

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 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
August 1, 2022
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY
9:30 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 11:14 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alexsandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera, and Cissy Lizarraga.

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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 2022-2023 taxes.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office). Mr. Cortinas began the presentation by explaining that the FY2023 Certified Appraisal Roll was received on July 25, 2022 indicating that the taxable assessed values were expected to increase by 13.3%. Mr. Cortinas then provided information on the increase on single, multifamily and commercial property values and the different types of tax relief totaling \$36.4M in exemptions along with the proposed tax rate for FY2023.

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Annello, Hernandez, Rodriguez commented.

The following City staff members commented:

- Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
- Ms. Ellen Smyth, Chief Transit and Field Operations Officer
- Ms. Nicole Cote, Interim Managing Director of Office of Management and Budget and Purchasing

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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The Special City Council Meeting was **RECESSED** at 11:23 a.m.

The Special City Council meeting was **RECONVENED** at 12:07 p.m.

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2. **ITEMS 2 AND 3 WERE TAKEN TOGETHER**

Presentation, discussion and action on the following budget items:

a. 3rd Quarter Financial Report.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office). The main topics of discussion during the presentation included a comparison in the number of operating days in the general fund reserves currently at 88 days versus 9 days in FY2015, the upward trend in sales tax revenue from 2019 to present, and proposed budget adjustments for FY2023 to include major cost drivers and recommendations for helping the community and competitive wages for the workforce.

Representatives Svarzbein, Annelo, Hernandez, Molinar, and Rodriguez commented.

The following City staff members commented and answered questions posed by Council members:

- Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
- Ms. Laura Prine, City Clerk
- Ms. Ellen Smyth, Chief Transit and Field Operations Officer
- Ms. Laura Cruz-Acosta, Strategic Communications Director

b. Proposed FY 2022 - 2023 Budget

Motion made by Representative Annelo, seconded by Representative Rodriguez, and carried to **APPROVE** the budget adjustments totaling \$7,909,578.00, as presented on slide 29 of the presentation.

AYES: Representatives Annelo, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: Representative Svarzbein

3. Introduction of an Ordinance levying FY 2022 - 2023 taxes.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the introduction of the ordinance would set the tax rate at 0.862398 of one percent of the assessed value on all property, real, personal and mixed.

Motion made by Representative Annelo, seconded by Representative Rivera, and carried that the Ordinance, having been introduced pursuant to Section 3.9 of the el Paso City Charter, be **ADVERTISED** for public hearing setting the tax rate of .862398 of 1% of the assessed value on all property real, personal, and mixed.

AYES: Representatives Annelo, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: Representative Svarzbein.

PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 23, 2022

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Representative Annelo, seconded by Representative Svarzbein, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Anello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera,
and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk