

# City of San Antonio



## City Council Special Session

No in-person access for this meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 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. Staff presentation on potential amendments to the FY 2021 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Scott Huizenga, Director, Management and Budget]

City Manager Erik Walsh reported that there were currently 25 operating expenditure requests totaling \$27.8 million and requests totaling \$17.9 million in the Capital Budget. He stated that since the Budget was proposed on August 6, 2020, the City had received two months' worth of revenue from the following sources:

Revenue Sources	July	August	Amount
Sales tax	\$3,268,622	\$579,948	\$3,848,570
Hotel Occupancy tax	(\$131,838)	(\$695,779)	(\$827,617)
CPS Energy	\$510,735	(\$848,598)	(\$337,863)
SAWS	\$270,333	\$284,833	\$555,166
Total	\$3,917,852	(\$679,596)	\$3,238,256
Elimination of Police Cadet hiring bonus			\$739,500
<b>Available operating revenues</b>			<b>\$4 million</b>

City Manager Erik Walsh reported that revenues for July 2020 were higher than revenues in July 2019. He indicated that the City would start to see the impact, if any, next month on whether or

not the elimination of the \$600 in unemployment had on the economy.

City Manager Erik Walsh presented the following potential operating amendments for FY 2021:

<b>Service Category</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>
Housing	\$13,550,000	\$0
Parks and Neighborhood Access Mobility Program (NAMP)	\$5,040,000	\$0
1% living wage (CoLA)	\$4,211,560	\$4,211,560
Social services	\$2,330,000	\$1,055,000
Rent abatement (Market Square & La Villita)	\$934,500	\$0
Health	\$700,000	\$500,000
Economic and Workforce Development	\$540,000	\$0
Neighborhood services	\$390,223	\$163,824
Other amendments	\$97,800	\$66,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,794,083</b>	<b>\$5,996,384</b>

City Manager Erik Walsh reported that currently the City had a Capital Budget reserve of \$2,395,000 and \$17,900,000 in new capital project requests were received. He recommended that the City Council remain consistent with current priorities and allocate the \$4 million in available operating revenues to the following:

<b>Housing \$2.5 million</b>	<b>Health \$1 million</b>	<b>Small Business \$500,000</b>
Emergency Rental Assistance for vulnerable populations including aged out foster youth and seniors	Healthy Neighborhood Program/REACH Program	Reinstate City Fee Waiver Program for small business and Health Providers in vulnerable communities
Legal kiosks at key City locations for at-risk populations	Community Health Connector Partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)	Entrepreneurship Program
	Enhance Metro Health Community Programs	

City Manager Erik Walsh recommended that the City Council remain consistent with current priorities and allocate the \$2.4 million in available Capital Budget reserve to the following:

<b>Food Security \$1 million</b>	<b>Health \$900,000</b>	<b>Workforce Development \$500,000</b>
Food Bank – New culinary community kitchen	CentroMed Elder Care and Wellness Center (ECWC)	Westside Education and Training Center (1:1 match challenge)

City Manager Erik Walsh reported that a number of large projects totaling over \$50 million

would be considered as potential bond projects for FY 2022. He stated that economic uncertainty remained and \$49 million in budget cuts were included in the proposed FY 2022 Budget in order to keep the Budget balanced. He indicated that strong financial management would continue to include monthly financial monitoring and quarterly updates to City Council. He noted that staff would continue to focus on the priorities of the City Council and in recovery efforts.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that community needs included housing, public health, food security, and small business assistance and the City Council should be guided by those needs. He asked if the \$21.9 million and eligibility changes would extend the program to the end of December. Assistant City Manager Lori Houston stated that it would. He indicated that those needing multiple months of assistance were experiencing a loss of income and should be encouraged to make use of the additional assistance through stipends, and direct cash assistance available through the training program. He asked if those receiving assistance were required to enroll in the Workforce Training Program. Ms. Houston replied that they were not.

Councilmember Viagran asked why the 1% Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA) was not included in the Budget amendments for FY 2021. City Manager Erik Walsh reported that a number of funds were not in the position to afford the 1% CoLA and because of this, employees would not be treated equitably.

Councilmember Courage encouraged the City Council to dedicate the total amount of operating revenue to housing.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked staff for prioritizing the concerns of the City Council.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of the need to prioritize housing and housing issues. He expressed support for the Under One Roof Program, the Sidewalk Reconstruction Program, and funding for I.D. recovery and a Municipal Court Investigator.

Chief Financial Officer Ben Gorzell stated that effective October 1, 2020, sidewalk reconstruction could be funded using bond proceeds.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan expressed support for the Food Bank and advocated for the addition of an Animal Care Services (ACS) Officer in Council District 2.

Assistant City Manager David McCary proposed taking an ACS Officer from the sweep program instead of adding a position to the Budget.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia expressed support for additional funding for mental health.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stated that she had asked for an amendment on the Capital Budget for the inclusion of funds to alleviate flooding on Pinn Road near John Jay High School. She expressed support for the new culinary kitchen, the Healthy Corner Store Initiative, funding for the Westside Education and Training Center, and a neighborhood park near Holmes High

School.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed support for the I.D. Recovery Program and requested data on the program. He asked of the capitalization of sidewalks. Mr. Gorzell explained that the only way, in most cases, that a sidewalk could be repaired was to remove the old section of sidewalk and put in a new sidewalk. He added that a section of sidewalk would last for 20+ years and would improve the usability of the sidewalk and bond proceeds could be utilized for sidewalk repair. He stated that Budget themes included continuity, and innovation.

Councilmember Perry advocated for support of small businesses and stated that he would like to see most of the \$4 million dedicated to housing and less dedicated to the other categories.

Councilmember Sandoval spoke in support of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program and for increased funding for health.

Councilmember Viagran asked if \$4 million was allocated for housing, how long would the program be extended. Ms. Houston stated that with the proposed amendment of one month plus one month's cash would extend the program through mid-January 2021.

Councilmember Courage stated that he hoped that Councilmembers would let the City Manager know how important housing security was.

Mayor Nirenberg asked of the total addition to the Emergency Housing Fund which would be added to the proposed FY 2021 Budget. Ms. Houston reported that the total improvement to the Emergency Housing Fund was approximately \$24 million. Mayor Nirenberg spoke of the importance of building infrastructure in the most vulnerable communities.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 3:40 pm 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.** Discuss legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney)].

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 4:39 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 4:39 pm.

**APPROVED**

**RON NIRENBERG**  
Mayor

Attest:

**TINA J. FLORES**  
City Clerk

DRAFT