

Elia Garcia
Mayor
Rene Rodriguez
At Large
Cesar Nevarez
District 1/Mayor Pro Tem



Ralph Duram
District 2
Victor Perez
District 3
Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
District 4

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2019 @ 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Elia Garcia
Rene Rodriguez
Cesar Nevarez
Ralph Duran
Victor Perez
Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

STAFF PRESENT:

Adriana Rodarte, City Manager
Olivia Navarro, City Clerk
Charles Casiano, Finance Director
Jim Martinez, City Attorney

Victor Reta, Recreation Center Director
Estevan Gonzales, IT Director
David Burton, Police Chief
Michael Medina, City Planner
Lt. Eddie Smith
Mayela Granados, Executive Assistant
Officer Aguilar
Julie Franco, City Auditor
Alex Alvarez, PPW Supervisor
Diana Rodriguez, Recreation Leader

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 6:07 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Estevan Gonzales

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established with all members present.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rene Rodriguez, Tom Heck, Lorena Rodriguez, Daniel Portugal, Pat Gardea, Miriam Cruz, Guillermo Gandara Jr., Ray Portugal and Maria Valdez spoke during Public Comment.

PRESENTATION

5. PRESENTATION BY FALL 2019 HIGH SCHOOL INTERNS. VICTOR RETA

Crystal Escajeda, Ana Ramirez, and Ashley Espinoza of Socorro High School and Alejandra Delgadillo made presentation to city council.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS. OLIVIA NAVARRO**
- 7. APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2019. OLIVIA NAVARRO**
- 8. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TRANSACTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019. CHARLES CASIANO**
- 9. APPROVAL OF THE CASH RECEIPTS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019. CHARLES CASIANO**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve the Consent Agenda*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Abstain

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

- 10. PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THAT A PORTION OF MONTEVIDEO STREET BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. MICHAEL MEDINA**

Public Hearing opened at 6:46 pm
Melissa Piña spoke during Public Hearing
Public Hearing closed at 6:49 pm

11. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THAT A PORTION OF MONTEVIDEO STREET BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. MICHAEL MEDINA

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number eleven (11)*.

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *move items eleven (11), into Executive Session and thirty-two (32), thirty-three (33), thirty-four (34) and thirty five (35) to consult with the attorney*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Abstain

THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:03 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 9:20 PM

Mayor Garcia stepped into the audience during Open Session of the Executive Agenda Items.

Cesar Nevarez sat in as Mayor ProTem.

11. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THAT A PORTION OF MONTEVIDEO STREET BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. MICHAEL MEDINA

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number eleven (11)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

Representative District 2 Ralph Duran stepped out into the audience for item number Thirty-two (32).

32. DISCUSSION REGARDING SOLICITING POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM CITY EMPLOYEES. ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *direct administration to create a policy where Mayor Garcia and District 2 Representative no longer contact staff and all communication with city manager and if they violate the policy fine them 1.) \$1,000.00 fine on first offense 2.) conduct an investigation and 3.) conduct a recall.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

Ralph Duran returned to his seat.

33. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON UPDATE TO MAYOR ELIA GARCIA'S INVESTIGATION. ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *set up a deadline of 5:00 pm on December 13, 2019 to receive satisfactory answer or file a lawsuit against Mayor Garcia.*

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent:

34. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO DETERMINE IF THE USE OF CITY HALLS PARKING IS PROHIBITED FOR POLITICAL EVENTS. ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *adopt a finding that the mayor improperly used city assets for personal benefit and violated city Policy 35 and to demand that the mayor reimburse the city for the cost of the use in the amount of \$400.00 and the city does not endorse the mayor or any other candidate for political office.* Motion passed.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Abstain: Ralph Duran

Mayor Garcia returned to her seat.

35. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON OBTAINING AN INJUNCTION TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITY AT THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS TRACT 4-C-7, BLOCK 3, and SOCORRO GRANT. ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded Victor Perez to *approve the item and authorize the city attorney to file suit.* Motion passed.

Tom Heck, Lorena Rodriguez, and Ray Portugal spoke on this item.

Pat Gardea, Guillermo Gandara, Jr. and Maria Valadez were signed up to speak but were not present.

Ayes: Rene Rodriguez, Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

- 12. PUBLIC HEARING AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6 (BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE V. (THIRD PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS) TO AUTHORIZE QUALIFIED THIRD PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS TO CONDUCT PLAN REVIEW INSPECTION SERVICES. MICHAEL MEDINA**

Public Hearing opened at 9:57 pm.

Ray Aduato and Miriam Cruz spoke during Public Hearing

Public Hearing closed at 9:59 pm.

- 13. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6 (BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE V. (THIRD PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS) TO AUTHORIZE QUALIFIED THIRD PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS TO CONDUCT PLAN REVIEW INSPECTION SERVICES. MICHAEL MEDINA**

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

Rene Rodriguez stepped out of the meeting at 10:00 pm.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

- 14. PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 4 (ANIMALS), SECTION 4-1 (DEFINITIONS) AND ADD A NEW SECTION 4-31 (THIRD PARTY ANIMAL CONTROL) TO GRANT ENFORCING AUTHORITY TO THE TIGUA ANIMAL CONTROL. ADRIANA RODARTE**

Public Hearing opened at 10:02 pm

No speakers for Public Hearing

Public Hearing closed at 10:02 pm

15. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 4 (ANIMALS), SECTION 4-1 (DEFINITIONS) AND ADD A NEW SECTION 4-31 (THIRD PARTY ANIMAL CONTROL) TO GRANT ENFORCING AUTHORITY TO THE TIGUA ANIMAL CONTROL.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number fifteen (15)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 2019.

CHARLES CASIANO

A motion was made by Cesar Nevarez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number sixteen (16)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

POLICE DEPARTMENT

17. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL TO CREATE THE POSITION OF POLICE RECRUIT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER OR HER DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE SERVICE AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY WITH THE EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE (EPCC) LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY.

CHIEF DAVID BURTON

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number seventeen*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

HUMAN RESOURCES

18. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR POLICE RECRUIT.

MAYELA GRANADOS

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number eighteen (28)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE A PART TIME JOB DESCRIPTION FOR AN ART INSTRUCTOR 100% GRANT FUNDED AND ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2020. MAYELA GRANADOS

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number nineteen (19)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

20. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE A PART TIME JOB DESCRIPTION FOR AN ART PROGRAM COORDINATOR GRANT FUNDED AT 100% AND ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2020. MAYELA GRANADOS

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

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

21. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE JOB DESCRIPTION AND TITLE FROM RECORDS CLERK TO SENIOR RECORDS CLERK WITH SALARY OF \$ 36,857.60. MAYELA GRANADOS

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item twenty-one (21)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR CENSUS COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR. MAYELA GRANADOS

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number twenty-two (22)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Nays:
Absent: Rene Rodriguez

RECREATIONS DEPARTMENT

23. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOCORRO AND THE EL PASO VET CENTER TO OFFER FREE SERVICES.

VICTOR RETA

A motion was made by Cesar Nevarez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item twenty-three (23)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Nays:
Absent: Rene Rodriguez

24. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE 2020 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS CONTRACT WITH BIG DOG PYRO.

VICTOR RETA

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve*.

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve the 2020 4th of July Firework event to be held on the 4th of July 2020*.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Nays:
Absent: Rene Rodriguez

CITY MANAGER

25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING ENGAGING WITH SBNG CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS FOR AUDITING FISCAL YEAR 2019, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number twenty-five (25)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos
Nays:
Absent: Rene Rodriguez

26. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 589 TO APPOINT CITY PLANNER MICHAEL MEDINA TO THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TERM BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2020 AND RUNS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Cesar Nevarez seconded by Ralph Duran to *approve item number twenty-six (26)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

27. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO DIRECT STAFF AND CITY ATTORNEY TO HIRE A THIRD PARTY TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL ON POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER. YVONNE COLON-VILLALOBOS

A motion was made by Cesar Nevarez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve*.

An amended motion was made by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos seconded by Victor Perez to *delete and have the city manager bring back to council with sections at a time*.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

WORKSHOP

28. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CHARTER AMENDMENTS SECTIONS VII, VIII, IX, PAGES 28 THROUGH 39 FOR THE 2020 ELECTION.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *delete item number twenty-eight (28)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

29. 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

30. 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

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

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *delete items twenty-nine, thirty (30) and thirty-one (31)*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez


32. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *adjourn*. Motion passed.

Ayes: Cesar Nevarez, Ralph Duran, Victor Perez and Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

Nays:

Absent: Rene Rodriguez

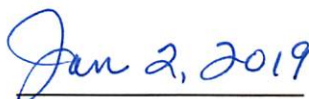


Elia Garcia, Mayor



Olivia Navarro, City Clerk





Date minutes were approved