

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015
3:00 PM
PLAZA ROOM C, MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present:	Councilmember Joe Krier, Chair, <i>District 9</i> Councilmember Alan Warrick, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Ray Lopez, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Mike Gallagher, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Lisa Biediger, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, IGR</i> ; Akeem Brown, <i>District 2</i> ; Joseph Cortez, <i>District 6</i> ; Justin Renteria, <i>District 9</i> ; Lauren Sides, <i>District 10</i> ; Paul Jimenez, <i>District 10</i> ; Mario Hune, <i>District 10</i> ; Christine Wright, <i>IGR</i> ; Megan Dodge, <i>IGR</i> ; Alexander J. Pytel, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Baltazar "Walter" Serna, <i>Venable</i> ; Tom Downs, <i>Venable</i> ; Joe Alderete III, <i>SAPFFA</i>

Item 1. 84th State Legislative Session Update on the status of Proposed Legislation [Jeff Coyle, Intergovernmental Relations Director]

Annexation

Mr. Jeff Coyle reported that HB 2221 did not pass and that SB 1639 had passed in a 19-12 vote in the Senate. He noted that the vote was sufficient due to the elimination of the 2/3rds voting rule. He added that the Bill would have to go through the appropriate House channels before the session closes in order to pass.

Revenue Cap

Mr. Jeff Coyle reported that SB 182 is still pending in the Senate Committee and that efforts to amend SB 1760 were defeated on the Senate Floor. He added that HB 1965 did not pass due to time constraints. He stated that the Budget could have a 6% Revenue Cap as part of the Tax Cut Package and that Budget Deliberations were conducted behind closed doors by the Two Chambers, making it difficult to determine the outcome before deliberations are completed.

Councilmember Warrick asked what impact the 6% Revenue Cap could have on the City. Mr. Coyle responded that if the City exceeded 6% growth, the Legislation would trigger an automatic election rather than requiring public petitions.

Local Preference

Mr. Coyle stated that the Local Preference Legislation had passed the House and gone through Senate Committee Consideration. He added that the Legislation must go to the Senate Floor for a vote.

Military

Mr. Coyle reported that HB 1639 and HB 1640 both passed out of Senate Committee.

Eminent Domain

Mr. Coyle reported that SB 474 would require a city using condemnation to acquire property to pay legal fees and costs if the initial offer is later determined to be 20% lower than the final price by a court or special committee. He indicated that the Legislation was pending in House Committee.

Open Carry

Mr. Coyle stated that HB 910 had passed Senate Committee and included an amendment prohibiting police from asking to see Open Carry Licenses unless there is some imminent threat. He reported that HB 910 does not address universities being allowed to prohibit weapons on campus and that some form of the Legislation was expected to pass. He added that the Bill does not address where and when Open Carry is prohibited.

Ballot Proposition Language

Mr. Coyle reported that a comprehensive bill proposed last session was defeated but parceled into smaller bills for consideration this session. He stated that SB 1041 had passed the Senate and House Committee and details the estimated tax burden per household that a particular debt issuance would carry. He added that the language would be required to be included on the ballot.

Storm Water Fee

Mr. Coyle explained that HB 961 did not pass. He stated that the Legislation would have exempted School Districts from paying the City's Storm Water Fee. He noted that there remains an offer for School Districts to freeze their current rate in the event of a restructuring of the Storm Water Fee.

TNCs

Mr. Coyle reported that HB 2440 did not pass which allows Municipalities to continue to regulate Transportation Network Companies at the local level without a statewide law at this point.

Item 2. Federal Representation Services Contract Request for Proposal [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager and Jeff Coyle, Intergovernmental Relations Director]

Mr. Coyle reported that there was an increasing need for Federal Representation as budgets become increasingly complex. He stated that the primary objective of Federal Representation Services is to help secure funding and identify opportunities in Washington, D.C. for the City of San Antonio. He noted that Federal Funding helps ensure greater security, appropriate response to disasters, and improve and maintain City Infrastructure including Federal Facilities. He detailed Police Body Cameras, Transportation Funding, and Workforce Development as areas of priority for the City and noted that in recent years, there has been a much greater emphasis on Federal Agencies due to the moratorium on earmarking. He mentioned that the Federal Representation Services Contract helps position San Antonio to be successful in various grant pursuits.

Mr. Coyle stated that the Request for Proposals was issued in December 2014 with responses due in January 2015. He added that letters were sent to 41 different vendors that specialized in Federal Lobbying and 5 responses were received. He noted that 2 of the respondents were deemed non-responsive for not having met the City's SBEDA Requirements. He explained that the 3 remaining respondents included Venable, Holland & Knight, and Squire Patton-Boggs and they were interviewed by a panel.

Mr. Coyle reported that Venable was the unanimous selection having received 78.3 points. He mentioned that Holland & Knight had received 53.9 points and Squire Patton-Boggs had received

49.76 points. He explained that the absence of major competing municipal clients would make San Antonio a priority for the firm.

Mr. Tom Downs stated that the Venable Team was growing in terms of government relations practice and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the City of San Antonio. Mr. Walter Serna stated that he was pleased to be able to represent the City of San Antonio.

Chairman Krier asked what strategies could be implemented to effectively revitalize the issue of the San Antonio Federal Courthouse Funding. Mr. Downs responded that a multi-pronged strategy would be needed as the current Appropriations Process would not be sufficient.

Councilmember Gallagher asked how Mr. Downs measured success and how that would be conveyed to the City Council. Mr. Downs responded that the achievement of Federal Funding for municipal projects most accurately reflects success in lobbying efforts for the City. Mr. Contreras added that there were a number of legislative efforts achieved that were not financial in nature. He provided the establishment of a direct airline route to San Antonio and the development of a foreign trade and investment policy as examples.

Councilmember Viagran asked what strategies would be implemented to bring City Priorities to the forefront of Federal Legislation. Mr. Downs responded that the maintenance of close relationships and the fostering of cooperation between both Democratic and Republican Parties would be critical to achieving the City's pursuits.

Councilmember Warrick asked what other opportunities could be pursued beyond the City's current efforts. Mr. Downs detailed the TIGER Grant Program, Department of Transportation, and the Economic Development Initiative as possible sources of improvement to the City's Infrastructure.

Councilmember Lopez asked what additional strategies could be pursued to regain momentum with regard to the Federal Courthouse. Mr. Downs replied that a number of options outside the usual Appropriations Process would have to be developed.

Councilmember Lopez moved to forward said item to the full City Council with staff recommendation. Councilmember Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Krier, Chairman

*Alexander J. Pytel,
Office of the City Clerk*