

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



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

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2021
3:30 PM

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Due to the temporary suspension of Open Meetings laws due to the COVID-19 emergency this meeting was conducted via telephonic and videoconference platforms.
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The City Council of the City of El Paso met on the above date and time. Meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alexsandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera, and Cissy Lizarraga.

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AGENDA
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1. **ITEM:** Discussion and action on the appointment of a candidate to fill the vacancy of Municipal Court Judge for Court # 4 resulting from the tragic passing of Ms. Lillian Blancas, the candidate who received the most votes in the general election. Fourteen candidates submitted applications; eight candidate names were submitted by City Representatives to the City Manager's office pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.44.030.

The candidates are: Christopher Anchondo, Lauren Ferris, Elia Garcia, Enrique Holguin, Max Munoz, Alyssa Nava, Ruben Nunez, Anatasha Arditti Vance.

Ms. Lilia Worrell, Municipal Court Director, introduced the candidates.

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Svarzbein, Hernandez, Molinar, Rodriguez and Rivera commented and interviewed the candidates.

The candidates provided a synopsis of their qualifications and responded to the questions from Members of the City Council.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Mr. Rene Rodriguez
2. Ms. Christina Klaes
3. Ms. Deanna Maldonado

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Lizarraga and carried to **APPOINT** Enrique Holguin to fill the vacancy of Municipal Court Judge for Court # 4.

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

NAYS: Representatives Molinar and Rivera

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2. **ITEM:** Discussion and action on the appointment of two candidates to fill two Part Time On-Call Associate Judge vacancies. Six candidates submitted applications and six candidate names were submitted by City Representatives to the City Manager's office. These positions serve as substitutes for the elected Municipal Court trial judges at trial and other court hearings; they preside over arraignments; they serve as magistrates on graveyard shifts.

The candidates are: Steve Fischer, Elia Garcia, Seth Howards, Alyssa Nava, Sandra Rubio*, Anatasha Arditti Vance.

Ms. Lilia Worrell, Municipal Court Director, introduced the candidates.

Mayor Leeser commented.

* Ms. Laura D. Prine, City Clerk, stated that Ms. Sandra Rubio had withdrawal her application.

The following candidates provided a synopsis of their qualifications.

1. Mr. Steve Fischer
2. Mr. Seth Howards

1ST MOTION

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Annello, and unanimously carried to **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 5:10 p.m. pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Section 551-071 – 551.089 to discuss the following:

551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

NAYS: None

2ND MOTION

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Salcido, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 5:54 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time motions were made.

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

NAYS: None

3RD MOTION

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Annello, and carried to **APPOINT** Steve Fischer as a Part Time on-Call Associate Judge for the first vacancy.

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

NAYS: Representatives Molinar and Rivera

4TH AND FINAL MOTION

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Lizarraga,
and unanimously carried to **APPOINT** Anatasha Arditti Vance as a Part Time on-Call
Associate Judge for the second vacancy.

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore Lizarraga, seconded by Representative Annello
and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 6:01 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Laura D. Prine, City Clerk