

OSCAR LEESER  
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ  
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL  
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1  
ALEXANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2  
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3  
JOE MOLINAR, DISTRICT 4  
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5  
CLAUDIA L. RODRIGUEZ, DISTRICT 6  
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7  
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
AUGUST 29, 2022  
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 09:29 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Alexandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez and Henry Rivera. Late arrival: Peter Svarzbein at 10:14 a.m. Cissy Lizarraga requested to be excused.

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**AGENDA**  
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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)

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, began the presentation by explaining that according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the City was classified as "medium", however, the classification should be "high" according to the number of cases per 100,000 currently at 235. Mr. Gonzalez stressed the importance of taking precautions to eliminate the spread of the virus and highlighted the proven effectiveness of vaccinations and boosters against severe illness and death. He continued by listing the location and hour of operation of the City's clinics and stated that the City continues to lead the state and the nation in the number of vaccinated individuals among the community.

2. City Attorney Overview (Karla Nieman)

- a) Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas v. City of El Paso Statewide Mask Mandate Litigation
- b) Additional Updates

Ms. Josette Flores, Senior Assistant City Attorney, reported that the City was in a holding pattern in regard to the mask mandate litigation pending in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Texas Courts of Appeal.

3. Team Lead Report: a) Health Focus (Hector Ocaranza, M.D.)

- i. COVID-19 update
- ii. Upcoming Flu season
- iii. Monkeypox Update

Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Public Health Authority, continued the presentation by explaining that the community level in El Paso was high due to the increase in cases as a result of the back to school season. As far as hospitalizations, Dr. Ocaranza said the numbers were reaching a plateau and announced a new Bivalent vaccine that is set to provide protection against new Omicron subvariants such as the BA.4 and BA.5 which are predominantly responsible for new cases. He provided information on the flu season campaign which would take place between September and October via social media, billboards and pop up events. Dr. Ocaranza ended his update by providing information related to the Monkeypox virus with only one confirmed case in the City.

4. City Manager Wrap-up (Tommy Gonzalez)

Mr. Gonzalez wrapped up the presentation by saying that the City would plan for a Monkeypox vaccine rollout, continue to promote a Live Active El Paso lifestyle, and asked the community to sanitize and wear masks if exposed or infected with COVID-19.

Mayor Oscar Leeser, Representatives Annello and Molinar commented.

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**2 Presentation on marketing strategy for the Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Initiative.**

Ms. Elizabeth Triggs, Interim Director Economic Development, and Mr. Gabriel Acuña, Director of Business Development, Culture Span Marketing presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

The following staff members participated in the discussion and responded to questions from Members of the City Council:

- Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
- Mr. Tracey Jerome, Senior Deputy City Manager
- Mr. Sam Rodriguez, City Engineer

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Svarzbein, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, and Rivera, commented.

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 10:57 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 executive session items:

Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY  
Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, and Rivera  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Representative Lizarraga

**NOTE:** Mayor Leeser participated virtually during Executive Session.

Motion made by Representative Molinar, seconded by Representative Hernandez, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 11:54 a.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, and Rivera  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Representative Lizarraga

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**EX1.** Purchase, lease, exchange of real property located in El Paso, Texas. Economic Development. Matter No. 22-1004-1402 (551.072)

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**EX2.** Discussion regarding the value and purchase/sale of real property located on the west side of the City of El Paso, Texas. Matter No. 21-1008-165 (551.072)

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**EX3.** Economic Incentives for a Technology Firm to be located in the City of El Paso. Matter No. 22-1007-2949 (551.087)

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**EX4.** Economic Incentives for a Transit-Oriented Development located in the City of El Paso. Matter No. 22-1007-2950 (551.087)

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**ADJOURN**

Motion made by Representative Annello, seconded by Representative Molinar and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, and Rivera  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Representative Lizarraga

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

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Laura D. Prine, City Clerk