

*Ivy Avalos*  
Mayor

*Ruben Reyes*  
At Large

*Cesar Nevarez*  
District 1



*Alejandro Garcia*  
District 2 /Mayor Pro Tem

*Rudy Cruz, Jr.*  
District 3

*Yvonne Colon-Villalobos*  
District 4

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 6, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Ivy Avalos  
Ruben Reyes  
Cesar Nevarez  
Alejandro Garcia  
Rudy Cruz, Jr.  
Yvonne Colon-Villalobos (*joined virtually*)

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Adriana Rodarte, City Manager  
Olivia Navarro, City Clerk  
Lorraine Quimiro, City Planner  
Jim Martinez, City Attorney  
  
Estevan Gonzales, IT Director  
Victor Reta, Rec Ctrs, Director  
Officer R. Soto  
Chief David Burton  
Charles Casiano, Finance Director

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at: 6:02 pm.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE LED BY CAMPESTRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jorge, Vianey, Julian and Vivian Rios, students from Campestre Elementary School.

### **3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Quorum was established with all council members present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**4. PUBLIC COMENT**

Rafael Perez and Yolanda Lounsberry spoke during Public Comment.

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *move up items twenty-nine (29), twenty-one (21), and twenty-three (23), postpone items five (5) and thirty (30) and delete item twenty (20).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

**29. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND ACTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH TRILOGY NEXGEN FOR THE DESIGN, PROJECT, ADMINISTRATION AND SOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO'S CONNECTED CITY INITIATIVE. RUDY CRUZ, JR.**

Presentation by Luis Manriquez

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve.*

An amended motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *submit a proposal as explained in the presentation.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez ,Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

**21. PRESENTATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 745 AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN THE ADVANCE FUNDING AGREEMENT AND EXHIBIT A IN RELATION TO THE RAILROAD FEDERAL SIGNAL PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO. LORRINE QUIMIRO**

Mr. Madrid from TxDot spoke on this item.

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number twenty-one (21).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

**23. *DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND BYLAWS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT THROUGH THE EL PASO AREA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATION AND AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER OR HER DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT.* ADRIANA RODARTE**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *postpone for the Regular Council Meeting of June 1, 2023.* Motion passed.

Reyna Mayorga, with El Paso County spoke on this item.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

**PRESENTATION**

**5. *RECOGNITION OF THE SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM.* RUDY CRUZ, JR.**

This item was deleted.

**6. *PRESENTATION BY PROJECT AMISTAD REGARDING WTEP- WEST TEXAS EL PASO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE.* VICTOR RETA**

Presentation by Javier Banuelos.

Cesar Nevarez stepped out of the meeting at 7:04 pm.

**7. *PRESENTATION HABS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHY OF BRACERO RECEPTION CENTER.* VICTOR RETA**

Presentation by Robert Arzola, National Park architect of Washington, D.C.

Cesar Nevarez returned to the meeting at 7:13 pm.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

8. **EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS.** **OLIVIA NAVARRO**
9. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2023.** **OLIVIA NAVARRO**
10. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING FEBRUARY 2023 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
11. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING FEBRUARY 2023 CASH RECEIPTS REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
12. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING FEBRUARY 2023 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
13. **INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE IV. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES, DIVISION 3. BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, SECTION 2-71. MEMBERS, ALTERNATES, TERMS, QUALIFICATIONS.** **LORRINE QUIMIRO**
14. **INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO AMENDED ORDINANCE, PART II – CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2- ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE IV. – BOARDS, COMMISSION, AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES, DIVISION 6. ETHIC REVIEW COMMISSION.** **CAROL CANDELARIA**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve the Consent Agenda*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

**REGULAR AGENDA**  
**PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCES**

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

15. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED ETHIC REVIEW COMMISSION BYLAWS.** **CAROL CANDELARIA**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number fifteen (15)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos  
Nays:  
Absent

## **GRANTS DEPARTMENT**

### **16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH LIFTFUND INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE 2023 GROW NOW PROGRAM.**

**ALEJANDRA VALADEZ**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number sixteen (16) for discussion.*

An amended motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item sixteen (16).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos  
Nays:  
Absent

### **17. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO RATIFY LETTERS OF SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR FY24 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS PROGRAM PROJECTS.**

**ALEJANDRA VALADEZ**

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

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos  
Nays:  
Absent

### **18. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR EL PASO ELECTRIC'S GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE FAR EAST VALLEY 69KV TO 115KV UPGRADE PROJECT.**

**ALEJANDRA VALADEZ**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item eighteen (18).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos  
Nays:  
Absent

**RECREATION CENTER**

- 19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TIGUA NEXT GENERATION PROGRAM. *VICTOR RETA***

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez *to approve item number nineteen (19)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

- 20. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE UPDATES TO THE SPENDING FRAMEWORK FOR THE CITY'S ALLOCATION UNDER CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (CLRF) APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA). *VICTOR RETA***

This item has been deleted..

**PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT**

- 22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO WAIVE THE VENDOR PERMITTING FEES FOR ALFONSO SALDAÑA TO SELL PRODUCE AT 116 BUFORD RD. *LORRINE QUIMIRO***

A motion was made by Rudy Cruz, Jr., seconded by Alejandro Garcia *to deny item number twenty-two (22)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

**CITY MANAGER**

- 24. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 746 APPOINTING CITY PLANNER LORRINE QUIMIRO TO ACT AS A DIRECTOR ON THE EL PASO AREA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATION. *ADRIANA RODARTE***

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez *to postpone for the Regular Council Meeting of June 1, 2023*.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Ruben Reyes

Ruben Reyes stepped out of the meeting at 7:34 pm

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO DIRECT STAFF IN CREATING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION OF 46-379 AND PROVIDE STANDARDS ON SMOKE SHOPS AND TOBACCO STORES NEAR A PUBLIC SCHOOL.**

**MAYOR IVY AVALOS**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item twenty-five (25)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

**26. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE MAYOR AVALOS TO USE THE CITY VEHICLE TO TRAVEL FOR THE RIO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN VALENTINES, TEXAS ON JULY 28, 2023.**

**MAYOR IVY AVALOS**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item twenty-six (26)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

**27. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE MAYOR AND ANY OTHER COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO USE THE CITY VEHICLE TO TRAVEL OUT OF TOWN FOR CITY BUSINESS NOT TO EXCEED 300 MILES OR 4 HOURS.**

**MAYOR IVY AVALOS**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item twenty-seven (27)*.

An amended motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *amend the Travel Policy*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

- 28. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO HERE-BY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL TO BE DESIGNATED AS AUTISM AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE MONTH AND TO HAVE ALL CITY BUILDINGS CHANGE THEIR OUTSIDE LIGHTS TO THE COLOR BLUE FOR THE MONTH APRIL TO PROMOTE AWARENESS. ALEJANDRO GARCIA**

A motion was made by Cesar Nevarez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve item twenty-eight (28)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

- 30. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 747 DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS SOCORRO, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND IT'S PROUD VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH. RUDY CRUZ, JR.**

This item was postponed for the next Regular Meeting of April 20, 2021.

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *move into Executive Session at this time*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

**THE CITY COUNCL CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:57 PM**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED IN OPEN SSSION AT8:24 PM**

- 31. 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**



**32. 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**

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

**ADRIANA RODARTE**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *delete items thirty-one (31), thirty-two (32), and thirty-three (33)*. Motion passed

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

**34. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL AND RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO THEM [551.071 AND 551.074].**

**ADRIANA RODARTE**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *delete item thirty-four (34)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

**35. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY [551.071 AND 551.072].**

**ADRIANA RODARTE**

A motion was made by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos seconded by Rudy Cruz, Jr., to *deny item thirty-five (35)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent

### 36. **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *adjourn at 8:30*. Motion passed.


Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, Rudy Cruz, Jr., and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

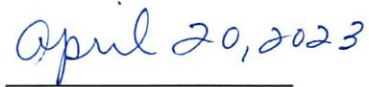
Nays:

Absent



  
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**Ivy Avalos, Mayor**

  
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Olivia Navarro, City Clerk

  
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Date minutes were approved