

**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 8, 2021**

**9:00 AM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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

1. The Invocation was delivered by Reverend Allen M. Ford of Grace First Baptist Church, guest of Councilmember Rocha Garcia, District 4.
2. Mayor Nirenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. Approval of Minutes from the City Council Meetings of February 3, 2021, February 4, 2021, and February 10, 2021

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve the Minutes from February 3, 2021, February 4, 2021, and February 10, 2021. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan 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**

Mayor Nirenberg announced that Items 4, 12 and 13 were pulled from the Consent Agenda and for Individual Consideration. He added that there were no individuals registered to speak on the Consent Agenda Items.

Councilmember Rebecca Viagran highlighted Item 11 and recognized Assistant City Manager Alejandra “Alex” Lopez on her appointment to the Brooks Development Authority Board of Directors.

**2021-04-08-0222**

5. Ordinance approving a contract with Ancira Motor Company to provide the San Antonio Fire Department with first responder trucks for FY 2021 and FY 2022 for an estimated total cost of \$750,400.00. Funding in the amount of \$136,200.00 is available from the FY 2021 Equipment Renewal and Replacement Fund budget. Funding for FY 2022 is subject to City Council approval of the annual budget. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**2021-04-08-0223**

6. Ordinance awarding the 2021 - 2022 Task Order Contract for Flatwork and Repair Package 3 to DPR Mcham, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$1,573,680.50 with reimbursement from San Antonio Water System in an amount consistent with necessary adjustments to their existing infrastructure related to construction services for flatwork and street improvement projects identified in the Neighborhood Access and Mobility Program (NAMP) and Infrastructure Management Program (IMP). [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]
7. Approving the following items related to the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Citywide Traffic Signal Optimization Program: [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2021-04-08-0224**

- 7A. Ordinance approving an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation, accepting grant reimbursement in the estimated amount not to exceed \$3,600,000.00 from TxDOT for non-construction related expenses and approving payment in the amount not to exceed \$25,200.00 to TxDOT for administrative oversight of federal funds; and amending the FY 2021 - FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program with grant funds in the reimbursable amount of \$3,600,000.00 for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Citywide Traffic Signal Optimization Program. Funds are available from the FY 2021 Advanced Transportation District Fund and the Revised FY 2021 General Fund to fund the required local match and associated administrative oversight costs.

**2021-04-08-0225**

- 7B.** Ordinance approving four On-Call Traffic Signal Optimization Engineering Services Agreements with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Pape-Dawson Consulting Engineers, Inc., Iteris, Inc. and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., each in the amount not to exceed \$375,000.00 annually to provide as needed professional traffic signal optimization engineering consulting services related to the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Citywide Traffic Signal Optimization Program. Each agreement is for a term of one year, with an option to renew for up to two additional one-year extensions for a possible maximum contract total value not to exceed \$1,125,000.00.

**2021-04-08-0226**

- 8.** Ordinance approving a concession agreement with Prepango, LLC for vending machines and/or kiosks for the San Antonio International Airport for a term of five years. The agreement will generate 15% or 20% of gross sales in revenue for the Airport Operating and Maintenance Fund pending the type of vending machine or kiosk. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

**2021-04-08-0227**

- 9.** Ordinance approving the submission of a HUD FY 2019 Housing Counseling Grant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and acceptance upon award of an amount up to \$29,831 for the period October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2021. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, FAICP, Director, Neighborhood & Housing Services]

**2021-04-08-0228**

- 10.** Ordinance authorizing the submission of a grant application and acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$2,173,086.00 including the acceptance of additional grant funds up to a limit of 20% of the grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy for a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant and establishing a budget and personnel complement for the grant period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, to maintain funding of seventeen (17) positions. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William McManus, Chief of Police]
- 11.** Approving the following Board, Commission and Committee appointment for the remainder of unexpired term to expire May 31, 2021 or for the term shown below. [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]
- A) Appointing Daniel Rossiter (District 6) and Alejandra "Alex" Lopez (Mayor) for the Brooks Development Authority Board of Directors.

**2021-04-08-0231**

- 14.** Ordinance approving an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety reimbursing the San Antonio Police Department \$150,000 annually for five years for a total contract amount of \$750,000 for support services in connection with the Texas Anti-Gang Program. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William McManus, Chief of Police]

Councilmember Gonzales moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Courage 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

**ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

Mayor Nirenberg announced that Item 12 would be taken out of order for the benefit of guests present for the Item.

City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 12.

**2021-04-08-0229**

- 12.** Ordinance approving the street name change of a portion of South Medina to Carlos Martinez Drive, generally located between Tampico Street and Chihuahua Street. The estimated revenue of \$1,643.88 will be deposited in accordance with the FY 2021 Adopted Development Services Fund Budget. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services Department]

Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services Department, stated that the Item was related to a street name change and the associated process. He noted that any street name change went through the Development Services Department for approval. He added that an application was submitted by the Veterans Enterprises to change the name of South Medina Street to Carlos Martinez Drive which encompassed 350 feet of street with no address changes or buildings impacted. He stated that two notices were mailed; the Item was reviewed by the Historic Design and Review Committee and the Planning Commission in February 2021; and staff recommended approval of the Item.

Councilmember Gonzales noted that Mr. Carlos Martinez was the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the non-profit American GI Forum and National Veterans Outreach Program for 48 years up to the time of his passing in 2020. She stated that Mr. Martinez had a huge local and national impact for his efforts to assist veterans and their families.

Councilmember Gonzales noted that Mr. Martinez was born of immigrant parents from Mexico, raised in District 5, played baseball at Sidney Lanier High School, graduated from Lanier High School, and earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Business from Our Lady of the Lake University. She stated that he enlisted in the Air Force during the Vietnam era and was an F1 Fighter Jet crew chief.

Councilmember Gonzales noted that Mr. Martinez began his career with the GI Forum as an Outreach worker that officed out of his vehicle. She stated that he was appointed as CEO in 1974 and began building the National Veterans Outreach Program. She added that he pioneered housing services for homeless Veterans and helped more than 400,000 Veterans and their families throughout his career and had won national awards for his work assisting homeless Veterans.

Councilmember Gonzales noted that Mr. Martinez had advised five United States Presidents (Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Bush, Jr.), about Veteran issues and testified numerous times before congressional committees and established the Resident Center for Veterans. She stated that Mr. Martinez at a time was responsible for the eradication of Veteran homelessness within the City.

Councilmember Gonzales stated that Mr. Martinez was an incredible mentor and citizen and that the street name change in his honor was the least the City could do to recognize his continued efforts on Veteran issues. She noted that there were guests present and invited them to speak on the Item.

Yolanda Sanchez, Interim President and CEO of the American GI Forum stated that she had been very fortunate to have worked with Mr. Martinez for 43 years. She stated that Mr. Martinez and his wife had passed away due to COVID-19. Ms. Sanchez noted that Mr. Martinez had developed and written a mission statement for the non-profit in the late 1970s stating that he would build 100 housing units for the elderly; build programs that would serve veterans and their families; and develop innovative businesses. She added that Mr. Martinez accomplished all the mission statement items and had built seven additional non-profit corporations that served Veterans, the elderly and homeless. She stated that he was a humble man that served his community and that all now reaped the benefits of his work.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan stated that as a Veteran she knew what it meant to veterans to have the American GI Forum in their lives. She noted that the organization provided numerous services that assisted veterans to include housing, and health benefits. She thanked Mr. Martinez and the organization for their continued efforts on behalf of Veterans.

Councilmember Perry noted that he had the pleasure of meeting and worked with Mr. Martinez on a Veteran initiative in District 10. He added that Mr. Martinez was a great individual that diligently worked for the American Veteran. He stated that Mr. Martinez and he were fellow Air Force Veterans that shared many stories and discussion of their time in the Air Force.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that Mr. Martinez was very deserving of having a street named in his honor. He noted that he would always remember Mr. Martinez for his smile and hard work on behalf of the community and Veterans.

Councilmember Gonzales moved to approve Item 12. Councilmember Sandoval second 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

**4.** Briefing and possible action on legislation filed in the 87th Regular State Legislative Session,

an update on the status of proposed legislation and its impact on the City of San Antonio, and an update on the status of potential federal stimulus funding made available through the American Rescue Plan. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager]

City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 4.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle briefed on Senate and House Bills (SB/HB) that had been heard in Committees at the State Capital.

Assistant City Manager Coyle noted that SB 10 would ban lobbying by cities and counties only unlike the related house bill related to lobbying. He stated that the SB would prevent cities and counties from spending public dollars to influence indirectly or directly legislation pending in the legislature. He noted that this meant the City would not be able to hire contract lobbyists or contribute to any trade association that used a lobbyist. He added that the bill stated that City staff dedicated to address legislative issues would not be able to spend more than 26 hours per quarter at the legislature to addresses related items. He noted that the City did not support this bill due to the limitations it put on cities and counties and their ability to meet the needs of their constituents.

Assistant City Manager Coyle noted that SB 1879 addressed the requirements of more transparencies around the lobby efforts of cities and counties and that legislative items be submitted to the Texas Ethics Commission and that legislative items be standalone items to include lobbyist contracts. He stated that the City already had this practice, but the bill opened the possibility of unnecessary litigation and fees due to creation of a privacy clause within the bill. He noted that the City did not support the bill.

Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that SB 1168 (Campbell) prevented cities from issuing any fees or fines in Extra-Territorial Jurisdictions (ETJ) if the area had voted not to be annexed or had disannexed. He stated that staff did not have any major concerns related to the bill and that General Juan Ayala had spoken at the hearings on behalf of the City and Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA).

Assistant City Manager Coyle noted that HB 1803 would require county approval of the City's purchase of any property for homeless housing to include hotel shelters. He stated that the bill had been heard at the House of Representatives Urban Affairs Committee. He noted that the bill's origin derived from differences between the City of Austin and Williamson County. He added that staff had met with area legislators to educate them on the item.

Assistant City Manager Coyle briefed that the City was working with the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) on HB 872 related to utility customer privacy. He stated that the City received a large number of Open Records Requests (ORR) from people who had experienced utility cutoffs and sought utility assistance. He noted that the City did not technically have the records requested under an ORR, but SAWS did, and they would be required to release them to anyone that solicited them to include predatory lenders. He added that the bill did not make it out of committee which pleased the City.

Assistant City Manager Coyle noted that the following bills had positive momentum in legislative committees and had large support of interest groups and stakeholders:

- SB 5 - Broadband development office
- HB 1474 - Process for Historic Districts and Historic designations
- HB 1869 - Non-voter approved debt from property tax rate

Assistant City Manager Coyle noted that the House's Urban Affairs Committee released a report about the State's Rent Relief Program and funded by the Federal Government at \$1 Billion and to date had received over 170,000 applications. He stated that the concern had by many was that the program had provided relief to only 250 individuals. He stated that the City should be proud of their efforts related to recovery relief.

Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that SB 264 (Menendez) would create a state agency similar to the state agency focused on Cancer Research in Texas but addressed emerging infectious diseases and assisted in the development of vaccines. He added that the bill would create a grant program that would be funded by bonds. He noted that the local Texas Biomedical Research Institute had been involved in the development of the bill.

Assistant City Manager Coyle noted that there were several bills that addressed varied healthcare topics to include postpartum coverage, telemedicine, and allowances for home healthcare providers to administer vaccines to homebound seniors. He added that the house bill which Representative Ray Lopez wrote that would allow for JBSA to bill under Medicare was set for hearing on the following Tuesday and had the support of the City.

City Manager Walsh introduced Ana Bradshaw who provided an update to the COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Plan and the American Rescue Plan Bill. He added that the City was still awaiting additional guidance from the Federal Government on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) but that it provided opportunity to apply relief funding to various City efforts associated with the COVID-19 recovery.

Ms. Bradshaw stated that the ARP was a \$1.9 Trillion piece of legislation that would provide funds at the State and local level. She noted that the City continued to monitor the legislation and provided an overview of the ARP to include:

- Signed into law on March 11, 2021
- Provided funding in several areas including state and local aid
  - Funding administered through U.S. Treasury
  - Augmented form of the Coronavirus Relief Funds; however, requirements and criteria had significant differences.

Ms. Bradshaw highlighted the ARP components which totaled approximately \$350 million at the State and local level to included:

- State and Local Fiscal Recovery assistance
- Emergency Rental Assistance
- Education Stabilization Fund
- Transportation and infrastructure assistance

- Low-income water and energy assistance
- Provide emergency paid sick leave credits
- Provide direct stimulus payments

Ms. Bradshaw noted that \$350 billion was allocated for additional State and local aid “to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency”. She stated that the City of San Antonio was projected to receive a \$326 million award and Bexar County one for \$388 million. She added that the awards were expected to expire in December 2024.

Ms. Bradshaw noted that the Plan provided board definitions of allowable uses of how states and localities could spend funds. She stated that this was a critical difference compared to Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations. She noted that the bill allowed for funds to address water and sewer infrastructure, broadband infrastructure, and support to essential workers.

Ms. Bradshaw provided a comparison on the Coronavirus Relief Fund and the Local Fiscal Relief Funds as follows:

- Coronavirus Relief Fund
  - 9 months to spend
  - All funds released at once
  - County portion net of City
  - Not to be used for revenue replacement
- Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
  - 3+ years to spend
  - Funds released in two tranches
  - County portion inclusive of City population
  - Revenue replacement allowed

Ms. Bradshaw reviewed the City’s revenue loss due to the Coronavirus Pandemic:

| City Revenue Loss<br>(in millions)                             |              |                             |                           |         |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Fiscal Year  | General Fund | Hotel Occupancy<br>Tax Fund | Other Restricted<br>Funds | Total   |
| 2020   | \$23.1       | \$57.7                      | \$44.2                    | \$125.0 |
| 2021   | \$16.1       | \$67.9                      | \$38.5                    | \$122.5 |
| Total  | \$39.2       | \$125.6                     | \$82.7                    | \$247.5 |
| * Revenue Loss not including Airport Revenues: \$179.1 Million |              |                             |                           |         |

Ms. Bradshaw noted that other potential ARP funding coming to San Antonio would address the following:

- Emergency Rental Assistance
- Homelessness Assistance
- Public Health/Pandemic Response
- Utility Assistance



- Airport
- Childcare
- Mental health and substance abuse assistance
- Homeowner assistance
- Public safety
- Broadband Infrastructure

Ms. Bradshaw stated that staff's proposed strategy for use of funds included revenue loss replacement, community engagement to prioritize community needs, strategic project to further recovery and resiliency, and develop partnerships to leverage/augment funds.

Ms. Bradshaw stated that the next steps included:

- Work with Federal partners to identify all ARP funding
- Validate revenue loss
- Prioritize ongoing needs and align with funding sources
- Identify potential funding partnerships
- Develop process for fund distribution
- Keep City Council updated as information on the total funding became available

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Assistant City Manager Coyle and Ms. Bradshaw for their presentations. He stated that he was surprised that the legislative sessions had not been more contentious, but still anticipated the need for a special session.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the City was embarking on a massive undertaking with the ARP and recovery strategy. He noted that it was important to understand the rules and regulations of the ARP in order to address the City's critical needs. He stressed that it would be important to know what the City's partners such as Bexar County were doing to address recovery and relief items. He added that the community had been through a very devastating crisis but that in working together gain leverage for opportunities and relief. Mayor Nirenberg thanked the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Team on their hard work and continued efforts.

Councilmember Pelaez noted the hard work from the IGR Team. He stated that it was important to remind taxpayers that the ARP funding was provided by tax and payroll dollars and important to keep federal funding in the local community.

Councilmember Pelaez stressed that the City advocated for many constituent concerns at the legislature to include the creation of redevelopment, addressing local Air Force installation concerns, support for Violence Against Women legislation, infrastructure improvements and disaster relief funding.

Councilmember Viagran thanked Christine Wright for her work as well as the rest of the IGR Team at the State Capital. She stated that she was encouraged by the projected funding under the ARP as well as collaborative efforts with area partners. She noted that it was important to have the most up to date information on funding and related efforts in order to meet the City's relief and recovery strategy.

Councilmember Viagran asked for clarification on where the State would be utilizing broadband funding. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated the funding would most likely be used in the creation of the State Broadband Office, creation of a series of programs and to create a grant fund with parameters around dedicating grants to those that were underserved. He added that the bill did not differentiate between rural or urban areas need for broadband.

Councilmember Viagran asked if there had been any conversations at the legislature related to improvements of ERCOT. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that there had not been much conversation over the past week. He noted that there were bills still pending discussion that would change ERCOT governance.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the status of voter suppression bills. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that SB 7 had passed the Senate. He added that many large companies had expressed opposition to the bill.

Councilmember Sandoval asked which restricted funds were not covered under the summary of lost revenue. Ms. Bradshaw stated that the Parking Fund, Market Square Fund and Municipal Court fines and fees were not included in the summary.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if the ARP would replace revenues lost at a full or partial rate. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that the City anticipated a full replacement of revenues lost from funds received by the U.S. Treasury.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if HB 4139 related to the creation of the Health Equity Office had any momentum. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that the bill had support from both political parties.

Councilmember Sandoval asked for an update on HB 1911 related to gun ownership. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that he would provide an update after gathering status information.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for clarification on support for small businesses and essential workers under the ARP. Ms. Bradshaw stated that the City was awaiting additional guidance from the Federal level in order to move forward on support for both areas.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked when funds under the ARP would be released. Ms. Bradshaw stated that funds would be released in two tranches and with the first released in 60 days. She added that the second tranche would be released in May 2022.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked when community engagement would begin under the ARP under the ARP prioritization process. City Manager Walsh stated that the exact time was still being planned but that conversations with partners had begun to identify a timeline. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for quarterly updates on the Program progress.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if letters of support for different areas related to Senate and House Bills were needed. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that letters were needed for the

Health Equity Office Bill and he would provide additional information on other bills requiring letters of support.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked that an update on HB 93 related to expansion of drug free zones around school zones be provided at later date.

Councilmember Treviño asked that ARP funds be used for utility assistance specially to deal with the upcoming summer heat weather. He asked how much ARP funding was available for relocation assistance. Ms. Bradshaw said that she would follow up with his office with that information.

Councilmember Courage asked how the State was spending previously received funding related to recovery and relief at the local level. He stated that the City Council needed to understand budget forecasts for the remainder of the year. Assistant City Manager Lori Houston stated the City was in continued communications with the state and provided immediate feedback and recommendations for needed rental assistance and other areas as needed.

Assistant City Manager Coyle provided an update on HB 1911 and that the bill got voted out of the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if ARP funding could be used to replace lost Hotel Occupancy Tax funding for the Arts. Ms. Bradshaw stated that Treasury Department guidance was still pending.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if ARP funding could be used for capital improvements and broadband needs. Assistant Manager Coyle stated broadband was the only clear component covered under the bill but that continued conversations were pending to see if other items could be covered.

Councilmember Gonzales stated that the City was a unique city due to being a City of Gastronomy, a World Heritage City and the number one tourist City in Texas for culture and arts. She stressed that it was important to communicate the impact our City had on the State's economy.

Councilmember Gonzales asked for clarification on broadband funding. Craig Hopkins, Director, Information Technology Services Department, stated that the State legislature acknowledged that broadband needed to be accessible and affordable to the community. He added that broadband was a private sector industry, and the State would provide available funding that would assist in broadband accessibility.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked about possible funding for the Food Bank under the ARP. Ms. Bradshaw confirmed that there was funding for the Food Bank but would need to confirm the exact amount.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if funds would be available for mental health clinics under the ARP. Ms. Bradshaw stated that clarification was still needed and that there would be continued conversations with community partners on the subject.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if home-based small businesses would be eligible for recovery funding under the ARP. Assistant City Manager Lopez stated that the businesses were

eligible under the second round of funding.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked for clarification related to COVID-19 vaccination sites and efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). City Manager Walsh stated that the Federal Government came into the City with both the vaccine and personnel to operate FEMA vaccine sites. He noted that the City's vaccine allocations had come from the State and had adjusted their allocations due to FEMA operations. Ms. Bradshaw stated that the ARP bill contained disaster relief funding for FEMA which covered 100% of associated costs of vaccines to include the City's costs.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked what funding was available for homeless children in the K-12 school category. Ms. Bradshaw stated that she would need to obtain that data and would follow up.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if there would be any additional funds provided for individuals seeking unemployment benefits that resulted from employment lost from the Pandemic. Ms. Bradshaw stated that the ARP bill would extend unemployment benefits.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked how the Homeowners Assistance Program would assist with payments for mortgages, property taxes, and property insurance. Ms. Bradshaw stated that the funding would flow through the State and City would continue to identify how the funding would be provided. Ms. Bradshaw added that the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department provide information to residents as funding became available.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if Veteran retraining program funds would be incorporated into the City's Ready to Work Program. Assistant City Manager Lopez stated that any opportunities for funding collaboration would be conducted through the Workforce Board.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if any funding under the Broadband Initiative would provide electronic devices such as iPads or cell phones to senior citizens. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that the Relief Act from December 2020 provided service discounts of up to \$50 per month and up to \$100 for a one-time purchase of a cell phone device. He added that the funds would be provided to the cell phone providers if they decided to participate in the program.

Councilmember Perry asked for the latest information from the legislature associated with the recent storm event. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that the Senate had passed an omnibus bill that wrapped several solutions into it. He noted that CPS Energy had testified on the bill which was still pending House approval.

Councilmember Perry asked if there was funding identified for utility assistance in the legislation. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that there was a component of a bill that prohibited the establishment of wholesale energy providers. He noted that an additional bill addressed ERCOT energy repricing which passed the Senate but was stopped at the House. Assistant City Manager Coyle added that he did not think the repricing issue would be brought back through the legislature during this current session.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarification of City revenue losses in relation to \$50 million removed from streets improvement projects. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that related slides did not reflect the movement since the staff presentation addressed revenue losses to the General Fund, Hotel Occupancy Fund, and other restricted funds. Councilmember Perry asked if funding moved from the Streets Program would be reimbursed. City Manager Walsh clarified that the funding removed from the Streets Projects program was due to budget reductions in FY21 in order to maintain a balance budget. He added that the budget cut was not eligible for reimbursement under the Recovery Act.

Councilmember Perry stated that any new funding received under the ARP would need to address the small business community. He noted that 39.8% of small businesses had shut their doors and anticipated more to close in the coming year. He stressed that Federal funding needed to address small business needs.

Councilmember Pelaez asked for clarification on emergency rental and utilities relief funding. City Manager Walsh stated that utility assistance was a large component of the ARP and the City was leveraging additional efforts in the area.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if there were opportunities to leverage efforts related to flood controls with other suburban cities. City Manager Walsh stated that there was a possibility for leverage, but it depended on future allocations.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan stated that it was important to find way to assist small businesses. She asked that Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) guidelines be revamped to include existing businesses into current infrastructure.

Councilmember Viagran asked that the schedule of legislative hearing be provided to the Council in order to make themselves available to testify.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked City Staff for all their efforts at the legislature and Ms. Bradshaw for efforts on the ARP. City Manager Walsh announced that Ms. Ana Bradshaw had been promoted to Assistant Director of the Economic Development Department.

Councilmember Treviño asked that recovery funding be used to address housing voucher funding, homelessness assistance and within the arts and culture sector. He asked for the status of HB 891 that provided free birth certificates to homeless individuals. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that the bill had been referred to the Public Health Committee but that a hearing on the item had not yet been set. He noted that the City was working closely with Representative Bernal on the item.

Councilmember Treviño asked for the status on SB 7 related to voter rights. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that the bill had come out of the Senate and would be moved to the House in the coming week. He added the City had registered opposition to the bill.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Councilmember Pelaez and the entire IGR Team for their efforts at the State legislature.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the City Council would now address Item 13 which was pulled for recusal.

City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 13.

**2021-04-08-0230**

- 13.** Ordinance approving an amendment to the agreement with Communities in Schools of San Antonio to increase the compensation by an additional \$66,000.00 for a total amount of \$216,000.00 during the renewal period for additional services related to the provision of behavioral mental health counseling for youth and/or their families affected by domestic violence for a term ending June 30, 2021. [Mario Martinez, Assistant Director, Health]

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved amend Item 13. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

**RECUSED:** 1 - Rocha Garcia

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**15.** City Manager's Report

City Manager Walsh noted that the City leadership and staff had met recently to review the City's Return to Work Plan. He stated that the City had made every effort to adapt and provide services to the public as safely as possible but noted that there were some community services that were missed by the public. He stated that beginning April 12, 2021 the City of San Antonio would resume previously closed in-person public facing services and reopen to public access with COVID-19 protocols in place.

City Manager Walsh stated that services would resume within the City's public libraries, Parks and Recreation facilities to include swimming pools, senior centers along with other Human Services Department programming. He thanked the leadership team that reviewed the protocols to include the Metro Health Department team. (Video was played)

City Manager Walsh noted that the employee video of the week highlighted the City's Library Team. He stated that the Library had changed how they provided services and interact with the community. He recognized Ramiro Salazar, San Antonio Public Library Director, and the Library Team for all their creativity and hard work.

Councilmember Gonzales acknowledged Ivalis Gonzalez Meza, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, on being named San Antonio's Business Journal's Woman of the Year. She noted Ms. Gonzalez Meza's family's history of community service and her continued work on behalf of the City of San Antonio.

Councilmember Viagran expressed her excitement related to senior centers reopening. She asked if City staff had been vaccinated in order to open the facilities. City Manager Walsh stated that some staff had been vaccinated and that other staff had the opportunity to be vaccinated in the following week.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia expressed her congratulations to Ms. Gonzalez Meza. She noted that it was National Public Health Week and that an event had taken place at the San Antonio Food Bank in recognition of the week. She added her thanks to the Building & Equipment Services Department for their work at the District 4 Field Office which had recently reopened after sustaining damage during the winter storm.

Councilmember Perry stated that the community was eager to have libraries and senior centers opened. He recognized Miriam Thomas and other volunteers at the Blessed Angels Community Center who recently delivered food packages to 2,173 families and children.

Councilmember Courage led the Council and meeting attendees in the singing of Happy Birthday to Mayor Nirenberg.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 11:55 AM and stated that would be meeting in Executive Session to discuss the following items:

- 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. Legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- F. Discuss legal options pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting and stated that no action had been taken during the Executive Session. There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 1:06 PM.

**APPROVED**

**RON NIRENBERG**  
Mayor

Attest:

**TINA J. FLORES**  
City Clerk

DRAFT