JOHN 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
RACHEL QUINTANA, DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7
BETO O'ROURKE, DISTRICT 8

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE – INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
City Hall Building, #2 Civic Center Plaza
City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Thursday, February 11, 2010
10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of Minutes for the Intergovernmental Affairs Legislative Review Committee Meeting of September 17, 2009.
3. Discussion and action regarding proposed State Legislative agenda.
   [City Attorney's Office, Taylor Moreno, (915) 541-4304]
4. Discussion and action regarding proposed Federal Legislative agenda.
   [City Attorney's Office, Taylor Moreno, (915) 541-4304]
5. Adjournment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Legislative Review Committee of the City of El Paso may retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss and take action on any of the following: (The items listed below are matter of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the Economic and Community Development Legislative Review Committee of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on the agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.)

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY
Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS
Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS
Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES
Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: This is a meeting of a legislative review committee of the El Paso City Council. The committee ordinarily consists of 4 or 5 Council members for purposes of establishing a quorum and the voting membership on the committee. However, any other member of the City Council may, on an ad hoc basis, join the meeting and participate in the discussions.

Sign language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Request must be made to this department at a minimum of 24 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting.

Copies of this agenda will be provided in Braille, large print or audio tape upon request. Request must be made a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting.

Item 1. Call to order.

The Legislative Review Committee met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. Chairman John F. Cook present and presiding and the following members answered roll call: Beto O'Rourke, Emma Acosta, and Carl Robinson. Council Member Acosta left the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Also present were Mayor's Chief of Staff and Director of Governmental Affairs Sylvia B. Firth, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator Taylor Moreno, and Oscar Padilla, Director of Policy & Programs, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

Item 2. Approval of Minutes for the Intergovernmental Affairs Legislative Review Committee Meeting of September 17, 2009.

Motion made by Committee Member O'Rourke, seconded by Committee Member Robinson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Item 3. Discussion and action regarding proposed State Legislative agenda.

Ms. Moreno began with the staff recommendations and recommendations by the various Legislative Review Committees for changes and additions to the state agenda.

Committee Member O'Rourke requested that additional language be added to the transit section to clarify that funding be given specifically for transit projects as well as ensure there is more local control.

Chairman Cook requested that the recommendation for vehicle registration fees be included in an overall statement aimed at enacting a local option transportation tax with voter approval.

Committee Member Robinson suggested that the request for funding for a visitors center at Franklin Mountain State Park be included for Council consideration. Committee Member O'Rourke requested that items pertaining to the acquisition of land for purposes of creating new trails be prioritized at the top.

Discussion arose around "buy back" programs for renewable energy. Ms. Firth suggested that language be changed to request that legislation be sought in order to require the State to make the change.

Committee Member Robinson discussed a recent law that allowed for tax relief for veterans and asked that legislation be considered to assist cities who would lose revenue as a result of the new legislation. Ms. Firth recommended that we consider supporting an initiative by the Texas Municipal League (TML) to allow for tax exemptions to be granted by municipalities at a specified dollar amount in lieu of a percentage of taxable value.

In discussion about the Government Land Office, Committee Member O'Rourke requested that the item be elevated to a higher priority. Ms. Firth mentioned that the City could seek legislation to require notice and coordination with municipalities by the Government Land Office prior to leasing or selling land and compliance with local zoning and development standards. She also mentioned that she would discuss this with TML.

All changes were accepted. See last page of these set of minutes (page #3) for final motion.

Item 4. Discussion and action regarding proposed Federal Legislative agenda.

Ms. Moreno discussed the recommendations by staff and the items discussed at previous LRC meetings.

In discussion about international ports of entry, Committee Member O'Rourke requested that language be included to request that the number of lanes utilized on the international bridges be maximized. Discussion between Chairman Cook and Committee Member O'Rourke resulted in the request to elevate the items focusing on technology to ensure our federal delegation was aware of the City's desire to be the location for a pilot project.

Committee Members O'Rourke and Robinson requested additional information about the request from the El Paso Police Department for Data System Interoperability and E-ticket System.

Ms. Firth recommended that additional wording be added to the public safety grant section to take into consideration growth due to military installations, cost saving measures taken, and location on the international border.

Committee Member O'Rourke suggested that the area focused on high speed rail be revisited to look at shorter, more realistic projects. He mentioned that Representative Ortega might have information that he would want to share in a future Council meeting.

During discussion on the violence in Mexico, Chairman Cook suggested that the item pertaining to Mexico being prioritized as a foreign policy priority be moved to the top. Committee Member O'Rourke requested that work begin on the national campaign item as well as the deportation of Mexican nationals to Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México. Ms. Firth mentioned that we reach out to Congressman Reyes.

Ms. Firth suggested that the items under the Comprehensive Mobility Plan be deleted from the agenda due to the federal delegation having the information from previous meetings.

Committee Member Robinson requested that the Veterans Administration be added to the section focused on military affairs as they are in need of additional funding to carry out services for the veterans in the El Paso area.

All changes were accepted. See last page of these set of minutes (page #3) for final motion.

Motion made by Committee Member O'Rourke, seconded by Committee Member Robinson to accept all changes suggested throughout the meeting.

AYES:	Chairman Cook, Committee Members O'Rourke and Robinson
NAYS:	None
NOT PRESENT:	Committee Member Acosta

Item 5. Adjournment

Motion made by Committee Member O'Rourke, seconded by Committee Member Robinson and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting at 11:32 p.m.

John F. Cook
Chairman