

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

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 21, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY
9:05 A.M.

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The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 9:17 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, Lily Limón, and Chris Canales.

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AGENDA
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1. **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2024, the El Paso State Legislative Delegation submitted a letter requesting the City of El Paso's legislative and funding priorities for the 89th Legislative Session;

WHEREAS, the requested deadline for submission of the City of El Paso's legislative and funding priorities is Friday, January 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso State Legislative Delegation will support the implementation of the Legislative Agenda and will support drafting bills during the 89th Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Agenda for the 89th Legislative Session should specify key issues and priorities, new legislation, amendments to existing laws, policy changes, statutory changes, and state funding requested by the City of El Paso;

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

THAT the City of El Paso City Council approves the adoption of the Legislative Agenda for the 89th Legislative Session;

THAT the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign any documents necessary for the implementation of the Legislative Agenda for the 89th Legislative Session, after consultation with the City Attorney's Office.

Ms. Jasmin Flores, Legislative Liaison and Mr. Snapper Carr, Managing Partner and General Counsel for Focused Advocacy, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Acevedo, Fierro, and Canales commented.

Mr. Ian Voglewede, Strategic and Legislative Affairs Director, commented.

Ms. Lisa Turner, citizen, commented.

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 10:00 a.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 items:

- Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY
- Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
- Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS
- Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 1:32 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time motions were made.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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EX1. John Surface and Adan Chavez v. City of El Paso et. al; Cause No.: 24-CV-00226-DB (551.071)

Representative Acevedo commented.

Ms. Laura Prine, City Clerk, commented.

1ST MOTION

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office be **AUTHORIZED** certain authority to engage in settlement negotiations in the matter of John Surface and Adan Chavez, in Matter Number 24-CV-00226-DB, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

2ND MOTION

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Acevedo, and unanimously carried to **RECONSIDER** the item.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

3RD AND FINAL MOTION

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office be **AUTHORIZED** certain authority to engage in settlement negotiations in the matter of John Surface and Adan Chavez, in Matter Number 24-CV-00226-DB, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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EX2. Ruben A. Soto v. Officer Daniel Monge, Officer Sabrina Gonzalez, Chief Allen, and the City of El Paso. Cause No.: 3:23-CV-00256 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office be authorized to **DENY** the mediators proposal in the matter of Ruben A. Soto, in Matter Number 3:23-CV000256, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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EX3. City of McAllen, et al v. The State of Texas; Cause No. D-1-GN-17-00476 (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX4. 2024 Newman Buffer CCN, Seeking Approval of 100 MW Solar, 100 MW Battery to be located near Newman Power Plant; HQ#UTILITY-61 (551.071)

Mayor Johnson verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Acevedo verbally disclosed a \$1,750 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Rocha verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Niño verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Limón verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be

AUTHORIZED to hire and retain outside counsel and any other necessary consultants, and to file an intervention in the *El Paso Electric Company's Application to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for a 100 MW Solar Generating Facility and 100 MW Battery Storage System*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 57501, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-61, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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EX5. Discussion on economic development opportunity in West El Paso. HQ# 24-4016 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX6. Discussion on economic development opportunity in Central El Paso, HQ#24-2864 (551.071) (551.072) (551.087)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** certain authority to engage in settlement negotiations and/or litigation in the matter of "Discussion on an economic development opportunity in Central El Paso", in Matter Number HQ#24-2864, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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EX7. Discussion on an economic development opportunity in Central El Paso, HQ#24-3471 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX8. El Paso Firemen and Policemen Pension Fund request. HQ-3676 (551.074)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX9. Litigation Report (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Motion made by Representative Acevedo, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk