

DEE MARGO
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
ALEXSANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3
SAM MORGAN, DISTRICT 4
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA L. RODRIGUEZ, DISTRICT 6
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2020
3:30 PM

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Due to the temporary suspension of Open Meetings laws due to the COVID-19 emergency this meeting was conducted via telephonic and videoconference formats.
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The City Council of the City Council met on the above time and date via videoconference. Meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. Mayor Dee Margo present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alexsandra Anello, Cassandra Hernandez, Sam Morgan, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera and Cissy Lizarraga.

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AGENDA

ITEMS 1 AND 2 WERE TAKEN TOGETHER

- 1.** Discussion regarding the process of communicating to the public regarding personal opinion as outlined in the City of El Paso Code of Conduct; and discussion regarding communication from the City to the public as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- 2.** Discussion on pending litigation in Cause No. 2020-DCV-3515 Pizza Properties, Inc., et. al. v. El Paso County, Texas and Ricardo A. Samaniego; In the District Court of El Paso, Texas 34th Judicial District Court and the Code of Conduct.

Representative Lizarraga explained the reason for posting the items was due to a press release issued by City representatives.

Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, presented a PowerPoint presentation related to the litigation against the County of El Paso, Texas (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and answered questions posed by Council members.

Mayor Margo and Representatives Svarzbein, Salcido, Rodriguez, and Rivera commented.

Mr. Cary Westin, Senior Deputy City Manager, commented.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Mr. Alison Westerman
2. Ms. Noel Hollowell-Small
3. Mr. Jaime Abeytia
4. Mr. Rick Bonart

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Morgan, and carried that the City Council retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 4:43 p.m. pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 - 551.089 to discuss the items:

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

AYES: Representatives Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein and Representative Anello

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Morgan, and unanimously carried to adjourn the Executive Session at 5:13 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Anello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

NO FURTHER ACTION was taken on the items.

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Hernandez, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 5:25 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Anello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk