

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



**DRAFT**

**Meeting Minutes**

**City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
114 W. Commerce  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

---

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

---

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building with the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 11 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Medina, Nirenberg, Krier, and Gallagher

1. A Briefing on the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors adopted FY 2016 Budget. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Kathleen Bruck, CEO, Pre-K 4 SA]

Kathy Bruck presented the Pre-K 4 SA Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Proposed Annual Operating Budget. She noted that the Better Jobs Act requires City Council to appoint Board Members and approve annual budgets. She indicated that the Program was self-supported by dedicated revenues through the 1/8 cent sales tax and did not receive any General Funds. She mentioned that the Fund was annually audited by a Third Party and that their Fiscal Year was July 1-June 30.

Ms Bruck highlighted the Four Pillars of the Program: 1) High Quality Instructional Program; 2) Parent Engagement; 3) Professional Development; and 4) Competitive Grants. She provided an overview of the Business Model and 8-Year Service Plan. She presented FY 2015 Accomplishments that include serving 1,500 students at four Education Centers.

She reported that the Independent Evaluation indicated a successful first year and that they surpassed National Test Scores. She outlined the FY 2016 Adopted Budget by Revenue totaling \$39.8 Million and the Appropriations totaling \$38.9 Million.

Ms. Bruck stated that the budget for the Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers totaled \$23.6 Million which included funding for 104 Master Teachers, 188 Teacher Assistants, 1,700 Students, Extended Day Services, and Nutrition Program. She noted that the Transportation Services Budget was \$1 Million and provided 17 Bus Depots to serve 300 Students. She reported that \$8.9 Million was utilized for Facilities, Leases and Maintenance, while \$2 Million was allocated for Professional Development. She indicated that \$400,000 was budgeted for Public Relations and Marketing. She outlined the 8-year Financial Plan and noted that they would be fully staffed with 435 positions by FY 2017.

Ms. Bruck provided an update on the Consolidated Senate and House Bill 4 and stated that it addressed the Governor's Initiative to establish high-quality Pre-K Programs. She noted that applicants for funding would be public schools that meet program requirements. The requirements include Teacher Certification, Curriculum Standards, Assessment, and Family Engagement. She stated that \$130 Million would be available for the 2016-2017 School Year and \$65 Million would be available each year thereafter. She added that the bill would increase State Funding for Pre-K by 7.6%. She stated that School Districts could contract with eligible private providers. She spoke of the impact to Pre-K 4 SA noting that they could continue with the current structure and funding, or could be an Eligible Private Provider.

Ms. Bruck stated that they had partnered with Edvance and NIEER of Rutgers University to provide an Independent Evaluation of Pre-K 4 SA. She noted that the results were positive compared to a nationally-normed sample. She indicated that they would continue to evaluate the quality of classroom instruction and analyze student achievement results for Pre-K. She thanked the City Council and citizens of San Antonio for their support of Pre-K 4 SA.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for their work on Pre-K 4 SA and asked of discussions with the Independent School Districts (ISDs). Ms. Bruck replied that they were winding down the school year and in the middle of testing but would work with them heavily during the Summer. Mayor Taylor stated that she was interested in building the program beyond the existing centers and asked of competitive grants and partner programs. Ms. Bruck responded that they were researching same and would provide a plan to the City Council. Mayor Taylor spoke of the importance of leveraging the system built for Pre-K 4 SA to improve the quality of Child Care Centers throughout the city. Ms. Bruck stated that they were committed to same and would continue working with Child Care Centers on

Professional Development. Mayor Taylor asked how success would be measured. Ms. Bruck stated that they would have five years of data for children served by Pre-K 4 SA and that they would also have data from their first year in Public School which would be measured through Kindergarten Readiness. She added that they would also measure results from the 3rd Grade STAAR Test measuring Reading and Math.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the number of slots available for next year. Ms. Bruck replied that over 3,000 applications had been received for 1,700 available slots. Councilmember Viagran asked of the number of outside consultants. Ms. Bruck responded that they had hired a Corporations Attorney that specialized in Special Education Law. Additionally, the Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy focuses were on a contract basis.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the number of children in the community that were not being served by any type of Pre-K Program. Ms. Bruck replied that she did not have the number but that some children would be turned away from Pre-K 4 SA due to the amount of applications. Councilmember Warrick asked how Pre-K 4 SA ranked compared to private schools and other school districts. Ms. Bruck stated that they were completing their second year of the program and it was too soon to determine how they ranked with other local schools. Councilmember Warrick asked of accreditation. Ms. Bruck replied that they were meeting National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards but had not yet gone through the process to become accredited.

Councilmember Krier asked of the potential to utilize State Funding for Pre-K 4 SA. Ms. Bruck replied that the School Districts were the only entities eligible to apply for the funding. Councilmember Krier spoke of the potential to reapply the 1/8th cent sales tax elsewhere if the State could fully fund Pre-K 4 SA and asked that they look at this when preparing for the 2017 Legislative Session. He expressed concern that the City of San Antonio was becoming the 14th ISD and asked of contracting with School Districts to provide services. Ed Guzman stated that the Better Jobs Act provides that the City creates the Municipal Development Corporation which runs the program. He noted that within the Statute, it requires that every employee of the Corporation be an employee of the City. He added that attempting to sub-contract the services would be incredibly difficult and was not a component of the Act. Councilmember Krier asked when legislation was passed authorizing the City of San Antonio to provide Pre-K Education. Mr. Guzman replied that it was passed 20 years ago. Councilmember Krier asked when they would begin to revisit the sales tax issue again. Mrs. Sculley replied that they had not discussed it but would likely being 18-24 months before its expiration.

Councilmember Saldaña spoke in support of the City providing Pre-K Services and noted concerns that State Requirements could make operations difficult. He asked of the middle class parents that are not eligible for the program. Ms. Bruck replied that there were very few parents paying tuition that were above the income level. Mrs. Sculley added that if they did not fill all of the slots in the centers to eligible children; they would open it up to tuition paying parents. Councilmember Saldaña expressed support for Pre-K 4 SA and stated that it was a great program.

Councilmember Lopez stated that Pre-K 4 SA had a positive impact on the children they were serving and asked if they tracked the children that had been served by a Head Start Program prior to Pre-K 4 SA. Ms. Bruck replied that she would provide that information to the City Council but noted that many of the children served by Head Start stayed in the program as 4 year-olds. Councilmember Lopez asked if the concept of Looping had been implemented which would allow teachers to move with their students through Kindergarten. Ms. Bruck stated that Looping was a great concept but there were logistical issues with implementing because children were not grouped into classrooms by School Districts. Councilmember Lopez asked of the transportation aspect. Ms. Bruck replied that it was very expensive to transport 4 year-olds and was challenging due to the large geographic area they serve.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked if the Sales Tax Revenue Projections for FY 2017-2020 were aligned with the growth projected in the Five-Year Forecast. Ms. Bruck confirmed that they were and noted that they had coordinated with the Budget and Finance Departments. Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the Master Teacher Program and how the professional development impact was being measured. Ms. Bruck replied that it was hard to measure without student achievement data but believed the training was of high quality. Councilmember Nirenberg stated that he was pleased with the accomplishments of the program thus far and looked forward to tracking its progress.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

2. An Update on services offered and outcomes achieved through Café Commerce. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Rene Dominguez, Director, Economic Development]

Rene Dominguez provided an overview of Café Commerce and introduced Peter French, President of Café Commerce.

Mr. French stated that Small Businesses employ more than 80% of the workforce in San

Antonio and that companies less than five years old create virtually all net new jobs nationally. He explained that Café Commerce was a one-stop shop for Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners that helped people gain access to information, resources, training, and capital. He noted that this was accomplished through referrals, one-on-one counseling, and off-site training, programs, and partnerships. He referenced Code Jam where they invited 20 students to learn how to Code. He highlighted Café Commerce Programs including The Ice House Entrepreneurship Program, 1 Million Cups, and Lemonade Day. He outlined the Café Commerce Resource Partners such as the University of Texas at San Antonio, St. Mary's University, SA2020, and the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation. He provided contact information noting that they were located on the 1st Floor of the Central Library and thanked the City Council for their support.

Mayor Taylor asked if there was a fee associated with Membership. Mr. French replied that there was not a Membership Fee. Mayor Taylor asked of the City's Financial Investment in Café Commerce aside from the space at the Central Library. Mr. French replied that it was \$800,000 over five years. Mayor Taylor asked if they had an Advisory Board. Mr. French stated that they did not but would need to create one.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the number of children and locations for Lemonade Day. Mr. French replied that 6,100 children had participated. Meagan Oswald added that the majority of the students were from Northside ISD but they had also partnered with two non-profits on the East and West Sides of the city. Councilmember Warrick asked if there was curriculum for the program. Ms. Oswald responded that Lemonade Day was a National Organization with 51 sites in the United States that consisted of a 14-lesson curriculum. Councilmember Warrick asked of the cost of implementing the program. Ms. Oswald replied that it cost \$4.50 per child. Councilmember Warrick asked if Café Commerce Members were tracked by address. Mr. French replied that they tracked members by zip code and business address. Councilmember Warrick asked of outreach provided for the program. Mr. French stated that they were looking for ways to expand outreach efforts. Councilmember Warrick asked if they worked with the Military Bases. Mr. French responded that they were working with various organizations and developing an application to help connect Veterans with resources.

Councilmember Nirenberg commended Café Commerce for their work and asked of the next steps. Mr. French replied that they would work to strengthen relationships with their partners and expand outreach efforts. Councilmember Nirenberg spoke of the need to determine how incubator activities at Café Commerce are making a difference in the community. Mr. Dominguez stated that they were developing metrics with the Economic Development Foundation and working on a Strategic Plan.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the definition of a Member of Café Commerce. Mr. French replied that it would include anyone that has filled out a Member Form and participated in a consultation or program. Councilmember Viagran asked of the number of Members that had participated in more than one activity. Mr. French replied that he did not have that information. Councilmember Viagran spoke of the importance of measuring successes and asked of the amount of General Funds provided to Café Commerce Partners. Mrs. Sculley replied that the Economic Development Department, Economic Development Foundation, SA2020 were a few of the partners that received General Funds.

Councilmember Krier asked of the amount of money the city spent to provide space at the Central Library for Café Commerce. Mr. Dominguez replied that it cost \$1.2 Million. Councilmember Krier asked of the annual cost to run the program. Mr. Dominguez stated that it cost \$300,000 per year to operate Café Commerce. Councilmember Krier asked why Café Commerce was not being outsourced and stated that this was not a core function of the City of San Antonio.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if the top demographic for a startup business was a Hispanic Female. Mr. French replied that he did not have that information. Councilmember Gonzales expressed support for growing and continuing to attract various demographics including Veterans and Families. She asked if other cities were operating programs like Café Commerce. Mr. French replied that they were not aware of any.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of the many resources available through Café Commerce and stated that they were doing a great job.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Taylor announced that the Executive Session would be held after the City Council Meeting on May 28, 2015. She recessed the meeting at 5:04 pm and stated that the meeting would resume at 6:00 pm for Citizens to be Heard.

- A. Deliberations regarding economic development negotiations and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.087 (economic development) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- B. Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.072 (real property)

and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

- C. Discuss legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
  
- D. Discuss legal issues related to litigation styled Estate of Jesse Aguirre, et al v. City of San Antonio, et al pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
  
- E. Discuss legal issues related to litigation styled Esquivel, et al v. City of San Antonio, et al pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

#### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Pro Tem Warrick reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and addressed Citizens to be Heard.

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Pro Tem Warrick called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Mark Perez expressed concerns with businesses operating without the proper permits and noted that various City Employees had not responded to his concerns.

Sylvia Villarreal addressed the City Council in opposition to the Planned Parenthood Facility located at 2140 Babcock Road noting that it did not have the proper zoning.

George Benavides requested that the City Council approve a Resolution to support the Space Preservation Act and the Space Preservation Treaty to permanently ban space-based weapons.

Philip Trickett spoke in opposition to the Planned Parenthood Facility located at 2140 Babcock Road and asked why it was allowed to operate without the proper zoning.

Norma Reyna addressed the City Council in opposition to the Planned Parenthood Facility located at 2140 Babcock Road and asked why they were not adhering to the proper zoning rules.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez spoke of the trees that fell during the storm and asked that homeowners not be fined due to same.

Faris Hodge, Jr. submitted written testimony noting that Board and Commission Applicants be interviewed by the City Council. He referenced a settlement between the City of San Antonio and Luis Rodriguez due to a motor vehicle accident. He submitted a newspaper article entitled, "Meaningless bowl games overflowing." He wrote of the Social Media Partnership between the San Antonio Police Department and Nextdoor.com.

**RECESSED**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Warrick recessed the meeting at 6:23 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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