

OSCAR LEESER  
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ  
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL  
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1  
ALEXSANDRA 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  
NOVEMBER 21, 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 9:20 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alessandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, and Henry Rivera. Cissy Lizarraga requested to be excused.  
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**AGENDA**

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- ITEM:** Presentation, discussion and action by the City Manager's Office and Office of Emergency Management providing information on key activities, efforts, and processes related to the migrant crisis.

The following staff members presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and/or responded to questions from Members of the City Council:

- Retired Fire Chief Mario D'Agostino, Deputy City Manager of Public Safety
- Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney
- Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
- Mr. Sam Rodriguez, Chief Operations Officer

Some of the highlights in the presentation included statistics on migrants released in the community from April to present indicating the numbers are beginning to drop however, with the lifting of Title 42 expected around December 21<sup>st</sup>, the City is continuing to work with Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and non-governmental organizations to prepare for another surge. Chief D'Agostino reported that the City has spent \$9.52 million on efforts related to the migrant surge and reimbursements of \$7.28 million are pending. He explained that the City cannot afford to set up a processing center as requested by CBP without advanced funding. Mr. Sam Rodriguez went over the assistance provided at the Airport to those migrants awaiting to board flights and said a designated area was set up to allow for a waiting period of up to 12 hours. He added that if migrants needed a place to wait beyond the allotted time that coordination with non-governmental organizations was in place.

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, and Molinar commented.

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

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- Presentation from El Paso Electric Company on renewable and system project updates.

Mr. Ian Voglewede, Strategic Partnerships Officer, Economic and International Development, introduced the item.

Ms. Cynthia Pina Ortwein, Director of Business Development, El Paso Electric, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk’s Office) and responded to questions.

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, and Hernandez commented.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Hernandez, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 10:34 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 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, and Rivera

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Lizarraga

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time a motion was made:

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Molinar, Salcido, Rivera

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez and Rodriguez

ABSENT: Representative Lizarraga

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**EX1.** Robert Bartley v. City of El Paso. Matter No. 20-1006-1291 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Rivera and carried that the City Attorney’s Office, in consultation with the City Manager, be authorized to participate in the mediation of *Robert Bartley v. City of El Paso, Texas, Cause No. 2020DCV1553*, in Matter No. 20-1006-1291, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority, should a settlement be reached in the case.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Molinar, Salcido, and Rivera

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez and Rodriguez

ABSENT: Representative Lizarraga

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**ADJOURN**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Molinar and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Molinar, Salcido, and Rivera

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez and Rodriguez

ABSENT: Representative Lizarraga

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

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Laura D. Prine, City Clerk