

City of San Antonio



City Council B Session

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, September 30, 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 is established, the City Council shall consider the following

1. Briefing on the selection process for the SA Climate Ready Advisory Committees and the recommended candidates. [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Douglas Melnick stated that on June 22, 2017, the City Council passed a Resolution in support of the Paris Climate Agreement directing City staff to develop a plan to help the City of San Antonio meet the objectives of the agreement. He reported that on October 17, 2019, the City Council adopted the SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). He indicated that to effectively implement the CAAP, the plan called for two externally recruited committees to be established: 1) Technical and Community Advisory Committee; and a 2) Climate Equity Advisory Committee. He added that the committee structure and process for selection was approved by City Council on December 12, 2019.

Mr. Melnick reviewed the current status of climate change and stated that climate action reinforced San Antonio's response to the overlapping threats from COVID-19, economic recession, and systemic racism. He reported that SA Climate Ready focused on:

- Reducing emissions and improving air quality and public health outcomes
- Reducing unnecessary energy consumption, lowering energy bills, and saving money for residents, businesses, and institutions
- Promoting equity and environmental and climate justice
- Increasing economic competitiveness and access to green job opportunities

- Building community resilience

Mr. Melnick stated that the Technical & Community Advisory Committee was comprised of 15 at-large members, five organizational members, and the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Climate Equity Committee. He indicated that the Committee was designed to provide expertise, diverse perspectives, and input regarding implementation of the CAAP as the City worked to achieve greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation goals. He noted that the mission of the Committee was to advise City staff and City Council on the advancement and equity-centered implementation of the SA Climate Ready Plan, as well as related long-term sustainability plans such as the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan.

Mr. Melnick reported that the Climate Equity Advisory Committee was comprised of 10 at-large representatives from community-based organizations and other key stakeholders representing the interests of low-income populations, communities of color, and marginalized populations, and the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Technical & Community Advisory Committee. He stated that the mission of the Committee was to provide input on the implementation of the CAAP to ensure an equity-centered approach and equitable outcomes.

Mr. Melnick stated that applications for both Committees, in English and Spanish, were released on January 21, 2020. He explained that promotion included:

- Posts on all social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Emails to the Office of Sustainability email database
- Targeted correspondence to key stakeholders including partner institutions, businesses, community organizations, and neighborhood associations
- Collaboration with City Council Offices
- Stories via local news outlets

Mr. Melnick stated that 107 applications were received for the Technical & Community Advisory Committee and 72 applications were received for the Climate Equity Advisory Committee. He explained that a Selection Committee was formed and was comprised of Councilmembers Sandoval and Andrews-Sullivan and was advised by the City Manager's Office, the Office of Equity, and the Office of Sustainability. He noted that in February 2020, applications were reviewed by the Selection Committee and from June through August 2020, 60 virtual interviews were conducted. He stated that equity of the key frameworks of the Climate Ready Plan were implemented in coordination with the Office of Equity from the initial application design and promotion to developing the interview questions and finally, candidate selection.

Mr. Melnick reported that the Climate Equity Plan stated that "A climate equity framework prioritizes the communities burdened the most by climate change, those that contribute the least to climate change, and those most socially vulnerable to it. Climate equity ensures that these communities play a central role in the just transformation of the systems that have established, and continue to perpetuate, the unequal burden of climate impacts." He noted that as a result, it was essential that those most impacted by climate change have a voice in the implementation of the CAAP.

Mr. Melnick reviewed the recommended candidates for the Technical & Community Advisory Committee and the Climate Equity Advisory Committee. He stated that after finalizing the selection, it was determined that there was a need for two additional seats on the Technical & Community Advisory Committee for representatives of the Energy Industry (1 seat) and the Automotive Industry (1 seat). He

noted that staff recommended the addition of a dedicated seat for Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) as a research partner to the Technical & Community Advisory Committee. He reported that an Ordinance amendment allowing for the addition of the three seats would be brought before the City Council for consideration on October 8, 2020. He indicated that once approved, applicants from those sectors would be formally recruited. He noted that the Community Health and Equity Subcommittee would then select candidates for interviews and make recommendations to the Community Health and Equity Council Committee with the goal of appointing the three additional seats by the end of the month. He stated that in November 2020, the approved candidates would attend a series of racial equity training and orientation webinars and the first quarterly meeting of the Committees would be held.

2. Briefing on the procurement for meal preparation services for the Senior Nutrition Program supported by the Department of Human Services. [Dr. Colleen Bridger, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley reported that the Senior Nutrition Program had been operated by the Department of Human Services since 1973. She stated that the goal of the program was to promote the health and well-being of older adults and delay the onset of adverse health conditions resulting from poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyle by: 1) Providing nutritious meals and nutrition education; 2) Reducing hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition; 3) Promoting socialization and reducing isolation; and 4) Providing access to disease prevention and health promotion services.

Ms. Woosley noted that approximately 700,000, hot, noon meals were served in a congregate setting (pre-COVID) annually (approximately 2,500-2,700 daily). She indicated that adults, aged 60 and older, and their spouses and disabled children in their household were eligible to participate in the program. She explained that the meals were prepared and delivered through a contracted vendor to 52 sites (pre-COVID) in San Antonio and Bexar County. She stated that the meals and services must comply with Federal Senior Nutrition Program Grant requirements and Metro Health food safety guidelines.

Ms. Woosley reported that the competitive process for the Senior Nutrition Program was last undertaken on January 23, 2015 and the contract term for the solicitation was one year, with four, one-year renewal options. She noted that the current contract with Selrico Services, Inc. was set to expire on September 30, 2020 but was extended through December 31, 2020.

Ms. Woosley reviewed the Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFCSP) timeline and noted that the RFCSP would be submitted to the City Council for consideration on October 8, 2020 with a start date of January 1, 2021. She indicated that three proposals were forwarded for review with one deemed non-responsive for failure to meet subcontracting requirements. She stated that proposals from Meals on Wheels, Selrico Services, Inc., and the San Antonio Food Bank were evaluated.

Ms. Woosley reviewed the evaluation criteria and noted the Evaluation Committee Members. She reported that based on the total scores, the Evaluation Committee ranked Meals on Wheels first with 73/100, Selrico Services, Inc. second with 67.39/100 and the San Antonio Food Bank third with 52.42/100. She stated that the Evaluation Committee recommended awarding the contract to Meals on Wheels. She reviewed the array of services provided and evaluation feedback for all three proposals.

Ms. Woosley reported that the Senior Nutrition Program Budget for FY 2021 was \$2.46 million with four additional one-year renewal options for up to \$3.9 million annually for a total contract value over five years of \$18.2 million. She stated that the Budget for FY 2021 included the Senior Nutrition Program Grant award of \$1.71 million and \$748,000 from the General Fund. She added that funding for

future years of the contract would be subject to performance and City Council approval of the annual Budget.

Deputy Chief Financial Officer Troy Elliott stated that after the Evaluation Committee finalized their scoring for the experience, background and qualifications, the Finance Department would provide the pricing analysis and the Small Business Office would provide the scoring for the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Program components. Mr. Elliott presented the average price per meal for the five-year term.

Mr. Elliott reported that there were initially four proposals and after the Finance Department conducted a minimum requirement review, one was deemed non-responsive for not meeting the subcontracting requirements. He noted that due diligence was performed utilizing background research, references, financial review, and proof of insurance. He indicated that the Office of the City Auditor reviewed contract disclosure forms, campaign contributions during the term of the solicitation, and any conflicts of interest. He stated that no issues were identified in the due diligence review. He stated that staff recommended that this item be brought before the City Council for consideration.

Councilmember Sandoval spoke of the expertise of the recommended candidates for the Technical & Community Advisory Committee and the Climate Equity Advisory Committee. She asked of the steps to be taken to fill the seats for the Energy and Automotive Industries. Mr. Melnick replied that if the City Council approved the addition of the seats, targeted recruitment would be performed and applicants would apply for those seats with the Office of the City Clerk. Councilmember Sandoval stated that she would like to include all of the recommended candidates, including those for the three additional seats, for consideration on October 8, 2020.

Mayor Nirenberg concurred with Councilmember Sandoval. City Manager Erik Walsh stated that depending on the City Council conversation, staff could reach out to the energy and automotive industries and request nominations from them to include their recommendations for consideration on October 8, 2020.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan stated that the Selection Committee for the Technical & Community Advisory Committee and the Climate Equity Advisory Committee recommended candidates that represented industries and the community.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the Climate Equity Advisory Committee would focus on areas in the community that have suffered from environmental injustice. Mr. Melnick stated that an analysis was performed by zip code to find out where the most vulnerable and marginalized populations were and resources would be focused there. Councilmember Viagran asked if issues and concerns raised regarding the food vendors were considered during the RFCSP process. Ms. Woosley replied that all past performance issues were part of the scoring for experience, qualification, and background.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how many individuals represented Council District 4 on the Technical & Community Advisory Committee and the Climate Equity Advisory Committee. Mr. Melnick reported that every Council District was represented on the Technical & Community Advisory Committee except Council Districts 3 and 4 and the Climate Equity Advisory Committee included representatives from Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 7, and 8. Assistant City Manager David McCary stated that outreach was performed citywide and Mr. Melnick would provide information on the process.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how many individuals were employed by Meals on Wheels. Mr.

Elliot stated that he would provide that information. Councilmember Gonzales asked of the competitive advantage of non-profit over for-profit organizations. Mr. Elliott replied that because non-profit organizations had an inherent advantage, they were not provided preference points for the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Program and other programs. Councilmember Gonzales expressed concern that the contract would be taken away from a local small business.

Councilmember Courage expressed support for the staff recommendation for the Senior Nutrition Program and the appointees to the Technical & Community Advisory and the Climate Equity Advisory Committees.

Councilmember Perry asked how information on the past performance of Meals on Wheels and the San Antonio Food Bank was gathered. Mr. Elliott stated that their references were checked regarding the quality of services provided. Councilmember Perry expressed concern regarding non-profit organizations competing with for-profit organizations. He requested a review of the evaluation process and expressed concern regarding the cost of the CAAP.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed support for the staff recommendation for the Senior Nutrition Program and pointed out the difference between non-profit and for-profit organizations.

Councilmember Treviño asked if the Department of Human Services tracked the number of seniors who cared for grandchildren. Ms. Woosley stated that she did not know if that was tracked but would see if it was.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed concern regarding the selection of a non-profit which depended on volunteers to conduct the work.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the Technical & Community Advisory and the Climate Equity Advisory Committees would serve in perpetuity. Mr. Melnick replied that there was no sunset period for the Committees. Councilmember Viagran stated that there should be one representative from each Council District.

City Manager Walsh emphasized that the recommended proposal for the Senior Nutrition Program did not rely on volunteers.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the CAAP was based on climate equity and the idea of overcoming historical disparities in the community and was included in the foundation of the CAAP. He expressed support for the staff recommendation for the Senior Nutrition Program and stressed the need for adhering to the evaluation criteria in the RFCSP.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg announced that the Executive Session would be carried over to October 1, 2020.

- A.** Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B.** The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).

- C. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Discuss legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney)].

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
City Clerk