

City of San Antonio



Public Comment

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

5:00 PM

Videoconference

ROLL CALL

The City Council convened in a Regular Meeting. Acting 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 is established, the City Council shall consider the following:

PUBLIC HEARING

Deputy City Clerk Flores read the Caption of Item 3:

- 1. Public Hearings on the City's 2020 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the FY 2021 Proposed Budget.** [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Scott Huizenga, Director, Management & Budget]

Mayor Nirenberg declared the Public Hearing open and called upon the individuals registered to speak.

Kayla Miranda spoke of the need for housing and emergency services.

- 2. Public Comment is your opportunity to address your City of San Antonio elected officials directly about issues that are important to you and your community. To sign-up to speak, please go to www.sanantonio.gov/agenda and click on the eComment link for instructions. Members of the public are given up to three minutes to speak, and groups are given up to nine minutes.**

Acting City Clerk Tina Flores stated that public comments could be accessed at www.sanantonio.gov/agenda.

Stephen Versteeg asked why the City did not provide incentives for equitable development. He stated that there were three vacant lots on Walters Street between IH-35 and Ft. Sam Houston and developers were waiting to develop subsidized housing in order to maximize their profits. He asked City Council to not approve Zoning Case Z-2020-10700113 in Council District 2.

Gage Williams stated that the City should defund the Police Budget and divest funds to services that benefited the citizens of San Antonio. He noted that infrastructure should be rebuilt, schools should be funded, eviction courts should be closed, and the City should ensure that all citizens had a home.

Dora Perez stated that in the past, two properties in Government Hill were rezoned from R6 to C2 commercial. She noted that the residents reached out to the applicant who was not interested in compromise. She asked that City Council stop voting in favor of commercial zoning.

Karen Talamas stated that she did not support defunding the Police Budget and added that more police were needed, not less. She noted that the media had perpetuated the notion that police were targeting minorities. She stated that City Leaders should promote respect for Police Officers.

Jemm Corona-Morris stated that \$101 million of the Police Budget did not fall under the Collective Bargaining Agreement and should be used to support public health and affordable housing. He expressed support for a hiring freeze of Police Officers and hiring civilians with expertise to deal with non-criminal matters.

Brandon Mowles called for defunding the Police Budget and divesting funds to health, wellness, housing affordability, senior centers, and transportation.

Lorenzo Ortiz stated that residents of Government Hill followed the process for zoning with 50 homeowners in opposition of a development there. He added that residents were not given information on the proposed development.

Jourdyn Parks called for defunding of the Police Budget and reconstruction of the City's priorities to include education and after-school programs, public health, and housing.

Acting City Clerk Tina Flores reported that 854 public comments were received and would be distributed to Councilmembers and their staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 3:34 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
Acting City Clerk