

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council B Session**

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

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

Item 2 was addressed at this time.

2. Briefing for a recycling processing pre-solicitation. [David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; David Newman, Director, Solid Waste Management Department]

Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) Director David Newman stated that SWMD was seeking a contractor to provide recycle processing. He indicated that this was a high profile contract which involved sorting and selling materials from the blue cart such as paper, cardboard and aluminum cans. He noted that SWMD annually collected over 80,000 tons from blue carts. He reported that payment for this service was based on a per ton processing fee and included a revenue sharing component.

Mr. Newman stated that the current vendor on the contract was Republic Services and the contract began in 2014 and would expire on July 31, 2024. He noted that the processing fee was \$1.1 million or \$12.98 per ton.

Mr. Newman reported that staff presented options for future recycling, recycling goals focused on quality recycling to the Community Health and Equity Council Committee on October 22, 2020. He reviewed the benefits of recycling and the recycling market.

Mr. Newman stated that in 2017, China adopted high-quality standards which most recyclers could not meet. He noted that China stopped buying the world's recycling which drove the market down. He indicated that this resulted in contracts being shifted from revenue generators to expenditure contracts.

Mr. Newman stated that based upon the review of contracts in Texas cities, the future contract pricing for San Antonio would be approximately \$25 per ton. He indicated that due to the rising prices, staff evaluated options for processing recyclables: 1) City owned/operated; 2) Contractor owned/contractor operated; and 3) City owned/contractor operated. He noted that staff contracted with Burns & McDonnell to analyze the scenarios and a Request for Information (RFI) was issued to understand vendor preferences. He reported that seven responses were received with interest in contractor owned and city owned property.

Mr. Newman reviewed the pros and cons of the city operated scenario and noted that staff did not support this option. He stated that staff recommended an RFP with two submittal options: 1) City property/contractor operate; and 2) Contractor property/contractor operated. He reported that the property offered for consideration was the former Northwest Service Center which was located on Culebra Road inside Loop 410.

Mr. Newman stated that the new contract would be similar to the existing contract where the City delivered co-mingled materials to the contractor which they would sort and sell. He reported that the mandatory items to be accepted included paper, cardboard, aluminum, metal cans, and plastic/glass bottles. He added that the vendor would be required to take plastic bags through kiosks.

Mr. Newman provided a pre-solicitation overview which included outreach efforts, solicitation requirements and the make-up of the evaluation panel. He indicated that the RFP would be issued in May 2021, responses would be evaluated in August 2021 and staff would present a post-solicitation briefing in October 2021 to the City Council.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if there were any other cities that operated their recycling centers in-house. Mr. Newman stated that the City of McAllen operated a facility with labor and not much technology.

Councilmember Courage stated that he would like to include consideration for wages in the RFP. He spoke of the need for more education and ensuring that recycling was saving money for the City.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked why the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) requirement was waived. Mr. Newman stated that an analysis was completed which indicated that companies that provided this type of work were very large companies and based on that, it was determined that there would be no subcontracting opportunities.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if staff was forecasting the viability of the commodity. Josephine Valencia stated that staff worked with a consultant to assist in evaluating the market and subscribed to a pricing service that helped them track historic commodities as well as make projections for the future. Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if the contract allowed for adjustments to be made. City Manager Walsh stated that conditions could change and staff would look at how the contractors would approach that.

Mayor Nirenberg noted that locking low pricing for a long period of time might limit the City's ability to capture innovation during that period. He stated that the City should seek market opportunities in recycling to drive the operation. He indicated that the need to capture new technologies and innovation should be built into the expectations of the contract.

1. Briefing on the Transportation Department's programs and priorities. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation Department]

Transportation Director Tomika Monterville stated that staff were assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the department as it related to staffing, opportunities, engagement with other departments and to identify what should be in the department and what should not. She indicated that the department structure would be assessed as to how it would support competitive applications for Federal, local and State programs.

Ms. Monterville identified the following focus areas of the department:

- Service delivery
- Strategic/corridor planning
- Safety, compliance, oversight and procurement
- Project delivery
- Grants Administration

Ms. Monterville reported that there were many funding opportunities that the City could leverage with the current bond program to ensure maximization of the benefits when it came to mobility options. She reviewed the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) funding opportunities:

- FTA discretionary funding opportunities
 - Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development Planning
 - Mobility on Demand Sandbox
 - Access and Mobility Partnership Grants
 - Low-No Emission Vehicle Program
 - State of Good Repair
- FTA formula funding options
 - Urbanized Area Formula
 - Bus and Bus Facility Investment Program
 - Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Ms. Monterville reviewed the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding opportunities:

- FHWA formula funding options
 - Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) - capital
 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) - capital and operational
 - Transportation Alternatives (TA) - capital and operational
- Discretionary AAMPO Grants
- Other grant opportunities

Ms. Monterville stated that the City would have to develop plans which were livable and changed and adapted to the environment and develop policy documents which would guide and support the development of projects. She reviewed the current plans and policies:

- Transportation Plans
 - Multi-modal Transportation Plan
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans
 - Major Thoroughfare Plan
 - ADA Transition Plan
 - Transit-Oriented Development
- Consultant management and on-call consultant support
- Partner coordination and community collaboration
- Design review
- Policy development
 - Complete Streets
 - Vision Zero
 - Development review processes to support all plans

Ms. Monterville stated that the department would continue to collaborate and coordinate with community stakeholders, business partners and partner agencies. She indicated that the department wanted to build a closer relationship with VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) in identifying opportunities to advance the Area Rapid Transit (ART) Program and compliment it with the bond program.

Ms. Monterville noted that branding was important and would be instrumental in ensuring that people knew who they were, what our role was and how we were going to help them experience transportation in a different way. She reported that the department was developing its vision, mission and messaging. She indicated that the department would develop ideas and plans for the future with a foundation of sustainability and to discuss autonomous technology and to be a green transportation department.

Ms., Monterville reviewed the following local projects believed to be competitive at the national level:

Presa Street: Bike and pedestrian enhancements (SE Military Drive to West Boyer Street)
 Project cost: \$10 million

- Regional connectivity

- Complete Streets (bike and pedestrian)
- Multi-use/multi-modal recreational
- Economic development (Opportunity zone)
- Equity and access to opportunity
- Environmental stewardship
- Air quality improvements

Zarzamora overpass: Four-lane grade separation (at Frio City Road/Union Pacific Railroad)
Project cost: \$23 million

- Regional connectivity
- Vision Zero (bike and pedestrian)
- Multi-use/multi-modal recreational
- Economic development
- Equity and access to opportunity
- Environmental stewardship
- Air quality improvements

Broadway Street: Road diet (six lanes to four) (IH35 to Burr Road)
Project cost: \$14 million

- Regional connectivity
- Vision Zero (bike and pedestrian)
- Multi-use/multi-modal recreational
- Economic development
- Equity and access to opportunity
- Environmental stewardship
- Air quality improvements

Mayor Nirenberg stated that he appreciated the department's focus on multi-modalism and safety. He stated that he would like to see how the department would intersect with the Aviation Department. He spoke of the need to connect the bus system within the downtown corridor and to connect the ground transportation to work with the air transit service.

Councilmember Courage asked if the department supported a major transportation component in the 2022 Bond Program or if municipal bonds would be utilized. Ms. Monterville stated that staff were working with Public Works to identify projects in the current bond program that had not been designed on constructed yet so that the City could use that as a part of the local match towards VIA's Federal application to the Capital Investment Program. She indicated that investments have already been made in the City which could be leveraged with Federal funding.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if Federal funding received would remain in the Council District or the area for the Zarzamora Overpass. Assistant City Manager Rod Sanchez stated that it would and staff would work with the Council District 5 Councilmember to decide where to reallocate funds for another street project in the Council District.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia spoke of reconnecting the community with trails. She asked when the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was reviewed and how often the City could provide input. Ms. Monterville stated that the TIP was updated regularly and was good for a four-year period. She indicated that the current administration was looking to do dynamic things and the department would prioritize the trailway and creekway systems as a mobility option.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the City's relationship to third-party service providers. Ms. Monterville stated that the City did not directly operate any services of third-party service providers and the function of the department was to act as a regulatory and oversight entity.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if staff had completed a comprehensive study of other areas in the City such as on the northeast side that could qualify for the same project as the Zarzamora Overpass. Public Works Director Razi Hosseini stated that the project for Gibbs Sprawl and Foster Road was submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to be funded and the MPO would make a decision in August 2021.

Councilmember Pelaez requested a meeting with the Transportation Department Director, the Chief Innovation Officer, Visit SA and E-Go to discuss E-Go which was a micro-mobility company. He expressed support for promoting the trailways and creekways as a mobility option.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of how infrastructure, such as sidewalks was important to the community. He noted that sidewalks did not always have to be rebuilt and they could be reconstructed or patched. He requested that a resource-based analysis be performed on sidewalk requirements.

Councilmember Viagran thanked Ms. Monterville for addressing transportation and mobility for all abilities. She spoke of preparing projects to ensure that they were shovel-ready.

Councilmember Perry spoke of repairing and maintaining existing streets.

Mayor Nirenberg announced that there would be no Executive Session today and Executive Session items that were posted for today would be carried over until the City Council meeting on April 15, 2021 and would be considered at that time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 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

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 4:16 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
City Clerk