

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
July 27, 2021
9:00 AM

Due to the temporary suspension of specified provisions of Open Meetings laws due to the COVID-19 emergency this meeting was conducted via telephonic and videoconference formats.

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The City Council of the City Council met on the above time and date via videoconference. Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alexsandra Anello, Cassandra Hernandez, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Henry Rivera and Cissy Lizarraga. Claudia Rodriguez requested to be excused.

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AGENDA

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1. Presentation and submission of appraisal roll, certified anticipated collection rate for the current year.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Nicole Cote, Office of Management and Budget Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Mr. Kelly Kotlik, Economic Development Program Administrator, introduced Ms. Natalie Morales from David Pettit Economic Development, LLC, who proceeded to present a PowerPoint presentation on the concept of tax increment financing.

Ms. Josette Flores, Assistant Senior City Attorney, provided legal advice.

Discussion topics included results from the property tax appraisal roll and process for amending tax increment reinvestment zone boundaries.

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

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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2. Presentation and submission of the No-New Revenue Tax Rate and Voter-Approval Tax Rate for FY 2021-2022 taxes.

Motion made by Representative Anello, seconded by Representative Salcido, and unanimously carried to **DELETE** the item.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Anello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rivera, and Lizzarraga

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Rodriguez

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3. RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared a national emergency, Governor of the State of Texas declared a state of disaster, and the Mayor of the City of El Paso declared a local state of disaster in relation to Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 City Council issued an Emergency Ordinance Instituting Emergency Measures due to a Public Health Emergency (“Emergency Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2020 City Council approved appropriations for the CARES Act funds received by the City on eligible expenses from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City has on-going COVID-19 related expenditures that have continued into FY 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the federal government enacted the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) which established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“CSLFRF”); and

WHEREAS the City is a recipient of ARPA grant in the amount of \$154,365,135 from the fund and will be received in two tranches the first on May 12, 2021 in the amount of \$77,172,567.50, and the second half of equal value is expected to be received on or about May 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to utilize the ARPA grant funds in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the ARPA, the United States Treasury and federal guidance for those City COVID-19 response expenses incurred between March 3, 2021 and August 31, 2021; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the City Manager or designee be authorized to reallocate FY 2021 general fund in the amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 as presented in the 3rd Quarter Financial Report to include any budget transfers and any necessary documents. This will allow the transfer of incurred expenditures for COVID-19 response to ARPA grant, restoration of deferred residential street projects, street striping, vehicles and equipment for street maintenance and the pay off of outstanding capital obligations related to previous purchases of public safety radios, energy efficiency improvements and bridge projects.

The following City staff members presented a PowerPoint presentation which included information on residential street resurfacing and/or responded to questions posed by Members of the City Council (copy of the presentation on file in the City Clerk’s Office).

1. Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
2. Mr. Sam Rodriguez, City Engineer
3. Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
4. Mr. Richard Bristol, Streets and Maintenance Director

Discussion topics included current and future funding for street resurfacing, a status on the streets slated to be resurfaced, sales tax revenue comparisons, and results from the last pavement condition index study.

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

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Hernandez, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Rodriguez

4. Presentation, discussion, and action on the proposed FY 2021 - 2022 Budget.

Motion made by Representative Annello, seconded by Representative Salcido, and unanimously carried to **DELETE** the item.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Rodriguez

REGULAR AGENDA - FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

5. Introduction of an Ordinance levying FY 2021 - 2022 taxes.

PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 17, 2021

Motion made by Representative Annello, seconded by Representative Salcido, and unanimously carried to **DELETE** the item.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Rodriguez

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Molinar and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

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

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk