

**SPECIAL MEETING
of the
CITY OF RIALTO
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rialto was held in the City Council Chambers located at 150 South Palm Avenue, Rialto, California 92376 on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

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This meeting was called by the presiding officer of the Rialto City Council in accordance with the provisions of **Government Code §54956** of the State of California.

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CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joe Baca called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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OPEN SESSION

The roll was called, and the following were present: Mayor Joe Baca, Mayor Pro Tem Andy Carrizales, Council Member Ed Scott, and Council Member Karla Perez.

Also, present were Interim City Manager G. Michael Milhiser, City Attorney Eric Vail, City Treasurer Edward Carrillo, and City Clerk Barbara McGee.

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**Pledge of Allegiance and
Invocation**

City Treasurer Carrillo gave the pledge of allegiance.

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Pastor Harry Bratton with Greater Faith Grace Bible Church.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Sanchez addressed the City Council and asked the City Council to do the right thing and to appoint the next highest vote-getter.

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Linda Chapman addressed the City Council to give her comments and asked the City Council to consider appointing a candidate who ran for City Council because they are the ones who paid their dues.

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Charmaine Chapman Morehead addressed the City Council to give her comments and asked to consider the next highest vote-getter. She believes Rafael Trujillo should not be considered.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Brenda Parker addressed the City Council and asked that the City Council honor the next highest vote-getter for the next Council seat.

She stated that the next highest vote-getter proposal is not only for this election, but for future elections to garner, harvest, secure and maintain the integrity of the City. She asked that the City Council consider Ana Gonzalez for the seat.

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NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 1

Interview candidate applications to fill the vacant council seat; deliberate on the candidates, nominate candidates, and take action to appoint a person to fill the vacant position

Barbara McGee, City Clerk, presented staff report to Request City Council to interview candidates who submitted applications to fill the vacant council seat. City Council may also interview additional persons designated by City Council. City Council to deliberate on the candidates, nominate candidates, and take action to appoint a person to fill the vacant position. In the alternative City Council may conduct any of these functions at a subsequent Council meeting within the statutory 60-day period.

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Mayor Baca explained the process and reminded the candidates that they have two minutes for opening statement, questions by Council Members, and two minutes for closing statement.

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Fifteen Applications were received by the deadline of January 2, 2025.

The applicants are in the order they were received.

1. Edward A. Montoya Jr.
2. Mike Story
3. Javier Gomez
4. Josef B. Britt
5. Kelvin D. Moore
6. Vickie Davis
7. Ivan Ramirez
8. Elvis Garcia (No show)
9. Rocio Martinez
10. Rafael Trujillo Jr.
11. Guadalupe Camacho (ill)
12. Jessica Justine Haro
13. Joshua Augustus
14. Lameisha George
15. Ana Gonzalez

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Motion by Council Member Carrizales, second by Council Member Perez and carried by a 4-0 vote to a take a recess.

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A recess was taken at 8:13 p.m.

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ITEM 1

Interview candidate applications to fill the vacant council seat; deliberate on the candidates, nominate candidates, and take action to appoint a person to fill the vacant position

The City Council returned from recess at 8:18 p.m. with all members present.

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Mayor Baca stated there were fifteen candidates. Candidate Guadalupe Camacho was ill and did not show up but did submit her resume.

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Council Member Scott stated that Candidate No. 8, Elvis Garcia and Candidate No. 11 Guadalupe Camacho did not show up. Two are not present.

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Mayor Baca stated it will be open for discussion to determine the top three.

The alternative would be to select the top three or five and return to select the final candidate.

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City Attorney Vail stated the City Council has a lot of latitude in the way that it can be arranged. The list can be shortened, a candidate can be selected tonight or deliberate. It is up to the City Council to decide.

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Mayor Baca opened the Item for discussion.

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Council Member Scott stated there was a very good candidate selection list. Unfortunately, only one can be selected. There is potential for a lot of Commissioners or City employees.

There are a lot of people interested in the City that should be considered for Commission vacancies, especially in the Planning Commission.

He is very pleased with the candidates. They have very extensive resumes. It was an excellent list of individuals.

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Mayor Pro Tem Carrizales stated he had the same sentiments as Council Member Scott. It was a group of great candidates. Everyone was highly qualified. Whichever candidate the City Council decides, will work well and be a good public servant for the City of Rialto.

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ITEM 1

Interview candidate applications to fill the vacant council seat; deliberate on the candidates, nominate candidates, and take action to appoint a person to fill the vacant position

Council Member Perez stated the decision is difficult. Everyone has great experience and knowledge and invested in the community. She would decide to select the top five, because it is a difficult decision to make. She would like input from the rest of the City Council.

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Mayor Baca thanked all 15 candidates who submitted their applications and those that personally came in to interview.

The candidates were excellent and gave great input. The City needs individuals who are willing to collaborate, have transparency, integrity and are willing to move this City forward.

He asked how the City Council should proceed to come up with a conclusion.

In reference to the Commissions, the City Council will be able to provide input as to who will be selected to the various Commission vacancies. It's important in both areas, so the work can commence in the interest of the City.

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Council Member Scott recommended moving forward with an appointment tonight.

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Mayor Baca asked if there was a recommendation for an appointment.

He asked if there is any objection to selecting a candidate tonight.

Since there is no objection, the process of selecting an appointment will begin tonight.

He asked if there are any recommendations from the City Council.

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Council Member Perez nominated Edward Montoya, Jr.

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Mayor Pro Tem Carrizales second the motion.

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Mayor Baca asked if there were any other nominations from the City Council.

There were no other nominations.

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Motion by Council Member Perez, second by Mayor Pro Tem Carrizales and carried by a 4-0 vote to appoint Edward A. Montoya, Jr. to fill the vacant Council seat.

The vote was AYES: Mayor Baca, Mayor Pro Tem Carrizales, Council Member Scott, Council Member Perez.

NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

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Mayor Baca stated he would have preferred to have the person with the highest vote-getter, but there was no process in place at this point. He hopes a process is developed soon.

He stated that Edward Montoya will be sworn in at the next City Council meeting.

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City Clerk McGee stated the swear-in will take place prior to the next City Council meeting.

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City Attorney Vail stated that the City Clerk can perform the oath at any time prior to the next City Council meeting.

Rialto resident and registered voter verification has to be done. Once verified, the oath can be performed at any point after so he can be ready for the next City Council meeting.

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City Clerk McGee stated reference checks need to take place first.

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Mayor Baca asked Edward Montoya, Jr. to the podium to say a few words.

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Edward A. Montoya, Jr approached the podium and thanked the City Council for considering him and being allowed the opportunity. They will not be disappointed.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Carrizales, second Council Member Perez and carried by a 4-0 vote to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 8:33 p.m.

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Joe Baca

MAYOR JOE BACA

ATTEST:

Barbara A. McGee

CITY CLERK BARBARA A. McGEE