

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council A Session**

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Thursday, April 16, 2020

9:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

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

Mayor Nirenberg led the meeting with a moment of silence for those who have worked to save the lives of others in our community, around the world, and in solidarity with those who have lost loved ones in the battle against COVID-19.

1. The Invocation was delivered by Minister Travis Eades of Oak Hills Church – Crownridge Campus, guest of Councilmember Manny Pelaez, District 8.
2. Mayor Nirenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of March 4-5, 2020.

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the March 4 and March 5, 2020 Minutes. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Item 20 was pulled for individual consideration.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the individuals registered to speak on the Consent Agenda.

Jack M. Finger spoke in opposition to Item 21. He referred to the 312 affordable multi-family rental housing development located at 1226 Mira Vista as low income housing. He noted the development was located in Council District 7. He questioned why residents who lived in Council District 7 did not contact Councilmember Sandoval to voice their opposition to the development.

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Pelaez seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

AYE: 10 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

ABSENT: 1 - Sandoval

2020-04-16-0259

5. Ordinance approving a task order to a Job Order Contract to Jamail & Smith Construction LP for the Davis Scott YMCA at Pittman-Sullivan Park located in Council District 2 in an amount not to exceed \$198,979.00, a FY 2020 Building and Equipment Services Department Deferred Maintenance project. Funding is available from the FY 2020 BESD Deferred Maintenance Program and is included in the FY 2020 – FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation]

2020-04-16-0260

6. Ordinance approving the Renewal and Amendment of a Lease Agreement with the Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc. for the continued use of approximately 551 square feet of office space located at 2806 E. Commerce, The Claude Black Community Center, for a five-year term. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Director, Center City Development and Operations]

2020-04-16-0261

7. Ordinance approving a five-year lease agreement with ATR Foods, LLC to operate a restaurant at 531 Navarro Street, located at street level within the Houston Street Parking Garage, at a monthly rent of \$1,680.00. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Director, Center City Development and Operations]

2020-04-16-0262

8. Ordinance approving an amendment to Lease Agreement with WP Presa, LLC, for the continued use of the property located at 2701 S. Presa as the District 5 Senior Multi-Service Center for five years at a monthly rent of \$18,518.33. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Director, Center City Development and Operations]

2020-04-16-0263

9. Ordinance approving a Lease Agreement with the San Antonio Tennis Association, Inc. for office space and tennis courts at John McFarlin Tennis Center located in San Pedro Springs Park

beginning May 1, 2020 and will expire on April 30, 2023 with options to extend. There is no fiscal impact associated with this ordinance. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks & Recreation]

2020-04-16-0264

10. Ordinance approving an amendment to the Lease Agreement with The Witte Museum in Brackenridge Park to transfer ownership interest of the parking lot adjacent to the Mays Family Center. There is no fiscal impact associated with this ordinance. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks & Recreation]

2020-04-16-0265

11. Ordinance approving the acceptance of the Promising Practices grant in an amount up to \$25,000.00 from the National Association for County and City Health Officials to support the prevention of congenital syphilis. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Dawn Emerick, Ed.D, Director, Health]

2020-04-16-0266

12. Ordinance approving the acceptance of additional funds in an amount up to \$235,000.00 for a total amount of \$480,625.00, from the Texas Department of State Health Services for the Texas Healthy Mothers and Babies Program grant. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Dawn Emerick, Ed.D, Director, Health]

2020-04-16-0267

13. Ordinance approving the submission of a grant application in an amount up to \$11,800.00 from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, for the transition to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System; and authorizing the acceptance of funds, upon award. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief, Police]

2020-04-16-0268

14. Ordinance approving the continued participation in the National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program (NEDCTP) of the Transportation Security Administration at the San Antonio International Airport, through June 30, 2020. The extension began on January 1, 2020, will provide the opportunity for the City to be reimbursed up to \$126,250.00 for the FY 2020 Airport Operating and Maintenance Fund. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

2020-04-16-0269

15. Ordinance approving an amendment to an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for tobacco prevention and cessation strategies increasing the compensation to an amount up to \$40,670.00 and approving an agreement with UTHSCSA to provide community-clinical linkage strategies in an amount up to \$68,316.00 for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health. The agreements with UTHSCSA are funded by the REACH Grant. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Dawn Emerick, Ed.D, Director, Health]

2020-04-16-0270

16. Ordinance approving an agreement with Carvajals, Inc. d/b/a Carvajal Pharmacy for pharmacy operation services related to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Class D Pharmacy in an amount up to \$15,000.00 for a period ending May 31, 2021, which may be renewed for

four one year terms, for a total compensation amount up to \$75,000.00. Funding for this agreement is available from the Health Department's FY 2020 Adopted General Fund Budget. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Dawn Emerick, Ed.D, Director, Health]

2020-04-16-0271

17. Ordinance approving an agreement with HEB Grocery Company LP to install and maintain fiber optic cables near the intersection of East Poplar and North Main and the intersection of Ogden and East Poplar. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Craig Hopkins, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services]

2020-04-16-0272

18. Ordinance approving the continued use of the State of Texas Department of Information Resources Contracts in an amount up to \$22,342,261.00 to provide the City with information technology hardware, software, professional and technical services, telecommunication services, and maintenance and support services. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Craig Hopkins, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services]

2020-04-16-0273

19. Ordinance approving an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety for the Failure to Appear Program. [Carla Obledo, Presiding Judge, Municipal Courts]

2020-04-16-0027R

21. Resolution of No Objection for Mira Vista SA Apartments, LP's application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Non-Competitive 4% Housing Tax Credits program for the construction of the Mira Vista Apartments, a 312 unit affordable multi-family rental housing development, located at 1226 Mira Vista in Council District 7. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

2020-04-16-0275

22. Ordinance approving the adoption of Self-Monitoring Standards for the Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Youth Program and other applicable recreation programs to comply with Texas Department of Health and Human Services regulations. There is no fiscal impact associated with this ordinance. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation]

CONSENT ITEMS CONCLUDED

ITEMS PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

4. Briefing on the City's response and preparedness on COVID 19.

Assistant City Manager Carlos Contreras reported that the 13-County Alamo Region Workforce Solutions received 31,000 claims for Unemployment Insurance for the week ending April 5, 2020. He noted an increase from the 18,000 claims for Unemployment Insurance filed in the prior weeks. He added that based on the trends since March 1, 2020, it was likely that 100,000 claims for Unemployment Insurance would be filed in the 13-County Alamo Region over the next seven weeks. He stated that Bexar County was the largest county within the 13 Regions and made up 80% of reported claims, with the City representing the majority of those claims. Assistant City Manager Contreras reported that over a four-week period, 22 million people nationwide filed for Unemployment Insurance, with 5.2 million

claims filed last week. He stated that the 22 million claims filed were equal to the same number of jobs created over the past 9 years since the last global economic recession. He noted that U.S. citizens should expect to receive \$1,200 Federal stimulus check in the coming weeks. He stated that the \$248 billion Paycheck Protection Program would offer forgivable loans to small business owners and \$22 billion was made available to approximately 88,000 applicants.

Assistant City Manager Contreras reported that approximately \$340 billion of the Federal Stimulus Package was earmarked for Local Governments and would be funded through various Federal Agencies and from grants available through the U.S. Department of Commerce. He added that the Federal Stimulus Package would make \$150 billion available for State and local relief. He stated that beginning March 2, 2020 through the end of this year, the City could receive up to \$250 million in reimbursements for expenditures directly related to COVID-19. He identified \$2.3 million from the Byrnes JAG Grant for reimbursable expenses incurred by the San Antonio Police Department for medical equipment, protective gear and employee overtime related to the COVID-19 response.

Assistant City Manager Contreras reported that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would grant approximately \$39 million to the San Antonio Airport System, San Antonio International Airport (SAT), and the Stinson Municipal Airport. He noted that this would provide relief from the loss of \$43 million in SAT revenue due to COVID-19 and the FAA funding would have to extend through the balance of the City's fiscal year. He spoke of an Education Stabilization Fund of \$30 billion of which \$307 million was in the form of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) to be allocated to schools and universities throughout the State. He added that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was granted \$4.3 billion through the CARES Act, of which \$1.5 billion was available for State and Local Governments, with the State having received \$18 million in the first round of appropriations. He noted that the National Endowment for the Arts received \$75 million in funding for Arts Agencies and Local Arts Agencies were expected to apply for the competitive grant funding.

Assistant City Manager Contreras reported that the Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Center received \$2 million and the El Centro Del Barrio Health Center received \$2.6 in funding. He stated that the City partnered with Bexar County and the appointed COVID-19 Working Groups to track relevant funding streams as they became available. He referenced the CARES Act 3.5 Relief Package and explained that it was an effort within the Administration to add an additional \$250 billion to the Paycheck Protection Program. He added that CARES Act Relief Package 4.0 would provide additional funding for small businesses, local governments and additional Unemployment Insurance funding. He stated that Congress was in recess until May 4, 2020, and a unanimous agreement would have to be reached by Congress in order to pass a Bill while in recess. He noted the impact of COVID-19 on the State Budget as it received revenues from Sales Tax, and indirectly from Property Tax. He added that the State also received a significant amount of proceeds from Oil & Gas revenues. He stated that the oil price crash resulted in a negative impact on the State Budget. He noted that the US. Census Bureau extended its deadline for collection of data from July 31, 2020 to October 31, 2020 which would have a negative impact on funding apportionment and congressional redistricting for the State in the next Legislative Session.

Assistant City Manager Lori Houston provided an overview of the City's proposed Housing Assistance Program. She reported that SAWS and CPS Energy placed a moratorium on utility disconnections to protect residents who could not pay their utility bills. She stated that Bexar County and Texas Supreme Court placed a moratorium on eviction hearings through April 30, 2020. She added that the Bexar County Tax Assessor cancelled property tax foreclosures for the months of April and May, and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac lenders suspended foreclosures and evictions for federally-backed mortgages for the next 60 days. Assistant City Manager Lori Houston stated that the CARES Act included a

prohibition in which low-income housing tax projects could not issue notices to vacate for 120 days and prohibited fees and penalties for late rent payments.

Assistant City Manager Houston reported a major increase in requests for assistance through the Risk Mitigation Fund (RMF). She stated that demand rose from an average of 57 weekly requests to over 5,300 requests received in one week. She reported that 80% AMI was established as the eligibility and allowance criteria for a maximum of \$3,500 for rental assistance. She added that applicants were required to show proof of hardship by termination letter, proof of unemployment application status, or letter from an employer indicating a wage reduction. She noted that the Neighborhood and Housing Department increased its staff from 8 to 41 through a redeployment of City Employees in order to process the increase in RMF applications. She reported that a question was added to the application asking the caller if they were safe, if they knew of someone experiencing domestic violence or abuse, and if they were in danger to respond with a code word and 9-1-1 would be called immediately. She added that callers were also questioned about food insecurities and were provided information about the unemployment filing process with the goal of removing barriers for assistance. She reported that the City's Utility Assistance Program had also experienced a surge in requests from an average of 180 to over 726 per week.

Assistant City Manager Houston outlined the proposed Ordinance of \$15.8 million, three-month COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program to provide assistance to residents based on family size. She stated that the Program would provide direct assistance with gift cards for internet access, groceries, basic needs, and gas in an amount not to exceed \$300. She identified source funding for the Program through the Affordable Housing Budget and reallocated funding from a reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, local Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) funds, Parks and Recreation extended hours funds, Zarzamora Service Center Environmental Remediation funds, San Antonio Housing Trust Foundation and the CARES Act funds. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that the City also sought private donations which could be made online or by texting Housing Help SA to 41444. She added that this information would be posted on the City's website so that it could be shared through social media. She mentioned similar funding measures taken by other major cities in Texas.

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagómez reported that the total amount of money the City had spent in response to COVID-19 from early February 2020 through April 12, 2020 was \$10.3 million. She noted that \$4.4 million was attributed to expenses incurred by the San Antonio Fire Department and Metro Health and \$5.9 million of expenses were incurred for the cost of supplies. She stated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would reimburse 75% of eligible expenses and the local government was responsible for the remaining 25%. She added that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$3.5 million in grants to the City. She identified other grants the City expected to benefit from such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) for police-related expenses, and the Disaster Relief Fund.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon Jack M. Finger whom was registered to speak on Item 4.

Jack M. Finger stated that it was the charge of Mayor and local elected officials to lift COVID-19 restrictions based on the advice of appointed health officials, not City staff.

Councilmember Treviño requested that staff follow up with Chief Appraiser Amezcuita, Bexar County Appraisal District, regarding property taxes. He stated that if Property Taxes were not carried forward this year, property valuations could increase as much as 35%. He noted that property valuations were capped for homestead owners at 10%.

Councilmember Treviño reported that reallocated Federal funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was added to the Risk Mitigation Fund (RMF). He stated that Federal policy required rental payments made from the RMF to be issued directly to landlords. He stated that the City could not appropriate Federally issued funds to renters that did not qualify for RMF assistance, or in instances where landlords did not participate in the RMF program. He requested that Councilmembers consider appropriating \$10 million from the City's \$120 million Rainy Day Fund to further augment the RMF. He proposed the assistance of a third party to help distribute the funds. Deputy City Manager Villagómez replied that the City's General Fund apportioned 10%, or approximately \$120 million, of its operating revenue as its budgeted financial resource. She added that the City also maintained 5%, or approximately \$50-60 million, of a two-year reserve within the General Fund that was earmarked to balance the next year's budget. She explained that the City's financial policy was to maintain a minimum General Fund balance of 15% reserves. City Manager Walsh referred to the City's reserve fund as the last line of defense and recommended that the City cut spending by \$10 million instead.

Councilmember Gonzales noted a decrease in Emergency Housing Assistance calls received after April 5, 2020, and asked if that was an indication that many residents had received the assistance they needed. She asked if gift cards were distributed for rental assistance. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that the spike in calls at the beginning of the month was most likely due to the fact that rent was due on the first of the month. She added that the City was working with the San Antonio Housing Trust to ensure that residents who received rental or housing assistance through the COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program would receive a gift card to be used for gas or groceries with the amount of the card dependent on the size of their family, not to exceed \$300 per family.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of Federal funding received by the City and how the amounts were determined. Assistant City Manager Contreras replied that some funding was population-based and was appropriated at the State level and disbursed to the City through a grant. He stated that most COVID-19 Federal funding did not require a match by the City. City Manager Walsh noted that the City could not fund the COVID-19 response indefinitely. He reported that the City funded 100% of the COVID-19 response to date, in the amount of \$10 million. He added that the City would be reimbursed up to 75% through the Federal Stimulus Package and \$3.5 million had been received by the Federal Government to date.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia referenced the Home Energy Assistance Program and asked if funding for utility assistance was available to residents. She requested that staff connect with the City's partnering agencies in the spirit of sharing funding information. She stated that the Small Business Association (SBA) had expended all funds for the Paycheck Protection Program and asked for a back-up plan. Assistant City Manager Contreras stated that the Economic Income Disaster Fund (EIDF) was fully subscribed. He added that only the Federal Government could address the issue and noted that 22 million Americans were out of work. He stated that there was immense pressure on Congress to reach an agreement to provide additional funding while in recess and to propose additional funding when Congress reconvened in May 2020.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked of the status of the Council Consideration Request (CCR) she submitted with support from Councilmembers Andrews-Sullivan, Cabello Havrda, and Courage for doubling funds in the RMF and to expand the eligibility criteria of rental assistance programs to include households at or below 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines, with extenuating circumstances to be handled on a case-by-case basis. Assistant City Manager Houston replied that the proposed CCR was used as a framework for the City's COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program. She stated that the City's 200% Area Median Income (AMI) eligibility amount was \$55,000, and for 100% AMI the

eligibility amount was \$72,000, per Federal AMI Guidelines. She added that residents could apply for up to three months' assistance at a time, with proof of hardship required.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the status of the City's Military Bases and what advocacy was in place to ensure that the funding of local military installations was protected from any COVID-19 impact. Assistant City Manager Contreras reported that Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Juan Ayala, Director of Military and Veteran Affairs, was engaged in daily talks with Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, Commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, to lend support and ensure local military needs and issues are being addressed as they arise.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the amount of uncollected utility payments for CPS Energy and SAWS. She asked if CPS Energy and SAWS intended to collect all past due fees. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that the total of uncollected utility payments would be provided.

Mayor Nirenberg replied that in addition to a moratorium for utility disconnections, there would be a suspension of late fees for both agencies. He added that the agencies had established donation options for residents and provided information to their customers on available emergency affordability programs.

Councilmember Viagran asked of outstanding COVID-19 supplies not yet received. She asked of redeployment of staff for community outreach, surveillance and contact investigations. Deputy City Manager Villagómez reported that masks for First Responders had not been received. Assistant City Manager Colleen Bridger reported that staff and Human Resources were working to redeploy staff to Metro Health to assist with answering calls to the COVID-19 hotline and placing informational door hangers in communities.

Councilmember Courage noted the average amount of \$1,300 to be disbursed through COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program to approximately 9,000 applicants over the past two weeks and estimated that the \$15 million in RMF assistance would be depleted within two months. He asked if investment property owners were eligible for assistance under the CARES Act. Assistant City Manager Contreras stated that the information would be provided.

Councilmember Pelaez noted that the first priority of the City was to prevent deaths from COVID-19. He denounced critics of Metro Health that demanded business establishments be allowed to open. He asked Dr. Bridger for a report on the roles of Metro Health staff in the field. Dr. Bridger reported that every Metro Health staff member was engaged in the field for an average of 12-15 hours per day as they worked to determine the best course of action to keep the City safe. She stated that Metro Health staff entered communities with the highest rates of infection and went door-to-door to ensure residents knew of the information needed to protect themselves and where they could go for COVID-19 testing. She added that Metro Health checked in daily with over 800 individuals infected with COVID-19 to see if they needed anything and to ensure they were staying home and not posing a risk to the community.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the AMI eligibility criteria for the City's COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance and if eligibility was based on an applicant's current situation or based on the applicant's AMI prior to COVID-19 employment status. She asked if self-employed workers, contract workers, and seasonal workers were eligible for RMF. Assistant City Manager Houston replied that eligibility was based on an applicant's current situation and not a previous AMI. She added that workers could submit various forms of proof to qualify for assistance such as a letter from their employer, bank statements, or a certified letter stating their status.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if staff was partnering with other local housing delegate agencies such as the Salvation Army, American GI Forum, and Family Endeavors to determine if those agencies could contribute funds for rental assistance. Assistant City Manager Houston replied that staff was in contact with housing agencies and would provide the information.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan requested a list of apartment unit vacancies from the San Antonio Apartment Association that could be made available as housing resources. Assistant City Manager Houston replied that staff was in contact with several housing agencies and she would provide the information.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan requested additional statistics on the location of deaths due to COVID-19. Dr. Bridger stated that she would provide the information.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked of the impact on the City's Bond Rating if the City utilized some of its reserved funds for the COVID-19 response. Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the City has maintained an AAA Bond Rating and if the City utilized any of its reserve funds, it could be negatively reviewed by Rating Agents. He added that a strong bond rating would be an important part of the City's recovery. He stated that the City's financial policy was to maintain a minimum reserve of 15% balance in the General Fund with a focus on adjusting spending.

City Attorney Andy Segovia provided an update on the Governor's Stay-At-Home Order issued on March 31, 2020. He stated that the Order provided a process for businesses to request a determination of their organization to be deemed an essential business. City Attorney Segovia reported that staff monitored the website daily to ensure that both the City and Bexar County were in compliance. He added that the State Attorney General stated that golf courses could allow their members to play golf as long as rental equipment was not required. He noted that members could use their own clubs and golf balls and no other personnel should be involved. He added that groundskeeping of golf courses could proceed, as it pertained to preservation of the site. He stated that golf courses that had kitchens could provide take-out and delivery of meals under the same guidelines for restaurants.

Councilmember Perry noted the various funding available under the CARES Act and requested a list of funds which were preapproved and funds which would require further action to qualify for. He voiced concern that some funding was awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis and requested a schedule indicating timelines and deadlines to apply for funding. He asked if funding was available for theme parks. Assistant City Manager Contreras replied that most funding was received through a mix of guidelines. He stated that the FAA determined an award of \$39 million would be appropriated for the San Antonio Airport System, San Antonio International Airport (SAT), and Stinson Municipal Airport which did require a process to obtain the funds. He added that an updated funding tracker complete with deadlines was distributed to City Councilmembers. He noted that the City Manager submitted a certification for local and state funding. Assistant City Manager Contreras stated that funding streams were available to all businesses, to include theme parks.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the number of families that could receive assistance through the City's COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program. She asked of the number of families estimated to be affected by COVID-19. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that approximately 10,000 families could be assisted with the \$15.8 million in the RMF. She added that additional funds were set aside from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for those families who were not eligible for RMF assistance. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that she would provide information on the estimated number of families affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Councilmember Sandoval voiced concern for the dire situation many residents faced. She requested that an evaluation be made on the City's AAA Bond Rating if the City were to appropriate some reserve funds towards relief efforts.

Councilmember Treviño voiced concern that additional RMF requirements could potentially discourage Landlords from accepting the funds. He spoke in support of small businesses, commercial tenants, and unique property owners that were excluded from qualifying for RMF assistance. Councilmember Treviño urged the City Council and staff to be proactive and collaborate on the implementation of Ordinances that could provide additional resources. He stated that the City should do everything possible to assist the most vulnerable in our City, to include the use of the City's reserve funds.

Councilmember Pelaez noted the time and resources directed to COVID-19 relief efforts and asked of efforts made to enhance access to videoconferencing for mental health televisits. He requested a meeting with Dr. Bridger to discuss mental health initiatives in Illinois and Georgia. Dr. Bridger stated that the City was working with providers to incorporate telemedicine visits for psychiatric care and other medical services. Dr. Bridger welcomed a meeting with Councilmember Pelaez to discuss mental health initiatives.

Councilmember Pelaez requested that the City evaluate a way to incentivize Landlords to participate in the City's COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program.

City Manager Walsh stated that the City's Reserve Fund was only a two-month operating reserve and was the City's last line of defense. He added that the City Council would discuss allocation of funds and recommended additional cuts to the budget in order to maintain a structural balance as an organization and a City.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the RMF was reimbursable through the CARES Act. Assistant City Manager Houston replied that the funds were not reimbursable.

Councilmember Sandoval reported that the San Antonio Manufacturer's Association (SAMA) partnered with organizations in need of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). She stated that SAMA created a Facebook page to receive orders from the medical field. She added that local manufacturers would be hiring employees for the effort.

Councilmember Sandoval requested that PPE and COVID-19 protocol training be provided to in-home Healthcare Workers.

Councilmember Gonzales requested that basic broadband access be recognized as a basic utility service to be provided to residents. Mayor Nirenberg stated that the Governor had the ability to suspend Statutes preventing access to fiber bundles for public service.

Acting City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 20.

2020-04-16-0274

- 20.** Ordinance approving a Minor Amendment to the FY2020 HUD Action Plan and Budget to reprogram up to \$750,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Short Term Emergency Housing Assistance Program to assist vulnerable populations at risk of homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

Councilmember Viagran requested an itemized report of all funding received from the CARES Act, CDBG, RMF, and the COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program. She requested that the report include the designation of appropriated funds and asked if Bexar County had housing assistance in place. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that Bexar County had its own housing authority and was developing a Housing Assistance Program. She added that Bexar County received \$1.4 million in CDBG funding through the CARES Act and was working on a plan to appropriate the CDBG funding into their housing assistance program. She noted that Bexar County held discussions with the COVID-19 Food Insecurity and Shelter Working Group.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve Item 20. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

City Manager's Report

23. City Manager's Report

City Manager Walsh highlighted and thanked all the City Employees who were now part of the City's hotline response teams. He noted that phone operations were critical for some individuals who did not have the ability to access information online.

City Manager Walsh reported that a total of 13 City Employees were confirmed positive for COVID-19: 6 Police Officers, 3 Firefighters, and 4 Civilians. He added that 102 City Employees were in quarantine, self-isolation, or staying at home for a variety of reasons: 7 Police Officers, 47 Firefighters, and 48 Civilians. He reported that three of the Firefighters that tested positive were from the same Fire Station and he added that the Fire Station was closed for a third deep cleaning and would be restaffed in approximately 48 hours. He noted that the fire engine, fire truck and one EMS unit were deep cleaned and temporarily relocated.

Mayor Nirenberg clarified that the 102 City employees in quarantine had not tested positive for the virus, but had perhaps come into contact with someone who had COVID-19. City Manager Walsh added that some City Employees had travelled outside of Bexar County and self-isolated upon their return.

Councilmember Courage asked if City Employees were asked to wear masks. City Manager Walsh reported that the City began distributing masks to employees last week with instructions to utilize the masks at times when they could not practice social distancing. City Manager Walsh added that Public Safety Employees were under strict guidelines because of the close contact situations they worked in.

Mayor Nirenberg announced that Executive Session would not be held.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
Acting City Clerk