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
April 12, 2021
3:35 PM

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

The City Council of the City Council met on the above time and date via videoconference. Meeting was called to order at 3:58 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.

AGENDA

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)**

      Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, introduced the item and highlighted the progress made by the Education Taskforce in visiting hard to reach areas and people who are hesitant about receiving the vaccine. He also provided information regarding the location of various sites where the City is registering and vaccinating the community.

   2. **City Attorney Overview (Karla Nieman)**
      a) State Disaster Declarations and Executive Order GA-35
      b) CDC Agency Order to Temporarily Halt Evictions
      c) CDC Domestic Travel Recommendations
      d) City Attorney's Office COVID-19 Support
      e) Legal Monitoring
      f) Legal Support During COVID-19

      Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, highlighted information related to the status of state declarations and executive orders, the expiration of the Texas Supreme Court's CDC order halting evictions, an update on the mask mandate lawsuit against the City of Austin and Travis County, and an update on Court hearings which are beginning to hear more "in person" cases.

3. CFT Operations (Chief Mario D'Agostino)

Fire Chief Mario D'Agostino provided a briefing containing information regarding vaccinations and detailed that there are over 300,000 people registered for the vaccine, there is a capacity to vaccinate up to 80,000 people per week, and currently the wait time at vaccination sites is less than 30 minutes.

4. Team Lead Reports:

1. Health Focus (Hector Ocaranza, M.D.)
2. Vaccination Update (Angela Mora)
3. Data Analysis (David Coronado)

Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Public Health Authority, provided a COVID-19 status related to local recommendations such as the need to wear masks, the need to test for anyone experiencing symptoms and anyone who traveled internationally must be tested.

Ms. Angela Mora, Public Health Director, provided an update on the Education Task Force, launched a year ago, and their efforts to reach the community at grocery stores, recreation centers, and faith based organizations. She also provided the list of services and hours of operation at the Stanton and Westside walk-in clinics and highlighted the accomplishment of vaccinating residents at 189 long-term care facilities.

Mr. David Coronado, International Bridges Director, provided statistics on traffic at City owned bridges, the number of passengers at the airport, parking meter revenue compared to pre-COVID numbers, and mentioned the local unemployment rate is an estimated 8%. Additionally, he stated there is a rise in fraudulent unemployment claims across the country.

5. City Manager Wrap Up (Tommy Gonzalez)

Mr. Gonzalez closed the presentation and provided a recap of the information presented, which illustrated that the City continues to lead the State in vaccination distribution due in part to the success in partnering with the University Medical Center of El Paso. He stated that an estimated 475,000 vaccination doses have been administered representing 47.9% of the local population has received the first vaccine and a third of population is fully vaccinated.

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Svarzbein, Hernandez, and Rodriguez commented and posed questions to presenters and other City staff members.

The following City staff members participated in the presentation and provided answers to questions posed by Council members:

1. Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
2. Fire Chief Mario D'Agostino
3. Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney
4. Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City of El Paso Public Health Authority
5. Ms. Angela Mora, Public Health Director
6. Mr. David Coronado, Director of International Bridges

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

---

2. Presentation and update by El Paso Electric Company on progress toward the completion of the Renewable Generation Study as required by Ordinance No. 019022.

Ms. Elizabeth Triggs, Strategic Partnerships Officer, introduced the item.

The following representatives from El Paso Electric presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

1. Mr. James Schichtl, Vice President of Regulatory and Governmental Affairs
2. Mr. Omar Gallegos, Director of Resource Planning and Management Department

Representative Svarzbein and Hernandez commented.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, commented and explained that the presentation was in accordance with the terms of the agreement with El Paso Electric.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

---

3. Presentation and discussion providing the Strategic Plan Goal Team series overview and a report from the following Goal Teams:

1. Series overview and organizational results snapshot
   Julie Baldwin-Munoz, (915) 212-1204
2. Vision Block: Safe and Beautiful Neighborhoods
   a. Goal 2 (Safe and Secure City)
      Assistant Fire Chief, Terry Kebschull, (915) 212-5608
      Assistant Police Chief, Zina Silva, (915) 212-4306
   b. Goal 7 (Infrastructure)
      Grant Funded Program Director, Yvette Hernandez, (915) 212-1860
   c. Goal 8 (Healthy, Sustainable Community)
      Managing Director, Ellen Smyth, (915) 212-6060

The following City staff members presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and responded to questions from Members of the City Council.

1. Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
2. Ms. Julie Baldwin-Munoz, Performance Office Director
3. Assistant Police Chief Zina Silva
4. Assistant Fire Chief Terry Kebschull
5. Ms. Yvette Hernandez, Grant Funded Program Director
6. Ms. Ellen Smyth, Managing Director of Sun Metro and Environmental Services
7. Ms. Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager of Public Safety

Representative Svarzbein commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Molinar, and unanimously carried that the City Council retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:59 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 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
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 Rivera, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 9:36 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time a motion was made.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga
NAYS: None

.....

EX1. The City of El Paso v. The Honorable Ken Paxton; Matter: 19-1001-267; (551.071)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Rivera and unanimously carried that outside counsel for the City of El Paso in consultation with the City Attorney, be authorized settlement authority to resolve this case entitled *The City of El Paso v. The Honorable Ken Paxton, Attorney General of Texas,* pending in the 250th District Court in Travis County, under Cause No. D-1-GN-19-008104. The City Attorney, through outside counsel for the City of El Paso, is authorized to negotiate a settlement agreement and sign all necessary documents to effectuate this authority under Matter No. 19-1001-267 as recommended by the City Attorney

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga
NAYS: None

.....

EX2. Discussion on proposed purchase of property located on the Eastside of the City of El Paso. (551.072)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

.....

EX3. Discussion on proposed lease, purchase and/or exchange of property located in central El Paso. (551.072)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

.....

EX4. Economic Incentives for a business to be located in the City of El Paso. 17-1007-2045 (551.071) (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

EX5. Economic Incentives for an Infill Development located in the City of El Paso 21-1007-2696, (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Lizarraga and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga
NAYS: None

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk