

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes
City Council B Session**

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

2:00 PM

Videoconference

ROLL CALL

The City Council convened in a Regular Meeting. City Clerk Tina J. Flores took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

Once a quorum was established, the City Council shall consider the following:

2. Briefing on the City's Proposed State Legislative Program for the 87th State Legislative Session. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle reviewed the election results for the San Antonio Federal delegation and stated that Democrats would maintain a majority in the House of Representatives. He noted that four races were yet to be decided in the Senate. He reported that in the Texas Senate there were 18 Republicans and 13 Democrats and the House of Representatives included 83 Republicans and 67 Democrats.

Mr. Coyle reported that there were 17 new members in the House of Representatives, with one in the delegation; two new members in the Senate, with one in the delegation; and a new Speaker of the House and Committee Chairs. He noted that there was uncertainty regarding how business would be conducted at the Capital.

Mr. Coyle stated that the City Council-approved State Legislative Program guided staff and consultants to advocate on behalf of the City before the Texas Legislature, the Governor's Office, and State agencies. He reviewed the regular session timeline and noted the following dates:

November 9 – Bill prefilings begins
January 12 – First day of session
March 21 – Bill filing deadline
May 31 – Sine Die
June 20 – Governor deadline to sign/veto bills

Mr. Coyle reported that the proposed State Legislative Program was developed with City departments, consultant team, and community partners. He noted that staff completed a preliminary briefing with the State delegation staff and once the City Council approved the agenda, staff would schedule a full delegation briefing.

Mr. Coyle stated that the structure of the 87th State Legislative Program included priorities, protection of community interests, and partnerships. He indicated that the priorities included:

- Increase police accountability and transparency
- Invest in public health for a more resilient San Antonio
- Ensure access to information for all San Antonians
- Preserve the voice of San Antonio residents
- Prevent domestic violence and support victims
- Develop the economy and workforce of San Antonio
- Fund education from Pre-K through college
- Improve the quality and equity of affordable housing
- Eliminate barriers for the homeless
- Protect the privacy of vulnerable residents
- Protect the municipal utilities that serve and benefit San Antonians
- Support and grow Military City, USA
- Fair representation for the San Antonio community
- Enhance government efficiency
- Preserve investments in transportation
- Ensure the safety of pedestrians
- Maintain the health, viability, and local control of the San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Funds
- Protection of community interests

Mr. Coyle stated that the City of San Antonio coordinated with the following local partners in support of their legislative agendas which would enhance the health, safety, and vitality of the community, provided that it would not conflict with the City's legislative agenda:

- CPS Energy
- SAWS
- AACOG
- Bexar County

- Brooks City Base
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Local institutions of higher education
- Joint Base San Antonio
- Local small businesses
- Local major employers
- Local non-profit organizations
- Port San Antonio
- Local independent school districts
- San Antonio Housing Authority
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- San Antonio River Authority
- VIA Metropolitan Transit
- Visit San Antonio

Mayor Nirenberg thanked the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for their assistance in developing the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if the police related items contained in the legislative agenda would preclude the City from negotiating with the San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA). City Attorney Andy Segovia stated that it would not preclude the City but some of the items would require a legislative change.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if the City would consider a statute of limitations period depending on when an infraction occurred. City Attorney Segovia stated that was not included in the City's proposal.

Councilmember Viagran spoke of the funding for an East-West Connector on the Southside near Navistar.

Councilmember Perry asked which of the items to increase police accountability and transparency would have to be negotiated regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). City Attorney Segovia stated that permitting the release of disciplinary records would require a legislative change and the remainder would have to be negotiated through the CBA.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if the City could request the addition of a self-identifier for ethnicity on the Texas Driver's License. Mr. Coyle reported that staff researched the topic and did not find any legislative history on that topic. He stated that it would have statewide implications and without a broader coalition, the City did not propose adding it to the legislative agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia spoke of increasing the school safety buffer in areas with higher percentages of crime.

Councilmember Courage stated that arbitrators should not be able to overturn disciplinary actions for Police Officers who commit offenses and final disciplinary actions should be made by the Police Chief or the City Manager.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the ability to meet via videoconference permanently. City Attorney Segovia indicated that ability was issued by the Texas Attorney General temporarily during the COVID-19 Pandemic and noted that the Open Meetings Acts would have to be revised to reflect that potential change.

Councilmember Sandoval asked who would file the Bill for Medicaid expansion. Mr. Coyle replied that staff would partner with the Bexar Healthcare Coalition and the Medicaid expansion would probably be part of the discussion on House Bill (HB) 1.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if Property Appraisals were part of the equity process for affordable housing. Mr. Coyle replied that Property Appraisals were not included in the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Treviño stated that he would like to explore policy at the State level which would remove or seal evictions which had occurred during the COVID-19 Pandemic and State Laws that focused on assisting those previously incarcerated.

Mayor Nirenberg requested a presentation on the Legislative Agenda at an A Session.

Item 1 was addressed at this time.

1. Briefing on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery and Resiliency Plan. [Maria Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Ana Bradshaw, COVID-19 Financial and Performance Liaison]

Assistant City Manager Dr. Colleen Bridger stated that there 66,529 cases of COVID-19 in San Antonio. She reported that the seven-day rolling average was 227; there had been 1,260 deaths; and there were 2,277 confirmed active cases. She added that 62,694 individuals had recovered from COVID-19.

Dr. Bridger stated that the City was in a rebound phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic. She reviewed the number of tests conducted by month at the City of San Antonio free testing sites and noted that a total of 140,000 tests had been conducted since the beginning of the pandemic and it was estimated that the City provided 50% of those tests. She stated that the positivity rate in San Antonio was 7.7% and the statewide positivity rate was 10.5%.

Dr. Bridger reported that 13% of hospital beds in San Antonio were available and 63% of ventilators were available. She indicated that there were 199 student cases, 134 staff cases for a total of 333 total COVID-19 cases in San Antonio School Districts with five outbreaks noted to date. She reviewed the areas in San Antonio with the highest infection rates. She stated that the data would be utilized to deploy outreach, education, and additional testing sites. She added that the City had experienced a modest, steady upward trend since early October 2020.

Dr. Bridger presented the current testing sites available and noted that the current specimen collection capacity was three times higher than the current need. She reported that the City had: 1) Increased free testing sites from 4 to 11; 2) Increased Community Health & Prevention Team activities in hot spots; 3) Provided additional messaging regarding the increasing number of cases and mitigation; and 4) Increased proactive enforcement of the Governor's Executive Order GA-32 by 20%. She added that Mayor Nirenberg deferred/delayed approval of non-exempted outdoor gatherings greater than 10

persons under the Governor’s Executive Order GA-32, No. 5.

Ana Bradshaw reported that the overall expenses were on track with plan amounts with \$241.2 million in total expenses since March 2020. She indicated that as of September 30, 2020, the City had spent \$189.5 million of the \$270 million in the Coronavirus Relief Fund and overall spending in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery and Resiliency Plan was under the plan amount.

Ms. Bradshaw presented the spending by revenue report for September 2020:

	Budget	Plan through September 2020	Actuals through September 2020	Variance
Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)	\$270.0*	\$180.3	\$189.5	\$9.2
General Fund	\$125.6	\$13.3	\$5.4	(\$8.0)
TIRZ	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$4.0	-
SAHT	\$6.0	\$5.0	\$5.0	-
FEMA reimbursement (75%)	\$2.9	\$2.9	-	(\$2.9)
Other Federal grants	\$118.9	\$38.1	\$37.1	(\$1.0)
Donations	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.2	-

*in millions

Ms. Bradshaw presented the spending by program report for September 2020:

Program	Budget	Plan through September 2020	Actuals through September 2020	Variance
Emergency response	\$146.5	\$117.4	\$124.2	(\$6.8)
Health implementation	\$53.5	\$8.6	\$7.8	\$0.7
Recovery and resiliency	\$248.7	\$91.1	\$86.3	\$4.8
Other CARES programs	\$75.0	\$22.9	\$22.9	0
FEMA eligible	\$3.9	\$3.9	0	0

*in millions

Ms. Bradshaw reported that State funds continued to be allocated for community testing and changes in the CRF eligibility criteria for equipment was impacting the Fire portion of the Health Implementation Plan. She noted changes in the timing of CRF expenses in Housing Security, Workforce Development, Health Implementation Plan, and availability of Interest Income generated by CRF proceeds.

Ms. Bradshaw reviewed the adjustments in spending by program and by funding source.

Alex Lopez, Director of Economic Development stated that staff recommended an additional \$3.5 million in Small Business Funding be made available. She noted that the additional funding could serve 100 to 120 additional Micro Business Grants and the anticipated Micro Businesses to be funded were 67% women-owned; 85% business owners of color; and 29% were Bars and Restaurants. She added that funds would be distributed in November 2020.

Ms. Lopez reported that 1,011 grants were awarded totaling \$22.7 million with \$20.6 million awarded to Micro Businesses; ; \$11.9 million awarded to Women-Owned Businesses; \$16.6 million awarded to Business Owners of Color; \$2.1 million awarded to Non-Profits; and \$4.9 million awarded to Bars and Restaurants. She indicated that \$2.1 million remained to be awarded which would support approximately 80-90 additional Grants.

Ms. Bradshaw highlighted the accomplishments for October 2020 which included:

- 20,000+ residents assisted
- 9,000+ businesses assisted
- 761 enrolled in Train-for-Jobs SA Program

Mayor Nirenberg commended the entire City team for their work and agreed with the augmented Budget for Small Business Grants. He asked that the additional funds be focused on the Food and Beverage Industry.

Councilmember Viagran suggested that \$3 million of the \$3.5 million be designated for the Food and Beverage Industry and asked of the re-opening of the Senior Centers. City Manager Walsh stated that staff anticipated re-opening Senior Centers in mid-January 2021.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia spoke of concentrating education efforts on the 26-44 age group and seniors.

Councilmember Treviño stated that he did not support reduced funding for the housing security pillar. He expressed concern that the Equity Atlas did not address many of the business concerns and needs, Ms. Lopez indicated that the Equity Atlas focused on the business owner as it looked at the business location, gender and racial make-up of the business owner. Assistant City Manager David McCary noted that staff would provide follow-up information.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the reason for the reduction of \$11.4 million for the health response. Ms. Bradshaw stated that the reduction was for equipment purchases that would not be made and for testing that the State was paying for.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed support for giving preference to Restaurant Owners and their employees and adjusting the City's legislative agenda to include advocating for the restaurant industry.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if Metro Health was tracking a combination of Influenza and COVID-19 cases. Dr. Bridger replied that they were not because that was a rare occurrence. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the number of those awarded grants who were contractors or were self-employed. Ms. Lopez reported that 306 of the 1,011 grants were awarded to those that were self-employed. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan requested a briefing on mental health

resources provided by agencies.

Councilmember Courage stated that some restaurants were not carefully following the guidelines on occupancy. He requested information on the number of individuals assisted by the Grants.

Councilmember Perry advocated for additional assistance for businesses.

City Manager Walsh reported that Moody's issued a Credit Positive Report on the City of San Antonio based on the Financial Plan created in Summer 2020 and the investment of \$190 million in the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg announced that the Executive Session would be carried over to November 5, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 4:34 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
City Clerk