

**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, September 20, 2017

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. Deputy City Clerk Leticia Saenz took the Roll Call and noted the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Shaw, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

1. A Briefing on the proposed recommended revisions to Chapter 5 of the City Code and the ACS Strategic Plan. [María Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Heber Lefgren, Director, Animal Care Services]

Heber Lefgren presented an update on the Animal Care Services (ACS) Strategic Plan and Chapter 5 Updated Recommendations. He outlined the scope and purpose which include ensuring continual progress and skewing community input. He provided an overview of the Chapter 5 Revision process that included numerous community meetings and input from the City Council. He noted the initial direction from the public in which more improvements were desired and the importance of maintaining a balanced approach between public safety and finding live placement through the continuation of four strategic priorities. He reported that residents support the majority of preliminary recommendations and that there was disagreement with the number of allowable hens, noise violation, and the tethering duration.

He outlined the recommendations related to spay/neuter, tethering, impoundments, dangerous/aggressive dogs, animal limits & permits, and noise complaints. He spoke of the next steps noting that the changes would be presented to the full City Council for approval on October 5, 2017. He stated that the educational outreach strategy would include integrated block walking, radio, newspaper & local billboard advertisements, and Social Media.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff and the ACS Board Members for their work. He stated that he was pleased with the revisions regarding spay/neuter and asked for clarification regarding walking a dog without a leash. Mr. Lefgren replied that a pet walking without a leash was considered a roaming pet. Mayor Nirenberg asked if an aggressive or dangerous animal would be impounded and spayed or neutered. Mr. Lefgren replied that said animal would be impounded and spayed or neutered. Mayor Nirenberg noted the survey results and asked if one hen was recommended without a permit. Mr. Lefgren confirmed that 8 fowl would be allowed with one rooster. Mayor Nirenberg asked of the noise issue. Mr. Lefgren replied that they had not issued any citations due to the fact that it was not enforceable. Mayor Nirenberg asked of microchipping. Mr. Lefgren confirmed that microchipping a pet was required and was provided free of charge at the ACS Facility.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the change related to noise. Mr. Lefgren replied that a noise citation could be issued if a dog continuously barks for 20 minutes and is heard from 100 yards away or inside a livable structure on two separate occasions. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the change regarding animal limits. Mr. Lefgren stated that they wanted to ensure that the area was suitable for pets and neighbors. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the excessive animals. Shannon Sims replied that the pets are not spayed or neutered and multiply. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the communication aspect. Mr. Lefgren stated that they would simplify the message. Councilmember Saldaña asked of breeding. Mr. Lefgren explained that breeding could occur once per year and must be permitted. Councilmember Saldaña stated that he would like to look at disallowing breeding in the future. Mayor Nirenberg stated that he would concur.

Councilmember Viagran noted that other Texas Cities had banned the practice of breeding and asked staff to look into same. She commended ACS Staff for their work on hurricane efforts and asked of the number of fowl allowed. Mr. Lefgren replied that the current number of fowl allowed was three. Councilmember Viagran asked how excessive animal permits were approved. Mr. Lefgren explained that ACS Staff visits the home to ensure compliance and then makes a determination. Councilmember Viagran asked of dangerous/aggressive dogs. Mr. Lefgren stated that they would evaluate it on a case by case basis. Councilmember Viagran stated that information should be made available at dog parks.

Councilmember Pelaez asked various questions regarding tethering and protective orders. Maria Villagomez stated that they work very closely with the Police Department to protect animals during the time individuals are in custody. Councilmember Pelaez asked of the animal limits related to shelters such as the Battered Womens Shelter. Mr. Sims replied that pets were individually owned so there was not a limit as long as they were able to care for them.

Councilmember Brockhouse highlighted the great work of ACS and stated that he appreciated the recommendations even though he did not agree with them all.

Councilmember Treviño stated that he concurred with the potential to eliminate breeding animals in the city and thanked ACS for their great work. He referenced recent issues with ACS brought to light and noted that the offenses were not prosecutable. He asked of addressing cruelty to animals. Mr. Lefgren replied that the cases of animal cruelty were not defensible or prosecutable. Councilmember Treviño stated that he would like to coordinate with his airline friends to help transport animals.

Councilmember Gonzales recognized Karen Speer for her work as the District 5 ACS Board Representative and thanked ACS for their great work. Councilmember Shaw spoke of the great work of ACS Staff in executing the plan for hurricane evacuees and asked of future plans for addressing the stray animal population in District 2. Mr. Lefgren stated that they would work with the ACS Officer to identify in neighborhoods and industrial areas and implement pilot projects. Councilmember Shaw stated that neighborhood associations have taken it upon themselves to find home for stray animals and asked of the enforcement of prohibiting the transfer of ownership of dangerous dogs. Mr. Lefgren replied that when a dog was deemed dangerous it required that an annual inspection be conducted by ACS.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked ACS Staff for their work and asked if there was a specific number of seller's permits allowed per individual. Mr. Lefgren replied that nine seller's permits could be distributed per year. Councilmember Sandoval asked how it was enforced. Mr. Lefgren stated that they utilized Craig's List and other such methods to identify the sale of dogs. Councilmember Sandoval asked if there was an opportunity to enforce the microchip prior to providing a seller's permit. Mr. Lefgren replied that there was an opportunity for same. Councilmember Sandoval asked of other steps related to noise citations. Mr. Lefgren stated that they could have a discussion with the pet owner regarding potential options to minimize noise.

Councilmember Perry stated that he was supportive of the recommendations. He noted that he was very concerned with dangerous/aggressive dogs and mentioned a specific instance in District 10. He asked of additional details regarding the incident and avoiding this in the future. Mr. Lefgren stated that some of the initial communication could be improved. Mrs.

Villagomez added that they were working with 3-1-1 call takers and would provide additional training. Councilmember Perry expressed concern with the communication between 3-1-1 and 9-1-1 noting that citizens should not have to call more than one number.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:47 pm to discuss the following:

- 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 relating to state or federal grant requirements pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Legal issues related to a settlement offer in a lawsuit against the City by Thomas Mathieu, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Deliberate issues related to the San Antonio Public Safety Radio System pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.076 (security devices and audits) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Pro Tem Pelaez reconvened the meeting at 5:35 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session. He addressed the Ceremonial Items.

CEREMONIALS

Mayor Pro Tem Pelaez presented Citation to two 2017 PONY League World Series Championship Girls Baseball Teams. It was noted that the Lady Yankees/New Era Team in the 6U Shetland Pony Division, and the Longhorns Team in the 10U Mustang Division, each brought back Championship Trophies this past summer. It was also noted that the

PONY Baseball Inc. is the corporate name under which the Shetland League, Pinto League, Mustang League, Bronco League, Pony League, Colt League and Palomino League are operated in baseball and softball.

Mayor Pro Tem Pelaez presented a Citation to the San Antonio Ambassador Great Debate Team who won 1st Place at the 2017 National Hispanic Institute's Texas Great Debate Competition. It was noted that the team finished first out of six other regions from across the State. It was also noted that team members competed in five categories ranging from Oratory Extemporaneous Speaking, Cross Examination, Mock Trial, and Athenaeum Challenge. In addition to first place overall, the Ambassador Team boasts First Place in Mock Trial, and Second Place in Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking.

Mayor Pro Tem Pelaez presented a Proclamation in recognition of the 34th Annual National Night Out (NNO) that will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 for the State of Texas. It was stated that NNO is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and is designed to generate support and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen community-police partnerships, and foster neighborhood spirit.

PUBLIC HEARING

Deputy City Clerk Saenz read the caption for Item 2:

2. Public Hearing for a budget reprogramming for the FY 2018 HOME Action Plan and Budget in the amount of \$1,437,000.00. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department]

Mayor Pro Tem Pelaez opened the public hearing for a budget reprogramming for the FY 2018 HOME Action Plan and Budget in the amount of \$1,437,000.00 and called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez reminded City Council to hold themselves accountable to the public.

Natalie Griffith, President of Habitat for Humanity San Antonio, thanked City staff for their allocations of housing funds. She asked for City Council support for the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department's Budget recommendation regarding the HOME Budget and outlined Habitat for Humanity's efforts in the community.

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Pro Tem Pelaez called upon the citizens registered to speak under Citizens to be Heard.

Harry Gunkel spoke of difficult conditions for Palestinians and asked the City Council to consider them in light of the Mayor's upcoming trip to Israel.

Judith Norman spoke of injustices occurring in Palestine and expressed concern with the City of San Antonio forming a relationship in Israel.

John Bachman outlined issues with Animal Care Services and stated that there was not enough being done regarding the stray animal population.

Greg Harman presented a petition in support of City Council developing a Climate Action Plan. He read a statement on behalf of local organizations which also supported the Climate Action Plan.

Kelly Walls expressed concern with the proposed revisions to the Animal Care Services Strategic Plan and highlighted proposals regarding licensure of Animal Rescue Groups. She spoke against the proposed Non-Disparagement Clause.

Chris Copeland spoke of the relationship between Neighborhood Associations and Neighborhood Advisory Zoning Councils. He noted concerns with a lack of regulation regarding the City's use of private Neighborhood Associations.

Bryan Hummel highlighted local activists involved with water conservation. He asked the City Council to spread water into the Recharge Zone to address current water issues.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez spoke of natural disasters and stated that they would increase as a sign of the end of times. He noted his commitment to sharing information.

Antonio Diaz asked that the statue of Christopher Columbus be removed and that those who enslaved others not be honored with monuments. He thanked the Councilmembers who were in support of Indigenous People's Day.

Dina Serrano asked for more communication between City Council Districts to improve opportunities for residents.

Hector Garcia asked the City Council to release taxi permits to drivers and asked for a status update regarding the process.

Faris Hodge, Jr. submitted written testimony regarding the new laws affecting Texas Drivers. He submitted a newspaper article regarding Mayor Nirenberg's 100th day in office. He provided various bible verses and wrote that there needed to be wages at a livable level.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Pelaez adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA Y. SAENZ, TRMC
DEPUTY CITY CLERK