

Jesus Ruiz
Mayor

Rene Rodriguez
At Large

Sergio Cox
District 1



Gloria M. Rodríguez
District 2 / Mayor Pro Tem

Victor Perez
District 3

Vacant
District 4

Willie Norfleet, Jr.
District 5

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Jesus Ruiz
Rene Rodriguez
Sergio Cox
Gloria M. Rodriguez
Victor Perez
Anthony Gandara

STAFF PRESENT:

Willie Norfleet, Jr., City Manager
Sandra Hernandez, City Clerk
Jim Martinez, City Attorney
Sam Leony, Planning and Zoning Director
Doug Lobdell, Public Works Director
Miguel Rosas, Public Works Supervisor
Karina Hagelsieb, CFO
Victor Reta, Recreation Supervisor
Omar Guevara, IT Technician
Adriana Rodarte, HR Director
Carlos Maldonado, Chief of Police

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Jesus Ruiz.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE.

The Pledge of allegiance was led by Douglas Lobdell, Public Works Director

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM.

Quorum was established with all members present.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralph Duran, Margarita Martinez, Jaime Rodriguez, Albert Flores, Sergio Jaime and James Lowenberg spoke during public comment.

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *move up items number twenty and twenty-five*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

**20. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING MISSION TRAIL ASSOCIATION
TABC LICENSE. *VICTOR RETA***

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

Victor Reta spoke on this item.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Gloria M. Rodriguez to *approve pending the contractual stipulation that the city will receive 50% of the profits*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

**25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO THE LOWER
VALLEY SCHOOL NURSES ASSOCIATION TO SUPPORT THE 33ND
ANNUAL LOWER VALLEY HEALTH FAIR FOR SOCORRO RESIDENTS.
*MAYOR JESUS RUIZ***

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve the contribution of \$1,500.00*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

**5. PRESENTATION BY WILLIE NORFLEET, JR., CITY MANAGER,
REGARDING MONTHLY REPORT. *MAYOR JESUS RUIZ***

Presentation made by Willie Norfleet, Jr.

6. PRESENTATION BY ANIBAL OLAGUE REGARDING CDBG GRANT.
MAYOR JESUS RUIZ

Presentation was made by Anibal Olague and Annette Gutierrez, Executive Director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

7. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SOCORRO POLICE DEPARTMENT INDUCTION CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 5, 2014 TO MAYOR JESUS RUIZ, CITY MANAGER WILLIE NORFLEET, JR., COUNCILMAN SERGIO COX AND JUDGE ELIA GARCIA. CHIEF CARLOS MALDONADO

Presentation made by Chief Carlos Maldonado.

CONSENT AGENDA

8. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS. SANDRA HERNANDEZ

9. APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2014 AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 30, 2014. SANDRA HERNANDEZ

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Sergio Cox to *approve the Consent Agenda with a correction to item No. 9, the minutes of December 18, 2014 item number 39 should read Gloria M. Rodriguez as abstained and move item number ten to the Regular Agenda.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

10. APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZING CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS AND HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF TO ATTEND THE TEXAS PUBLIC EMPLOYER LABOR RELATIONS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL WORKSHOP AND 29TH ANNUAL CIVIL SERVICE WORKSHOP IN SUGARLAND, TEXAS FEBRUARY 12-30, 2015. ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Anthony Gandara to *approve the travel of Ethel Tellez, Cesar Nevarez, Olivia Navarro and Alex Miranda.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

REGULAR AGENDA

ORDINANCES

- 11. INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 346, AMENDMENT NO. 1, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS, ADOPTING AN AMENDED BUDGET TO INCREASE FY-2015 ADOPTED BUDGET. *KARINA HAGELSIEB***

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez *to approve item number eleven (11)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- 12. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING THE UPDATED PURCHASING POLICY. *KARINA HAGELSIEB***

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Gloria M. Rodriguez *to approve item number twelve (12)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

- 13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING THE UPDATED TRAVEL POLICY. *KARINA HAGELSIEB***

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez *to approve item number thirteen (13)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

- 14. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING THE ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH WHITE, SAMANIEGO, AND CAMPBELL, LLP FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AUDIT. *KARINA HAGELSIEB***

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez *to approve item number fourteen (14)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK REVISIONS. *ADRIANA RODARTE*

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number fifteen (15)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ALLOW THE SOCORRO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE GLOCK MODEL 22 .40 CALIBER HANDGUNS IN ORDER FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO HAVE A ONE WEAPON SYSTEM AND FOR THEM TO BE COMPATIBLE IN THE EVENT OF A SHOOTING INCIDENT. THE COST IS \$9,200.00 *CHIEF CARLOS MALDONADO*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Sergio Cox to *approve item number sixteen (16)*. Motion passed.

Albert Flores spoke on this item.

Mayor Jesus Ruiz stepped out of the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Gloria M. Rodriguez sat in as Mayor Pro-tem during the absence of Mayor Ruiz

Mayor Ruiz stepped in at 7:36 p.m.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

17. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ALLOW THE SOCORRO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE BUSHMASTER A3 M- RIFLES FOR EVERY POLICE OFFICER. THIS WILL ENHANCE OUR OFFICERS' CAPACITY TO PROTECT OUR COMKUNITY MEMBERS. THE COST IS \$33,000.00.
CHIEF CARLOS MALDONADO

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Sergio Cox to *approve item number seventeen (17)*. Motion passed.

Gloria M. Rodriguez stepped out of the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Gloria M. Rodriguez returned to the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Gloria M. Rodriguez withdrew her motion.

A motion was made by Sergio Cox seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *purchase fifteen (15) A3 M-4 rifles at this time and another fifteen (15) next fiscal year*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Sergio Cox and Mayor Jesus Ruiz

Nays: Victor Perez and Anthony Gandara

Abstain: Gloria M. Rodriguez

Mayor Jesus Ruiz broke tie by voting aye.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

18. PRESENTATION REGARDING ANNUAL STREETS REPORT.

DOUGLAS LOBDELL, JR.

Presentation made by Douglas Lobdell.

19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION BY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REGARDING STREET OVERLAY PROJECT TO IDENTIFY STREETS TO BE PAVED AND PRIORITY LISTING FOR SAME.

DOUGLAS LOBDELL, JR.

A motion was made by Sergio Cox seconded by Victor Perez to *approve the recommendation made by Mr. Lobdell to repair the streets listed with a five (5) and four (4) on Districts 1 and 2 for this year and 3 and 4 for next year*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

A motion was made by Anthony Gandara seconded Sergio Cox to *move up item number thirty-five (35)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

- 35. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING AND REAUTHORIZING ALL UPGRADES TO MAURO ROSAS PARK AS ORIGINALLY PRESENTED DURING INITIAL CONSTRUCTION; TO INCLUDE DELEGATING AND AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE ALL CONTRACTS, BIDS AND/OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENTATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE MAURO ROSAS PARK WITHOUT DOWNGRADES TO ORIGINAL SCOPE OF WORK; INCLUDING AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO DIVERT AND PRIORITIZE FUNDING FOR COMPLETION OF MAURO ROSAS PARK.**
- ANTHONY GANDARA**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Sergio Cox to *deny item number thirty-five (35)*. Motion passed.

Ralph Duran spoke on this item.

Margarita Martinez, Jaime Rodriguez and Albert Flores were signed up to speak but were not present to speak.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez and Sergio Cox

Nays: Anthony Gandara and Gloria M. Rodriguez

Abstain:

A motion was made by Sergio Cox seconded by Anthony Gandara to *take a recess*. Motion approved.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED INTO A RECESS AT 8:54 P.M.

RECESS

**THE CITY COUNCIL RECONVENED BACK IN OPEN SESSION AT 9:08 P.M.
WITH FOUR MEMBERS PRESENT.**

PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

21. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE APPROVAL OF WAIVER REQUEST OF FEE FOR THE ANNUAL SAN FELIPE DE JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH KERMES AT 401 PASSMORE. THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. *SAM LEONY*

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Gloria M. Rodriguez to *approve item number twenty-one (21)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara

Abstain:

Rene Rodriguez returned to the meeting from recess at 9:10 p.m.

Anthony Gandara returned to the meeting from recess at 9:13 p.m.

CITY MANAGER

22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE STATUS REPORT OF MAURO ROSAS PARK. *WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.*

Presentation made by Willie Norfleet, Jr.

No action on this item.

23. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE UPDATE OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. *WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.*

Presentation made by Willie Norfleet, Jr.

No action on this item.

24. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING THE UNAUDITED GENERAL FUND BUDGET VS REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014. *WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.*

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number twenty-four (24)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

26. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON DIRECTING CITY MANAGER TO WORK WITH STAFF TO PROVIDE A REPORT ON POSSIBLE SECURITY ADDITIONS TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

MAYOR JESUS RUIZ

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Gloria M. Rodriguez to *approve item number twenty-six (26)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

27. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO CREATE A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A LABOR FOREMAN AND AMEND THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AND TO SET SALARY.

SERGIO COX

A motion was made by Sergio Cox seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *approve item number twenty-seven (27)*. Motion failed.

Ayes:

Nays: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Abstain:

28. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ACQUIRE RIGHT OF WAY ALONG PARKER ROAD AND LIPPERT ROAD LOCATED BETWEEN PARKER ROAD AND SPARKS CIRCLE.

SERGIO COX

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Sergio Cox to *approve item number twenty-eight (28)*.

Mayor Jesus Ruiz stepped out of the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Gloria M. Rodriguez sat in as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Rene Rodriguez rescinded his motion.

An amended motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Sergio Cox to *authorize the city attorney to negotiate with property owners for the tentative identified properties and bring back to council for final approval*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, and Anthony Gandara, and Sergio Cox

Nays:

31. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES TO OBSERVE WHEN CITIZENS VISIT CITY OFFICES, REQUEST INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTS OR SEEK TO MEET WITH CITY EMPLOYEES AND/OR TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO DEVELOP AND ENFORCE SUCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. GLORIA M. RODRIGUEZ

A motion was made by Anthony Gandara seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *direct the manager to create a visitation and sign in policy*. Motion passed.

Ralph Duran was signed up to speak but had left the meeting.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Absent:

Abstain:

32. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING ORDINANCE 316, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS REGULATING STREET AND HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES. GLORIA M. RODRIGUEZ

Anthony Gandara stepped out of the meeting at 10:48 p.m.

No action for this item.

33. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO TERMINATE CURRENT CITY ATTORNEY CONTRACT AND TO PROVIDE A 60 DAY NOTICE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 16, 2015; AND TO SOLICIT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR A NEW CITY ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY. GLORIA M. RODRIGUEZ

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez to *approve item number thirty-three (33)*. Motion dies due to lack of second.

Ralph Duran was signed up to speak but had left the meeting.

Anthony Gandara returned to the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

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

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

**THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:50
P.M.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**THE CITY COUNCIL RECONVENED BACK IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:03
P.M.**

- 36. 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.

- 37. 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.

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

WILLIE NORFLEET, JR.

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Sergio Cox to *delete items thirty-six (36), thirty-seven (37), and thirty-eight (38).* Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain: Anthony Gandara

- 39. TEXAS GAS SERVICE RATE ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURES AND METHODS, INCLUDING GRIP AND EPARR. [551.071].**

JAMES A. MARTINEZ

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *adopt the interim rate method known as EPARR in lieu of GRIP and authorize the city attorney to communicate decision to Texas Gas Service and negotiate contract agreement and authorize the Mayor or its designee to execute the contract on behalf of the city.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, Anthony Gandara, Sergio Cox, and Gloria M. Rodriguez.

Nays:

Abstain:

40. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *adjourn at 11:05 p.m.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez, and Gloria M. Rodriguez

Nays: Sergio Cox

Abstain:



Jesus Ruiz, Mayor



Olivia Navarro
Assistant City Clerk



Date minutes approved