

Rudy Cruz, Jr.
Mayor

Ruben Reyes
At Large

Cesar Nevarez
District 1



Alejandro Garcia
District 2

Gina Cordero
District 3/Mayor Pro Tem

Irene Rojas
District 4

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Rudy Cruz, Jr.
Cesar Nevarez
Alejandro Garcia
Irene Rojas

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ruben Reyes (*arrived at the meeting at 6:18 p.m.*)
Gina Cordero

STAFF PRESENT:

Adriana Rodarte, City Manager
Victor Perez, Deputy City Manager
Olivia Navarro, City Clerk
Lorraine Quimiro, City Planner
Jim Martinez, City Attorney

Alfredo Ferando, IT Systems Administrator
Victor Reta Recreation Ctrs. Director
Lt. I. Rodriguez
Sgt. Juan Favela,
Carol Candelaria, HR Director

DURING THIS TIME MAYOR READ A STATEMENT SEE EXHIBIT "A"

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 and moment of silence led by Estevan Gonzales.

3. Establishment of Quorum

Quorum was established with all council members present.

During this time County Commissioner Iliana Holguin, City Representative Lily Limon and Former County attorney Jo Anne Bernal were acknowledged.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Iliana Holguin spoke during Public Comment.

A motion was made by Cesar Nevarez seconded by Irene Rojas to *allow Commissioner Holguin to continue speaking.*

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, and Irene Rojas

Nays:

Absent: Ruben Reyes and Gina Cordero

Ruben Reyes joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Rosemary Sandoval, Luis Sandoval, Eduardo Castillo, Jo Anne Bernal, and Robert Vines spoke during Public Comment.

Ruben Reyes left the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Walter Barry and Miriam Cruz spoke during Public Comment.

A motion was made by Irene Rojs seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *allow Miriam Cruz more time to speak.*

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, and Irene Rojas

Nays:

Absent: Ruben Reyes and Gina Cordero

Alan Lizarraga spoke during Public Comment.

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *allow more time for people to speak.* Motion passed.

Holly Dunn spoke during Public Comment.

A motion was made by Cesar Nevarez seconded by Alejandro Garcia to *suspend the three (3) minute rule and allow all speakers more time to speak.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia, and Irene Rojas

Nays:

Absent: Ruben Reyes and Gina Cordero

Jana Garcia, Emmanuel Ortiz, Diana Martinez, Shay Cohen-Jones, Lily Limon, Yvonne Diaz De Leon, Marisa Limon Garza, Ana Reza, Erika Hisey, Lynn Coyle,

Margarita Arvizu, Ashley Sanchez, Estela Padilla, Magda Maureira, Juan Ortiz, Aline Arellano

Lost quorum at 7:36 p.m., Irene Rojas stepped out of the meeting.

Irene Rojas returned to the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Isidro Torres, Rebecca Ruiz, Betty Camargo, and Honesty Tercero

CONSENT AGENDA

5. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS.

6. INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING DETENTION FACILITY SERVICES FEE FOR DETENTION FACILITIES. ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez *to deny the consent agenda and direct the city attorney to investigate methods to deny detention centers in the City of Socorro.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia and Irene Rojas

Nays:

Absent: Ruben Reyes and Gina Cordero

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Irene Rojas *to reconsider the consent agenda.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia and Irene Rojas

Nays:

Absent: Ruben Reyes and Gina Cordero

A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez *to deny the consent agenda and direct the city attorney to investigate methods to deny ice detention facilities in the City of Socorro.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia and Irene Rojas

Nays:

Absent: Ruben Reyes and Gina Cordero

5. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS.

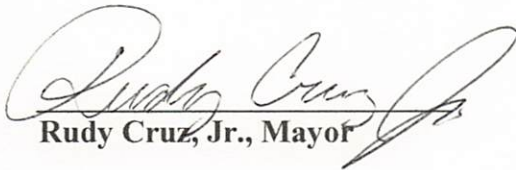
A motion was made by Alejandro Garcia seconded by Cesar Nevarez *to approve item number five (5).* Motion passed.

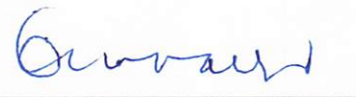
Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia and Irene Rojas
Nays:
Absent: Ruben Reyes and Gina Cordero

7. ADJOURN

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

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Alejandro Garcia and Irene Rojas
Nays:
Absent: Ruben Reyes and Gina Cordero


Rudy Cruz, Jr., Mayor


Olivia Navarro, City Clerk

March 5, 2026
Date approved



EXHIBIT "A"

Good evening, everyone.

I want to thank each of you for coming out tonight.

I know this is not a meeting people attend lightly. When an issue brings this many residents together, it's usually because it touches something deeply personal — our families, our values, our sense of safety, and our future. I want to acknowledge that right up front.

I also want to be clear about why we are here. This meeting is about listening, sharing information, and having a respectful conversation — even when we disagree. Passion is welcome. Disrespect is not. We can be honest without being hostile, and we can be firm without being divided.

As your Mayor, my responsibility is not to tell you what to think. My responsibility is to ensure this conversation happens openly, truthfully, and within the limits of what our city can and cannot control. Some of what we discuss tonight may be frustrating. Some of it may not be what people want to hear. But my commitment to you is transparency and respect.

Everyone here deserves to be heard — including those who strongly support or strongly oppose this issue. We are neighbors first. No matter where we stand tonight, we leave this room as one community.

I ask that we listen to understand, not just to respond. Let's keep our focus on the facts, the law, and the well-being of our city. If we do that, even a difficult meeting can be a productive one.

Before moving on, I'd like to share something personal.

As a Native American, I tend to see immigration debates through a historical lens. It is a reminder of the historical trauma experienced by many Tribes throughout our nation, including my own. And as the husband of a Mexican-born wife and the father of three bi-racial children, I believe in the rule of law — but I also believe our immigration system is broken and, at times, unnecessarily cruel.

It may come as a disappointment to some when I say this is not something we asked for, and it is not something we saw coming.

This situation exists because Congress wrote detention into federal immigration law — not the city, not the county, not the state.

I share my personal feelings and perspectives with you tonight. However, those views do not change federal law, nor does my political stance grant the City the authority to interfere with or override federal government operations.

Now that the City has factual information about the location, the last thing I want to see is our local taxpayer resources diverted toward the operation of this facility — or any detention facility. This is where the community can step in and be vocal. We can demand accountability from our

EXHIBIT "A"

federal representatives without turning on each other. We can debate issues without dehumanizing our neighbors.

No outside agenda matters more than the people who live here. We move forward together, or we do not move at all.

Some may be asking, "Why can't the City stop it?"

Under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, municipal governments like the City of Socorro have no authority over federal detention facilities. These facilities are considered federal property, which legally prevents local jurisdictions from imposing regulations on their operation.

Immigration enforcement and detention fall under federal authority. The City does not have the power to approve or deny a federal project, particularly one located on federal land. If the City were to cross the line from expressing concern into active interference, it could result in legal action against the municipality.

That said, we absolutely have a responsibility to our residents to ensure transparency, public input, and a clear understanding of how any major facility may impact our community.

At this time, there are significant unanswered questions. We do not yet have clear information regarding infrastructure capacity, traffic impacts, public safety coordination, emergency services, or the long-term effects on surrounding neighborhoods.

Our City is already addressing critical local needs. It is essential that any proposed development — federal or otherwise — be fully evaluated for its impact on local services and taxpayers.

Until there is meaningful community engagement, clear communication from federal agencies, and thorough impact assessments, the City is not in a position to support or facilitate this operation beyond what is legally required.

Our focus remains on protecting the interests of our residents, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and prioritizing the needs of our community.

Thank you.

Mayor Rudy Cruz Jr.