

Vacant
Mayor

Rene Rodriguez
At Large/Mayor Pro Tem

Maria Reyes
District 1



Alejandro Garcia
District 2

Victor Perez
District 3

Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
District 4

Adriana Rodarte
City Manager

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2017 @ 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rene Rodriguez
Victor Perez
Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Maria Reyes
Alejandro Garcia

STAFF PRESENT:

Adriana Rodarte, City Manager
Olivia Navarro, City Clerk
Jim Martinez, City Attorney
Sam Leony, Planning and Zoning Director

Chief Carlos Maldonado
Lt. Eddie Smith
Miguel Rosas, Parks and Public Works Director
Omar Guevara, IT Director
Rosio Marin HR Director
Charles Casiano, Finance Director
Victor Reta, Recreation Centers Director
Officer Johnny Harrelson
Detective I. Rodriguez

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 6:10p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jesse Montelongo

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established with five members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Lozano, Janette Reyes, Margie Perez, Daniel Hernandez, Sergio Jaime, Ralph Duran, Jesse Montelongo, Rev. Keefe spoke during Public Comment.

Cynthia Gutierrez was signed up to speak but was not present.

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *postpone for the next Regular Meeting of April 6, 2017.*

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes, and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Absent: Victor Perez

PROCLAMATION

5. PROCLAMATION TO CELEBRATE AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH FROM SATURDAY APRIL 1- SUNDAY APRIL 30, 2017. ALEJANDRO GARCIA

Rene Rodriguez read the proclamation.

PRESENTATION

6. PRESENTATION BY CITY MANAGER REGARDING FEBRUARY'S MONTHLY REPORT. ADRIANA RODARTE

Presentation made by Adriana Rodarte.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS. OLIVIA NAVARRO

8. APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2017 AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2017. OLIVIA NAVARRO

9. APPROVAL OF THE CASH RECEIPTS TRANSACTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2017. CHARLES CASIANO

10. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TRANSACTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2017. CHARLES CASIANO

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Maria Reyes to *approve the Consent Agenda.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Maria Reyes to *move up items twenty (20) thru twenty-six (26)*.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Maria Reyes to *move up items twenty (20), twenty-one (21), twenty-three (23), twenty-four (24) and twenty-five (25) to be next on the agenda*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

20. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPOINT JESSE MONTELONGO TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR PLACE 7. *RENE RODRIGUEZ*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Maria Reyes to *approve item number twenty (20)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

21. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPOINT ERNEST GOMEZ TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR PLACE 5. *RENE RODRIGUEZ*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Maria Reyes to *postpone item number twenty-one (21) for the next council meeting*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain: Maria Reyes

23. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ACCEPT CHARLIE DOMINGUEZ'S RESIGNATION FROM THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPOINTING CYNTHIA GUTIERREZ TO THE VACANT SEAT FOR PLACE 2. *ALEJANDRO GARCIA*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Maria Reyes to *approve item number twenty-three (23)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

24. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO REMOVE JUAN CASTAÑEDA FROM THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMISSION AND APPOINT HECTOR DE LA CANAL TO THE VACANT SEAT FOR PLACE 4.

YVONNE COLON-VILLALOBOS

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item twenty-four (24)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPOINT HECTOR DE LA CANAL TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR PLACE 4.

YVONNE COLON-VILLALOBOS

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Maria Reyes to *approve item twenty-five (25)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

26. SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS.

During this time newly appointed commissioners Jesse Montelongo and Hector De La Canal were sworn in by Mayor ProTem.

22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING CONDUCTING BACKGROUND CHECKS AND OTHER SCREENING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS APPOINTED TO CITY OF SOCORRO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

ALEJANDRO GARCIA

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *direct staff to approve to conduct background check to include current commissioners*. Motion passed.

Daniel Hernandez spoke on this item.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *move up item number thirty-one (31) to be next on the agenda*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez and Alejandro Garcia
Nays: Yvonne Colon-Villalobos and Maria Reyes
Abstain:

Mayor ProTem broke tie by voting aye.

- 31. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO INVESTIGATE GLORIA M. RODRIGUEZ, GUILLERMO MADRID, MARY B. GARCIA AND JESUS GANDARA, JR. FOR ENGAGING IN ILLEGAL FINANCIAL DEALINGS WITH THE CITY OF SOCORRO, MAKING OR AUTHORIZING IMPROPER EXPENDITURES BY THE CITY AND OTHER IMPROPER CONDUCT THAT CONSTITUTES MALFEASANCE WHILE SERVING ON THE SOCORRO CITY COUNCIL. THIS ITEM PROPOSES QUANTIFYING THE DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST AND OTHER DAMAGES INCURRED BY THE CITY AS A RESULT OF THESE ACTIONS AND AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO TAKE STEPS TO RECOVER THESE DAMAGES.**

YVONNE COLON-VILLALOBOS

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded to Alejandro Garcia to *approve for discussion.*

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve an investigation but determine cost of staff hours or cost of external investigation.*

Sergio Jaime was signed up to speak but declined.

Daniel Hernandez spoke on this item.

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon Villalobos to *suspend the rule and allow speakers to speak.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

Rev. Keefe, Sandy Saucedo and Ralph Duran spoke on this item.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded Alejandro Garcia to *direct staff to bring back to council at the next regular meeting an 2 proposals, external and an estimate of staff hours that will be involved.*

Sergio Jaime was signed up to speak but declined.

Daniel Hernandez spoke on this item.

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *suspend the rule and allow speakers to speak*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

Rev Keefe, Sandy Saucedo and Ralph Duran spoke on this item.

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *direct staff to conduct an investigation by obtaining 2 proposals one external and one in-house and bring back to council for approval*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

PUBLIC HEARINGS / ORDINANCES

11. INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 397 AMENDMENT 1 TO INCREASE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$88,222.00.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number eleven (11)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

REGULAR AGENDA

CITY CLERK

12. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE FY 2016-2017 BUDGET CALENDAR.

OLIVIA NAVARRO

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve the 2016-2017 Budget Calendar with a correction dates of the public hearing to August 17 and September 7, 2017*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2017. CHARLES CASIANO

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve item number thirteen (13)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays: Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Abstain:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SIGN THE NECESSARY FORMS FOR HITDA FOR US MARSHALLS VIOLENT OFFENDERS TASK FORCE. CHIEF CARLOS MALDONADO

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve item number fourteen (14)*. Motion passed.

Daniel Hernandez spoke on this item.

Sergio Jaime was signed up to speak on this item but declined.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

PLANNING AND ZONING

15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AND WAIVE THE EVENT PERMIT FEE FOR THE PROCESSION TO TAKE PLACE AT SAN FELIPE DE JESUS CHURCH. SAM LEONY

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve item number fifteen (15) if the event serves for a public purpose*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AND WAIVE THE EVENT PERMIT FEE FOR THE CATHOLIC MUSIC CONCERT AT SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH. SAM LEONY

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia *to approve item number sixteen (16) if the event serves for a public purpose.* Motion passed.

Daniel Hernandez was signed up to speak but declined.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

17. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AND WAIVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR A CHRISTMAS TRAILS FOR TOYS FUNDRAISER AND BIKE RUN. *SAM LEONY*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia *to approve item number seventeen (17).* Motion passed.

Daniel Hernandez was signed up to speak but declined.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

CITY MANAGER

18. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO AND TO FIX A DATE FOR SAID ELECTION. *ADRIANA RODARTE*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia *to approve July 15, 2017 to hold the Special Election to fill the Mayor vacancy for item number eighteen (18).* Motion passed.

Daniel Hernandez was signed up to speak but declined.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:

19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO AMEND OR TERMINATE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EL PASO COUNTY AND CITY OF SOCORRO ENVIRONMENT SERVICES RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF THE ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITY PROGRAM, AND TO AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER OR HER DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT. *ADRIANA RODARTE*

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Victor Perez *to approve item number nineteen (19).*

Daniel Hernandez was signed up to speak but declined.

Maria Reyes rescinded her motion.

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *suspend the rule and allow speakers to speak*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

Jessie Montelongo and Janette Reyes spoke on this item.

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Victor Perez to approve item number *nineteen (19)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Victor Perez to *move into Executive Session at this time*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:48 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

THE CITY COUNCIL RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 10:14 PM.

30. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING APPLICATION OF EL PASO ELECTRIC COMPANY TO CHANGE RATES FILED ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 13, 2017 [551.071]. *JAMES A. MARTINEZ*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *authorize city attorney to intervene in rate case with El Paso Electric Company*. Motion passed.

Daniel Hernandez spoke on this item.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

- 32. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY 10.26 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS COUGAR PARK FROM THE CITY OF EL PASO FOR THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$386,775; TO ALLOCATE ONE-HALF OF THE PURCHASE PRICE FROM THE GENERAL FUND BALANCE OR CITY RESERVE; TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF THE PURCHASE DOCUMENTS; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER OF HER DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE ACQUISITION [551.071].**
JAMES A. MARTINEZ

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve item number thirty-two (32)*. Motion passed.

Daniel Hernandez spoke on this item.

Sergio Jaime was signed up to speak but declined.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

- 33. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING POLICE CHIEF [551.071].**
ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *accept the request of Chief Maldonado minus the days*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia
Nays:
Abstain:

- 27. 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**

- 28. 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

- 29. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AND RECEIVE STATUS REPORT REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION.**
ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *delete items twenty-seven (27), twenty-eight (28) and twenty-nine (29)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Abstain:


34. **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Victor Perez to *adjourn at 10:36 pm*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Yvonne Colon-Villalobos, Maria Reyes, and Alejandro Garcia

Nays:

Absent:



Rene Rodriguez, Mayor Pro Tem





Olivia Navarro, City Clerk

May 4, 2017

Date minutes were approved