

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



**DRAFT**

**Meeting Minutes**

**City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
105 Main Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

---

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

---

The City Council of San Antonio will convene in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 10 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Shaw, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

**ABSENT:** 1 - Viagran

Mrs. Vacek announced that Councilmember Viagran was attending the US/ICOMOS World Heritage Preservation Leadership Forum and Benefit in Washington, D.C.

1. A briefing by the President & CEO of CPS Energy on the status of the utility and several projects and initiatives [Paula Gold-Williams, CPSE President & CEO]

Paula Gold-Williams presented an overview of CPS Energy’s metrics, achievements, and partnerships and highlighted their efforts in renewable energy and the New Energy Economy (NEE). She described membership on the Governing Board and Leadership Team and noted they were currently searching for a new Trustee. She noted CPS Energy’s AA+ credit rating and described the rating process. She stated that CPS Energy prioritized customer service and that all actions were made to benefit customers, employees, and

community. She outlined customer outreach, economic development activities, and the Executive Account Management Team. She noted improvements in customer service and assistance program enrollment. She highlighted a competitive bid that CPS won to take over infrastructure maintenance at Joint Base San Antonio for 50 years. She stated that distribution system damage had occurred in 2017 due to severe storms and discussed restoration efforts in San Antonio, as well as other municipalities in Texas and Florida. She noted challenges with infrastructure maintenance at San Antonio International Airport and acknowledged efforts to improve coverage. She stated that CPS Energy was developing microgrids for resiliency and sustainability. She noted their participation in GridEx, a national table-top exercise simulating a cyber/physical attack, and stated that they were making additional efforts to improve integrated security. She discussed changes to algorithms and data optimization to improve the Smart Grid.

Councilmember Pelaez asked of data sharing with other entities to encourage innovation. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that they were aware of interest in their data but needed to ensure the data did not contain identifying customer information before disseminating it to other parties. Councilmember Pelaez asked how to translate the importance of credit ratings to ratepayers who claim CPS Energy is top-heavy. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that ratepayers should be assured a strong credit rating ensures access to credit that translates to lower rates for consumers.

Councilmember Perry asked if CPS Energy had determined their core missions and contracted out other services. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that they utilized a Peaking Capacity Strategy to hire contractors in cases of inconsistent project needs and that they had considered purchasing alternative energy sources. However, they determined that their focus needed to be on generating plants and distribution.

Councilmember Treviño asked of increasing public awareness of technology resources to mitigate energy consumption. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that CPS Energy had increased messaging regarding conservation on their website, social media, and print media; but more outreach was still needed and she welcomed City Council input for that process. Councilmember Treviño asked of CPS Energy's efforts to provide vocational training. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that they had a relationship with St. Philip's College to help students become certified and obtain employment with CPS. She added that they worked with other educational institutions to encourage student interest in energy and technology and offered internship opportunities. Councilmember Treviño asked of expanding affordability programs. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that enrollment was already high but opportunities could be expanded if the Councilmembers identified specific areas of need.

Councilmember Courage asked of development of a cost model for ratepayers to show the value of a AAA rating versus AA+ rating. Ms. Gold-Williams stated that they would

investigate developing said model. Councilmember Courage asked of the vulnerability of data shared through the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). Ms. Gold-Williams replied that data interconnectivity was inevitable save the development of more microgrids but that systems associated with generating units were separated from the state grid.

Councilmember Shaw praised the level of outreach performed in District 2 and CPS Energy's efforts regarding economic development.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked CPS Energy for its participation in the development of a Climate Action Plan and asked what lessons had been learned from the implementation of the Rooftop Solar Program. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that work with third parties was essential to build long-term relationships within the community for support of renewable energy programs. Councilmember Sandoval asked of CPS Energy's target for renewable energy. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that the current target was 20% of capacity and would be achieved by 2020. Councilmember Sandoval asked that CPS Energy increase their target in light of other Texas Municipalities pledging 100% renewable attainment. Ms. Gold-Williams stated that 100% renewable energy was not currently possible as all renewable systems need the support of fossil fuel power generation when renewable sources are temporarily unavailable. She added that CPS Energy was currently investigating increasing their energy storage capacity for excess renewable energy to increase their overall percentage. Councilmember Sandoval asked of the economic threshold at which it would no longer be viable to keep the Spruce 1 and Spruce 2 Coal Plants in operation. Ms. Gold-Williams replied that disruption was likely if a large number of units were deactivated at the same time and that the age of the coal plants and remaining outstanding debt made it unlikely that they would lose sufficient economic benefit to close in the near future.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of innovation of energy storage and its impact on San Antonio. Ms. Gold-Williams stated that peak energy storage was inevitable and that it would allow greater consumer choice and energy efficiency. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the history of collaboration between the city and CPS for economic development. City Manager Sculley replied that collaboration had increased significantly during former CPS Energy President and CEO Doyle Beneby's tenure and has continued to grow. Ms. Gold-Williams stated that they were currently pursuing partners that would offer stable and consistent energy demands.

Ms. Gold-Williams provided an overview of CPS Energy's history of diversification of energy sources as well as future efforts. She noted a balance of fossil fuels and renewable energy sources and that emissions had been reduced significantly since 1997. She discussed San Antonio's commitment to air quality and their partnership with University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) for an Air Quality Study.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Ms. Gold-Williams for her presentation.

Mayor Nirenberg announced that Councilmember Shaw celebrated his birthday on November 21st. The City Council wished Councilmember Shaw a Happy Belated Birthday.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:55 pm to discuss the following:

- 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 the competitive matters of CPS Energy as a publicly owned utility pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:05 pm and announced that no executive action had been taken.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Joe Yakubik expressed concern that information provided by SAWS to the City Council and the public were misleading. He asked the City Council to cast their votes on the proposed rate increase using more accurate data.

Brian Zabcik, Clean Water Advocate from Environment Texas, described his organization's participation in creating the first Texas Stormwater Scorecard and noted that San Antonio ranked second in the state. He invited City Council to attend an upcoming community stormwater forum and discussed potential improvements to stormwater management policies.

Mark Perez noted concern with City Officials neglecting public safety issues and asked the City Council to enforce Code Requirements.

Alice Canestaro-Garcia spoke of the negative impacts the proposed SAWS rate increases would have on small businessowners. She expressed concern with the Vista Ridge Pipeline Project.

Will McLeod spoke against the proposal to raise the age for sale of tobacco to 21 and the difficulties in enforcing such regulations.

John Gonzales described a negative experience with a Code Compliance Officer regarding his parents' property. He asked City Council to hold employees responsible for their actions.

Rene Hernandez spoke of San Antonio's upcoming Tricentennial and his love for San Antonio's unique culture. He distributed CDs with a song he wrote in honor of the city.

Igo Mendoza spoke of his experience becoming an American Citizen.

Joe Maldonado described a documentary he was producing highlighting the struggles of Dreamers and asked the City Council to support his filmmaking.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez spoke against the display of Christmas trees. He expressed support for the legalization and use of marijuana for medical purposes.

Joanie Brooks, President of the Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association, described a hazardous asbestos removal process in her neighborhood. She showed a video of the incident recorded by NowCastSA and noted repeated concerns with asbestos removal in the area.

Mayor Nirenberg excused himself from the meeting and Councilmember Shaw presided.

Dina Serrano spoke of the negative impacts to ratepayers if the proposed SAWS rate increases were approved and asked for better wages for citizens. Her daughters, Sofia and Gabriela Serrano, read fortunes they had received in fortune cookies.

Faris Hodge, Jr. submitted various newspaper article regarding the Dream Act, A Portrait of Jesus, and B.J. Red McCombs. He highlighted Fire Stations 52 and 53.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Shaw adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC  
CITY CLERK