

3 AUG 2026

Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick

All Councilors attended the 3 Aug 2026 meeting: Stephanie Telles – District 1, Joaquin Baca – District 2, Klarissa Peña – District 3, Brook Bassan – District 4, Dan Lewis – District 5 (excused for the last part of the meeting), Nichole Rogers – District 6, Tammy Fiebelkorn – District 7, Dan Champine – District 8, Renée Grout, District 9

General Information:

At the Aug 3 meeting, public comment time was limited to one minute per speaker. Twenty-three names were called for the General Public Comment period which began at 8:20pm. There were seven no-shows. One of the speakers commented that he had watched all the meetings from this year and made a recommendation that the Council limit meeting agendas to prevent late meetings. Indeed, this Aug 3 meeting continued until 12:24am. Toward the end, there was procedural confusion as the Councilors became fatigued and several commented on their tiredness.

Prior to the Public Comment Period, the Councilors spent twenty-six minutes in Executive Session, leaving the room to discuss a personnel matter pertaining to the Inspector General's investigation of the City Attorney.

Proposed Ballot Measure to Increase Gross Receipts Tax – Again [R-26-58](#)

A proposal sponsored by Council President Peña to present a ballot measure to the voters increasing the GRT was removed from the agenda by a vote of seven (Baca, Champine, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis Rogers, Telles) to two (Bassan, Peña). The proposed measure would have asked voters to approve a GRT increase to fund community enhancement projects and municipal operations, including employee wages. This proposal varied only slightly from a ballot measure that was voted down at the 15 Jun meeting ([R-26-3](#)) and a proposed ordinance that was voted down at the 16 Mar meeting ([O-26-16](#)).

Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) – Sawmill Hotel; Vote Deferred – Again [O-26-38](#)

At the 3 Aug meeting, the Council voted again to postpone consideration of a \$40M Industrial Revenue Bond for Dreamcatcher Sawmill Hotel. Public commenters included employees of the developer (Sun Capital Hotels) touting them as a good employer and patrons of the developer's other hotels who praised them as a good business partner. Opponents objected to the lack of a traffic study and the height of the proposed building (5-stories). Councilor Baca proposed a postponement of the vote until the 17 Aug Council meeting to allow the developer to meet with the neighborhood residents.

Proposed Ballot Measure to Amend City Charter re: Appointment of City Attorney and City Clerk [P-26-2](#)

The City Council passed a proposal and related resolution to place an amendment to the City Charter on the November ballot. The amendment makes changes to the appointment, removal, and independence of the City Attorney and City Clerk. The amendment

- adds a statement that the City Attorney and City Clerk are independent of, but accountable to, the Mayor and the Council,
- specifies a timeline for the Mayor's appointment of the positions: 90 days,
- provides that the Mayor appoints, confirmed by two-thirds of the Council,
- limits the time an interim may serve: 270 days,
- Mayor can terminate with affirmative vote of five members of the council,
- Council may terminate with vote of seven members, and
- Mayor or Council (seven members) can terminate an interim with notice to other body.

Councilors voting in favor of the proposed ballot measure: Baca, Champine, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis, and Telles. Councilors voting against: Bassan, Peña, and Rogers.