dionne Mack

- Barbara Candelaria
- Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero
- Silvia Serna
- Laura Sanchez
- Celinda Crews

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian
- Richard Bristol
- Maria Arciniega

*Tess Passero made a motioned to DESIGNATE that the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee MEET at City Hall.; Stephanie Frias seconded; all members voted; Barbara Candelaria opposed. Motion carried by voice vote.*

*NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco*

*Mary Bardouche made a motioned for the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee MEET MONTHLY; Celinda Crews seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously.*

*NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco*

*Tess Passero made a motioned for the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee to continue to MEET the SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH; Celinda Crews seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously.*

*NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco*

*Tess Passero made a motioned for the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee to MEET at 6:15p.m.; Celinda Crews seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously.*

*NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco*

## 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee may retire into Executive Session pursuant to the Uniform Bylaws under the El Paso City Code Title 2 and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, for the item listed below.

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director  
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The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward any of the following items for public discussion, as appropriate.

**CITY COUNCIL**

**District 1**

Alejandra Chávez

Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

EX1. Presentations and discussion, as time permits, on Animal Services Director Position (551.074)

City Attorney’s Office, Mona Heydarian, (915) 212-1116

**District 2**

Dr. Josh Acevedo

**District 3**

Deanna M. Rocha

*Silvia Serna motioned: Laura Sanchez seconded; and unanimously carried that the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee RETIRE into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:08p.m. pursuant to Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS to discuss the following items:*

**District 4**

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

EX1. Presentations and discussion, as time permits, on Animal Services Director Position (551.074)

**District 5**

Ivan Niño

**District 6**

Art Fierro

**District 7**

Lily Limón

*NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco*

**District 8**

Chris Canales

*Tess Passero motioned to carried that the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee RECONVENE from EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:06 p.m.; Silvia Serna seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously*

**CITY MANAGER**

Dionne Mack

*NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco*

NO ACTION was taken on EX1 item.

**3. Call to the Public**

The following members of the public commented

- Carla Gallardo

The following members of the public submitted statements to be entered into the record

- Carla Gallardo

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director  
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**4. Adjournment**

Silvia Serna motioned to adjourn; Laura Sanchez seconded, all members voted in favor; none opposed, and motion passed unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Prepared by: Maria Arciniega

Approved by A.S.A.C Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director  
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