

JOHN F. COOK
MAYOR



JOYCE WILSON
CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
CARL ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4
MICHEL NOE, DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7
CORTNEY NILAND, DISTRICT 8

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 21, 2013

The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. Mayor John F. Cook, present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Ann Morgan Lilly, Carl Robinson, Michiel Noe, Eddie Holguin, Jr., and Steve Ortega. Late arrivals: Susannah M. Byrd at 10:08 a.m. and Emma Acosta at 10:09 a.m. Absent: Eddie Holguin, Jr. Cortney Niland requested to be excused.

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1. Discussion and action regarding the Resolution dated June 26, 2012, which authorized the City Manager to undertake certain preliminary actions with respect to the downtown ballpark.

Ms. Irene Ramirez, Interim City Engineer, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in City Clerk's office).

Mayor Cook questioned, the San Jacinto Christmas tree lighting, did you foresee a problem?

Representative Ortega questioned, "Council updated on all projects? Is the Historic lighting on Oregon Street consistent with other?"

Ms. Ramirez replied, yes.

Representative Byrd questioned, "Roadway construction projects for bikes lanes. Where are we at? No bikes lanes within the last 7 years. Should this be source of funds?"

Ms. Joyce Wilson, City Manager explained the clarity resurfacing and stripping.

Mr. Ted Marquez, Deputy Director for Department of Transportation, commented 3 million allocated for bike lanes, City is working with TXDOT.

Representative Byrd replied, about bike lanes connecting together and not just ending.

Representative Byrd questioned, "Northgate?"

Ms. Ramirez answered request for proposal out looking at restructuring.

Representative Byrd questioned, "Contractors not on final list."

Ms. Ramirez answered after rollout of 3 year Quality of Life Bond programs not sufficient number to contract out. List was finalized to 11.

Representative Ortega questioned, "Neighborhood traffic program list update and new applications."

Mr. Marquez replied working on back log, not accepting new applications.

Representative Ortega questioned, "1.2 million funds available?"

Ms. Wilson replied, 125 million per district per year, wish to revise cap.

Representative Robinson questioned, "Bikes lanes for Alabama and connectivity? He wants reassurance."

Mr. Marquez responded transportation is working on problem and will deliver solution.

Representative Robinson questioned, "Northpark?"

Ms. Ramirez replied, no selection of consultant in April will delay project.

Ms. Wilson commented no one submitted under the current RFP. This is delaying the process and will extend to June 2013 to questions on RFP.

Representative Robinson replied the City needs clear lines of responsibility.

Ms. Wilson replied not a lot of flexibility for the City; reason for using the P3. Design will conform with project. Revamping RFP, due to the original structure of the RFP.

Ms. Sylvia Firth, City Attorney stated that this is a first for City in structuring a deal with this type of RFP. Majority is a new concept that will allow City to partner with firms.

Representative Robinson asked technical and legal aspects that need to overcome.

Representative Acosta questioned, "Pedestrian walkway sites."

Ms. Ramirez answered, already provided.

Representative Acosta replied 2% for Public Arts and Medical Center projects.

Ms. Wilson replied including Quality of Life Bonds make sure we leverage funds for those.

Ms. Ramirez will discuss with Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

Representative Acosta replied working with TXDOT to make improvements.

Representative Byrd answered enough capacity in how to handle construction projects.

Ms. Ramirez replied, hiring consultants for the additional workload.

NO ACTION taken on this item.

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2. Discussion and action on the impact of sequestration on international bridge wait times and possible solutions. Presentation of Project-21: 100 Day Plan for the following three projects:

a. Action Plan #1 - Continue with the implementation of the dedicated lanes and risk segmentation at the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry to secure, facilitate and grow the certified trusted shipments.

Mayor Cook stated, "Resolution passed to increase tolls City Council action in 2011."

Mayor Cook discussed PowerPoint presentation. No action required today, hopefully at Tuesday's City Council meeting we will have questions.

Three different actions plans presented

- Reduce wait times
- Increase C-TPAT
- 1 Port of entry – Zaragoza

Representative Byrd commented work remains on dedicated lane.

Mayor Cook replied work needs to happen on the Mexican side.

Representative Byrd questioned, "Cambridge study?"

Mayor Cook replied move to 1 port to solve issues.

Ms. Jane Shang, Deputy City Manager, replied must prepare port for commercial traffic only.

Representative Byrd commented need additional studies into the program.

Representative Ortega replied, Model must show that this will expedite the traffic.

Mayor Cook replied must make bridge revenue neutral or maquilas will not buy into the program. We can use additional funds to support more custom agents.

Representative Byrd questioned, "Traffic impacts and model?"

Mayor Cook replied Cambridge Systematics is supposed to provide a model. Analysis was very limited when done originally.

Mayor Cook commented Federal government wants to lesson hours of operations plus manpower.

Representative Acosta stated, "She was under the impression that they looked at all ports and traffic analysis."

Mayor Cook answered, that's correct.

Representative Acosta commented no additional staff for new port, will likely cause additional problems.

Representative Acosta commented environmental concerns, traffic improvements must be made first (WINROAD).

Ms. Shang answered five million allocated to project.

Representative Acosta stated improvements made first need timeline; any coordination with TXDOT?

Representative Ortega thanked the Mayor for taking the lead. However, we need more information. Proposal can be modeled and when it will be available.

Ms. Shang answered, yes.

Representative Ortega stated that this needs community discussion.

Mayor Cook replied task force has those listed.

Representative Acosta read email into the record.

Representative Byrd questioned, "Freight shuttle?"

Mayor Cook will do pilot project on American side of border; probably five years in the future.

Mr. Allan Russell, CEO Techno Group, commented sensitive to cost on closing our BOTA Bridge. Cost neutral profile for trucks crossing.

Representative Ortega commented discussion with TXDOT on inspection fee on BOTA.

Ms. Wilson replied part of legislative strategy. What authority does the City have?

Mayor Cook replied must be careful on the cost.

Representative Acosta commented should focus on number of personnel and the cost to start ports. Also, what type of funding source is available?

Mayor Cook replied, Correct. We must move quickly on solution before another City does. Quick modeling will not be done until April. Cambridge is better model.

Representative Acosta replied TXDOT has modeling.

Mayor Cook replied funding must continue and not decrease.

Mayor Cook replied must move forward with Project 21 have already proven itself.

Representative Byrd replied additional staffing will increase capacity.

b. Action Plan #2 - Implementation of secure cross border buses to facilitate the movement of thousands of pedestrians across the Paso Del Norte and Stanton Ports of Entry.

Mayor Cook explained 12 to 14 million pedestrians a day, exposed to elements and no restroom. We must come up with better solution. Circulated bus service, move all with buses. Customs is supportive of this plan.

Marisela Macias questioned, "\$100.00 per round trip?"

Representative Byrd commented individuals must have a choice maybe money will be subsidized by the City.

Mayor Cook commented not reducing time but reducing the place for processing individuals.

c. Action Plan #3 - Eliminate major southbound traffic congestion for passenger vehicles during peak periods at the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA) by creating HOT Lanes

Mayor Cook replied eliminate traffic congestion.

Motion made by Representative Robinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Lilly, and unanimously carried to **SUSPEND THE RULES OF ORDER** to allow additional speakers to address the Council after the signup period.

NO ACTION, other than the above procedural Motion, was taken on the item.

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3. Discussion and action on a Resolution that the City Manager or designee be authorized to extend the contract with Secure Origins, Inc. to fund the Project-21 pilot program in the amount of \$195,000 for another 90-day period to facilitate cross border traffic at the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry.

Mr. Toby Spoons, President of Secure Origins, spoke on Item 3 resolution to execute a contact with Secure Origins.

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif, Director of International Bridges, gave a report on the pilot project with Secure Origin and presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in City Clerk's office).

Mr. Spoon replied other components affect round trip wait times.

Representative Byrd questioned feedback on proposed. Survey customers and see if this service is working and are customers willing to pay.

Representative Ortega replied Staff recommendation on moving forward with program, timeliness and public funding for project.

Mr. Larbi-Cherif replied two separate projects.

Representative Ortega answered the cost to participate for customers.
Today, \$2.50 one-way
\$5.00 roundtrip per truck or \$250.00 monthly

Representative Byrd questioned, "Why need City backing?"

Mr. Toby replied 8% of market needs City's help on alleviating border traffic.

The following members of the public commented:

- 1. Mr. Hector Holguin, Secure Origins
- 2. Ms. Susan Austin

NO ACTION taken on this item.

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4. Discussion and action on the status of research for the site location of the soccer complex.

Representative Noe commented information stat has obtained, needs update.

Ms. Nanette Smejkal, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave several locations.

Ms. Liza Ramirez-Tobias, Capital Assets Manager, PSB site went site by site list and the development matrix. Next step to finalize and development cost.

Representative Noe questioned, "What year is the design contract/construction?"
Year 1 - Design
Years 2-3 - Construction

Ms. Smejkal explained design needs to be approved first.

Representative Noe questioned, "PSB grant?"

Ms. Lupe Cuellar, Land Manager and Counsel for El Paso Water Utilities explained restrictions on land use. 2017 no restrictions land for grant use, useful life expiration. Need a change of scope in the project to provide to the agency must comply with provisions on the agreement.

Representative Noe questioned, "Turf or soil compatible?"

Ms. Smejkal replied, yes all 3 sites are goal for artificial turf.

Representative Noe questioned, "Infrastructure?"

Ms. Smejkal replied complete information will be available in April.

Representative Noe questioned, "County land 77 acres?"

Ms. Smejkal replied the approached County on the value of land and willing to exchange or possibilities of taking over Ascarate for site location.

Representative Noe questioned, "Amount of money allocated for complex?"

Ms. Smejkal replied 10 million for complete project.

Representative Acosta stated, "Ascarate discussions have always been brought forward to the Council."

Representative Noe leagues have given input on the location really need cost which will be brought forward in April.

NO ACTION taken on this item.

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5. Discussion on a proposal to amend Chapter 9.50 of the El Paso Municipal Code (Smoking in Public Places).

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore Lilly, seconded by Representative Robinson, and unanimously carried to **DELETE** the item regarding discussion on a proposal to amend Chapter 9.50 of the El Paso Municipal Code (Smoking in Public Places).

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Motion made by Representative Robinson, seconded by Representative Ortega, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 12:54 p. m.

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk