

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

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 20, 2025**  
**El Paso Convention Center - One Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX 79901**  
**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 9:02 a.m. Mayor Renard Johnson was present and presiding. The following Council Members answered roll call: Alejandra Chávez, Josh Acevedo, Deanna Maldonado-Rocha, Cynthia Boyar Trejo, Ivan Niño, Art Fierro, and Lily Limón. Late arrival: Chris Canales at 9:03 a.m.  
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**AGENDA**

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1. Presentation, Discussion, and action on the City Council Strategic Budget Development Workshop to help shape funding priorities in alignment with community needs and the City's fiscal outlook in preparation of the FY 2026 Budget.

Mayor Johnson kicked off the meeting by welcoming everyone, and Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager, introduced the item.

The City of El Paso Strategic Budget Development Workshop was convened to shape budget priorities for the fiscal year 2026. The primary goal was to align community needs and strategic planning with financial projections and funding decisions.

The following City staff members presented a PowerPoint presentation and were available to answer questions posed by Council members:

- Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager
- Ms. Bonnie Cordova, Office of Management and Budget Interim Director

City leadership presented a multi-year outlook centered on maintaining public safety, infrastructure improvements, and workforce investments. Key items discussed included continuing improvements in streets, parks, recreational and cultural facilities, investing in competitive civilian pay raises (splitting increases between September and March), and the Pay-for-Futures reserve contribution. The workshop emphasized on sustaining the City's rankings as a safe city through training, staffing, and infrastructure expansions tied to debt-free bond initiatives.

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The Special City Council Meeting was recessed at 9:58 a.m.

The Special City Council Meeting was reconvened at 10:13 a.m.

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Workshop participants reviewed the City's proposed property tax strategy, including a reduced overall tax rate. Financial projections assume no new debt issuances in FY 2026,

boosting reliance on valuation growth, outdated bond dissolutions, and vacancy savings, all to balance the budget while minimizing taxpayer burden.

Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, and Limón commented.

Ms. Mary Wiggins, Chief Human Resources Officer, commented.

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The Special City Council Meeting was recessed at 11:28 a.m.

The Special City Council Meeting was reconvened at 12:02 p.m.

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Council members and city staff stressed the importance of ongoing community engagement via public hearings and continued strategic planning workshops through the summer. A structured timeline was outlined—including receipt of certified appraisal rolls in July, public hearings in August, and official budget adoption in late August—to ensure transparency and inclusive decision-making in finalizing the FY 26 budget

Mayor Johnson provided closing remarks, and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 1:15 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:

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Laura D. Prine, City Clerk