

DEE MARGO
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
ALEXSANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3
SAM MORGAN, DISTRICT 4
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA L. RODRIGUEZ, DISTRICT 6
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2020
9:00 AM

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

The City Council of the City Council met on the above time and date via videoconference. Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. Mayor Dee Margo present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alexsandra Annello, Sam Morgan, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera and Cissy Lizarraga. Late arrival: Cassandra Hernandez at 9:04 a.m.

.....
AGENDA
.....

- 1. Presentation and discussion by the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Cross-Functional Team providing information on key activities, efforts and processes.**
 - 1. Overview (Tommy Gonzalez)**
 - a. Update on Stay at Home, Work Safe Directive**
 - b. Update on eviction orders**
 - 2. Cross Functional Team Operations**
 - 3. Team Report Outs:**
 - 1. Health Focus**
 - 2. Financial Focus**
 - a. All funds for CARES Act to include Federal Transit Administration and Federal Aviation Administration**
 - 3. Community Vulnerabilities and Human Services (Nicole Ferrini)**
 - a. Stakeholder Engagement**
 - b. Notice of Funding Availability**
 - 4. Logistics and Education**
 - a. Battelle Report and Office of Emergency Management**
 - 5. Compliance and Service Delivery**
 - 6. Economic Recovery**
 - 7. Testing Recap and Update**
 - 8. Data Analysis**
 - a. Contact Tracing**

9. **Planning and Implementing Key Infrastructure (Sam Rodriguez)**
 - a. **New Buildings**
10. **Operations Focus**
 - a. **Organizational Back to Work Plan**
11. **Other Key Focus Areas:**
 - a. **Workforce Focus**
 - i. **Succession and Workforce Development**
 - ii. **Focus on Fitness**

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, introduced the item and provided an overview of recently formed testing partnerships which resulted in the establishment of over 20 sites and included the City's efforts to address the pandemic.

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

- Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney
- Fire Chief Mario D'Agostino
- Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Health Authority
- Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
- Ms. Nicole Ferrini, Community and Human Development Director
- Ms. Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager of Public Safety
- Ms. Emma Schwartz, Medical Center of the Americas President
- Dr. Nicole Brennan, Battelle Memorial Institute Director of Health Research
- Ms. Ellen Smyth, Managing Director for Environmental Services and Sun Metro
- Ms. Jessica Herrera, Economic and International Development Director
- Ms. Tracey Jerome, Deputy City Manager, Quality of Life
- Mr. David Coronado, International Bridges Director
- Mr. Sam Rodriguez, City Engineer
- Mr. Cary Westin, Senior Deputy City Manager, Economic Development and Tourism
- Ms. Julie Baldwin-Munoz, Performance Office Director
- Mr. Ben Fyffe, Parks and Recreation Director

Mayor Margo and Representatives Svarzbein, Anello, Hernandez, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga commented and posed questions to City staff.

Ms. Araceli Guerra, Managing Director of Internal Services, commented.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Ms. Marisa Limon Garza
2. Ms. Melissa M. Lopez
3. Ms. Linda Rivas
4. Mr. Keith Pannell (submitted letter that was read into the record)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

.....

2.

R E S O L U T I O N

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

That the Mayor, or City Manager, is authorized to execute an Interlocal Agreement for Laboratory Testing Facility for Local State of Emergency Assistance between the City of El Paso, the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso (TTUHSCEP) for use of a UTEP facility for the detection and mitigation of COVID-19 cases and to allow for reimbursement of expenses incurred by UTEP and TTUHSCEP in the operation of the facility capped at \$1,000,000 for the term of the agreement.

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

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representative Hernandez

3.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in the County of El Paso on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued to allow El Paso to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and to promote the health and safety of City and County of El Paso residents; and

WHEREAS, many lives have been lost and even greater numbers have been impacted by COVID-19 and these impacts are growing daily with concern for future waves until broad- reaching treatments and/or a vaccine are available; and

WHEREAS, El Paso must transition from emergency response to a state of preparedness through an evidence-based plan that prioritizes the health of all El Pasoans; and

WHEREAS, a united Task Force is needed to research, create, advance, and present a comprehensive plan based on medical research, other reopening plans, and our local data for City and County Officials that will take into consideration the specific medical needs and susceptibility of our population, keep our community safe, and allow El Paso businesses to reopen and families to reunite; and

WHEREAS, the County of El Paso has created the “El Paso United COVID-19 Transition Task Force” (**the “Task Force”**); and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will be entrusted to create a plan to inform public policy and response in the transition from emergency to prepared operations in a collaborative and compassionate manner which prioritizes the overall well-being of the

community and recognizes the interwoven relationship between public health and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the plan will address areas such as testing capacity, contact tracing, important data and other triggers that should guide public policy steps, supply chain monitoring, hospital capacity, public education and outreach, risk assessment, and overall public health preparedness; and

WHEREAS, there are many interested stakeholders, other advisors/experts, and staff who will be called upon by the Task Force to provide invaluable input and support; and

WHEREAS, the plan will help guide leadership of the City of El Paso and El Paso County as we allocate resources and formulate plans for the future health and prosperity of our community and to prepare for the future of public health in our region; and

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

That the Mayor of El Paso be authorized to appoint representatives to the Task force to represent the City of El Paso.

Further, that the Chief Resilience Officer is directed to work with the Task Force to provide input on behalf of the City of El Paso and report back to City Council the findings and recommendations of the Task Force.

Ms. Nicole Ferrini, Community and Human Development Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representative Svarzbein commented.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, commented.

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

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

4.

.....
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID- 19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas declared a state of disaster, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency, and the Mayor of the City of El Paso declared a state of disaster pursuant to

Texas Government Code Section 418.108; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has also caused economic stress in the El Paso community; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso, through various federal fund sources, manages programs aimed at increasing affordable housing to vulnerable members of the El Paso community; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of El Paso to work with borrowers under the City programs to ensure that such borrowers do not lose their homes; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of El Paso to work with borrowers under the City programs that provide multi-family dwellings to ensure affordable housing remains available to vulnerable members of the El Paso community; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of El Paso to work with borrowers under City programs for businesses to ensure local businesses do not close due to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

That the Community and Human Development Department is authorized to modify certain department loans in accordance to the following restrictions:

Eligible Loan Programs:

- a) First Time Home Buyer Loan Program
- b) Single-Family Loan Program
- c) Multi-Family Loan Program
- d) Empowerment Zone Loan Program

Eligibility Requirements:

- a) Borrower must submit an application in the form as required by the Community and Human Development Department.
- b) Borrower must be in good standing regarding Borrower's loan account and other City of El Paso accounts, including property taxes.
- c) Borrower must have good payment history regarding the Borrower's loan account and other City of El Paso accounts, including property taxes.
- d) Borrower must have good standing regarding compliance with all loan agreement and federal requirements.
- e) Borrower must not be in default in any other agreements with the City of El Paso, if any.
- f) Borrower must continue to reside in the address stated in the loan agreement. This requirement is not applicable to Empowerment Zone Loan Program or Multi-Family Loan Program borrowers.
- g) Borrower's headquarters for the business must remain in the location stipulated in the loan agreement. This requirement is only applicable to Empowerment

Zone Loan Program borrowers.

Allowed Modifications:

- a) Temporary deferral periods for loan payments and temporary freeze of interest rates. Such deferral and freeze period must not exceed 6 months following the end of the Local Emergency Declaration issued by the City of El Paso on March 13, 2020 related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as extended by subsequent actions by the City Council.
- b) Waiver of late fees.
- c) Extension of the maturity date of the agreement.
- d) Credit as a loan payment of any loan rebates allowed in the loan agreement.

Further, that the Director of Community and Human Development is authorized to execute amendments to any loan agreements and accompanying documents as authorized in this Resolution in consultation with the City Attorney's Office. Nothing in this resolution grants any Borrower any rights to a loan modification or amendment. The City and the Community and Human Development Department retain the right to deny a loan amendment or modification if in the discretion of the Community and Human Development Department, in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, such loan amendment or modification is not in the best interest of the City. Except as provided in this resolution, nothing in this Resolution authorizes the Community and Human Development Department to forgive any loans. Further, nothing in this resolution authorizes the Community and Human Development Department to modify or amend any terms of the loans if such modification or amendment is prohibited by, or in conflict with, federal law.

Motion made by Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore Lizarraga, seconded by Representative Morgan, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

5.

.....
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2019, the City Council for the City of El Paso adopted the Final Action Plan for 2019-2020 and on that date Authorized the City Manager to sign and submit to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to include all certifications contained therein; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, based on the recommendation of the Director of the Community and Human Development Department, now desires to amend the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to add projects under CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant.

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the City amended the Annual Action Plan to add the Hueco Mountain Park Improvement Project ("First Amendment").

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

1. That the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan and 45th Year ESG CV Program Budget is hereby amended to add the following project:

\$190,222.00	ESG CV Administration
\$1,137,006.00	Emergency Shelter Facility- Opportunity Center for the Homeless
\$100,000.00	Emergency Shelter Facility Security- Opportunity Center for the Homeless
\$50,000.00	Emergency Shelter Facility Utilities and Trash- Opportunity Center for the Homeless
\$125,000.00	Hotel & Motel for COVID-19 Positive Homeless- City of El Paso Office of Emergency Management
\$ 150,000.00	Transportation for Homeless Individuals and Families- Endeavors
\$150,000.00	Homeless Youth Alternative Site- El Paso Center for Children
\$1,902,228.00	Total ESG CV Funds

2. That the Department of Community and Human Development, through the Director, be authorized to make the above changes to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's program system.
3. That the City Manager, or designee, be authorized to take any actions necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution upon approval by the City Attorney's Office and Director of Community and Human Development Department.
4. Except as herein amended, the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan and 45th Year CDBG Program Budget as amended by the First Amendment remains in full force and effect.

Motion made by Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore Lizarraga, seconded by Representative Hernandez, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

-
6. **Presentation regarding COVID-19 effects on cross-border traffic and other data trends.**

Mr. David Coronado, International Bridges Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

.....
ADJOURN

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Hernandez, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 3:50 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annelo, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera,
and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

.....
APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk