

Jesus Ruiz
Mayor

Rene Rodriguez
At Large

Sergio Cox
District 1



Gloria M. Rodriguez
District 2

Victor Perez
District 3 / Mayor-Pro Tem

Joseph E. Bowling
District 4

Willie Norfleet, Jr.
City Manager

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 @ 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF ABSENT:

Anthony Gandara *(Arrived to the meeting at 6:22 p.m.)*

STAFF PRESENT:

Adriana Rodarte, Interim City Manager
Olivia Navarro, Assistant City Clerk
Jim Martinez *(Arrived to the meeting at 6:03 p.m.)*

STAFF PRESENT:

Victor Reta, Recreation Centers Supervisor
Jesse Scott, Interim CFO
Carlos Maldonado, Chief of Police
Omar Guevara, IT
Doug Lobdell, Parks and Public Works Director
Martina Rodas, Payroll Clerk
Norma Olague, Administrative Receptionist

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Doug Lobdell, Parks and Public Works Director

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Speakers

PUBLIC HEARING

5. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 374 ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING *ADRIANA RODARTE*

Public Hearing opened at 6:02 p.m.

Ralph Duran spoke during Public Hearing

James Martinez arrived to the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Public Hearing closed at 6:07 p.m.

6. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 375 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, 2015 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015. *ADRIANA RODARTE*

Public Hearing opened at 6:08 p.m.

Sandra Saucedo spoke during Public Hearing

Public Hearing closed at 6:10 p.m.

7. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 374 ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING. *ADRIANA RODARTE*

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Gloria M. Rodriguez to *approve the budget as proposed by the City Manager to include the hiring of three (3) new police officers, one (1) court clerk and no raises for city employees.* Motion passed.

Anthony Gandara arrived to the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Ayes: Victor Perez, Rene Rodriguez and Anthony Gandara

Nays: Sergio Cox and Gloria M. Rodriguez

Abstain:

8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO RATIFY THE TAX INCREASE SET FORTH IN ORDINANCE 374 ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2016. *ADRIANA RODARTE*

A motion was made by Gloria M. Rodriguez seconded by Anthony Gandara to *approve item number eight (8)*. Motion passed.

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

Nays: Gloria M. Rodriguez

Abstain:

9. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 375 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, 2015 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2016.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez *approve the property tax rate increase of .727555 which is effectively 4.77% increase in the tax rate*. Motion passed.

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

Nays: Gloria M. Rodriguez

Abstain:

10. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE OPTIONS MADE AVAILABLE TO CITY EMPLOYEES AND EXERCISE CITY'S OPTION TO RENEW HEALTH COVERAGE WITH BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF TEXAS RM02, RM43 AND RMH1 WITH HAS BANKING FOR A (12) MONTH PERIOD PURSUANT TO EXISTING CONTRACT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROVAL OF BID PROPOSALS FOR VOLUNTARY DENTAL, VSION, LIFE AND VOLUNTARY ACCIDENT, CRITICAL ILLNESS HOSPITAL INDEMNITY, GROUP DISABILITY INSURANCE, SECTION 125 PRE TAX SERVICES FY 2015-2016 FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO.

ADRIANA RODARTE

Presentation made by Elisa Holguin, HUB International

Mayor Ruiz stepped out of the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Mayor Ruiz returned to the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Sergio Cox seconded by Anthony Gandara to *approve all recommended renewals and option made by the city*. Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

11. 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

12. 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

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AND RECEIVE STATUS REPORT REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION. ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez *to delete items eleven (11), twelve (12) and thirteen (13)*. Motion passed.

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

14. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez *to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.* Motion passed.

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



Jesus Ruiz, Mayor



Olivia Navarro
Assistant City Clerk



Date minutes were approved