

Republic of the Philippines
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
CITY OF SURIGAO

MINUTES OF THE 42nd REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE
CITY OF SURIGAO HELD AT THE SP SESSION HALL ON OCTOBER 24, 2024.

PRESENT:

- Hon. Alfonso S. Casurra - City Vice Mayor (Presiding)
- Hon. Cacer R. Azarcon - City Councilor
- Hon. Sebastian Ric A. Nagas - City Councilor
- Hon. Joenil B. Aldonza - City Councilor
- Hon. Joel E. Tinio - City Councilor
- Hon. Joshua Emilio S. Geli - City Councilor
- Hon. Baltazar C. Abian - City Councilor
- Hon. Noel Christian G. Catre, Jr. - City Councilor
- Hon. Joseph Joey S. Yuipco - City Councilor
- Hon. Karl Duane A. Casurra - City Councilor
- Hon. Florenillo B. Ravelo - Liga ng mga Barangay President
- Hon. Jenelyn Edulzura - SK Federation President

ABSENT:

- Hon. Jose Expeditus B. Bayana - City Councilor (On Leave)

The session was called to order at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of October 24, 2024.

OPENING PRAYER

HON. JOSEPH JOEY S. YUIPCO:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts,
seeking Your guidance and wisdom as we gather for this session.

May Your presence fill this space and inspire our discussions.
Help us to listen with open minds and speak with kindness, ensuring that our
decisions reflect Your love and purpose. Bless our time together,
and may it bring us closer to one another and to You.

In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SINGING OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM

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ROLL CALL

The roll call was conducted with all the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod listed herein as present in attendance, and thereafter a **QUORUM** was declared.

PERUSAL AND APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Before the approval of the Minutes, Sanggunian Secretary, Ms. Edna B. Siega read the resolutions that were passed and approved in the previous regular session.

Thereafter, Honorable Joel E. Tinio was recognized and presented a motion for the approval of the Minutes of the previous regular session, jointly seconded by Honorable Joseph Joey S. Yuipco and Honorable Sebastian Ric A. Nagas, it was unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Regular Session held on October 17, 2024, re: Resolution Nos. 237-240 be as it is hereby approved.

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MATTERS OF INFORMATION

HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/PRESIDING OFFICER:

There will be an activity of the city tomorrow and we are being, the Members of the Council are invited to be there at 5:00 o'clock at Battle of Surigao Memorial at 5:00 o'clock and the Mayor is requesting that we will be wearing our barong and the employees also are being requested to be there in the appropriate uniform that are being prescribed for tomorrow's activity.

We have already the Ambassador of the Australian government just arrived at 12:30 and the Deputy Ambassador also of Japan is here already. And the families of the Australians who fought in the battle are already here. Some of our Veterans are also having their Veterans forum at the Cultural Center right now and tonight we also have the welcome dinner for all our guests and tomorrow will be the activity and thereafter those who would like join in going to Dinagat. The weather has greatly improved and there was, the decision yesterday to cancel the Dinagat activity but the Ambassador of Australia insisted that they will have to go. So, everything has already been properly arranged and coordinated for tomorrow on the next day activities.

INCLUSION, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On motion of Honorable Sebastian Ric A. Nagas, seconded by Honorable Joseph Joey S. Yuipco, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, to approve, as it is hereby approved, the agenda of the 42nd Regular Session of the Sangguniang Panlungsod dated 24 October 2024.

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FIRST READING:

- *None*

REFERRAL TO COMMITTEES:

A. Committee on Appropriations —

- Letter from City Budget Officer, submitting the Supplemental Budget No.1 for CY 2024 of Barangays Alang-alang, Lisondra and Talisay, all of this city.
- Indorsement from the City Mayor, forwarding to the City Council the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDDRMC) Resolution No. 02, Series of 2024, "A Resolution Approving and Endorsing to the Sangguniang Panlungsod for Adoption of the City Risk Reduction Management Investment and Action Plan for CY 2025 of the City of Surigao in the Amount of One Hundred Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php100,350,000.00)"
- Indorsement from the City Mayor, submitting the Supplemental Budget No. 2 for CY 2024 in the amount of Three Hundred Seventy Five Million Pesos (P375,000,000.00).

B. Committee on Health and Sanitation —

- Indorsement from the City Mayor, forwarding to the City Council the following Local Health Board (LHB) Resolutions:
 1. Local Health Board Resolution No. 2, Series of 2024 "A Resolution requesting the Sangguniang Panlungsod to increase the Honorarium of the City-LGU charged Barangay Health Workers (BHW), Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS), Barangay Sanitation Inspectors (BSI) and Barangay Blood Coordinating Council (BBCC)".
 2. Local Health Board Resolution No. 3, Series of 2024 "A Resolution requesting the Sangguniang Panlungsod for the Local Adoption of Republic Act No. 11148, known as the "Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act" and Executive Order No. 51, Series of 1986, known as the "National Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, Breastmilk Supplements and Other Related Products."

C. Committee on Environment and Natural Resources / Committee on Rules—

- Indorsement from the City Mayor, forwarding the Barangay Ordinance No. 01, Series of 2024 of Barangay Ipil, entitled "An Ordinance Imposing A Fifty Peso (P50.00) Environmental and Sanitation Fee Per Cottage To All Local and Foreign Tourists Availing the Services of Beach Cottages and Resorts at Ipil Pebble Beach, Barangay Ipil, Surigao City".

D. Committee on Rules—

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- Indorsement from the City Mayor, requesting the City Council to pass a resolution authorizing the City Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) for the Payroll Servicing Agreement.

E. Committee on Transportation, Communication and Utilities—

- Indorsement from the Tricycle Trisikad Franchising Office, endorsing the One Hundred Fourteen (114) applications for the tricycle-for-hire franchise classified as One Hundred One (101) Extension of MTOP Validity (renewal), Eight (8) Substitution of Unit and Extension of MTOP Validity (Renewal/Amendment of Franchise) and Five (5) Substitution of Unit (Amendment of Franchise)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Honorable Azarcon was recognized.

HON. CACEL R. AZARCON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, good afternoon. Good afternoon to all the Members of this Council. The Committee on Rules, I have two matters to report. First is,

**COMMITTEE ON RULES
COMMITTEE REPORT**

SUBJECT:

Endorsement from the office of the City Mayor requesting the City Council to pass a resolution to include MS. JOCELYN E. MONTEROS, the newly reinstated City Accountant, as one of the official signatories for the Local Government Unit of Surigao with the Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines.

FINDINGS/ACTION TAKEN:

It appears from the records which were submitted during the committee hearing held on October 18, 2024 that Ms. Jocelyn E. Monteros was the City Accountant of the LGU of Surigao City before she was removed from her office on 2017 by virtue of a case filed against her before the Office of the Ombudsman. She elevated her case up until it reached the Supreme Court by way of Petition for Review on Certiorari which reversed her dismissal in a decision dated February 27, 2023.

Accordingly, an Entry of Judgement was issued by the Supreme Court in a case entitled Jocelyn Eleazar Monteros, Petitioner vs. Task Force Abono-Field Investigation Office, Office of the Ombudsman, G.R.No. 258914 dated July 12, 2024.

The Supreme Court ordered her reinstatement to her former position as City Accountant of Surigao City without loss of seniority rights and entitling her of all back salaries and benefits accrued to her from the time she got dismissed from the service until her reinstatement.

By virtue thereof, the City Mayor Pablo Yves L. Dumlao II issued a reinstatement order dated September 27, 2024 in compliance of the aforesaid decision of the Supreme Court which

229 *thereby restored Ms. Jocelyn E. Monteros as City Accountant effective September 30, 2024.*
 230 *Her back salaries and benefits were likewise ordered released pursuant to Rule 14 of the*
 231 *2017 Rules on Administrative Cases of the Civil Service Commission based on the budgetary*
 232 *allocation to be made available for the said purpose.*

233

234 **RECOMMENDATION:**

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236 *The Committee on Rules hereby recommends for the passage of a resolution to include MS.*
 237 *JOCELYN E. MONTEROS, the newly reinstated City Accountant of the Local Government Unit of*
 238 *Surigao City as one of the official signatories for the Local Government of Surigao with the*
 239 *Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines.*

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241 *May I therefore move for the adoption of our committee report, Mr. Chairman.*

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243 The motion to adopt the committee report was approved. Thereafter, a motion was
 244 presented and approved, to wit:

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246 **RESOLUTION NO. 243 - 2024**

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248 **A RESOLUTION INCLUDING MS. JOCELYN E. MONTEROS, NEWLY REINSTATED**
 249 **CITY ACCOUNTANT, AS ONE OF THE OFFICIAL SIGNATORIES FOR THE LOCAL**
 250 **GOVERNMENT UNIT OF SURIGAO CITY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE**
 251 **PHILIPPINES AND LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

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254 **WHEREAS**, the Sangguniang Panlungsod was in receipt of an indorsement from the City
 255 Mayor, denominated as Urgent, requesting to the City Council to pass a resolution to include Jocelyn
 256 E. Monteros, the newly reinstated City Accountant, as one of the official signatories for the Local
 257 Government Unit of Surigao with the Development Bank of the Philippines and Landbank of the
 258 Philippines, for immediate favorable action and approval;

259

260 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Jocelyn E. Monteros served as the City Accountant of Surigao City prior to
 261 her removal in 2017, following a case filed with the Office of the Ombudsman;

262

263 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Monteros pursued her case to the Supreme Court, which ruled on February
 264 27, 2023, to reverse her dismissal under G.R. No. 258914, thereby ordering her reinstatement with
 265 full retention of seniority rights and entitlement to all back salaries and benefits accrued during her
 266 dismissal period;

267

268 **WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court issued an Entry of Judgment on July 12, 2024, in the case
 269 titled Jocelyn Eleazar Monteros, Petitioner vs. Task Force Abono-Field Investigation Office, Office of
 270 the Ombudsman, G.R. No. 258914, affirming Ms. Monteros' reinstatement;

271

272 **WHEREAS**, in compliance with this decision, City Mayor Pablo Yves L. Dumlao II issued a
 273 reinstatement order dated September 27, 2024, restoring Ms. Jocelyn E. Monteros to her former
 274 position as City Accountant, effective September 30, 2024, and instructed the release of her back
 275 salaries and benefits as provided under Rule 14 of the 2017 Rules on Administrative Cases in the
 276 Civil Service Commission, subject to available budget allocations;

277

278 **WHEREAS**, the Committee on Rules has reviewed the findings and recommends the
 279 inclusion of Ms. Jocelyn E. Monteros as an official signatory for the Local Government Unit of Surigao
 280 City with the Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines;

281

282 **NOW THEREFORE**, on motion of Honorable Cacer R. Azarcon seconded by Honorable
 283 Joseph Joey S. Yuipco, it was unanimously

284

285 **RESOLVED:** To pass a resolution including Ms. Jocelyn E. Monteros, newly reinstated City
 286 Accountant, as one of the official signatories for the Local Government Unit of Surigao City with the
 287 Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines.

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289 **RESOLVED FURTHER:** That copies of this resolution be furnished Honorable City Mayor
 290 Pablo Yves L. Dumlao II, City Accounting Office, Development Bank of the Philippines, and Land
 291 Bank of the Philippines, for their information and guidance.

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295 Honorable Azarcon continued.

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297 **HON. CACEL R. AZARCON:**

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299 *The next,*

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**COMMITTEE ON RULES
COMMITTEE REPORT**

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304 **SUBJECT:**

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306 *This pertains to the Local Finance Committee Resolution No. 22, Series of 2024 entitled "A*
 307 *RESOLUTION FAVORABLY ENJOINING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF SURIGAO CITY TO*
 308 *COMPLY WITH GSIS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 055, SERIES OF 2024 PERTAINING TO*
 309 *THE UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC COLLECTION FOR AGENCY REMITTANCES".*

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312 **FINDINGS/ACTION TAKEN:**

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315 *The said resolution of the Local Finance Committee is simply to comply with the GSIS Memorandum*
 316 *Circular No. 055, Series of 2024 in relation to Republic Act No. 8792 or the Electronic Commerce*
 317 *Act and Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service*
 318 *Delivery Act of 2018 which were all designed for the full utilization of the Electronic Collection for*
 319 *Agency Remittances.*

320

321

322 **RECOMMENDATION:**

323

324 *The Committee on Rules hereby recommend for the passage of a resolution adopting the aforesaid*
 325 *Local Finance Committee Resolution No. 22, Series of 2024.*

326

327 *May I move therefore, Mr. Chairman for the adoption of our committee report.*

328

329 The motion to adopt the committee report was approved. Thereafter, a motion was
 330 presented and approved, to wit:

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RESOLUTION NO. 244 - 2024

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335 **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL FINANCE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 22,**
 336 **SERIES OF 2024, "A RESOLUTION FAVORABLY ENJOINING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
 337 **UNIT OF SURIGAO CITY TO COMPLY WITH GSIS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 055,**
 338 **SERIES OF 2024 PERTAINING TO THE UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC COLLECTION FOR**
 339 **AGENCY REMITTANCES."**

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342 **WHEREAS**, the Sangguniang Panlungsod was in receipt of an indorsement from the City
 343 Mayor, Local Finance Committee Resolution No. 22, series of 2024 entitled "A resolution favorably
 344 enjoining the Local Government Unit of Surigao City to comply with GSIS Memorandum Circular No.
 345 055, Series of 2024 pertaining to the utilization of electronic collection for agency remittances.";

346
 347 **WHEREAS**, GSIS Memorandum Circular No. 055, Series of 2024 enjoins heads of
 348 constitutional bodies, bureaus and agencies of the National Government, Local Government Units,
 349 Government Owned and Controlled Corporations, State Universities and Colleges, and all others
 350 concerned pertaining to the use of electronic data messages, electronic documents and technology
 351 in performing government functions such as, but not limited to, collection and payment;

352
 353 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 8792 or the "Electronic Commerce Act," mandating all
 354 government agencies to provide for the method and manner of payment or settlement of fees and
 355 other obligations to the government and to require and/or accept payments and issue receipts
 356 acknowledging such payments through systems, using electronic data messages or electronic
 357 documents;

358
 359 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11032 or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient
 360 Government Service Delivery Act of 2018," mandating acceptance of digital payments in government
 361 collections to promote efficient delivery of government services, expedite transactions, boost revenue
 362 and reduce the risk of graft and corruption;

363
 364 **WHEREAS**, it is recognized that there is a vital need for enhanced convenience, security
 365 and efficiency of agency remittances.

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 367 **WHEREAS**, the Committee on Rules has thoroughly reviewed Local Finance Committee
 368 Resolution No. 22, Series of 2024, and recommends its adoption;

369
 370 **NOW THEREFORE**, on motion of Honorable Cacel R. Azarcon seconded by Honorable
 371 Joseph Joey S. Yuipco, it was unanimously

372
 373 **RESOLVED**: To pass a resolution including Ms. Jocelyn E. Monteros, newly reinstated City
 374 Accountant, as one of the official signatories for the Local Government Unit of Surigao City with the
 375 Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines.

376
 377 **RESOLVED FURTHER**: That copies of this resolution be furnished Honorable City Mayor
 378 Pablo Yves L. Dumlao II, City Accounting Office, Development Bank of the Philippines, and Land
 379 Bank of the Philippines, for their information and guidance.

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 384 **1. CALENDAR OF BUSINESS**

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 387 **A. Pending Matters:**

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 - None

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 395 **B. Urgent Matters:**

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 - None

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399 **C. Business of the Day**

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401 Second reading:

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- Proposed ordinance "An Ordinance Creating the Property Management Office under the Office of the City Mayor, Providing Its Duties and Responsibilities, Appropriating Funds Thereof and For Other Purposes."

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408 Honorable Azarcon was recognized and requested to **SUSPEND THE RULES** to allow the
409 resource persons to assist him in answering possible queries from the august body.

410

411 **HON. CACEL R. AZARCON:**

412 *The first proposed ordinance Mr. Chairman, which was scheduled for second reading, is an*
413 *ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Creating the property management Office under the Office of the*
414 *City Mayor, Providing Its Duties and Responsibilities, Appropriating Funds Thereof and For Other*
415 *Purposes". The proposed ordinance Mr. Chairman emanated from the office of the City Mayor. The*
416 *Executive Department would like to pass this ordinance Mr. Chairman for the very purpose of proper*
417 *handling and effective record management of all properties of the city in compliance with the existing*
418 *Local Policies Rules and Regulations. Basically the ordinance is aimed at creating with Property*
419 *Management Office for the city government of Surigao Mr. Chairman.*

420

421 Honorable Azarcon then proceeded to go over each section of the Proposed Ordinance.

422 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/ PRESIDING OFFICER:**

423

424 *Anyone who would make their comments? Now my take here is has the Budget Officer taken*
425 *into consideration the totality of the items, such that you've created will not go beyond our PS*
426 *limitations?*

427

428 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO/ CITY BUDGET OFFICER:**

429

430 *Good afternoon Mr. Chair, good afternoon to the member of this august body. Yes Mr.*
431 *Chairman, the Office of the City Budget Office I mean the City Budget Office has already reviewed*
432 *the proposed increase in our annual budget under the Personnel Service Section and we are already*
433 *taken into consideration the limit which is 45% of our NTA and currently we are still on below 40%.*
434 *So we could accommodate the salaries of the positions created under this office Mr. Chair.*

435 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/ PRESIDING OFFICER:**

436

437 *Meaning the 40% cap for personnel services which is based on the share of the National*
438 *Tax Allocation. Assuming that we will be filling up this all these seven created positions. Plus*
439 *assuming that all other vacancies are being filled up will not go beyond the 40%?*

440

441 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO/ CITY BUDGET OFFICER:**

442

443 *Yes Mr. Chair. In fact we are still below the 40%, and our limitations until 45% being a*
444 *component city Mr. Chair.*

445 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/ PRESIDING OFFICER:**

446

447 So let that be put on record that even if we will have to appoint all vacant positions plus the
448 creation of this new positions having been filled up the PS limitations at 40% of the NTA (National
449 Tax Allocation) or the IRA will not go beyond the budgetary limitation.

450

451 Honorable Catre was recognized.

452

453 **HON. NOEL CHRISTIAN G. CATRE JR.:**

454

455 Thank you Mr. Chairman, just a clarification actually. If you read the sub paragraph A and B
456 of Section 2. Will this not conflict with the General Services Office?

457

458 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO/ CITY BUDGET OFFICER:**

459

460 Mr. Chair, this is precisely the reason why there is now a need for us to create the Property
461 Management Office so that an office would be given a particular job on focusing on our inventories
462 and assets of the city. Which we are already encountering problem as to reconciliation of book
463 balances and physical assets of the city. This office will focus on the management and recording of
464 our assets, so that the GSO could focus more on their given and specific function. Aside from this
465 also, this has already been the subject of observation from the Commission On Audit that there must
466 be an office that would focus on the inventory. Particularly on the cleansing of our assets, because
467 we still have assets recorded on our books which are already not in actual existence. There is a need
468 for us to cleanse these assets so that we will comply with the COA rules and regulations. Aside from
469 showing the real financial statement or the materiality of our financial statement to the public.

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471 **HON. NOEL CHRISTIAN G. CATRE JR.:**

472

473 Okay, So what about the proper handling of all the properties of the City Government?

474

475 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO/ CITY BUDGET OFFICER:**

476

477 As to functionality it will remain of the General Services Office, but as to recording and
478 reconciliation that will be the part of Property Management Office. In this office there would be proper
479 delineation of function between GSO and PMO. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

480

481 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/ PRESIDING OFFICER:**

482

483 You are saying therefore that this office is more of the property custodian, the documents
484 custodian? Such that if a property of the Local Government Unit such as this service vehicles which
485 is now being handled by the GSO. The vehicle will be assigned to the GSO but the documentation,
486 like the registration, renewal of registration, GSIS registration and so on will now be handle by this
487 office is that what we would like to portray right now?

488

489 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO/ CITY BUDGET OFFICER:**

490

491 Yes, Mr. Chairman.

492 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/ PRESIDING OFFICER:**

493

494 Yes, because I notice that the Local Government Unit has so many vehicles assigned to the
495 departments. But up to now it has not been issued a plate official at that and I do not know why this
496 is so, but that is my observation. I remember when we went to Davao and we were being question
497 because all the Toyota Innova they are the same plate number. Because the plate number were still
498 temporary and the reason that was given to us was up to now the Land Transportation Office has
499 not issued to us government plates. The plates that supposed to be attached to the vehicle itself. So
500 I think this is more urgent on us that they will have an office that will take care of all the documents

501 of the city and it is easy for us now to retrieve and make sure that there is a continuity. The problem
 502 really is from one administration to the next administration nobody is there to handle all
 503 documentations. This will include of course the other assets like the documents that previously the
 504 city has a acquired properties. But when the next administration came, the documents could no
 505 longer be found. That's really the problem that we have to the past years. Any other question? If
 506 none then the sponsor will now have the floor to ... I think it's very clear.

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508 There being no more queries, Honorable Azarcon moved that the Proposed Ordinance be
 509 approved on second reading which was favorably seconded and approved. The Presiding Officer
 510 directed the Secretary to calendar the same on third and final reading on the next regular session.

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- Proposed ordinance "An Ordinance Creating the City Information Technology Office, and Providing Its Task Functions, Personnel and Appropriation Thereof and For Other Purposes.

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Honorable Azarcon again proceeded to go over each section of the Proposed Ordinance.

520 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/ PRESIDING OFFICER:**

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522 Any question, this is quite top-heavy department, I mean is the Budget Officer in a position
 523 to certify as to the availability of funds for the operation of this department. Actually this is a
 524 department, because it is now being headed by a Department Head with the salary grade of 25.
 525 Assuming again that immediately upon its creation by next year we will be filling it up. Will the City
 526 Government still be able to afford and be within the 40% PS limitation in the budget?

527

528 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO/ CITY BUDGET OFFICER:**

529

530 Good afternoon again, in addition to the previous office we are still have room for PS
 531 requirement, because as of today we are still below 40% limit.

532

533 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/ PRESIDING OFFICER:**

534

535 What is that office that you are referring to?

536

537 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO/ CITY BUDGET OFFICER:**

538

539 The previous discussion that we have, the Property Management Office Sir.

540

541 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/PRESIDING OFFICER:**

542

543 Yes. But, again, considering that, we have how many positions here? My worry is, I'm not
 544 against this, but my worry is, uh, during the budget review, can you be in a position to certify that
 545 upon the assumption that we will be filling this up our PS limitations will not go beyond what is
 546 required or rather, what is mandated. We have a limit for...

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548 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO / CITY BUDGET OFFICER/ RESOURCE SPEAKER:**

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550 Yes Sir, that's 45 percent...

551

552 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/PRESIDING OFFICER:**

553

554 *Personnel services. Yes. 45% of the in the NTA. Now, with the first office then this one being*
 555 *a Department Head, would we still be in a position to afford this, that some on the assumption that*
 556 *we will be filling this up, still we are compliant with the 45% PS limitation.*

557

558 **ATTY. JEFFREY P. GALIDO / CITY BUDGET OFFICER/ RESOURCE SPEAKER:**

559

560 *Yes, Sir. Because as of today, we still have a buffer of almost 50 to 70 million, annual,*
 561 *annual, allocation for PS requirement, if ever we will go with the 45% limitation, with that 50 to 70*
 562 *million, allocation, buffer allocation for PS, we could still accommodate more items, especially that*
 563 *this is just one department, the, the department that will accumulate almost 1.1 million for the entire*
 564 *year as annual salaries. Considering also that we will add these other positions that will not consume*
 565 *the buffer of 50 million annual salaries. So, um, we are still on our limit. In fact, we still have a big*
 566 *room for PS requirements, but I suggest that we will not, we will not, uh, reach nearer 45%.*

567

568 *After a thorough discussion with regard the budget for the positions that would be created*
 569 *along with the creation of the office and with the assurance of the City Budget Officer, Honorable*
 570 *Azarcon moved for the approval of the Proposed Ordinance under second reading. The same was*
 571 *favorably seconded and approved and was calendared for third and final reading on the next regular*
 572 *session.*

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- 576 • Proposed ordinance "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 120,
- 577 series of 1997 entitled, "An Ordinance Creating the Office of the
- 578 City Economic Enterprises and for Other Purposes."

579

580 **HON. CACEL R. AZARCON:**

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582 *At present, Mr. Chairman, we have an existing ordinance, Ordinance No. 120, series of 1997.*
 583 *In other words, this ordinance was passed, since, in 1997 pa. So, what the amendatory ordinance,*
 584 *the purpose of this, a mandatory ordinance, is to amend section one, and section two, section three*
 585 *and four, four and 6, 7, 8 of Ordinance No. 120.*

586

587 *Honorable Azarcon again proceeded to go over the proposed amendments on the*
 588 *ordinance.*

589

590 *During the discussion, it was suggested that the general qualifications of a Department Head*
 591 *be added to the proposed ordinance for the position of the General Manager of the Economic*
 592 *Enterprise. Accordingly, it was also suggested that requirement of a Master's Degree for the same*
 593 *position be deleted. The proponent was amenable to these suggestions.*

594

595 *There being no more queries, the proponent moved for the approval of the Proposed*
 596 *Ordinance on Second Reading which was favorably seconded and approved. The same was*
 597 *calendared for third and final reading in the next regular session with the proper amendments.*

598

599

600

- 601 • Proposed ordinance, "An Ordinance Creating The Tricycle-for-Hire
- 602 and Trisikad Franchising Office under the Office of the City
- 603 Mayor, Amending for that Purpose Sections 2 and 3 of Ordinance
- 604 No. 294 Series of 2009, Appropriating Funds Thereof and for Other
- 605 Purposes.

606

607 *Honorable Azarcon proceeded to read the provisions of the previous ordinance which will*
 608 *be deleted. He then read the provision of the amendatory ordinance.*

609

610 The Presiding Officer then requested that the matter be discussed in the Committee as a
611 Whole to which the proponent yielded.

612

613 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/PRESIDING OFFICER:**

614

615 *I am not against this but it would appear that we have first to align this proposed ordinance*
616 *to the existing provisions of the Local Government Code. The Sangguniang Panlungsod is still the*
617 *body that will approve the franchise. Now this office, principally transfers the processing of the*
618 *applications to the Office of the City Mayor, but it has to be discussed in a manner that we will have*
619 *to conform with what has been provided for under the Local Government Code. With your indulgence,*
620 *ladies and gentlemen.*

621

622 **HON. CACEL R. AZARCON:**

623

624 *I will gladly yield to the suggestion of the Honorable Chairman, because I do believe that this*
625 *will involve a deep discussion, Mr. Chairman. Because it will affect a lot of provisions of the Local*
626 *Government Code. Well, I understand the intention of the Executive Department that we have to*
627 *align the intention of the Executive Department with the existing laws and regulations.*

628

629 **HON. ALFONSO S. CASURRA/PRESIDING OFFICER:**

630

631 *Yes, thank you very much for that...yielding to the recommendation of the Chair...we will just*
632 *try to put on hold first the discussion on this for the next regular session. Would that all be alright with*
633 *you, gentlemen and ladies?*

634

635 **HON. CACEL R. AZARCON:**

636

637 *Mr. Chairman, with your suggestion, I think it would be better that we will just refer this matter*
638 *to the Committee as a Whole with you as the Chairman, so that everything will be discussed properly,*
639 *Mr. Chairman.*

640

641 There being no more queries, the resource persons were excused and **RULES ARE**
642 **REINSTATED.**

643

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644

645

646 PRIVILEGE HOUR/SPEECH

647

648

None

649

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651

652 OTHER MATTERS

653

654 Honorable Catre was recognized.

655

656 **HON. NOEL CHRISTIAN G. CATRE, JR.:**

657

658 *I move to pass a resolution supporting Resolution No. 2024-029 of SMWD, Rescinding the*
659 *Joint Venture Agreement of Prime Water due to serious and substantial violations by Prime Water*
660 *of the terms and conditions of the Joint Venture Agreement, Mr. Chairman. May I proceed?*

661

662 **A RECESS** was requested by the Honorable Catre. Thereafter, the **SESSION RESUMED.**

663

664

665 **HON. NOEL CHRISTIAN G. CATRE, JR.:**

666 Yes, Mr. Chairman. A Resolution supporting Resolution No. 2024-029 of SMWD Rescinding
 667 the Joint Venture Agreement with PrimeWater due to serious and substantial violations by
 668 PrimeWater of the terms and conditions of the Joint Venture Agreement.

669
 670 The motion was favorably seconded and approved. To wit:

245

671
 672
 673 **RESOLUTION NO. 245 - 2024**

674
 675 **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-029 OF SMWD**
 676 **RESCINDING THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT WITH PRIMEWATER DUE TO SERIOUS**
 677 **AND SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATIONS BY PRIMEWATER OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS**
 678 **OF THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT.**

679
 680
 681 **WHEREAS**, the then Board of Directors of the Surigao Metropolitan Water District (SMWD)
 682 entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation five years ago;

683
 684 **WHEREAS**, this body learned that the SMWD, through its monitoring unit, has found PrimeWater
 685 Infrastructure Corporation to have not complied with the terms and conditions set forth in the said Joint
 686 Venture Agreement, including but not limited to the following:

- 687
 688 1. *Non-Implementation of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) Projects. PWIC failed to follow the*
 689 *investment projects agreed upon by the parties and included in the Business Plan for the first 5*
 690 *(five) years of the JVA;*
- 691
 692 2. *Service Coverage. PWIC has failed to achieve the anticipated improvements in service coverage*
 693 *with only 45% additional residential connections from the 5,185 target resulting in fewer households*
 694 *being served than expected. No expansion projects have been implemented, and poor service*
 695 *delivery has led to voluntary disconnections.*
- 696
 697 3. *Provision for Continuous Water Supply. Nearly one-third (7 out of 23) barangays in Surigao City*
 698 *have experienced prolonged issues with water supply reliability and pressure, indicating systemic*
 699 *operational inefficiencies and a failure to meet basic service standards as mandated by the JVA.*
 700 *The widespread nature of these issues suggests they are not isolated incidents, underscoring the*
 701 *need for corrective action, which PWIC has not effectively addressed.*
- 702
 703 4. *Drinking Water Standards. Physical-chemical water quality tests consistently failed to meet the*
 704 *Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW) from 2019 to 2023. This ongoing non-*
 705 *compliance reflects poorly on PWICs operational capabilities and indicates a lack of adequate*
 706 *water treatment processes, a critical obligation under the JVA.*
- 707
 708 5. *Customer Service. There is a recurring theme of delays and failure to meet response time*
 709 *standards across various service types, regardless of complexity. This systemic issue in customer*
 710 *service impacts SMWD's service commitments, leading to customer dissatisfaction and reduced*
 711 *trust in SMWD's services.*
- 712
 713 6. *Service Connections. PWIC failed to reach the target from 2022-2023 with only 33% active service*
 714 *connections from the target 1,305 connections.^{SEP} This is due to no source development.*
- 715
 716 7. *Water Supply Capacity. The water supply capacity frequently fell short of targets, except in 2020.*
 717 *Significant gaps emerged, especially in 2021 and 2022, indicating inadequate production to meet*
 718 *demand. This shortfall undermines SMWD's ability to provide a reliable water supply, impacting*
 719 *customer satisfaction and operational efficiency.*
- 720

- 8. *Operational Inefficiencies. Deficiencies such as the lack of basic plumbing materials, delayed repair and maintenance of facilities, and service vehicles, and untimely reporting have resulted in decreased service levels.*

WHEREAS, these violations have proved to be significantly detrimental to the interests of the people of Surigao City, not to mention the failure to attain the objectives of the joint venture;

WHEREAS, in light of the violations, the Board of Directors of the SMWD, after careful deliberation, has finally determined that it is in its best interest and to the people of Surigao City, to cancel and rescind the Joint Venture Agreement with the Prime Water Infrastructure Corporation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Sanguniang Panglungsod passes a resolution supporting the action of the Board of Directors of Surigao Metropolitan Water District to formally cancel and rescind the Joint Venture Agreement with PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation due to serious and substantial violations of the terms and conditions of the joint venture agreement.

Let copies of this resolution be furnished to the PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation, the Local Government Unit of the Province of Surigao del Norte, the Office of the City Mayor, the Surigao Metropolitan Water District, the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Commission on Audit (COA), the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) and PWIC Branch Manager for their information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other matters discussed, the 42nd Regular Session was adjourned at 3:25 o'clock in the afternoon of October 24, 2024.

(As to what transpired in the discussion, the transcribed stenographic notes of the same are kept and filed in the SP Office for record purposes and reference.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

HON. JOSEPH JOEY S. YUIPCO:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gracious God,
As we conclude our session,
We thank You for Your presence among us and for the insights shared.
Help us to carry the spirit of collaboration and understanding into our lives.
May the decisions made today lead us toward unity and service.
Guide us in the days ahead, and let our actions reflect your light in the world.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

APPROVED, this 31st day of October 2024.

777 WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing statements, resolutions and the like were passed
778 and approved by us, members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Surigao, Province of
779 Surigao del Norte.

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EDNA B. SIEGA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

SEBASTIAN RIC A. NAGAS
City Councilor

CACEL R. AZARCON
City Councilor

JOENIL B. ALDONZA
City Councilor

JOEL E. TINIO
City Councilor

JOSHUA EMILIO S. GELI
City Councilor

BALTAZAR C. ABIAN
City Councilor

NOEL CHRISTIAN G. CATRE, JR.
City Councilor

JOSEPH JOEY S. YUIPCO
City Councilor

KARL DUANE A. CASURRA
City Councilor

FLORENILLO B. RAVELO
Liga ng mga Barangay President

JENELYN EDULZURA
SK Federation President

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ATTESTED BY:

ALFONSO S. CASURRA
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer