

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



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

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.**

VIRTUAL MEETING

VIRTUAL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Elia Garcia
Rene Rodriguez
Cesar Nevarez (*joined meeting at 6:06 pm*)
Ralph Duran
Victor Perez
Yvonne Colon-Villalobos

STAFF PRESENT:

Adriana Rodarte, City Manager
Olivia Navarro, City Clerk
Jim Martinez (*joined the meeting virtually*)

Victor Reta, Rec Centers Director
Mayela Granados, Executive Assistant
Michelle Gomez, Court Clerk
Victor Reta, Rec Ctrs. Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 6:03 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Adriana Rodarte.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established with five members joining virtually.

ALL SPEAKERS WILL JOIN THE MEETING BY PHONE AND WILL BE
ACKNOWLEDGED BY MAYOR GARCIA.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Margie Perez, Miriam Cruz and Lorena Rodriguez spoke during Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS.** **OLIVIA NAVARRO**
6. **APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 21, REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES MAY 21, 2020 AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 26,2020.** **OLIVIA NAVARRO**
7. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE APRIL 2020 CASH RECEIPTS REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
8. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE APRIL 2020 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
9. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE APRIL 2020 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.** **CHARLES CASIANO**
10. **INTRODUCTION FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF SOCORRO'S MASTER PLAN AND REZONING OF TRACT 9, SOCORRO GRANT, BLOCK 17 LOCATED AT 10143 SOCORRO RD. FROM R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO C-1, LIGHT COMMERCIAL TO ALLOW PARKING OF SEMI-TRUCKS.** **JOB TERRAZAS**
11. **INTRODUCTION FIRST READING AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF SOCORRO'S MASTER PLAN AND REZONING OF TRACT 4-B, SOCORRO GRANT, BLOCK 27 FROM A-1, AGRICULTURAL TO R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL FOR A NEW DEVELOPMENT.** **JOB TERRAZAS**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez 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 / ORDINANCES

- 12. PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF SOCORRO'S MASTER PLAN AND REZONING OF TRACTS 2, 3, 4, 7, 7A, 8, 8A, 9, 10, 11, 12A 13, 13A, 13A2, 14 AND 14A, BLOCK 5, SOCORRO GRANT FOR A NEW DEVELOPMENT.**

JOB TERRAZAS

Public Hearing opened at 6:15 pm
Job Terrazas spoke during Public Hearing
Public Hearing closed at 6:15 pm

- 13. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF SOCORRO'S MASTER PLAN AND REZONING OF TRACTS 2, 3, 4, 7, 7A, 8, 8A, 9, 10, 11, 12A 13, 13A, 13A2, 14 AND 14A, BLOCK 5, SOCORRO GRANT FOR A NEW DEVELOPMENT.**

JOB TERRAZAS

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

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

Nays:

Abstain:

- 14. PUBLIC HEARING ON WRITTEN CHARGE TO REMOVE JUAN CASTAÑEDA AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS.**

RENE RODRIGUEZ

Public Hearing opened at 6:17 pm
Public Hearing closed at 6:18 pm

- 15. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL TO REMOVE JUAN CASTAÑEDA AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS.**

RENE RODRIGUEZ

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

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

Nays:

Abstain:

GRANTS DEPARTMENT

- 16. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO RATIFY A LETTER OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO SUN METRO AND EL PASO COUNTY APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, HELPING OBTAIN PROSPERITY FOR EVERYONE (HOPE) PROGRAM. ALEJANDRA VALADEZ**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Ralph Duran to *approve item number sixteen (16)*. Motion passed.

Alejandra Valadez spoke on this item.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

- 17. UPDATE ON EL PASO COUNTY TRANSIT STUDY AND RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS. ALEJANDRA VALADEZ**

Updated by Alejandra Valadez and Michael Medina.

Miriam Cruz was signed up to speak but declined.

- 18. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING AN ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE POLICY IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY. ALEJANDRA VALADEZ**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item eighteen (18)*. Motion passed.

Alejandra Valadez spoke on this item.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

- 19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE CITY OF SOCORRO TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (TDEM) IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN FEMA'S PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) PROGRAM AND SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE COVID-19 EXPENSES. THIS FEMA GRANT PROGRAM WILL REIMBURSE 75% OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES. ALEJANDRA VALADEZ**

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item nineteen (19)*. Motion passed.

Alejandra Valadez spoke on this item.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

20. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE CITY OF SOCORRO TO ENTER INTO A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION (THC) FOR THE FY 2020 CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) GRANT AWARD FOR THE RIO VISTA FARM REHABILITATION PROJECT. *ALEJANDRA VALADEZ*

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *approve item number twenty (20)*. Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENT

21. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING CITY EVENTS, DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC, AND THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE NEAR FUTURE STAFF WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF POSTPONING THIS CURRENT FISCAL YEAR'S FESTIVITIES TO NEXT YEAR AND EXPAND OUR VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING AND REEVALUATING AT A LATER DATE FOR THE STATUS OF THE EVENTS TRADITIONALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE START OF THE FISCAL YEAR (HALLOWEEN, HOMECOMING, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS, ETC..) *VICTOR RETA*

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

An amended motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez to *postpone outdoor activities until such time that authorities allow indoor and outdoor gatherings*. Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

22. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE PLAT APPROVAL FOR PILOT EXPRESS SUBDIVISION, BEING A 12.92AC TRACT OF LAND IN ROBERT E. NIX SURVEY NO. 304 ABST 7893 AND ROBERT E. NIX SURVEY NO. 305 ABST 7892 IN EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS. *JOB TERRAZAS*

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

Job Terrazas spoke on this item.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

CITY MANAGER

23. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A WRITTEN CHARGE STATING THE BASIS FOR REMOVAL OF BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT COMMISSIONER, OSCAR GUTIERREZ AND DIRECT CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE THE WRITTEN CHARGE.

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Cesar Nevarez to *approve item number twenty-three (23)*. Motion passed.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

24. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVING THE SOCORRO MUNICIPAL COURT OPERATING PLAN THAT THE SUPREME COURT EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 IN – PERSON PROCEEDINGS AND JURY TRIALS.

ADRIANA RODARTE

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

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

Nays:

Abstain:

CITY COUNCIL

25. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO RECOMMEND CHANGES TO EXTEND MINIMUM FRONT SETBACKS FOR ALL PROPERTIES FACING COLLECTOR STREETS, MINOR ARTERIALS AND MAJOR ARTERIALS OF CHAPTER 46 - ZONING ARTICLE IV. - DISTRICT REGULATIONS.

RENE RODRIGUEZ

A motion was made by Rene Rodriguez seconded by Victor Perez to *review ordinance to seek 3rd party recommendation for a feasibility study.* Motion passed.

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

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

Nays:

Abstain:

26. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO REMOVE MR. JESUS CHAIDEZ FROM BUILDING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION AND APPOINT HIM TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS PLACE 5.

RENE RODRIGUEZ

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

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

Nays:

Abstain:

WORKSHOP

27. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CHARTER AMENDMENTS ARTICLES III SECTION 3.12 THROUGH SECTION 3.16 AND ADDING 3.17 THROUGH 3.21.

ADRIANA RODARTE

Miriam Cruz spoke on this item.

Bring back to council with recommended changes.

28. 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***

29. 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

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

ADRIANA RODARTE

A motion was made by Victor Perez seconded by Rene Rodriguez *delete items twenty-eight (28), twenty-nine (29) and thirty (30).*

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

Nays:

Abstain:

31. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Ralph Duran seconded by Yvonne Colon-Villalobos to *adjourn at 8:01 pm.*

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

Nays:

Abstain:

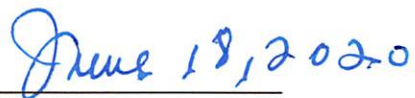


Elia Garcia, Mayor



Olivia Navarro, City Clerk





Date minutes were approved