

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

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**February 15, 2021**  
**3:35 PM**

**Due to the temporary suspension of Open Meetings laws due to the COVID-19 emergency this meeting was conducted via telephonic and videoconference formats.**

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The City Council of the City Council met on the above time and date via videoconference. Meeting was called to order at 3:48 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. Presentation and discussion by the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Cross-Functional Team providing information on key activities, efforts and processes.**

**1. Overview (Tommy Gonzalez)**

City Manager Mr. Tommy Gonzalez introduced the item.

**2. Cross Functional Team Operations (Chief Mario D'Agostino)**

Fire Chief Mario D'Agostino provided an overview of the operations and the status of the vaccination rollout.

**3. City Attorney Overview (Karla Nieman)**

- a) State Disaster Declarations
- b) City Attorney's Office COVID-19 Support

Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, provided the status of state declarations, the federal mask mandate, the end of expired driver license and expired registration waivers along with the status of suspended provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**4. Team Lead Reports:**

- 1. Health Focus (Hector Ocaranza, M.D.)
- 2. Vaccination Update (Angela Mora)

Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Public Health Authority, provided a COVID-19 status related to the

number of positive cases, positivity rate, asymptomatic cases, and the number of hospitalizations.

Ms. Angela Mora, Public Health Director, provided a vaccination update related to community outreach.

Mayor Leaser and Representatives Svarzbein, and Rivera commented and posed questions to staff.

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**2. Presentation and discussion by the Police Department (Safe and Secure City) Cross-Functional Team providing information on key activities, efforts and processes.**

**1. CFT Operations (Dionne Mack)**

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, introduced the item.

Ms. Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager of Public Safety, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

**2. Team Lead Reports:**

1. Training Focus (Cary Westin)
2. Approach for Best Practices and Comparative Analysis (Denice Sepulveda)
3. Racial Profiling Report Development (Zina Silva/Justice Research Consultants)
4. Use of force and deadly force incidents historical review Report Development (Zina Silva/Hillard Heintze)
5. Composition and scope of the El Paso Discipline Review Board and the Shooting Review (Bruce Collins).

The following City Staff members and consultants presented a Power Point presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and responded to inquiries from Council members.

1. Mr. Cary Westin, Senior Deputy City Manager of Economic Development and Tourism
2. Ms. Denice Sepulveda, Senior Budget Analyst
3. Assistant Police Chief Zina Silva
4. Mr. Eric J. Fritsch, Justice Research Consultants
5. Mr. Robert Boehmer, Hillard Heintze Company
6. Mr. Bruce Collins, Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing Director
7. Assistant Police Chief Peter Pacillas

Representatives Svarzbein, Anello, Molinar, and Rivera commented.

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item

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**3. Discussion, action and update regarding the City of El Paso's State Legislative Agenda for the 87th Texas Legislative Session and other State legislative matters.**

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, introduced the item and responded to questions from Council members.

The following members of City Staff and consultants presented a Power Point presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and responded to inquiries from Council members.

1. Ms. Elizabeth Triggs, Strategic Partnerships Officer
2. Mr. Snapper Carr, Focused Advocacy Partner and General Counsel
3. Ms. Lupe Cuellar, Legislative Attorney

Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Rivera, and Lizarraga commented.

Motion made by Representative Annello, seconded by Representative Svarzbein, and carried to **APPROVE** supporting Medicaid expansion; reduction of speed limit on residential streets from 30 MPH to 25 MPH; all mass violence bills filed by the El Paso State Delegation except the bill related to voluntary registration related to mental illness; all bills recommended by the Police Department to support, except the bills related to policies and procedures in conformance with existing EPPD policy; any bills similar to SB 292 filed last session; and remain neutral on the George Floyd Act.

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

NAYS: Representative Rodriguez

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4. **Presentation and discussion on the Five Year Financial Forecast and City's Capital Improvement Program to include the following:**

1. **Five Year Financial Forecast (Robert Cortinas)**

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, Introduced the item.

Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

2. **Quality of Life Portfolio: COVID-19 Pandemic - Response and Reopening (Tracey Jerome)**

3. **R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, on April 13, 2020, in support of the City's COVID-19 response, many projects within the City's Capital Program ("Program") were deferred; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 11, 2020 the City Council approved to delay projects as part of the FY2020 budget due to lack of funds for construction and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, construction costs are projected to increase over time due to inflation on materials and labor impacting the existing Program project budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to supplement Program project budgets, where necessary, the City desires to allocate Investment Interest to projects within each Plan in accordance with the Investment Interest Policy and Budget Resolution; and

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

**THAT** the City Council authorizes the City Manager to allocate Investment Interest to projects within each Capital Program in accordance with the Investment Interest Policy and Budget Resolution.

**4. RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION** approving and authorizing publication of notice of intention to issue certificates of obligation.

THE STATE OF TEXAS           §  
   §  
CITY OF EL PASO               §

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of El Paso, Texas (the "City"), has determined that certificates of obligation should be issued, in one or more series, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter C of Chapter 271, as amended (the "Act"), for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) the construction of public works, (ii) the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, machinery, land, and rights-of way for authorized needs and purposes, and (iii) for professional services, all as specified below; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the issuance of such certificates, the City Council is required to publish notice of its intention to issue the same in accordance with the provisions of the Act;

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

**SECTION 1:** The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice to be published of the City Council's intention to issue certificates of obligation, in one or more series, in a principal amount not to exceed \$93,000,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for

(i) the construction of public works, to wit: (a) constructing, resurfacing, and improving various streets, roads, bridges, overpasses, thoroughfares, sidewalks, pathways and related municipal facilities within the City including lane markings, street drainage, street lights, ADA accessibility, traffic signals, signal system synchronization, loop detectors, transit tunnel reconstruction, lighting, signage, streetscaping, relocation of fiber optics and landscaping related thereto; (b) constructing, improving and equipping municipal park, recreational and aquatic facilities, including pools, aquatic centers, spray parks, athletic field lighting, and public restrooms, and any associated demolition, drainage and necessary infrastructure improvements; (c) constructing, improving and equipping library facilities, museums, and cultural center projects; (d) renovating, improving and equipping existing City administrative buildings, the animal shelter and other municipal facilities, including roof improvements, HVAC and electrical supply repair, ADA improvements, information technology improvements to install and/or enhance fiber optic connectivity, and site demolition at such buildings and facilities; (e)

constructing, acquiring and improving municipally owned public art projects; and (f) the acquisition of any necessary rights of way and/or land in connection with any of the projects described in clauses (a) through (e);

(ii) the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment and machinery, to wit: the purchase and installation of information technology equipment, including hardware, software, network, and Wi-Fi; and

(iii) professional services rendered in connection with (a) such projects and purposes and the financing thereof and (b) a future land use masterplan and street pavement condition study.

Such certificates to be payable from ad valorem taxes and a limited pledge of the net revenues of the City's water and sewer system. The notice hereby approved and authorized to be published shall read substantially in the form and content of **Exhibit A hereto** attached and incorporated herein by reference as a part of this resolution for all purposes.

**SECTION 2:** The City Clerk shall cause the aforesaid notice to be published (i) in a newspaper of general circulation in the City, once a week for two consecutive weeks, the date of the first publication to be at least forty-six (46) days prior to the date stated therein for the passage of the ordinance authorizing the issuance of the certificates of obligation and (ii) continuously on the City's website for at least forty-five (45) days before the date stated therein for the passage of the ordinance authorizing the issuance of the certificates of obligation.

**SECTION 3:** It is officially found, determined, and declared that the meeting at which this Resolution is adopted was open to the public and public notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the public business to be considered at such meeting, including this Resolution, was given, all as required by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, as amended.

**SECTION 4:** This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after the date of its adoption, and it is so resolved; and all resolutions of the City Council of the City in conflict herewith are hereby amended or repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, introduced the item and responded to questions from Council members.

The following members of City Staff presented a Power Point presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and responded to inquiries from Council members.

1. Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
2. Ms. Tracey Jerome, Deputy City Manager for Quality of Life
3. Mr. Sam Rodriguez, City Engineer
4. Mr. Ben Fyffe, Director of Cultural Affairs and Recreation

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Svarzbein, Anello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, and Rodriguez commented and posed questions to staff.

Mr. Brian Kennedy, citizen, commented.

**1<sup>ST</sup> MOTION**

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Salcido, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution on item 3.

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

NAYS: None

**2<sup>ND</sup> AND FINAL MOTION**

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Salcido, and carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution on item 4.

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

NAYS: Representatives Molinar and Rodriguez

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Svarzbein, and unanimously carried that the City Council retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 10:05 p.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:

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

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

NAYS: None

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Lizarraga, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 10:41 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council.

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

NAYS: None

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**EX1.** Economic Incentives for a Customer Contact Center located in the City of El Paso.  
(14-1007-1061) (551.071) (551.087)

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**EX2.** Economic Incentives for Infill Development located in the City of El Paso.  
(21-1007-2677) (551.071) (551.087)

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.  
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Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Lizarraga and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 10:43 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



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Laura D. Prine, City Clerk