

**OSCAR LEESER**  
MAYOR

**TOMMY GONZALEZ**  
CITY MANAGER



**CITY COUNCIL**  
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1  
LARRY ROMERO, DISTRICT 2  
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3  
CARL L. ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4  
MICHEL R. NOE, DISTRICT 5  
CLAUDIA ORDAZ, DISTRICT 6  
LILY LIMÓN, DISTRICT 7  
CORTNEY CARLISLE NILAND, DISTRICT 8

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**  
**March 21, 2016**  
**9:05 AM**

The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. Mayor Pro Tempore Michiel Noe present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Emma Acosta, Carl L. Robinson, Claudia Ordaz, Lily Limón, and Cortney Niland. Mayor Oscar Leeser requested to be excused. Not Present: Larry Romero

**AGENDA**

**1. TXDOT Quarterly Update.**

Mr. Robert Bielek, TXDOT District Engineer gave a briefing on I-10 construction and Key El Paso Upcoming Projects, including corridor studies for Doniphan and Mesa, and Lincoln Center, and Alameda, PowerPoint on file.

Representatives Niland, Noe, Acosta, Svarzbein, Limon, Ordaz, and Robinson commented.

Ms. Sylvia Firth, City Attorney, stated agencies should be coordinating with the City through the Mayor's Office.

Mr. David Milliken, Local Government Projects Office Director TXDOT, gave a PowerPoint on Local Government Projects.

Representative Ordaz questioned Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager and Ms. Monica Lombrana, Capital Improvement Director, on who are "the local responsible persons" for the projects.

Representative Limon questioned non-construction projects.

Representative Niland questioned Steer It and Clear It Legislation from Houston to here.

Representative Limon questioned child support stipulation for TXDOT project. She also questioned wage theft.

**NO ACTION** taken on this item.

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2. Presentation and discussion of Youth Football rule changes concerning reducing the risk of concussion to El Paso young athletes.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager and Ms. Paula Powell, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, presented a PowerPoint.

Representative Robinson praised Paula Powell's innovative program, the education program the parents must attend prior to allowing their children to participate.

Representative Niland questioned the schedule of games and how to enforce the schedule.

Representative Noe questioned if we have weight limits as well as age limits for youth participants.

Ms. Powell replied, "It is age, but some positions are weight."

Representative Acosta praised Ms. Powell for her work and her presentation.

Representative Noe asked if the coaches are required to report all concussions. He asked Parks to reach out to the medical community on reporting.

Representative Niland commented on Heads Up Certification. She wants to incentivize coaches to conduct Heads Up Certification. She would like to see helmet-to-helmet contact penalized.

Ms. Powell replied, "Heads Up Certification is a requirement. Helmet to helmet prohibition already is in effect. There are going to be penalties on the coach or on the team. There are already some penalties such as 15 yard penalty and taken out of the game penalty."

Representative Svarzbein thanked Ms. Powell for her work and advocacy. He asked how long it took to develop this program.

Ms. Powell replied, "Two months."

Representative Robinson asked Ms. Powell more detailed questions about the training and how they will ensure the coaches have completed the training.

Representative Niland suggestions: (1)) Put certification on the coaches card as a sticker, and (2) Change the color of the coaches card every year to make it easy to spot current certified coaches.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, spoke of the importance of penalties for violations. He would also like Parks to come back to Council.

**NO ACTION** taken on this item.

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3. Discussion and action on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) TPAC/TPB Agenda and Program Pending Issues.

Ms. Monica Lombrana, Capital Improvement Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Representative Niland questioned the hike and bike trails and additional State requirements.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, replied, "All hike and bike trails are going to be resurfaced."

Representative Noe questioned the hike and bike trails and asked for an overview.

Representative Limon questioned costs and delays and how we missed the mark here. "Why didn't we know these things in advance?"

Representative Noe cautioned against spending money on private property.

Mr. Gonzalez asked Ms. Monica Lombrana and Mr. Omar Moreno if planting oleander would serve as a nice screen between the hike and bike trail and the neighborhood yards.

Representative Acosta asked, (1) Standing meeting with utilities on project designs? All utilities Gas, Electric, Water, Cable Committees should be involved in projects. (2) Why didn't the City review the consultant's work to detect that the consultant missed a line item? Are procedures in place to see it does not happen again?

Ms. Lombrana replied, "Yes."

Mr. Omar Moreno explained the impact to environmental documents.

Mr. Gonzalez replied, "It was lighting."

Representative Limon questioned eight houses affected by the Whittier Project. She asked to make the end of the path more circular to indicate the turnaround. She expressed a concern about the structural integrity of the rock walls of the houses.

Representative Niland questioned signs that identify City projects. Other projects are confused with the City's projects and blame is assigned by the public to the City. She wants to require the utilities to post signs showing the projects are their projects. Representative Ordaz replied, "EPWU is doing this with the Stormwater projects."

Representative Svarzbein questioned the Mesa and Osborne orange cone placement.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez explained to City Council that MPO projects are being submitted prior to the due date time.

Representative Acosta noticed we are submitting projects just moments before 5:00

p.m. due date.

She and Mr. Gonzalez spoke about the MPO portal and the distribution of the applications from the portal.

Mr. Gonzalez has asked staff to now submit projects at least a day before to the MPO.

Representative Acosta replied, "By the time the MPO proposals are drafted, the funding sources already should be identified."

Representative Niland replied, "We cannot obligate future Councils."

Ms. Sylvia Firth, City Attorney, replied, "For the resolution, tomorrow, it was drafted with maximum flexibility."

Representative Acosta wants to see timely submissions of applications, identify funding sources, and involve City Representatives on project preparations.

Representative Niland wants a running tab of project costs and how they will affect the project.

Representative Ordaz replied, "Glad we are taking this new approach so we do not scramble to find matching funds for MPO projects at the last minute." She agrees with Representative Acosta's recommendations to identify funding sources.

Mr. Gonzalez cautioned Council against constraining themselves too much on the funding for the project. The City may miss out on unanticipated funding.

Representative Acosta questioned 2019 programming for \$5.4 million.

Representative Niland questioned County Club road and Montoya roundabout \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 for right of way. She wants it removed from the list since it is not feasible.

Representative Limón asked about Representative Robinson's projects that had not been included.

Representative Niland questioned the priority of the downtown bike plan over projects she believes have greater need for congestion mitigation.

Ms. Lombrana stated, "Project readiness is a component as is the likelihood of securing funding for a project."

Representative Niland would like a list of projects that have been defunded. They need to be reactivated and reprioritized such as PDN bridge roundabout.

Representative Robinson is not comfortable with the "lame response" he got from Bob Bielek, TXDOT District Engineer, about the US54 expansion. Hondo Pass project. It was designed 5 years ago, very congested corridor. Public meetings were

held 5 years ago on this project.

Representative Niland thanked Ms. Lombrana for the pathways and sidewalks to the senior centers in the Chamizal area.

Representative Robinson questioned Mr. Jay Bansiak, Sun Metro Director, on the route and site for the Dyer Transit Oriented Development.

Representative Acosta questioned the Horizon MPT Project list and the Betel project. At Friday's MPO meeting citizen Mike Rooney briefed MPO on building a bridge over Hawkins to Alameda. She wants to be briefed on whether or not it is feasible to do the project.

Representative Niland questioned Mike Medina concern about the Rojas Drive widening project.

Representative Acosta questioned the matching funds issue that went from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 for the project.

Mr. Gonzalez will bring back a resolution for this project at the April 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

Representative Acosta stated, "The County did a comprehensive transit plan a few years ago. We need to be more strategic about promoting connectivity."

Mr. Gonzalez stated, "We're looking at that and at connectivity with TXDOT roads."

Ms. Lombrana spoke with Ms. Pat Aduato, Public Works Director at the County, on the comprehensive listing.

**NO ACTION** taken on this item.

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The City Council Meeting was **RECESSED** at 12:08 p.m.

The City Council Meeting was **RECONVENED** at 12:30 p.m.  
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**ADJOURN**

Motion made by Representative Niland, seconded by Representative Acosta, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 2:12 p.m.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representative Romero

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

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Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk