

Elia Garcia
Mayor
Rene Rodriguez
At Large
Cesar Nevarez
District 1/Mayor Pro Tem



Ralph Duran
District 2
Victor Perez
District 3
Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
District 4

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.**

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Elia Garcia
Rene Rodriguez
Cesar Nevarez
Ralph Duran
Victor Perez
Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

STAFF PRESENT:

Adriana Rodarte, City Manager
Olivia Navarro, City Clerk
Michael Medina, City Planner
Jim Martinez (*joined the meeting by phone*)

Victor Reta, Rec Centers Director
Chief David Burton
Mayela Granado, Executive Assistant
Alejandra Valadez, Grants Coordinator
Job Terrazas, Building Official

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 6:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Adriana Rodarte

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established with all members present.

ALL SPEAKERS WILL JOIN THE MEETING BY PHONE AND WILL BE
ACKNOWLEDGED BY MAYOR GARCIA.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Miriam Cruz, Karina Alvarez, Cesar Ornelas and Juan Flores spoke during Public Comment.

- 5. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS. OLIVIA NAVARRO**
- 6. APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2020. OLIVIA NAVARRO**
- 7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2020 CASH RECEIPTS REPORT. CHARLES CASIANO**
- 8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2020 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT. CHARLES CASIANO**
- 9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2020 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT. CHARLES CASIANO**
- 10. INTRODUCTION FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE # 477 AMENDMENT # 1 AMENDMENT TO DECREASE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,755.50. ADRIANA RODARTE**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve the Consent Agenda*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Nays:
Absent:

REGULAR AGENDA

GRANTS DEPARTMENT

- 11. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AND RATIFY RESOLUTION 613 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2020 COPS HIRING PROGRAM (CHP) FOR THE SOCORRO POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE CITY'S MATCH CONTRIBUTION IS \$247,412.20. ALEJANDRA VALADEZ**

A motion was Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *approve item number eleven (11)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Nays:
Absent:

12. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AND RATIFY RESOLUTION 614 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2020 COPS COMMUNITY POLICING DEVELOPMENT (CPD) MICROGRANTS PROGRAM FOR THE SOCORRO POLICE DEPARTMENT. THERE IS NO MATCH REQUIREMENT FOR THIS GRANT.
ALEJANDRA VALADEZ

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item twelve (12)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Nays:
Absent:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE NECESSARY PURCHASES IN ORDER TO MAKE THE NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS MOVE-IN READY.
CHIEF DAVID BURTON

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve*

An amended motion was made by Rene Rodriguez to *approve in the amount of \$140,000*.

An amended motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve in the amount of \$240,000*. Motion passed.

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Nays:
Absent:

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Ralph Duran to *move up item number twenty-one (21)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

21. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING DISASTER DECLARATION, ITS EXTENSION AND LIMITATIONS, PROCEDURES AND CHANGES TRIGGERED AND IMPOSED BY THE DECLARATION.

ADRIANA RODARTE

Ricardo Gonzalez from the Office of Emergency Management and Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

No action for this item.

NOTICE OF URGENT PUBLIC NECESSITY UPN AGENDA

Second Meeting called to order at 6:46 pm with all members present

1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS EXTENDING A DISASTER DECLARATION DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Ralph Duran to *approve item number one (1)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

3. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *adjourn at 6:47 pm*.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PRELIMINARY PLAT APPROVAL FOR VILLAS DE SOCORRO SUBDIVISION, BEING ALL OF TRACTS 13B & 18, BLOCK 12 AND TRACTS 1, 3A & 3C, BLOCK 27, SOCORRO GRANT.

JOB TERRAZAS

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve*.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez to *postpone until we have answer to our questions*.

Miriam Cruz and Ricardo Feliz spoke on this item.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve with staff recommendations*.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez to *approve preliminary plat with the following staff recommendations and to add a park*.

Soil analysis, schedule of development, covenants and restrictions, environment site assessment Phase II, stormwater maintenance agreement, Traffic Impact Analysis, Red Line Corrections, proposed Park design and Special Problems Analysis.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE FINAL PLAT APPROVAL FOR JULIFLORA SUBDIVISION UNIT 1, BEING ALL OF TRACT 5R, BLOCK 78, SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 4, TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY SURVEYS. *JOB TERRAZAS*

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *approve item number fifteen (15)*. Motion passed.

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

Rene Rodriguez rescinded his motion.

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *deny item number fifteen (15)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO PROCEED WITH ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES FOR THE NORTH NEVAREZ ROADWAY REALIGNMENT. *MICHAEL MEDINA*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number sixteen (16)*.

Victor Perez rescinded his motion.

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *move item number sixteen (16) to Executive Session to the end of the meeting to consult with city attorney*.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

17. *DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TO EL PASO COUNTY FROM THE CITY OF SOCORRO.*

MICHAEL MEDINA

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve*.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve \$25,000.00 as the contribution amount*. Motion passed.

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

CITY MANAGER

18. *DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CITY OF SOCORRO'S INTEREST IN ACQUIRING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9967 ALAMEDA SOCORRO, TEXAS 79927.*

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number eighteen (18)*.

An amended motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *deny item number eighteen (18)*. Motion passed.

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE CREDIT OF LIQUIDATED DAMAGES INCURRED THROUGH THE ONION FIELD PROJECT.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos seconded by Victor Perez to *approve item number nineteen (19)*. Motion passed.

Yvonne Colon-Villalobos rescinded her motion,

A motion was made by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos seconded by Victor Perez to *deny item number nineteen (19)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

20. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE SECOND PROPOSED PHASE FOR THE ONION FIELD SPARKS ARROYO PROJECT.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number twnty(20)*.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve and allow staff to proceed with whatever is necessary to proceed and continue with this phase*.

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

Cesar Nevarez stepped out of the meeting at 8:23 pm

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Cesar Nevarez

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE AREA KNOWN AS THE VARELA SUBDIVISION, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS AND ACCESS TO AND MOBILITY IN IT.

RENE RODRIGUEZ

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number twenty-two (22).*

Victor Perez stepped out of the meeting at 8:25 pm

Cesar Nevarez returned to the meeting at 8:25 pm

Victor Perez returned to the meeting at 8:29 pm

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *direct staff to research what is need in order for the removal of the guard rail and involve legal with the proper paperwork to acquire the right of way.*

Juan Flores, Miriam Cruz, Karina Alvarez and Cesar Ornelas spoke on this item.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

WORKSHOP

23. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CHARTER AMENDMENTS ARTICLES III SECTION 3.04 THROUGH SECTION 3.06. *ADRIANA RODARTE*

Yvonne Colon-Villalobos stepped out of the meeting at 9:09 pm

Yvonne Colon-Villalobos returned to the meeting at 9:13 pm

Ralph Duran stepped out of the meeting at 9:22 pm.

Ralph Duran returned to the meeting at 9:24 pm.

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

Amendments approved as discussed.

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *move into Executive Session at this time to consult with city attorney.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

**THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:25
PM**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**THE CITY COUNCIL RECONVENED BACK IN OPEN SESSION AT 9:43
PM**

**16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO PROCEED WITH ACQUISITION OF
PROPERTIES FOR THE NORTH NEVAREZ ROADWAY REALIGNMENT.
MICHAEL MEDINA**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *direct staff to take the necessary steps to acquire the acquisition of the properties necessary for the realignment of Nevarez Rd.*

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

**24. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ADVICE RECEIVED FROM CITY
ATTORNEY IN CLOSED SESSION, AND ACTION TO APPROVE REAL
ESTATE TRANSACTION; AUTHORIZE FILING OR SETTLEMENT OF
LEGAL ACTION; AUTHORIZE EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERT WITNESSES
AND CONSULTANTS, AND EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL
WITH RESPECT TO PENDING LEGAL MATTERS. ADRIANA RODARTE**

**25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS FOR
EMPLOYMENT AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS &
COMMISSIONS, JOB PERFORMANCE OF EMPLOYEES, REAL ESTATE
ACQUISITION AND RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE FROM CITY ATTORNEY
REGARDING LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING THESE MATTERS.**

ADRIANA RODARTE

**26. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AND
RECEIVE STATUS REPORT REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION.**

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *delete items twenty-four (24), twenty-five (25) and twenty-six (26).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

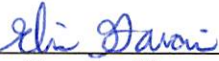
27. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *adjourn at 9:45 pm*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:



Elia Garcia, Mayor



Olivia Navarro, City Clerk



April 2, 2020
Date minutes were approved