

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
February 3, 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 9:26 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. Presentation and discussion on the Procurement Sourcing Policy as amended and restated as of May 9, 2023.

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

- Ms. Nicole Cote, Deputy City Manager
- Ms. Claudia Garcia, Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing Assistant Director
- Ms. Veronica Gomez, Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing interim Director

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

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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2. Presentation and discussion on the City Council's Legislative Role.

Ms. Kristen Hamilton-Karam, Deputy City Attorney, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representative Trejo commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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3. Update on FY21 RAISE Grant - Downtown I-10 Deck Plaza Feasibility Study and discussion and action to direct the City Manager to conduct an analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources that could help fund the design and construction of the Deck Plaza.

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

- Mr. Joaquin Rodriguez, Grant Funded Programs Director
- Mr. Omar Martinez, Legislative Affairs Assistant Director

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

The following City staff members commented:

- Ms. Karina Brasgalla, Economic and International Development Director
- Mr. Ian Voglewede, Strategic and Legislative Affairs Director
- Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager

Ms. Tracey Yellen, Paso del Norte Community Foundation Chief Executive Officer, commented.

1ST MOTION

Motion made by Representative Canales, seconded by Representative Limón, and carried to **AMEND** the item by inserting the following words at the end:

“; and to direct the City Manager to request a formally adopted position statement from the TIRZ #5 Board about potential boundary expansion and the use of TIRZ #5 funds for Deck Plaza design and/or construction activities; and to include said position statement from the TIRZ #5 in any work product or recommendation resulting from this item.”

AYES: Representatives Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, and Fierro

2ND AND FINAL MOTION

Motion made by Representative Trejo, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **DIRECT** the City Manager to conduct an analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources that could help fund the design and construction of the Deck Plaza; and to **DIRECT** the City Manager to request a formally adopted position statement from the TIRZ #5 Board about potential boundary expansion and the use of TIRZ #5 funds for Deck Plaza design and/or construction activities; and to include said position statement from the TIRZ #5 in any work product or recommendation resulting from this item.

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

NAYS: None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Rocha, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 11:19 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 551.074 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 Rocha, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 4:13 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. Discussion on potential economic development opportunities in the City of El Paso. HQ#25-4246 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX2. Michael R. Aguirre, et al v. City of El Paso, Texas; Cause No. 2017DCV2260 (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX3. Ariel Perez, et. al v. Bowling Enterprises, LTD, Northtowne Village Joint Venture, and CEA Engineering Group, Inc., 2023DCV2046; HQ# 426 (551.071)

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** to participate in a mediation with CEA Engineering Group, Inc. and/or Bowling Enterprises, Ltd. related to the matter *Ariel Perez, et. al. v. Bowling Enterprises, Ltd., Northtowne Village Joint Venture, and CEA Engineering Group, Inc.* in cause No. 2023DCV2046, 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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EX4. El Paso Zoological Society, a Texas nonprofit corporation v. City of El Paso, a Texas Municipal Corporation; Cause No. 2024DCV2545 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Fierro, and carried that the City Council **DIRECTS** the City Manager and City Attorney to take all steps and actions necessary to follow the course of action recommended regarding the lawsuit styled as *El Paso Zoological Society v. City of El Paso et al.*, pending under Cause No. 2024DCV2545.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Rocha, Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: Representative Acevedo

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EX5. Discussion on the United States Office of Management and Budget's "Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan and other Financial Assistance Programs" Memorandum; M-25-13; Executive Office of the President. (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX6. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Change Rates - PUC#57568; HQ#UTILITY-60 (551.071)

Representative Acevedo verbally disclosed a \$1,700 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 \$1,000 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 file an intervention in the *Application of El Paso Electric Company to Change Rates* filed on January 27, 2025, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 57568, in Matter Number UTILITY-60, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority. Additionally, the City Council of the City of El Paso hereby suspends the El Paso Electric rate increase request filed on January 27, 2025 for ninety days (90) beyond the proposed effective date.

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

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EX7. Employment, evaluation process and duties for City Council appointed employees, City Manager, City Attorney, and Chief Internal Auditor (551.071) (551.074)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Motion made by Representative Rocha, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 4:20 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