

DEE MARGO
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
ALEXSANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ-BROWN, DISTRICT 3
SAM MORGAN, DISTRICT 4
MICHEL R. NOE, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA ORDAZ PEREZ, DISTRICT 6
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

**JOINT CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 30, 2017 10:00 A.M.
EL PASO CONVENTION CENTER**

The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting called to order at 10:09 a.m. Mayor Dee Margo present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Aleksandra Annelo, Cassandra Hernandez-Brown, Sam Morgan, Michiel R. Noe, Claudia Ordaz Perez, Henry Rivera, and Cissy Lizarraga.

Also present, the members of the Juarez City Council: Hector Armando Cabada Alvidrez, Hector Aaron Yanez Limas, Roberto Renteria Manqueros, Pablo Arana Perez, Jacqueline Armendariz Martinez, Jose Guadalupe Avila CUC, Hiram Apolo Contreras Herrera, Eduardo Fernandez Sigala, Jose Alfredo Gonzalez Quintana, Pedro Alberto Matus Pena, Seidy Medina Galvan, Janet Francis Mendoza Berber, Irma Celia Medrano Flores, Maria Del Carmen Moreno Chavez, Margarita Edith Pena Perez, Carlos Ponce Torres, Juana Reyes Espeo, Martha Leticia Reyes Martinez, Laura Yanely Rodriguez Mireles, Alfredo Seanez Najera, Jose Ubaldo Solis, Laura Tapia Martinez, and Maria Del Rosario Valadez Aranda.

Introduction of the City Manager, City Attorney, Mr. Carey Westin, and Ms. Laura Prine.

AGENDA

1. Call to order by Mayor Dee Margo.

Mayor Dee Margo opened the meeting by thanking the City of Juarez.

2. Invocation by Police, Fire and CIMA Chaplain Sam Faraone.

The Mexican National Anthem was played followed by the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the Invocation delivered by Police, Fire and CIMA Chaplain Sam Farone.

3. Introduction of members of the El Paso City Council by Mayor Dee Margo.

The El Paso City Council members introduced themselves.

4. Introduction of members of the Juarez City Council by Mayor C. Hector Armando Cabada Alvidrez.

Mayor Cabada Alvidrez explained the importance of the Joint Council meeting and the Juarez City Council members introduced themselves.

5. Recognition of elected officials and special guests.

The City Manager, City Attorney, Deputy City Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, and Interim City Clerk introduced themselves.

6. Discussion regarding the Committee on Border Relations.

Representative Svarzbein gave a PowerPoint presentation on a creation of a Committee on Border Relations. Mr. Svarzbein spoke about border security, economic security and the importance of ensuring trade and stated he believes these efforts can succeed through binational collaboration. He proposed the creation of a binational task force composed of two City Council members from each City to be approved within 3- days.

Representative Lizarraga detailed the formation of the Committee on Border Relations and stated that she and Representative Svarzbein are working together.

7. Discussion regarding cultural events.

Mr. Miguel Angel Mendoza, Director of Juarez Cultural Institute, spoke on Juarez/El Paso projects and stated that he wishes to meet with members of the El Paso Museum on the creation of an Arts and Culture binational festival.

Mr. Roberto Mora, Director of the Planning Department in Juarez, commented on the Paseo de Luces and bike project that will allow citizens to cross freely.

Mayor Cabada Alvidrez commented.

8. Economic Development.

- Presentation by Jon Barela, Borderplex Alliance.
- Presentation by Alejandra De La Vega-Foster, Secretaría de Inovación y Desarrollo Económico.

Mr. Jon Barela, Borderplex Alliance, spoke on the status of the unemployment rate, expansion, job growth, and stated the future outlook on these is bright.

Mayor Margo stated he has been helping with the recruitment of new business and explained that it's vital to continue bilateral dialogue. He stated he is proud to continue fighting for this region.

Ms. Alejandra De La Vega Foster, Secretaría de Inovación y Desarrollo Económico

gave a PowerPoint presentation on the economic development strategic line initiative, promotion of logistics and medical tourism biomedical, innovation on project CITA, and urban mobility system.

- 9. Discussion on International Mass Transit Committee.
- 10. Discussion and action on a Resolution that the Mayor be authorized to sign a Sister City Agreement between the City of El Paso and the City of Juarez.

Representative Svarzbein explained the need for a Sister Cities agreement and a new logo.

Mayor Cabada Alvidrez reaffirmed the need for Sister Cities agreement and stated that the agreement signed in 2005 was dormant and said the Federal Government needs to support this agreement and they would take the agreement to the Juarez City Council approval and will bring it back.

NO ACTION taken on this item

The Council Members of each City exchanged gifts.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Representative Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Annello, unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 11:49 a.m.

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, Interim City Clerk