

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

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2026
CITY HALL, 300 N. CAMPBELL COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUALLY
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 9:04 a.m.
Mayor Renard Johnson was present and presiding. The following Council Members answered roll call:
Alejandra Chávez, Josh Acevedo, Cynthia Boyar Trejo, Ivan Niño, Art Fierro, Lily Limón, and Chris Canales.
Late arrival: Deanna Maldonado-Rocha at 9:48 a.m.
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AGENDA

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1. Presentation and discussion by the El Paso Central Appraisal District's Executive Director and Chief Appraiser Dinah Kilgore on the City of El Paso's 2026 Pre-Preliminary Values and Protest Period.

The following Central Appraisal District staff members presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office):

- Ms. Dinah Kilgore, Executive Director and Chief Appraiser
- Mr. David Stone, Deputy Chief Appraiser

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Limón, and Canales commented.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item

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2. Discussion and update on the Sister Cities Agreement between the City of El Paso, State of Texas, and the City of Juárez, State of Chihuahua, of the United Mexican States.

The following city staff members presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office):

- Ms. Kimberly Davis, Analyst for Economic and International Development.
- Ms. Adriana Pulecio, International Business & Trade Development Manager

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Acevedo, Boyar Trejo, and Limón commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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3. Presentation by the Opportunity Center for the Homeless about the Welcome Center, which provides initial stabilization to support, triage, and refer to an appropriate community provider, as well as services including immediate access to necessities, short-term shelter, meals, access to showers, and laundry.

Representative Chris Canales introduced the item.

The following individuals presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office):

- Mr. John Martin, Deputy Director for Opportunity Center for the Homeless
- Mr. Alberto Ruiz Aguilar, Senior Director of Community Resiliency for United Way
- Ms. Claudia Taylor, Unhomed Initiatives Supervisor for Project Amistad

Ms. Nickole H. Rodriguez, Director for Community and Human Development, commented.

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez, and Canales commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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4. Discussion and action on revisions to the International Policy Agenda and updates on implementation.

Ms. Adriana Pulecio, International Business & Trade Development Manager for Economic Development presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office):

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Niño, and Limón commented.

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Chávez, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** and **ADOPT** the updates to the City of El Paso International Policy Agenda.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

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5. Discussion and action approving Phase 2 of the Shade Canopy Program.

Mr. Pablo Caballero, Director for Parks and Recreation, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office):

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez and Limón commented.

Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager, commented.

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Boyar Trejo, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** Phase 2 of the Shade Canopy Program.

Funding Source: Community Progress Bond 2022

Phase 2 Budget: \$2M

Park Name	District	Amenity	Anticipated Schedule
Pacific Park	1	Playground	Winter 2026
Mary Webb Park	2	Playground	Winter 2026
Riverside Park	3	Playground	Spring 2027
Arlington Park	4	Playground	Spring 2027
Rainbow Vista Park	5	Playground	Summer 2027
Loma Linda Park	6	Playground	Summer 2027
Ysleta Park	7	Playground	Winter 2027
Tula Irrobali Park	8	Playground	Winter 2027

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

6. RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the federal Opportunity Zone program was established under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage private-sector investment in designated low-income communities through federal tax incentives; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Zone program has been reauthorized, allowing states to nominate a new round of eligible census tracts for federal designation; and

WHEREAS, in Texas, the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office serves as the coordinating entity for receiving and advancing Opportunity Zone nominations submitted by local governments; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso seeks to participate in the state-led nomination process in a manner that is informed by and aligned with the City's adopted plans, strategic planning process, and policy priorities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT the City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to submit nominated census tracts within the City of El Paso to the Texas Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office for consideration for designation as Opportunity Zones in alignment with the City's Strategic Planning process; and

THAT the City Manager, or designee, is further directed to analyze Census Tract 0103.58, located within District 5, including current data collected at the Census Tract level, to determine whether Census Tract 0103.58 may qualify for nomination should it satisfy the requirements set forth in the Internal Revenue Service's official methodology and list of eligible tracts for Opportunity Zones, including Rev. Proc. 2026-14.

Ms. Alejandra Gorski, Legislative Liaison for Strategic Legislative Affairs, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representative Niño requested that an abstract of his statements be attached to the minutes.

1st MOTION (MAIN MOTION)

Motion made by Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore Fierro, seconded by Representative Limón, to approve the Resolution.

2ND MOTION

Motion made by Representative Niño, seconded by Representative Chávez, and unanimously carried to **AMEND** the Resolution to insert the paragraph "direct the City Manager, or designee, to analyze Census Tract 0103.58, located within District 5, including current data collected at the Census Tract level, to determine whether Census Tract 0103.58 may qualify for nomination should it satisfy the requirements set forth in the Internal Revenue Service's official methodology and list of eligible tracts for Opportunity Zones, including Rev. Proc. 2026-14".

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

MAIN MOTION

Motion made by Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore Fierro, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution as amended.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION**, at 12:12 p.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 following item:

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 12:45 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time a motion was made.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None
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EX1. Miguel Angel Rodriguez v. City of El Paso; Cause No. 2024DCV5578 (551.071)

Motion made Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded Representative Canales, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney, in consultation with the City Manager, be authorized to **REJECT** mediator's settlement proposal in the matter of *Miguel Angel Rodriguez v. City of El Paso*, Cause No. 2024DCV5578, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

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Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Boyar Trejo, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 12:46 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:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk

Representative Niño's comments on Item 6 - regarding Opportunity Zones

From: [Miranda, Devin J.](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Rosas, Adriana](#); [District #5](#)
Subject: FW: Record for City Clerk - Item 6 - 5/12/26
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 10:10:55 AM

Good morning team,

I am following up on behalf of Representative Niño to forward a summary of his comments to include in the record, per his request during last week's City Council meeting. Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Respectfully,

Devin Miranda Pallares

Legislative Aide

Office of District 5 | Representative Ivan Niño

mirandadj@elpasotexas.gov

T: 915-472-0615

Please copy District5@elpasotexas.gov on all correspondence.

From: Nino, Ivan <NinoI@elpasotexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 9:13 AM
To: Miranda, Devin J. <MirandaDJ@elpasotexas.gov>
Subject: Record for City Clerk - Item 6 - 5/12/26

Good morning, may you please provide this to the City Clerk please. Please copy Ms. Adriana Rosas. As per my request during the meeting, to include a summary of my comments as part of the record.

During discussion of Item 6 regarding the nomination of census tracts for Opportunity Zone consideration, Representative Niño offered an amendment directing the City Manager to analyze and track Census Tract 0103.58 within District 5, including the collection and review of current census tract-level data, to determine whether the tract may qualify for future nomination should it satisfy the requirements outlined in the Internal Revenue Service methodology and list of eligible tracts under Rev. Proc. 2026-14.

The purpose of the amendment was to ensure that District 5 is not unintentionally excluded from future Opportunity Zone advocacy and investment opportunities due to limitations within existing datasets. As noted in Rev. Proc. 2026-14, while the Appendix and Information Resource identify census tracts eligible for nomination, the IRS also recognizes that additional

tracts may satisfy eligibility requirements even if they do not initially appear on those lists. The guidance specifically states that a nominated tract not listed may still be considered if accompanied by a detailed analysis and current census tract-level data demonstrating compliance with statutory requirements under Section 1400Z-1(c)(1).

Representative Niño stated that the intent of the amendment was to ensure a proactive and data-driven approach that allows the City to monitor opportunities as conditions evolve and preserve the ability to advocate for District 5 should future analysis support eligibility. Opportunity Zones can serve as tools to attract investment, support economic mobility, and expand development opportunities, and it is important that all areas of the community receive equitable consideration in that process.

Representative Niño further stated that the amendment helps ensure decisions are driven by data and that future opportunities for District 5 and its residents are not unintentionally overlooked.