

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

CARY WESTIN
INTERIM CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
BRIAN KENNEDY, DISTRICT 1
ALEXSANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3
JOE MOLINAR, DISTRICT 4
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5
ART FIERRO, DISTRICT 6
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7
CHRIS CANALES, DISTRICT 8

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL, 300 N. CAMPBELL
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR AND VIRTUAL
July 11 2023
9:00 AM**

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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 9:02 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Aleksandra Annello, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Henry Rivera, and Chris Canales. Late arrivals: Cassandra Hernandez at 9:07 a.m. and Brian Kennedy at 9:31 a.m. Art Fierro requested to be excused.
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AGENDA

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- 1. For discussion and action: FY 2023 - 2024 Budget as presented by the Interim City Manager. Discussion and action may include, but not limited to operating, capital and debt budgets and all possible funding sources.**

This was day 2 of the budget meetings and Mayor Oscar Leeser opened today's session with a welcome and thanked everyone for the work achieved the previous day.

- Interim City Manager Overview**

Mr. Cary Westin, Interim City Manager, notified Council that their questions would be addressed and saved in written format in the online folder available to them; he then mentioned that, before continuing with the presentations under Safe and Beautiful Neighborhoods, he would like to provide additional information requested by Council members related to Goal 2 – Crisis Intervention Team.

- Safe and Beautiful Neighborhoods – Mario D'Agostino & Ellen Smyth**
 - Goal 2 - Public Safety (Police, Fire and Municipal Court)**

Interim Police Chief Peter Pacillas proceeded with the Crisis Intervention Team presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office), which included a summary of the Team's history since its formation in 2018 and provided statistics such as, calls received (40,000 to date) and a breakdown of responses. Chief Pacillas then reviewed specific information on the requirements needed to staff the graveyard shift such as personnel and equipment.

- **Goal 7 - Infrastructure (Capital Improvement, Sun Metro, Streets & Maintenance)**

Mr. Richard Bristol, Streets and Maintenance Director, continued the presentation, which included the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) and Street Lights. He went over the number of traffic mitigation devices installations in each district, the number of applications received and the eligibility criteria for traffic calming measures. Mr. Bristol explained that the same crew working on the NTMP projects also address street repairs caused by the rain; meaning the monsoon season often dictates the continuation of installation projects. He ended his presentation by providing a status of residential streetlight requests.

- **Goal 8 – Healthy Community (Environmental Services, Animal Services, Community Development, Public Health)**

Ms. Nicole Ferrini, Climate and Sustainability Officer, provided Council members an overview of the priorities and planned accomplishments for the departments covered under Goal 8. These priorities included the continuation of “no kill” efforts and an increase in the number of adoptions for the Animal Services Department. As far as Community and Human Development, the priority would be on maintaining federally funded programs such as the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement programs, the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funded initiatives, and the development of a Climate Action Plan. Environmental Services will be focusing on the upgrade of citizen collection stations, maintaining the first-time trash and recycling collection rates, and the continuity of the community black belt recycling challenge. The Public Health Department’s will prioritize accreditation, improving clinical services, and developing marketing strategies to promote services for the department.

The following City staff contributed to the presentation by answering questions posed by Council members:

- Mr. Terry Kebschull, Animal Services Director
- Chief Mario D’Agostino, Deputy City Manager
- Mr. Cary Westin, Interim City Manager
- Mr Paul Albright, Military Program Administrator
- Mr. Nicholas Ybarra, Environmental Services Director
- Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Health Authority

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The Special Meeting was **RECESSED** at 10:48 a.m. for a break and **RECONVENED** at 11:08 a.m.
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- **Exceptional Recreational, Cultural and Educational Opportunities – Dionne Mack**
 - Goal 4 – Quality of Life (Library, MCAD, Parks, Zoo)

Ms. Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager, lead the presentation for Goal 4 and went over major variances for each one of the departments. Common to all departments were increases in compensation for employees. The Library department requested additional funding for books and security contracts. Capital funding was also requested for La Nube (Children’s Museum), along with staffing, operations and maintenance for the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC). The Parks Department requested additional funding for parkland management, maintenance for additional dedicated parkland acreage and aquatics position adjustments for Parks and Recreation. The Zoo department’s budget increased due to the maintenance of the

new 2012 Capital Projects reaching completion. Ms. Mack also briefed Council members on planned accomplishments for FY2024 to include 16+ projects beginning construction in FY24, the completion of the Memorial Park Masterplan, reinstatement of Sunday service with the reopening of the Main Library, incorporating the City's 150th Birthday, opening of the Mexican American Cultural Center, and the addition of shade structures and parking lot enhancements at the Zoo.

Mr. Joel McKnight, Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the installation of the Computerized Central Irrigation Control Project, for which \$480,000 were approved. Mr. McKnight mentioned that the irrigation system was currently running at 118 of 257 irrigated parks and highlighted a \$250,000 budget request for installation of the computerized system in 20 parks.

Mr. McKnight also presented a Park Amenities Project presentation with a request of \$1.3M to replace playgrounds, surface replacement, benches, and tables.

The following City staff members were available to answer questions posed by Council members:

- Mr. Pablo Caballero, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
- Mr. Joel McKnight, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
- Mr. Cary Westin, Interim City Manager
- Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
- Mr. Joe Montisano, Zoo Director
- Ms. Norma Martinez, Libraries Director
- Ms. Nicole Cote, Office of Management and Budget and Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing Managing Director

The following members of the public submitted statements that were read into the record:

1. Cina Maresca,
2. Yolanda Shaw,
3. Nicole Arellano
4. Irene Torres
5. Eva Ruybe
6. Monica Tucker

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The Special Meeting was **RECESSED** at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and **RECONVENED** at 1:36 p.m.
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- **Vibrant Regional Economy – Tracey Jerome & Sam Rodriguez**
 - Goal 1 – Economic Development (Airport, Bridges, Economic Development, Destination El Paso)
 - Goal 3 – Visual Image (Planning & Inspections)

Ms. Tracey Jerome, Senior Deputy City Manager, introduced the presentations for Goals 1 and 3, and briefed Council on the major variances for each department which included compensation increases for employees, filling vacancies at all departments, and increases in 380 agreement payments for Economic Development,

Ms. Elizabeth Triggs, Economic and International Development Director, and Assistant Director, Ms. Karina Brasgalla, presented the priorities and planned accomplishments for Goal 1. Some of these included the expansion of the non-aeronautical revenue growth, development of campaigns and programs related to ecotourism and cultural heritage, targeted redevelopment to stimulate economic growth in key areas and corridors, and the design of pedestrian improvements at the Ysleta-Zaragoza International Bridge.

The presentation also included the remodeling of the Federal Inspection Station to process international flights, construction of the Advanced Manufacturing District at the Airport, continuing the strong Hotel Occupancy at 68%, increasing sales initiatives to attract meetings and convention activity, new downtown hotel development and convention center renovations, and leverage of key City-owned land as a redevelopment tool. For International Bridges, the focus will be on upgrading the toll collection system, dynamic message signs, traffic cameras, traffic counters, and wait time collection devices.

Ms. Brasgalla also presented the priorities and planned accomplishment for Goal 3, to include the adoption of code revisions to Historic Preservation provisions and the implementation of a new building code. She also highlighted the continuation of collaborating with developers, home builders, and other partners to achieve improvements in customer service, along with the expansion of online services for licensing, permitting, and payments.

The following City staff members were available to assist by answering questions posed by Council members:

- Mr. Jose Garcia, Destination El Paso President and Chief Executive Officer
- Mr Cary Westin, Interim City Manager
- Mr. Paul Stresow, International Bridges Assistant Director
- Mr. Philip Etiwe, Planning and Inspections Director
- Mr. Sam Rodriguez, Chief Operations Officer
- Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, provided legal advice

- **High Performing Government – Robert Cortinas**
 - Goal 5 – Communication (Information Technology)
 - Goal 6 – Sound Governance (City Attorney, City Manager/OMB/PIO/Performance Office, Human Resources, City Council, City Clerk, Internal Audit, Non- Departmental, Comptroller, Purchasing, Tax)

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the presentations for Goals 5 and 6, and reviewed the list of major variances such as increases to employee compensation, various contracts, in self-insurance fund premiums, general liability insurance and mentioned that the City Clerk Department's budget had a decrease as a result of a non-election year.

Ms. Araceli Guerra, Internal Services Managing Director, continued the presentation with the planned priorities for Goal 5, which included the implementation of the EP311 mobile app aimed at improving communications with residents, the cloud migration of Human Resources and Financials Systems, and enhancements of internet security layers.

Ms. Margarita Marin, Comptroller, presented the priorities and planned accomplishments for Goal 6. Some of these priorities included maintaining staffing levels, expanding the volunteer and internship programs, rollout of 88th Legislative Session Changes, Tax Office lobby

renovation. As a result of the newly adopted amendments to the City Charter regarding the Chief Internal Auditor's Reporting Structure, changes to the Internal Audit Charter and Departmental Policies and Procedures would be needed.

The presentation also included plans for property tax relief for the Tax Office; creating a specialized team of lawyers and staff to support the Advanced Manufacturing Development at the Airport, completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Project related to standardization of Boards and Commissions at the City Clerk's Office. For the Human Resources, priorities include a review of the Workers' Compensation claims process, a new Enterprise Risk and Safety Oversight Committee, and an update to the Service Recognition Program. For the Internal Audit, the focus will be to identify and engage the next round of 20 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). The Comptroller's Office seeks to complete the FY23 audit with no financial findings. The Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing Department plans to complete a disparity study, obtain the 10th Consecutive Achievement in Excellence in Procurement award, and conduct the 11th Annual Cooperative Purchasing Expo. The Performance Office's focus will be to deliver innovation projects co-created with youth, make www.eplearners.com accessible to the public, and deliver new in-house innovation training.

The following City staff members contributed to the presentation by answering questions posed by members of Council:

- Chief Mario D'Agostino, Deputy City Manager
- Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney
- Ms. Mary Wiggins, Chief Human Resources Officer
- Ms. Tracey Jerome, Senior Deputy City Manager
- Ms. Laura Cruz-Acosta, Strategic Communications Director
- Mr. Edmundo Calderon, Chief Internal Auditor

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

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Annello, seconded by Representative Molinar and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Kennedy, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rivera, and Canales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Representative Fierro

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Laura D. Prine, City Clerk