

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, August 9, 2017

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

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

PRESENT: 11 - Nirenberg, Treviño, Shaw, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

1. A Briefing from the Diversity and Inclusion Office on the Equity Initiative pilot and 3-year strategy to embed equity as a core operating principle across the city organization, to include a briefing by Dr. Christine Drennon, Associate Professor, Trinity University, on historical inequity in San Antonio. [Carlos J. Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Kiran Bains, Chief Equity Officer, Diversity and Inclusion Office]

Kiran Bains stated that the mission of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion was to deliver quality services to the public and commit to achieving a vision of prosperity for the city’s vibrant, and historic community. She noted that the Office Diversity and Inclusion led a strategic planning process to define the goals of the office which began with in-depth interviews with comparative cities. She noted that the department engaged with stakeholders representing faith-based communities, non-profit organizations, business leaders, community leaders, and colleges and universities. She stated that it was found that there was support

for the city to be a leader among governments and institutions in San Antonio. She noted that a 16-member Strategic Planning Team was created and identified the following four goals: 1) Visualize equity; 2) Normalize equity; 3) Organize equity; and 4) Operationalize equity.

Ms. Bains stated that equity was defined as promoting fairness within policies, procedures, and the distribution of resources, by accounting for the different needs, challenges, and histories of the city population. She noted that the Pilot Initiative was launched to work closely with six programs in various departments with 65 city employees completing 15 hours of training. She noted that one of the key findings from the Pilot Initiative was that in-depth equity training was desired and welcomed at all levels of the organization. She reported that they also found that the city was effective and efficient when delivering equitable services to the public. She noted that the Pilot Initiative in Metro Health showed that data should be desegregated at a minimum by race, income, and district to design effective and efficient initiatives and programs by the organization. She stated that the Pilot Initiative demonstrated that equitable delivery of city services required equitable community engagement. She mentioned that equity impact assessments could be applied by elected officials for policy making, community leaders, and staff. She noted that the following were utilized for equity impact assessments: 1) Identify desired outcomes; 2) Collect and analyze data; 3) Understand historical context; 4) Engage the most impacted; 5) Develop strategies; 6) Implement the plan; and 7) Evaluate and report back.

Ms. Bains stated that a three-year strategy was led by the following goals: 1) Advance equity in all functions of local government; 2) Strengthen engagement with communities of color and low-income communities; and 3) Collaborate with other institutions to achieve the city's vision of prosperity. She reported that the Executive Equity Team would be responsible for vision and alignment; the Office of Equity would be responsible for the strategy and accountability; the Core Team would be responsible for cross-departmental assessments and Actions Plans; and Department Teams would be responsible for departmental assessments and Action Plans.

Dr. Christine Drennon provided a historical perspective of equity in San Antonio noting that San Antonio was the most economically segregated city in the nation. She noted that segregation was an individual problem that must be worked out individually. She indicated that if the particular process that produced the pattern was known; the process could be changed. She displayed a map identifying income segregation in the city and noted that discussions should be held about what was believed to have caused income segregation. She provided the history of neighborhood development in the city and spoke of the lack of investments in some areas. She added that wealth and opportunity were lacking in the city.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that equitable delivery of resources required equitable engagement.

He noted that a voice must be given to those that do not have one in order to foster equity. Councilmember Saldaña stated that this was an important topic as the budget sessions were due to begin. Councilmember Viagran spoke of strengthening engagement with the community.

Councilmember Gonzales spoke of the redirection of funds based on need rather than rough proportionality. She stated that taxes paid were not sufficient to maintain the existing infrastructure and asked if data has shown that the existing tax base could support the existing infrastructure. Dr. Drennon replied that she did not have that data but noted that density did not equal poverty. Councilmember Gonzales expressed support for a cost benefit analysis.

Councilmember Brockhouse stated that inequity must be utilized to cure inequity and expressed support for bringing in different views before enacting policy. Councilmember Treviño stated that he had seen some of the higher appraised properties paying a lower percentage than some of the lower valued properties and that many people were not aware of exemptions regarding their property taxes. Councilmember Pelaez spoke of feelings residents have about the topic of equity instead of simply relying on the data. Dr. Drennon stated that the process must be data driven.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed support for equitable outcomes and asked how the city had integrated aggregated data into its operations. Ms. Bains replied that data would be shared across resources and analyzed. Councilmember Shaw expressed support for ensuring that all residents in the community were given the same opportunity. Councilmember Courage expressed support for curbing the growth on the Northside and encouraging growth on the South, Southeast, Southwest, and East sides of the city. Councilmember Perry stated that the group all should keep said data in mind during the budget work sessions.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked everyone for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 4:37 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 collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

- D. Litigation matters involving the City including pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:03 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session. He addressed Item 2.

PUBLIC HEARING

City Clerk Vacek read the caption for Item 2:

- 2. Second Public Hearing regarding the annexation of five commercial corridors and four area enclaves: (A) IH 10 West Commercial Corridor, (B) Babcock Road Corridor, (C) Culebra Road – Alamo Ranch Corridor, (D) Wiseman Boulevard Corridor, (E) Potranco Road – West Loop 1604 Commercial Corridors, (F) Vance Jackson - North Loop 1604 West Tracts, (G) West Bitters Road, (H) Foster Road Area and (I) IH 10 East - Loop 1604 East Interchange Area adjacent to the City limits of San Antonio in Bexar County within the City of San Antonio’s Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Bridgett White, Director, Department of City & Regional Planning]

Mayor Nirenberg opened the second public hearing regarding the annexation of five commercial corridors and four area enclaves and called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Robert Hogan spoke as a representative of Bexar County Emergency Services District #10 in opposition to the annexation. He expressed concern with increased response times within the proposed annexation areas and increased fees for residents.

Mark Perez stated his opposition to annexation due to businesses operating without proper permits after being annexed.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez noted his support for annexation and continued city growth.

Dr. Clay Hadick stated his opposition to the annexation of Alamo Ranch. He noted that fee increases would lead to hardship for homeowners and highlighted additional difficulties for military personnel.

William Edinger expressed his opposition to the annexation of Alamo Ranch and far west side properties noting concerns with public safety services.

Kirk Nuckols stated his opposition to the IH 10 East annexation area noting financial concerns for the elderly community.

Errol Warran spoke in opposition to the proposed annexation due to concerns that taxpayer money would not be distributed fairly across the City.

There being no other citizens registered to speak, Mayor Nirenberg closed the public hearing.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak under Citizens to be Heard.

Terry Burns asked that the City Council take action to address environmental concerns and requested additional transparency.

Rich Burgess played an original song that he proposed to be the National Anthem of San Antonio in celebration of the Tricentennial.

Carol Fisher noted her support for a climate action plan and highlighted various city areas with environmental problems.

Garrett Mormando expressed his support for the adoption of a climate action plan.

Liz Solis expressed her concern with air quality in San Antonio.

Rusty Mahan asked the City Council not to move the Confederate Monument in Travis Park and spoke of the importance of preserving History.

John McCammon, President of the Confederate Cemetery Association of San Antonio, discussed the history of the Confederate Monument in Travis Park and the women involved in its creation. He asked that the monument remain in Travis Park.

Moureen Kaki noted her affiliation with Local SATX 4 and described a threatening image directed toward the organization. She asked that the Confederate Monument be removed

from Travis Park due to its historical associations.

Mark Perez discussed the 1997 Comprehensive Master Plan and noted concerns with businesses operating without the proper permits.

David Coffman asked the City Council to address air pollution in San Antonio and referenced local businesses contributing to the issue.

Mario Bravo recommended that the City Council use an equity lens to create a climate action plan noting insufficient funds for improving air quality in San Antonio. He expressed his support for removing the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

Jerry Morrissey spoke in opposition to the Vista Ridge Project and asked the City Council to reexamine the SAWS rate structure.

Dr. Meredith McGuire spoke in support of the adoption of a climate action plan and asked the City Council to seek outside counsel regarding the SAWS Water Management Plan.

Samuel Durandard asked the City Council to support the removal of the Confederate Statue in Travis Park and spoke of the history of slavery and racial discrimination.

Brandon Burkhart, Vice President of This Is Texas Freedom Force, asked the City Council to keep the Confederate Statue in Travis Park in honor of Texas History and fallen soldiers.

Lamar Russell identified himself as a First Lieutenant in the Alamo Militia and stated that the Confederate Monument honored fallen soldiers and should remain in Travis Park.

Pedro Mata, III identified himself as a member of This Is Texas Freedom Force and asked the City Council not to use funds to remove the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

Rothie Hackstadt discussed Confederate History and asked the City Council not to remove the Confederate Monument from Travis Park.

Leslie Wilson asked the City Council to keep the Confederate Statue in Travis Park to honor History.

Penelope Boyer described climate inequities in different parts of San Antonio and asked the City Council to take action against climate change.

Gregory Harman asked the City Council to get involved with the community to create a climate action plan.

Former Councilmember Mario Salas discussed Confederate History in racial context. He stated that the Confederate Statue represented hatred and should be removed from Travis Park. He noted there would be a protest at Travis Park in support of removing the statue.

Henry Rodriguez spoke on behalf of Lulac Concilio Zapatista in support of small business vendors. He asked the City Council to assist Rose Lopez in keeping her business on the Riverwalk.

H. Drew Galloway spoke in support of the removal of the Confederate Statue from Travis Park and asked the City Council to develop a climate action plan.

Alyssa Pope identified herself as a field organizer with MOVE San Antonio. She stated that the Confederate Statue in Travis Park represented oppression and should be moved to a museum.

Chiara Pride stated that the Confederate Statue should be removed from Travis Park and placed in a museum for better historical context.

Noelani Cubillos-Sanchez asked the City Council to create a climate action plan in addition to supporting the components of the Paris Accord.

Jeremy Sifuentes stated that the Confederate Statue represented white supremacy and asked that it be removed from Travis Park.

Rosey Abuabara stated that she found Confederate Monuments offensive to minorities and requested that the statue in Travis Park be removed.

Antonio Diaz spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue from Travis Park and the statue of Christopher Columbus. He discussed the history of slavery and racial oppression.

Bill Hurley asked the City Council to create a climate action plan.

Matthew Lerma spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue from Travis Park and expressed concern that Texas Freedom Force engaged in fraudulent and intimidating activities.

Arthur Rakowitz requested the implementation of a plastic bag ban.

Rodney Kidd asked the City Council to fund a community-led climate action plan and spoke

in support of making San Antonio a Smart City.

Lauro DeLeon described problems with stray dogs in his neighborhood and noted concerns with accessing Animal Care Services.

Wendell Fuqua asked the City Council to take action on climate change by funding a climate action plan.

Hector Garcia asked for the release of taxi permits to drivers.

Octavio Manresa asked for a status update regarding the release of taxi permits to drivers.

Rhett Smith expressed concern with crime rates and noted the importance of history in San Antonio.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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