

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 AUGUST 17, 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
Alejandra Valadez, City Development Coordinator
Charles Casiano, Finance Director
Officer Triste

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 6:11 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance led by Rojas Elementary School Students.

Nati Camargo, Alan Beltran, Natalia Torres and Charlie Torres.

3. Establishment of Quorum

Quorum was established with all council members present.

Mayor Ivy Avalos acknowledged Commissioner Iliana Holguin.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. PUBLIC COMENT

Jesse Montelongo, Michael Maser and Margarita Perez spoke during Public Comment.

A motion was made by Rudy Cruz, Jr., seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *move up item twenty-two (22)*. Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Absent:

22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO RESCIND CITY COUNCIL'S ACTION REGARDING AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 FROM THE JULY 6, 2023 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OPTING FOR OPTION "C," TO ESTABLISH THE CITY'S OWN TRANSIT SERVICE AND DIRECT STAFF TO OBTAIN COST AND STUDY.
RUDY CRUZ, JR.

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *deny item twenty-two*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Ruben Reyes, Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays: Rudy Cruz, Jr.

Absent:

CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE TYPICALLY NOT TAKEN DURING THE INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES. PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING-ORDINANCE 320

5. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS. OLIVIA NAVARRO

6. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES OF JULY 29, 2023 AND REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2023. OLIVIA NAVARRO

7. APPROVAL OF THE JULY MONTHLY REPORT. ADRIANA RODARTE

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
ORDINANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 8. *PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE # 549 AMENDMENT # 2
AMENDMENT TO DECREASE EXPENDITURES BY \$47,100.00 FISCAL
YEAR 2022-2023.*** ***ADRIANA RODARTE***

Public Hearing opened at 6:16 pm

No Speakers

Public Hearing closed at 6:17 pm

- 9. *SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE # 549 AMENDMENT
2 AMENDMENT TO DECREASE EXPENDITURES BY \$47,100.00 FISCAL
YEAR 2022-2023.*** ***ADRIANA RODARTE***

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number nine (9)*. Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Absent:

- 10. *FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON CITY OF SOCORRO'S PROPERTY TAX
RATE.*** ***ADRIANA RODARTE***

Public Hearing opened at 6:18 pm

Hector Ramos and Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

Public Hearing closed at 6:25 pm

GRANTS DEPARTMENT

- 11. *DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOCORRO AND
EL PASO MHMR DBA EMERGENCE HEALTH NETWORK TO
CONTINUE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRISIS INTERVENTION
TEAM AND FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM DURING
FISCAL YEAR 2024.*** ***ALEJANDRA VALADEZ***

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number eleven (11)*. Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Absent:

RECREATIONAL CENTERS DEPARTMENT

**12. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS THE CITY OF
SOCORRO'S SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH.**

VICTOR RETA

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item twelve (12)*. Motion passed.

Isidro Torres spoke on this item.

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

Nays:

Absent:

Cesar Nevarez stepped out of the meeting at 6:32 pm

PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

**13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE SPECIAL EXCEPTION
REQUEST TO ALLOW TWELVE (12) TYPE B MOBILE VENDING
UNITS ON ONE LOT. THE CURRENT ORDINANCE (CH. 8 -BUSINESS >
ARTICLE II. VENDORS AND SOLICITORS > DIVISION 4 – MOBILE
VENDORS > SECTION 8-120 LOCATION RESTRICTIONS) ALLOWS
UP TO THREE (3) MOBILE VENDING UNITS PER TRACT, PARCEL OR
PLATTED LOT.**

LORRINE QUIMIRO

A motion was made by Ruben Reyes seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve item thirteen (13)*.

Cesar Nevarez returned to the meeting at 6:36 pm

Daniel Mendoza and Bryan Pardo spoke on this item.

A motion was made by Rudy Cruz to *deny 9 mobile vending units as request and approve staff's recommendation item number thirteen (13)*. Motion dies, no second.

A motion was made by Ruben Reyes seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve nine (9) units with staff's recommendation that the applicant be required to plat the property, apply for the conditional use permit for the telecommunication tower and remove barriers in access easement in Tract 19-E-2*. Motion passed.

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

**14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 761
APPROVING A REPLAT FOR VINEDO ACRES REPAT "I", BEING A
REPLAT OF LOT 4, BLOCK E, VINEDO ACRES, CITY OF SOCORRO,
TEXAS. LORRINE QUIMIRO**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number fourteen (14)*.

Jim Martinez spoke regarding this time regarding items fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) and recommends they be brought back as Ordinances.

Ruben Reyes stepped out of the meeting at 7:10 pm.

**15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 762
APPROVING A REPLAT FOR CAESAR UNIT ONE REPLAT "A", BEING A
REPLAT OF LOT 1 AND LOT 2, BLOCK 1, CAESAR UNIT ONE, EL PASO
COUNTY, TEXAS AND LOCATED ON NUEVO HUECO TANKS BLVD.
LORRINE QUIMIRO**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *delete items fourteen (14) and fifteen (15)*. Motion passed.

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

**16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AN EVENT PERMIT AND FEE
WAIVER FOR LA PURISIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH ANNUAL
CELEBRATION OF FEAST OF SAN MIGUEL. LORRINE QUIMIRO**

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

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

**17. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 763
AUTHORIZING MAYOR AVALOS TO SIGN THE REIMBURSEMENT
AGREEMENT PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT
WITH UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY TO RECONFIGURE THE
CROSSING AT NEVAREZ ROAD MILE POST 814.1 IMPROVEMENTS ON
BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO. LORRINE QUIMIRO**

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

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

Ruben Reyes returned to the meeting at 7:14 pm.

CITY MANAGER

**18. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE TERMINATION OF
SUBDIVISION STANDARD PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY
OF EL PASO. ADRIANA RODARTE**

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

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

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

**19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE ON WHICH
CITY COUNCIL WILL TAKE FINAL ACTION ON THE TAX RATE AND
ON THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET. ADRIANA RODARTE**

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve the voter-approval tax rate of 0.702021 and the municipal budget on September 14, 2023*. Motion passed.

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

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

20. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING TAX RATE CALCULATIONS, REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024.

ADRIANA RODARTE

Ruben Reyes stepped out at 7:21 pm

Ruben Reyes returned to the meeting at 7:25 pm

Rudy Cruz stepped out of the meeting at 7:29 pm

Rudy Cruz returned to the meeting at 7:31 pm

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

Cesar Nevarez stepped out of the meeting at 7:32 pm

Cesar Nevarez returned to the meeting at 7:32 pm

Hector Ramos was signed up to speak but declined.

No action on this item.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

21. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE TRAVEL FOR MAYOR IVY AVALOS AND ANY OTHER COUNCIL MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TEXAS TRIBUNE FESTIVAL IN AUSTIN TEXAS SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23, 2023.

MAYOR IVY AVALOS

A motion was made by Cesar Nevarez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *approve for Mayor and any council member that would like to attend*. Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Absent:

23. 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

24. 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

25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AND RECEIVE STATUS REPORT REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to delete items twenty-three (23), twenty-four (24) and twenty-five (25). Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Absent:

17. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to adjourn at 7:39 pm.

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

Nays:

Absent:



Ivy Avalos, Mayor



Olivia Navarro, City Clerk



September 7, 2023

Date minutes were approved