

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
March 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 9:18 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, discussion and action on the City of El Paso's legislative agenda for the 119th United States Congress.

Mr. Omar Martinez, Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Trejo, Niño, and Fierro commented.

Ms. Dionne Mack, City Manager, commented.

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the FY25 Legislative Agenda for the 119th United States Congress.

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

2. Presentation and discussion on the Economic and International Development (ED) Small Business Assistance Division 2024 Annual Report. This update highlights the City's ongoing commitment to fostering a thriving small business community in El Paso. Through strategic investments of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, strengthened collaborations with Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs), and dynamic networking initiatives, ED continues to create opportunities for growth, resilience, and innovation. This report will provide Council with a comprehensive look at the impactful programs, partnerships, and initiatives that are shaping a more dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem in our city.

Ms. Mireya Tamayo, Economic and International Development Assistant Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez, Rocha, Trejo, and Niño commented.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Ms. Mayra Maldonado
2. Ms. Elizabeth Terrazas
3. Ms. Alma Aranda
4. Mr. Chester Frame
5. Ms. Laura Butler
6. Mr. Dante Acosta
7. Mr. Hector Villegas

NO ACTION was taken on this item

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3. Presentation and discussion by El Paso Electric on the 2024 Annual Report for the Smart Meter Project Customer Education Plan Implementation.

Mr. Ian Voglewede, Strategic and Legislative Affairs Director, introduced the item.

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

- Mr. Ivan Mejorado, Government Affairs Specialist
- Ms. Grisel Ramirez, Supervisor of Advanced Metering and Analytics Department
- Mr. Jacob Reyes, Public Relations Specialist

Mr. Daniel Perez, El Paso Electric Regional Director of Government Affairs, commented.

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez, Rocha, Fierro, and Limón commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Canales, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 10:47 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 551.087 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 1:15 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. Mark Avalos v. City of El Paso; Cause No. 2023DCV1882 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to engage in settlement negotiations and participate in a mediation in the matter *Mark Avalos v. City of El Paso*, Cause No. 2023DCV1882, 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. City of El Paso v. Ricks Cabaret and RCI Holdings, D/B/A Jaguars Gold Club; Cause No. 2024DCV0848 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney's Office in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to hire and retain the services of outside counsel and necessary experts in the matter of City of El Paso v. Ricks Cabaret and RCI Holdings, in Matter Number 2024DCV0848, 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. Application of El Paso Electric Company for Approval of a Military Resiliency Services Tariff; HQ#UTILITY-52 (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 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 \$1,750 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX4. Application of El Paso Electric Company's Approval to Implement a Time-Varying Rate Pilot Program - PUC#56658; HQ#UTILITY-41 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to engage in settlement negotiations in the *Application of El Paso Electric Company's Approval to Implement a Time-Varying Rate Pilot Program*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 56658, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-41, and to take

all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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

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

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

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

EX5. Application of El Paso Electric Company to Update Schedule No. Covid-19 in Compliance with Docket No. 52195 - PUC#56422; HQ#UTILITY-35 (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to engage in settlement negotiations in the *Application of El Paso Electric Company to Update Schedule No. Covid-19 in Compliance with Docket No. 52195*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 56422, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-35, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

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 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 \$1,750 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

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

EX6. Requests for preservation of evidence regarding the fire at the Sun Metro facility on Feb. 11, 2025. (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Chávez, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to retain outside counsel and hire the services of necessary experts in the matter of the *Fire at the Sun Metro Transit Operations Center* 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 economic development opportunity in West El Paso. HQ# 24-4016 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Trejo, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 1:21 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