

JOHN F. COOK
MAYOR



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

JOYCE WILSON
CITY MANAGER

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 3, 2011
1:00 PM

The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 1:43 p.m. Mayor John Cook present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Susie Byrd, Eddie Holguin Jr., Steve Ortega, and Cortney Carlisle Niland. Late arrival: Emma Acosta at 1:45 p.m., Ann Morgan Lilly at 1:49 p.m., Carl Robinson at 1:52 p.m., and Michiel R. Noe at 1:52 p.m.

.....
AGENDA

For discussion and action: FY 2012 budget, as presented by the City Manager:

Budget Wrap-Up

Ms. Lynly Leeper, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, presented a PowerPoint presentation (on file in the City Clerk's office), and gave an overview for fiscal year 2012 proposed revenue and the proposed tax rates.

Mayor Cook and the City Representatives questioned City staff.

The following City staff members commented:

1. Ms. Joyce Wilson, City Manager
2. Mr. Charlie McNabb, City Attorney, gave legal advice.
3. Ms. Sylvia Firth, Senior Assistant City Attorney, Intergovernmental Affairs, gave legal advice
4. Mr. William Lilly, Director of Community and Human Development
5. Mr. Daryl Cole, Director of Department of Transportation
6. Mr. Alan Shubert, City Engineer
7. Ms. Elaine Hengen, Senior Assistant City Attorney, gave legal advice
8. Ms. Ellen Smyth, Director of Environmental Services
9. Mr. Otto Drozd, Fire Chief
10. Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif, Director of International Bridges
11. Mr. Sean McGlynn, Museums and Cultural Affairs Director
12. Mr. Gregory Allen, Chief of Police
13. Ms. Richarda Duffy Momsen, Municipal Clerk
14. Ms. Nanette Smejkal, Director of Parks and Recreation
15. Mr. William Studer, Deputy City Manager of Finance & Management Support Services

The following members of the public commented:

1. Ms. Lisa Turner
2. Mr. Roman Ortiz, Director of Project Arriba
3. Mr. Bert Blackshire, Board Chairman of Project Arriba
4. Ms. Bea Heist, Owner of Heist Disposal

1st MOTION – CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

Motion by Representative Niland, seconded by Representative Robinson, and unanimously carried to **LEAVE THE CITY ATTORNEY LOBBYIST BUDGET AS IT IS SUBJECT TO A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH THE LOBBYISTS PRIOR TO THE RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT.**

2nd MOTION – DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Motion made by Representative Ortega, seconded by Representative Byrd, and carried to **RESTORE OUR CITY STATUS TO SILVER STATUS IN THE BORDER TRADE ALLIANCE (BTA).**

AYES: Representatives Lilly, Byrd, Acosta, Robinson, Noe, Ortega, and Niland

NAYS: Representative Holguin

3rd MOTION – PROJECT ARRIBA

Motion made by Representative Robinson, seconded by Representative Byrd, and carried to **ALLOCATE \$250,000 FOR PROJECT ARRIBA IN THE FY 2012 BUDGET, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEIR FEET WILL BE HELD TO THE FIRE TO PROVE THAT THEY HAVE IMPROVED THEIR PRIVATE FUND RAISING DOLLARS. THE MOTION FAILED.**

AYES: Representatives Lilly, Byrd, and Robinson

NAYS: Representatives Acosta, Noe, Holguin, Ortega, and Niland

4th MOTION – PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Motion made by Representative Holguin, seconded by Representative Acosta, and unanimously carried to **AUTHORIZE \$250,000 FOR PROJECT ARRIBA AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THEM FOR \$125,000 TO BE GIVEN TO THEM NOW AND \$125,000 CONTINGENT ON NEW PRIVATE FUND RAISING DOLLARS, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NEXT YEAR THERE WILL BE A DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR MATCH FOR CITY FUNDS. NO CITY FUNDS SHOULD BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND 6 MONTHS BRIEFING TO COUNCIL ON FUND USAGE IS REQUIRED.**

5TH MOTION – PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Motion made by Representative Byrd, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Lilly, and unanimously carried to **AUTHORIZE \$40,000 FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESERVES TO THE PROJECT TO CREATE A ROBUST PROJECT IN THE TARGETED AREAS.**

6TH MOTION – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Motion made by Representative Niland, seconded by Representative Ortega, and carried to **DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO UPDATE THE STUDY ON OUTSOURCING THE CITY OWNED LANDFILLS AND THE OPERATION OF THEM.**

AYES: Representatives Acosta, Robinson, Noe, Holguin, Ortega, and Niland

NAYS: Representatives Lilly and Byrd

7TH MOTION – PARKS AND RECREATIONAL

Motion made by Representative Noe, seconded by Representative Byrd, and unanimously carried to **DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO INVESTIGATE WAYS TO INCREASE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE PARKS BY \$200,000 FOR CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE.**

8TH MOTION – INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES

Motion made by Representative Niland, seconded by Representative Byrd, and carried to **DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO BEGIN THE EXPLORATORY STAGE TO DETERMINE HOW TO IMPLEMENT A TOLL AT THE BRIDGE OF THE AMERICAS, AND TOLLING THE PORTION OFF THE BRIDGE THAT TXDOT OWNS.**

AYES: Representatives Lilly, Byrd, Acosta, Noe, Ortega, and Niland

NAYS: Representative Holquin
ABSTAIN: Representative Robinson

9TH MOTION – INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES

Motion made by Representative Ortega, seconded by Representative Niland, and carried to **AUTHORIZE A 50 CENT INCREASE TO PASSENGER AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES SOUTHBOUND TO RAISE \$2.1 MILLION IN NEW REVENUE TO BE OFFERED TO THE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FOR A FORMAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY TO ACCOMPLISH ACCEPTABLE BRIDGE STAFFING AND INITIATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

AYES: Representatives Lilly, Byrd, Acosta, Noe, Ortega, and Niland
NAYS: Representative Robinson and Holguin

10TH MOTION – EMPLOYEE PARKING

Motion made by Representative Holguin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Lilly, and carried to **NOT TO CHARGE FOR EMPLOYEE PARKING.**

AYES: Representatives Lilly, Acosta, Robinson, Holguin, Ortega, and Niland
NAYS: Representatives Byrd and Noe

11TH MOTION – MUNICIPAL COURT PARKING

Motion made by Representative Ortega, seconded by Representative Acosta, and unanimously carried to **DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO INVESTIGATE ON STREET PARKING FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT STAFF AND TO WORK WITH THE REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY TO INCORPORATE THIS ISSUE INTO THEIR PLANS.**

12TH MOTION – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Motion made by Representative Byrd, seconded by Representative Acosta, to **CONTINUE TO SET ASIDE IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET \$100,000 FOR MHMR. THE MOTION FAILED.**

AYES: Representatives Byrd, Acosta, and Noe
NAYS: Representatives Lilly, Robinson, Holguin, Ortega, and Niland

13TH MOTION – PARKS MAINTENANCE

Motion made by Representative Byrd, seconded by Representative Acosta, and carried to **INCREASE THE PARKS MAINTENANCE BUDGET BY \$300,000 IN THE GENERAL FUND.**

AYES: Representatives Lilly, Byrd, Acosta, Robinson, and Ortega
NAYS: Representatives Noe, Holguin, and Niland

14TH MOTION – LIBRARY

Motion made by Representative Byrd, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Lilly, and carried to **ADD \$400,000 TO THE LIBRARY BOOK BUDGET.**

AYES: Mayor Cook and Representatives Lilly, Byrd, Acosta, Robertson
NAYS: Representatives Noe, Holguin, Ortega, and Niland
The Mayor broke the tie, voting aye.

15TH MOTION – DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Motion made by Representative Byrd, seconded by Representative Acosta, and carried to **ADD \$500,000 TO THE STREET DEPARTMENT BUDGET: RESTRIPPING, AND SLURRY SEAL, POTHOLES.**

AYES: Mayor Cook and Representatives Lilly, Byrd, Acosta, Robertson

NAYS: Representatives Noe, Holguin, Ortega, and Niland
The Mayor broke the tie, voting aye.

16TH MOTION – EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT BUDGET

Motion made by Representative Byrd, seconded by Representative Ortega, and carried to **ADD \$500,000 TO THE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT BUDGET.**

AYES: Representatives Lilly, Byrd, Acosta, Robinson, Ortega and Niland

NAYS: Representative Noe and Holguin

.....
Motion made by Representative Niland, seconded by Representative Ortega, and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting at 7:13 p.m.
.....

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk