

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



DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

City Council B Session

City Hall Complex
114 W. Commerce
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

Present 11 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Toney, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Aguirre-Rodriguez, Nirenberg, Krier, and Gallagher

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2015 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Maria Villagomez, Director, Management and Budget]
 - A. Library
 - B. Department of Human Services
 - C. Delegate Agencies

A. LIBRARY

Ramiro Salazar provided an overview of the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) System:

- 27 Library Locations
- All locations open 7 days a week
- 307,113 participants in Library Programs
- 2.1 million hours of Internet Use
- 7,422,895 items borrowed
- 1.5 million reference questions answered

Mr. Salazar stated that the proposed Budget for the SAPL System was \$34.9 Million. He reported that the Library generated revenues from overdue Fines and Fees and through an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Bexar County that has been maintained since 1936. He noted that at that time Bexar County contracted with the City to provide Library Services to County Residents that resided outside of the City of San Antonio City Limits. He stated that Bexar County pays a Fee-for-Service of \$3.78 Million annually for these services. He noted that the current ILA would expire on September 30, 2014 and the County has proposed an extension of said ILA through 2015 at the same Payment Level. He stated that the City countered with a different Proposal. He noted that County Usage was approximately 19% of the SAPL System's Budget which totaled \$6.3 Million. He added that if reviewed from a Per Capita Perspective, the City paid \$21.00 per person to operate the SAPL System and the County's contribution was currently an estimated \$9.00. He stated that the City had submitted a proposal to the County to continue the Payment Level in the current ILA through 2015 and establish a Task Force which would make recommendations for the subsequent years. He noted that the County has not accepted that proposal but the City would continue negotiations. He reviewed the terms of an alternate proposal by the County to begin in 2016 in which the payment to the City would be reduced by \$300,000 each year for four years. He stated that if an ILA was not established between the City and the County; a significant reduction of services would be necessary.

Mr. Salazar provided the City Council with an overview of the proposed FY 2015 Budget for the SAPL System. He reported that said Budget included:

- \$303,000 for a new Library in District 9
- \$343,000 to establish two Literary Centers at the Westfall and Bazan Libraries
- \$500,000 for Library Technology
- \$250,000 for improvements to the Great Northwest Branch Library
- \$1.5 Million for improvements to other existing Library Facilities

He reported the following accomplishments by the SAPL System in FY 2014:

- Customer satisfaction at 96%
- Digital usage increased by 34%
- Participation in Children's Programs increased by 7%

- \$1.5 Million in Facility Improvements

He stated that Café Commerce was introduced at the Central Library and Vital Records Services were made permanent at four Library Locations. He stated that participation in the Mayor's Summer Reading Club has increased. He mentioned that in partnership with the Library Foundation and through a generous gift from Valero, a Van that served as a Digital Mobile Unit was purchased. He noted that the Digital Library Community Project was initiated.

Ignacio Albarracin reviewed the SAPL System's Digital Content Strategy, and their Marketing Campaign. He noted that 58% of U.S. Adults owned a Smartphone and 42% of U.S. Adults owned a Tablet. He stated that the SAPL System identified those activities where the opportunity existed to add value:

- Reading Books
- Watching Movies
- Reading Magazines

Mr. Albarracin suggested that the SAPL System's Market Reach be expanded and stated that Mobile Devices were a component of the SAPL System's Overall Strategy. He reviewed the contents of the SAPL System's Digital Collection and efforts to expand the SAPL System's Market Reach. He reviewed the Digital Collections and Applications available to Library Patrons. He reported that a project in partnership with the San Antonio International Airport called the Airport Digital Library Kiosk was underway and stated that one Kiosk per Terminal would be installed. He noted that said Kiosk would serve as a Charging Station for Mobile Devices and as a large interactive Touch Screen where a number of services could be accessed.

Jean Brady, Chair of the Library Board reported the results of the 2014 Community Survey indicated a 96% Satisfaction Rate for Neighborhood Library Services. She noted that the Library scored Top Ratings in various Measures, including first for overall Customer Services compared with the National Average for Library Services. She recognized Aeden Richter for writing 100 Book Reviews as part of the Library's programming efforts to extend Teen Learning beyond the classroom. Ms. Brady and Aeden Richter distributed gifts to the Mayor and City Councilmembers created by Teens at the Central Library. Ms. Brady stated that in November 2014, a new Collaborative Space within the Central Library named the Maria Schwartz Art Resource Center was dedicated. She reviewed the various Resources provided to citizens by the SAPL System and referenced success stories which were aided in whole or in part by Library Services. She stated that the SAPL Board of Trustees supported the FY 2015 Proposed Library Budget as submitted.

Mayor Taylor stated that she looked forward to future discussions with Bexar County in order to maintain Library Services for all individuals in the area. She asked of Adult Literacy Activities provided by the Library. Mr. Salazar replied that the Proposed Budget included \$340,000 to expand the Adult Literacy Initiative that began this year in partnership with the Department of Human Services. He reported that two Adult Literacy Centers would be established; one each at the Westfall and Bazan Branch Libraries. He added that Adult Literacy Services would be expanded at the Carver and Cortez Branch Libraries. Gloria Hurtado stated that an assessment was performed to determine the type of services required for each individual. She noted that Adult Literacy Services provided flexibility and were self-directed.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the percentage represented by \$3.78 Million in relation to the Overall Budget. Mr. Salazar replied that \$3.78 Million represented 10% of the Overall Budget. Councilmember Nirenberg stated that it made sense to consolidate City and County Library Services.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the transition of Vital Records Services to the Library. Mr. Salazar stated that the transition had been a smooth one. He noted that said services were available at the Great Northwest, Mission, Thousand Oaks, and Las Palmas Branch Libraries.

Councilmember Bernal noted that Libraries served as a staging area for Community Learning and Community Improvement or Interaction.

Councilmember Lopez asked how often the ILA with Bexar County had been renewed. Mr. Salazar replied that the ILA had been renewed every five years. Councilmember Lopez emphasized the urgency to facilitate an agreement between the City and the County.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if a Wi-Fi Connection at a Library could be extended to an adjacent City Park. Mr. Salazar replied that discussions regarding a partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department were ongoing.

Councilmember Krier asked if there were Copyright Fees associated with EBooks. Mr. Salazar replied that a License Fee was paid to the Vendor and noted that it was more expensive to offer EBooks or Digital Content instead of Printed Materials.

Councilmember Aguirre-Rodriguez requested Digital Download Data by District. Mr. Salazar stated that he would provide said data to the City Council.

Councilmember Saldaña suggested that the cost of printing at Libraries per copy be reduced from twenty-five cents to ten cents.

Councilmember Gallagher urged Councilmembers to contact Bexar County Commissioners to encourage a continued partnership with the City to provide Library Services to Bexar County Residents.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

B. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Melody Woosley stated that the Department of Human Services (DHS) focused on stabilizing, connecting and enriching the lives of the individuals it served. She reported that DHS offered Senior, Family Assistance, Child Care, and Head Start Services. She noted that said services were supported by multiple funding sources and Community Partnerships. She stated that the results of the Community Survey indicated a 94% Customer Satisfaction Rating. She noted an increase in the satisfaction Rate for Senior Services of 4%. She noted DHS Accomplishments for FY 2014:

- 16,000 Seniors were served
- 1,432 Clients were served by Financial Empowerment Centers
- 7,100 Households received Utility Assistance
- 700,000 Meals were served
- 33,701 Tax Returns were prepared
- 3,337 Families were provided with improved Housing Stability

She reported that DHS partnered with over 70 organizations on a daily basis. She stated that the DHS Budget for 2015 was \$114 Million of which 70% was supported by State and Federal Grants. She noted that \$18 Million of the Budget was from the department's General Fund and \$20.4 Million was delegated to 56 Delegate Agencies and 91 Programs. She stated that the Budget included: 1) Funds to establish two Senior Centers in District 5 and District 10; and 2) Funds for expansion of the Ambassador Program. She reviewed the future staffing needs of the department. She noted Major Initiatives for 2015:

- Senior Service Strategic Plan
- Automation Project
- Volunteer Coordination
- Quality Standards
- Professional Development

She noted an increase from \$2.8 Million to \$10.4 Million currently in the General Fund Budget for Seniors to support seven Comprehensive Centers. She noted that three Comprehensive Centers would be established in 2016. She provided a map which depicted

the locations of existing and planned Senior Centers and noted that the majority of Seniors in the City had access to Senior Centers. She stated that DHS served more than 15,000 individuals every day at 95 locations in the City.

C. DELEGATE AGENCIES

Ms. Woosley stated that the DHS Budget designated \$20.4 Million to fund Delegate Agency Contracts which included awards for six new Contracts and the elimination of funding for five Delegate Agencies. She reviewed the Request for Proposal (RFP) Process and the RFP Directives established by the City Council. She noted that the awards for School Districts and Haven for Hope were removed from said Process and CDBG Funding in the amount of \$1.2 Million was redirected to East Point. She reported that the funding categories included:

- Education (30%) - \$3,243,695 for Early Childhood Education and Youth Services
- Family Well-Being (44%) - \$3,407,053 for basic needs/Homeless Prevention, Homeless Transformation and VITA/Financial Security
- Community Safety Net (15%) - \$3,152,483 for At Risk Youth Behavior Prevention , to reduce Domestic Violence, and Senior Services
- Economic Competitiveness (11%) - \$2,255,214 for Long-Term Job Training and Short Term Services

She noted that the Budget included \$6.8 Million for Haven for Hope and \$2.7 Million for the After School Challenge Program. She stated that the Budget aligned with City Council priorities, invested in Human and Workforce Development Outcomes, and strengthened services in the Community.

Councilmember Nirenberg emphasized the need to work with organizations that comprehensively address Domestic Violence as an issue.

Councilmember Lopez asked if the redirection of the Head Start Program had improved its efficiency. Ms. Woosley stated that she would provide that information to the City Council. Councilmember Lopez asked of the number of registered Seniors at Senior Centers. Ms. Woosley reported that there were 16,000 Registered Seniors.

Councilmember Aguirre-Rodriguez asked if Professional Development was available to Teachers City-wide. Ms. Woosley replied that it was.

Mayor Taylor emphasized that the After School Challenge Program must have a strong Educational Basis. She thanked staff for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 4:10 pm to discuss the following:

- A. Discuss legal issues related to annexation pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- B. Deliberations regarding economic development negotiations and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.087 (economic development) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- C. Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.072 (real property) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Discuss legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Pro Tem Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

The City Clerk read the caption for Item 2:

- 2. Public Hearings on the City's 2014 Proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the FY 2015 Proposed Budget and the FY 2015 Proposed Budget. [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Maria Villagomez, Director, Management and Budget]

Mayor Pro Tem Nirenberg opened the first Combined FY 2015 Budget and 2014 Tax Rate Public Hearing.

Maria Villagomez presented a Power Point and stated that the FY 2015 Proposed Budget totaled \$2.4 Billion. She noted that the General Fund accounted for \$1.05 Billion of which 66% is utilized for Public Safety. She reported that there was no Property Tax Increase in

the Proposed Budget and that total growth of Property Values was estimated at 6.08% for FY 2015. She stated that there was \$34 Million in Property Tax Exemptions for Senior and Homestead Exemptions. Lastly, she outlined the Public Hearing Schedule noting that today was the First Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate. She mentioned that the Second Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate would be held on September 10, 2014 and that the Budget and Property Tax Rate were scheduled for adoption on September 18, 2014.

Mayor Pro Tem Nirenberg called upon Mr. Rhett Smith to speak.

Mr. Rhett Smith spoke of the potential to allow low income families not to pay taxes. He expressed concern with the current level of Uniform Employee Benefits.

Mayor Pro Tem Nirenberg stated that the second Combined Budget and Tax Rate Public Hearing would be held on September 10, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers located at 114 W. Commerce Street. He noted that the City Council would vote on the City of San Antonio Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2014 at its meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2014 which begins at 9:00 am in the City Council Chambers.

Having heard all comments from the citizens registered to speak, Mayor Pro Tem Nirenberg closed the first Combined FY 2015 Budget and 2014 Tax Rate Public Hearing.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Pro Tem Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak under Citizens to be Heard.

Mark Perez expressed concern with the lack of enforcement of City Ordinances and noted many businesses operating without the proper permits. He mentioned the AGE Refinery Building and DPT Laboratories.

Mayor Taylor entered the meeting at this time.

George Benavides spoke of electronic harassment and the hazards of microwave energy. He asked the city to investigate issues of harassment and support the victims.

Anne Roberts-Howard representing the Eastlawn Harvard Place Neighborhood Organization stated that they were concerned that the General Customer Service Telephone Number was eliminated. She noted that 3-1-1 could not handle all of the calls or provide the necessary information. She requested that the city continue funding for the Animal Care Facility at Brooks City Base or another facility until a No-Kill Status was reached.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez stated that he was in support of City Employees receiving a salary increase.

Rhett Smith spoke in support of Native Americans and Indigenous Persons and expressed concern that they were not better recognized in Texas. He requested that the City Council pass a Resolution in support of the recognition of Native American Tribes in San Antonio.

Faris Hodge, Jr. submitted written testimony recognizing Mayor Taylor as the first African-American Mayor of San Antonio. He requested that the Meals on Wheels and Nutrition Program be combined. He wrote that it was time to pay the City Council a Living Wage and highlighted the hiring of employees for the two new Pre-K 4 SA Centers. He wrote that many citizens in District 9 were opposed to the Streetcar Project. He referenced the new San Antonio Fire Department Service Building and the prospect of the Oakland Raiders Football Team moving to San Antonio.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/MMC
CITY CLERK