

**GOVERNANCE CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM  
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Committee Present:	Mayor Ron Nirenberg, <i>Chair</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i>
Staff Present:	Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> ; Erik Walsh, <i>City Manager</i> ; Andy Segovia, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Tina J. Flores, <i>City Clerk</i> ; Rod Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Chelsea Mikulencak & Thomas Filopoulos, <i>City Attorney's Office</i> ; Michael Shannon & Melissa Ramirez, <i>Development Services Department</i> ; Alex Morgan, <i>City Manager's Office</i>

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Nirenberg called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the minutes from the City Council Governance Committee Meetings on September 11, 2020 and September 16, 2020.**

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2020 and September 16, 2020 Governance Committee Meetings. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 3 was addressed at this time.

**3. A briefing and discussion on a Council Consideration Request from Councilmember Viagran on a Resolution to honor the life and legacy of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. [Andrew Segovia, City Attorney]**

City Attorney Andy Segovia introduced the Council Consideration Request (CCR) submitted by Councilmember Viagran regarding a Resolution to honor the life and legacy of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Chelsea Mikulencak stated that she worked with Councilmember Viagran and her staff to draft the resolution and provided background for the CCR regarding Justice Ginsburg's 27-year tenure on the United States Supreme Court.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she submitted the CCR to honor Justice Ginsburg. She recognized her staff, Ms. Mikulencak, and Councilmember Rocha Garcia for their assistance and research for the resolution. She noted that Justice Ginsburg was an icon of women's rights and social justice. She mentioned that the timing was appropriate because it was a majority female City Council. She noted that in the 1970s, employers in most states could legally fire women for being pregnant and banks could require women applying for a credit card to have their husband

apply with them. She thanked the Committee and asked that they consider forwarding the resolution to the next available Regular City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Courage asked if a resolution was brought forth for Justice Antonin Scalia when he passed away. Mr. Segovia stated that there was not. Councilmember Courage noted his apprehension in passing such a resolution that might bring more division and ridicule than praise.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia noted that this was the right time with a majority female City Council and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. She noted that it could be tied in with the 2021 Girls Empowerment Summit and the YWCA's work on gender pay parity.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked Councilmember Viagran for bringing the CCR forward and affording her the opportunity to sign it. She noted that the language of the resolution should be specific regarding her championing of issues important to women.

Councilmember Gonzales noted her support of forwarding the resolution to the full City Council.

Councilmember Courage added that he appreciated and supported the inclusion of events that could be tied in with and broadened the resolution.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia noted that the 2020 Girls Empowerment Summit was cancelled due to COVID-19. She stated that the plans had already begun for the 2021 Summit. She noted that the language of the resolution endeavored to be apolitical.

Mayor Nirenberg expressed his wholehearted support for this resolution. He stated that it was always the right time to do the right thing.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to forward the resolution to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried by those present. Councilmember Gonzales was unable to vote as she experienced internet connectivity issues and exited the meeting, then re-entered the meeting.

Councilmember Sandoval moved to reconsider Item 3. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to forward the resolution to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 2 was addressed at this time.

## **2. Consideration of At-Large Appointments to the Planning Commission (5 slots) [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]**

Director Michael Shannon stated that there were 5 slots open on the Planning Commission with 9 applicants to be interviewed. He stated that the Mayor created a sub-committee to review 28

applications which were then condensed into the 9 applicants present today for interview. He noted that of the 9 applicants being interviewed, 3 applicants had applied for re-appointment.

Mayor Nirenberg announced that the Committee would offer a 2-minute opening statement followed by questions from the Committee. The following applicants were interviewed:

1. Julia Carrillo
2. Sumita Jonak
3. George Peck
4. Arlene Fisher
5. Matthew Proffitt
6. Marcy Newman
7. Meredith Siegel
8. Samer Dessouky

Josue Burguete was unavailable to be interviewed.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 11:54 am to discuss the following:

- A. Deliberate the appointment, evaluation, and duties of public officers and discuss legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (personnel matters) and Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 12:25 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Courage moved to forward to the full City Council for approval the following nominations: (1) George Peck; (2) Julia Carrillo; (3) Matthew Proffitt; (4) Meredith Siegel; and (5) Samer Dessouky. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 12:27 pm.

**ATTEST:**



**Tina J. Flores, LPEC**  
**City Clerk**



**Ron Nirenberg, Mayor**

