

**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 1, 2018

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 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Shaw, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

Item 2 was addressed first.

2. A Briefing on a proposed recommend revision to Chapter 5 of the City Code related to Animal Care Services. [María Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Heber Lefgren, Director, Animal Care Services]

Shannon Sims stated that prior to 2004, Animal Care Services euthanized more animals per capita than any other Major American City. He noted that the first ACS Strategic Plan was established in Fiscal Year 2006 to achieve a 70% live release rate by 2012. He stated that it was revised in FY 2011 to focus on a balanced approach between community safety and a positive outcome for pets. e noted that ACS strategic priorities included enhanced enforcement, controlling the stray population, and increasing the live release rate. He stated that in 2015, a strategic priority was added to engage and educate the public. He noted that spay and neuter surgeries and live release rates had increased and reported bite cases had

decreased since the implementation of the FY2011 strategic priorities.

Mr. Sims stated that Chapter 5 of the City Code established the framework of humane laws and policies to protect both people and pets in terms of basic required care, provided enforcement authority for ACS, and established the type and quantity of allowable pets. He noted that City Council approved major revisions to Chapter 5 in October 2017 to improve spay and neuter requirements, tethering regulations, impounding authority, animal limits for domesticated fowl, dangerous dog designation requirements, and enforcement of animal related noise complaints. He stated that Chapter 5 required all pets to have access to fresh air, species-specific food, fresh water, exercise, shelter, and veterinary care if needed. He noted that neglect calls were escalated when temperatures dropped below 32 degrees or during heat advisory warnings. He reviewed citations, financial penalties, and the potential for seizure if pets were found in exigent condition. He recommended amending the City Code to require access to shade at all times to reduce the need for reactive responses for animals in distress. He noted that the changes would include the authority to issue civil or criminal citations. He stated that shade needed to be separate from shelter to help prevent heatstroke, sunburns, and foot pad burns. He noted that the Ordinance would be presented to the City Council for consideration on August 2, 2018.

Councilmember Pelaez thanked Mayor Nirenberg for his expediency to place the item on the agenda and expressed support for the modifications to protect pets. He noted the importance of community reports of neglect and abuse.

Councilmember Saldaña thanked Councilmember Pelaez for his efforts on the item and expressed support for the recommended changes.

Councilmember Viagran asked how the proposed changes would be put into practice. Mr. Sims replied that the changes would not increase response burden or activities but rather provide more comprehensive enforcement mechanisms. Councilmember Viagran asked how many animals were euthanized in FY 2017 and FY 2018 to date. Mr. Sims replied that ACS euthanized 2,582 animals in FY 2017 and 1,844 to date in FY 2018.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed support for the recommended changes and noted strong public support for increased funding for ACS. She requested an Ambassador Program for ACS to improve public outreach and education. Councilmember Treviño also expressed support for the recommended changes.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if outreach would be performed to increase awareness following the changes. Mr. Sims replied that educational outreach was already being provided regarding improving conditions for pets and staff would continue outreach. Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentation.

1. Briefing on the Ambassador Summer Internship Program. [María Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

Melody Woosley acknowledged the Ambassadors who were present and thanked City Staff and City Council for their leadership. She stated that the program began in 2005 to attract and retain college graduates in San Antonio through eight-week paid internships in the City, non-profits, and private businesses. She noted that those eligible were San Antonio Residents who completed at least one year of college and achieved at least a 2.5 Grade Point Average. She stated that staff conducted an alumni survey which indicated that 61% of graduates currently lived and worked in San Antonio and were influenced by the program to do so. She noted that end-of-year surveys indicated 92% satisfaction among students and 95% satisfaction among employers and that the 2018 goal was 98%.

Ms. Woosley stated that 2018 strategies included partnerships with other local internship programs, founding an alumni network, and refinement of recruitment strategies. She noted the addition of a guided orientation tour to introduce Ambassadors to various locations throughout San Antonio. She stated that Ambassadors participated in a Service Day to assist local organizations and City Facilities. She noted that the current program was the largest to date with 172 Ambassadors from 53 colleges and universities and 51% attending schools within San Antonio. She stated that there were 92 employer partners with 49% in public service industries. She noted that an end-of-year celebration would be held August 9, 2018 at the Freeman Coliseum.

Councilmember Shaw expressed support for the program and noted the importance of recruiting diverse students. Mayor Nirenberg thanked the Ambassadors and noted that there were program alumni employed with the City of San Antonio.

3. Briefing on San Antonio Parks and Recreation Summer Programming. [María D. Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Xavier D. Urrutia, Director, Parks & Recreation]

Xavier Urrutia stated that the City of San Antonio operates one of the largest Summer Youth Programs in the city serving 5,000 children ages six to fourteen across 62 sites. He noted efforts to develop a well-rounded program highlighting art, math, science, reading, and fitness. He stated that the Summer Food Program provided meals to all participants at program sites as well as at community pools. He highlighted "BRAVO! An Evening of Song & Dance" as an opportunity for youth to gain exposure to dance and music in a pre-professional environment. He outlined Fitness in the Park activities and the Fit Pass Program. He noted that there were 23 outdoor pools and four splash pads available

throughout San Antonio. He stated that the Learn to Swim SA Program offered free group swim lesson to youth and adults and highlighted the popularity of Aqua Zumba. Lastly, he noted the importance of Seasonal Employees to support Summer Programming.

Mayor Nirenberg noted the important role of Parks and Recreation in improving local health.

Councilmember Courage expressed support for Summer Programming and recommended expanding partnerships with Local School Districts.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked City Staff for their work at the Palm Heights Center to accommodate Summer Programming without displacing Senior Citizens. She noted the importance of addressing food insecurity and expressed support for the Summer Food Program.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:20 pm to discuss the following:

- A. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- B. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- C. Settlement offer in a lawsuit against the City by Edward Kimani pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Legal issues relating to a lawsuit against the City by the San Antonio Firefighters Association, Local 624 pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Update on legal issues relating to the citizen petitions for Earned Paid Sick Time Ordinance pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:02 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

City Clerk Vacek read the caption for Item 4:

4. Public Hearing for the \$21,134,235 FY 2019 Action Plan and Budget for the four federal grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), HEARTH Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Veronica Soto, Director, Neighborhood & Housing Services]

Mayor Nirenberg opened the Public Hearing for the FY 2019 Action Plan and Budget for four federal grant programs funded by HUD and called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Mark Perez expressed concern with the use of Federal Housing Funds and the living conditions in certain areas and spoke against the criminalization of activities associated with homelessness.

Stephanie Wiese spoke on behalf of Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio and expressed concern that community input was not utilized in developing the proposed Action Plan and Budget. She noted the high volume of need for public housing in San Antonio and asked for support from City Staff in the future.

Lourdes Menchaca spoke on behalf of COPS Metro in support of the funding allocation for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation.

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

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

Perry Donop spoke of Alamo History and asked that historical buildings and the Cenotaph remain in place.

Paul Gescheidle spoke of the repairs needed for the Cenotaph and asked that it remain in place.

Mark Perez expressed concern with businesses operating without the necessary permits.

Ethel Garrett, Gregory Jackson, Becky Quiroz, Rachel King, and Carlos Gonzales spoke on behalf of West End Hope and Action and Hope Worldwide to thank City Council for granting funds for Parks and Recreation programming at the Frank Garrett Community Center.

Lamar Henry spoke in opposition to changing Alamo Plaza and moving the Cenotaph.

Keri Hillyer spoke of the Structural Assessment Report of the Cenotaph and expressed concern that damage was not addressed earlier.

Brandon Burkhardt asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Krystal Ross expressed concern with public engagement regarding Alamo Plaza and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Raylon Schlueder spoke of Alamo History and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

William Duffy spoke in support of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy and noted its positive effects on community engagement.

Olga Martinez spoke on behalf of the Villa Coronado Neighborhood Association in opposition to down-zoning components of Zoning Case #Z2017005 CD.

Dr. Carroll Brown spoke on behalf of the Alliance for San Antonio Missions in opposition to down-zoning components of Zoning Case #Z2017005 CD.

Brady Alexander spoke on behalf of the Hot Wells Mission Reach Neighborhood Association in opposition to down-zoning components of Zoning Case #Z2017005 CD.

Gary Nelson spoke in opposition to down-zoning components of Zoning Case #Z2017005 CD.

Sandra Torres spoke in opposition to down-zoning components of Zoning Case #Z2017005 CD.

Esther Ramirez spoke in opposition to down-zoning components of Zoning Case #Z2017005 CD.

Virginia Rutledge spoke in opposition to down-zoning components of Zoning Case #Z2017005 CD.

Susan Green asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to honor History.

Lee White spoke of Alamo History and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place with a more inclusive list of names.

Ramon Garza presented a list of Texans who asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Christian Lee expressed concern with the accessibility of City Meetings and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Lupe Rivera expressed concern with utilizing City Funds to re-open Guadalupe Park to the public.

Matt Piña spoke of the negative effects of gentrification and noted his support for accessibility to Elected Officials.

Lane Woods asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to honor Texas History.

Alex Villagomez spoke in opposition to down-zoning components of Zoning Case #Z2017005 CD.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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