

Jesús Ruiz
Mayor

Rene Rodríguez
Representative At-Large

Maria Reyes
Representative District 1/
Mayor Pro-Tem



Gloria M. Rodríguez
Representative District 2

Mary B. García
Representative District 3

Joseph E. Bowling
Representative District 4

Willie Norfleet, Jr.
City Manager

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jesus Ruiz
Rene Rodriguez
Maria Reyes
Joseph E. Bowling
Gloria Rodriguez

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mary B. Garcia

STAFF PRESENT:

Sam Leony, Planning and Zoning Director
Willie Norfleet, Jr., City Manager
Sandra Hernandez, City Clerk
Olivia Navarro, Assistant City Clerk
Jerry Wallace, City Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Mayor Jesus Ruiz

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sam Leony

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A roll call was held and a quorum was established with four members present.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Luis Sigala, Salvador Vasquez, Sergio Jaime, Amelia Esparza, Rene Rodriguez, Tommy Faulkner, and Raymundo Palomares spoke during Public Comment.

PRESENTATIONS

5. **RECOGNITION OF POLICE OFFICERS ELIJAH SILAS AND JOHN PAUL HERNANDEZ.** **MARIA REYES**

During this time Mrs. Reyes read the letter presented to the officers and City Council presented plaques to the officers.

PUBLIC HEARING

6. **SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON CITY OF SOCORRO'S PROPERTY TAX RATE AND PRESENTATION BY CITY MANAGER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REGARDING THE TAX RATE CALCULATIONS AND REVENUE.** **WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.**

Public Hearing opened at 6:33

Sergio Jaime, Tommy Faulkner, Rene Rodriguez, Mayor Jesus Ruiz, and Ernie Gomez spoke during Public Comment

Public Hearing closed at 6:17

CONSENT AGENDA:

7. **APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 15 AND AUGUST 27, 2013 AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2013.** **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
8. **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS RESERVATION SYSTEM; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE CITY'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE HOME PROGRAM RESERVATION SYSTEM.** **ANIBAL OLAGUE**
9. **APPROVAL TO WAIVE FEES FOR A CHURCH BAZAAR AT SAN FELIPE DE JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH LOCATED AT 401 PASSMORE ON OCTOBER 4, 5, AND 6, 2013. PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.** **SAM LEONY**
10. **APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE EVENT PERMIT FEE FOR THE SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL PARADE TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2013. THE PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.** **SAM LEONY**

- 11. APPROVAL OF TRAVEL FOR POLICE DISPATCHERS, ANABEL DAVILA AND TRINITY JARA, TO ATTEND COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING OFFICER SEMINAR IN HOUSTON, TEXAS FROM OCTOBER 8 AND 9, 2013.**
LT. MONTOKA

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve the Consent Agenda*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 12. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE ON WHICH CITY COUNCIL WILL TAKE FINAL ACTION ON THE TAX RATE AND ON THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET.**
WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Maria Reyes, seconded by Rene Rodriguez, to *announce September 12, 2013 as the date for final action on the tax rate*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

- 13. INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 295, AMENDMENT NO. 5, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS ADOPTING AN AMENDED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO.**
WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion carried with Maria Reyes seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number thirteen (13)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

- 14. INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 322, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS.**
WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Rene Rodriguez *approve item number fourteen (14)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

15. INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 323, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAXES WITHIN THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE EL PASO CITY TAX OFFICE TO PERFORM THE ACTUAL ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF SAID PROPERTY TAXES ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.

WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number fifteen (15)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPOINTING SOCORRO POLICE SERGEANT BERNIE SALINAS AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO ON THE 911 DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 6, 2013.

WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number sixteen (16)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

17. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON AMENDING THE VACATION BENEFITS OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.

WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Maria Reyes to *approve item number seventeen (17)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

18. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR MAURO ROSAS PAR, WAIVE THE CITY OF SOCORRO PURCHASING POLICY, AND SIGN A CONTRACT WITH EXERPLAY INC. UNDER REGION 19 COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM (ZRFP#13-6902).

WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Gloria M. Rodriguez to *delete item number eighteen (18)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCORRO BRIDGE.
WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

Presentation made by Jose Reyes, Engineer.

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Maria Reyes to *approve item number nineteen (19)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Joseph E. Bowling, abstained, and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

20. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON HIRING INTERIM POLICE CHIEF.

WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *table item number twenty (20)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, voting aye, and Gloria M. Rodriguez voting nay, and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

21. DISCUSSION AND ACTION OF PROPOSED INCREMENT OF SERVICE FEES FOR THE PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT.

SAM LEONY

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Gloria M. Rodriguez to *approve item number twenty-one (21)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, and Joseph E. Bowling, voting aye, and Maria Reyes and Gloria M. Rodriguez, abstained, and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON HEARING OFFICER'S DECISION AND RECOMMENDATION ON FORMER SENIOR ACCOUNTANT'S WHISTLEBLOWER CLAIM.

JERRY WALLACE

23. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON HEARING OFFICER'S DECISION AND RECOMMENDATION ON ASSISTANT CITY CLERK'S WHISTLEBLOWER CLAIM.

JERRY WALLACE

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve the recommendation of the hearing officer for items twenty-two (22) and twenty-three (23)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

24. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING AMENDED PURCHASING POLICY.

KARINA HAGELSIEB

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez, seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number twenty-four (24) effective October 1, 2013*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION REGARDING JESUS GANDARA, JR., FOR MONIES OWED TO THE CITY OF SOCORRO.
RENE RODRIGUEZ

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number twenty-five (25) to complete and present final report by October 3, 2013*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

26. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE BUFORD / HORIZON ROAD PROJECT REGARDING RELOCATION OF UTILITIES AND COSTS.
JESUS RUIZ

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Maria Reyes to *approve the cost to the city for item number twenty-six (26)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

27. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PROHIBITING SALVAGE YARDS IN SOCORRO.
GLORIA M. RODRIGUEZ

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *refer to the Planning & Zoning Commission for proper recommendation*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

28. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON MASTER PLAN BY SITES SOUTHWEST.
GLORIA M. RODRIGUEZ

A motion was made by Maria Reyes seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *table for the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2013*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

29. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PLACING A PLAQUE AT BULLDOG CHAMPIONSHIP PARK TO RECOGNIZE SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL NAVAL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS.
GLORIA M. RODRIGUEZ

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Maria Reyes to *build a wall with an allowance of \$1,000.00*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez second by Joseph E. Bowling to *move into Executive Session at this time*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:59 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

THE CITY COUNCIL RECONVENED BACK IN SESSION AT 9:32 P.M.

- 32. 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.**

WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

- 33. 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.**

WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Maria Reyes to *delete items thirty-two (32) and thirty-three (33)*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

- 34. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AND RECEIVE STATUS REPORT REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION.**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Gloria M. Rodriguez to *authorize the City Manager to direct the hearing officer to proceed with hearing in Police Chief matter and obtain hearing and recommendation from Civil Service*. Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.

35. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Maria Reyes to *adjourn at 9:35 p.m.* Motion carried with Rene Rodriguez, Maria Reyes, Joseph E. Bowling, and Gloria M. Rodriguez, voting aye and Mary B. Garcia, absent. Motion passed.



Jesus Ruiz, Mayor



Minutes prepared by
Olivia Navarro
Assistant City Clerk



Date minutes approved