

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015  
5:00 PM  
PLAZA ROOM B, MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Joe Krier, Chair, *District 9*  
Councilmember Alan Warrick, *District 2*  
Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, *District 3*  
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*  
Councilmember Mike Gallagher, *District 10*

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**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Carlos Contreras, *Assistant City Manager*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Jeff Coyle, *Director, IGR*; Sally Basurto, *Assistant Director, IGR*; Christine Wright, *IGR*; Megan Dodge, *IGR*; Eduardo Carrasco, *IGR*; Mario Hune, *District 10*; Joseph Cortez, *District 6*; Charles Mazuca, *District 9*; Justin Renteria, *District 9*; James Doughty, *District 9*; Lauren Sides, *District 10*; Eloy LaQue, *District 8*; Paul Jimenez, *District 10*; Lisa A. Lopez, *Office of the City Clerk*; Alexander J. Pytel, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*; Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, *District 8*; Rudy Morales, *SAPFFA*; Joe Alderete Jr., *SAPFFA*; Brian Chasnoff, *San Antonio Express News*

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**Item 1. 84<sup>th</sup> State Legislative Session update on the status of proposed legislation [Jeff Coyle, Intergovernmental Relations Director]**

Alamo Legislation

Mr. Jeff Coyle spoke on House Bill 2968 concerning the Alamo which calls for the City and the State to work together on a Master Plan for the Alamo Plaza and Alamo Building. He noted that cooperative efforts were already underway with the Texas General Land Office and that the City had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the management of Alamo Plaza. Additionally, he mentioned that the bill would create an Alamo Preservation Advisory Board of which the Mayor and County Judge would each have an appointee. He noted that originally, the bill was a \$250 million request from the Rainy Day Fund that would go into an Alamo Preservation Fund. The idea did not pass due to budget writers and Senate disapproval. However, he noted that there was \$50 million in Article XI of the Senate Budget which includes items that are not yet in the budget but are being considered for future funding. He further described testimony offered by local business owners that were neutral on the bill but opposed to any legislation that might negatively impact sales. Mr. Coyle concluded that the City would proceed trying to secure funding for a down payment on a bigger investment next session once the Master Plan with the State is complete.

Animal Care Legislation

Mr. Coyle addressed Senate Bill 1781 which would make Euthanasia a last resort when there are other alternatives for sheltering stray animals in alignment with the City's No Kill Policy. However, he noted that there were earlier challenges with the legislation that could have impacted shelter operations but have since been addressed. He noted that staff attended the hearing without any intention to testify but that an

Animal Care Services Advisory Board Member offered testimony that inaccurately described City Procedures. Mr. Coyle offered testimony afterward that expressed support for the legislation, addressed inaccuracies, and detailed continuing efforts to revise the bill. He concluded that all parties were pleased with the end result. He added that the bill was voted out of Committee today and was on its way to a floor vote in the Senate.

Chairman Krier asked Committee Members if they would be comfortable drafting a resolution that offered support for Senate Bill 1781. He entertained a motion for same. Councilmember Lopez moved to draft a resolution in support of Senate Bill 1781. Councilmember Warrick seconded the motion.

Councilmember Warrick asked if there would be any impact to the City's current processes or animal shelter operations. Mr. Coyle responded that it would not impact services and that the Director of Animal Care Services, Kathy Davis, felt that passage of the legislation would not have any impact or unintended consequence on current procedures.

Mr. Carlos Contreras requested the inclusion of language that specifically details support for the bill with the amendment included. Chairman Krier agreed and offered that the Intergovernmental Relations Office would be able to coordinate said efforts. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Edwards Aquifer Protection Program

Mr. Coyle mentioned that House Bill 3620 ordered that before a city can acquire property outside of its extraterritorial jurisdiction, it must receive written consent from the county or city where the property lies. The purpose of the bill is to prevent counties and cities from losing property value off their tax roll as many cities are purchasing properties and then exempting it from taxes. He further noted that the bill that came before the committee was not afforded enough time to have changes made and as a result; staff was very much opposed to its passage. He added that it was left pending in Committee without much support.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked if a companion bill was filed. Mr. Coyle responded that he had not yet communicated with the Senator's Office but would follow up.

#### VIA Election

Mr. Coyle described Senate Bill 1837 as similar to the City of San Antonio's current proposed Charter Amendment requiring a public election before any money could be expended on light rail or street cars. He further noted that the City had requested a provision noting that if the State Legislation passed, it would supersede the City's Charter Amendment and there would not have to be two elections. VIA and the Senator's Office offered their support for that provision. He further noted that an advantage of having VIA manage the election would be increased reach across all municipalities and a greater scope of voters. He expressed support for the bill and clarified that VIA would be required to hold the election at their expense.

#### Revenue Cap

Mr. Coyle referenced the Revenue Cap Hearing that had taken place on April 9, 2015 and mentioned that Troy Elliott, Director of Finance, had testified against the bill along with other local government agencies. It did not appear that the bill would pass Committee Approval.

Chairman Krier mentioned that the Texas Municipal League was leading lobbying efforts.

### Syphilis

Mr. Coyle reported that there were no new updates except a hearing earlier in the week in which the bill was presented to the House Floor and Dr. Schlenker offered testimony.

### Fire Sprinklers

Mr. Coyle stated that Chief Wedge had testified in regard to House Bills 3089 and 4011. He addressed House Bill 3089 which required retrofitting of senior high-rises of which there are approximately five in San Antonio. He noted that they would be required to install sprinkler systems by 2021. He further noted that House Bill 3089 was bracketed to San Antonio at the request of other cities who sought exemption from the legislation.

Mr. Coyle noted that House Bill 4011 would require an audit of apartment buildings throughout the community to identify where problems might exist. The bill was not bracketed to San Antonio and the City had previously conducted similar audits on its buildings. He mentioned that Chief Wedge had testified in support of the bill.

### Transportation Network Companies

Mr. Coyle reported that he would be attending an upcoming meeting with State Representatives and Uber Representatives. He further noted that the City Council had already passed an ordinance governing safety regulations for Transportation Network Companies operating in the City of San Antonio. He offered to update the Committee after the upcoming meeting.

### Local Preference

Mr. Coyle stated that Local Preference was a City of San Antonio Initiative that would allow the City to offer preference points for certain contracts. He reported that preference points were currently offered on Low Bid and Discretionary contracts but that a large portion of City Contracts were currently excluded.

### City-County Consolidation

Chairman Krier mentioned that Representative Larson had pulled his City-County Consolidation Legislation from consideration.

Mr. Coyle confirmed and reported that the Chairman of the Committee was not going to allow the bill to leave Committee Consideration.

### Open Carry

Mr. Coyle stated that the Open Carry Legislation was on the House Floor for a vote yesterday but Representative Martinez Fischer had called a Point of Order on witnesses in the committee having been reported incorrectly. The motion was sustained and the bill was returned to Committee and voted out immediately thereafter. He reported that the bill would likely be heard again on the House Floor this coming Friday and noted that more than half of the members of the House had signed on as co-sponsors of the bill. As such, the bill was likely to pass.

Councilmember Gallagher asked for confirmation that House Bill 3358 supports local ordinances. Mr. Coyle confirmed that House Bill 3358 supports a city's right to regulate Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) the same as Taxi Companies. Additionally, he reported that House Bill 1733 would require TNC Drivers and Companies to maintain insurance while operating. He mentioned that House Bills 2440 and 3358 would likely be evolving in the future and that the City was monitoring their status and reporting back as updates became available rather than registering positions at this point in time.

Chairman Krier directed the Committee to review Councilmember Saldaña's request for a draft resolution in support of local control to be prepared for City Council Consideration.

Carlos Contreras presented three versions of the Resolution to the Committee. The first draft specifically detailed House Bills 343 and 1556 as restrictions to local control. The second draft was more general and detailed that the City opposes legislation that limits local control. The third draft is similar to the second but attaches a list of bills that are relevant to the City of San Antonio.

Chairman Krier stated that a more general Resolution would be more effective in reasserting the City's support for local control. He expressed support for the second draft that did not detail any specific bills.

Councilmember Gallagher noted that he would be more inclined to support the third draft which offered a list of relevant bills but still retained general language.

Councilmember Warrick asked if staff had a recommendation. Mr. Contreras responded that the three options were drafted in response to differing opinions on specific and general Resolution support and that staff would follow the direction given by City Council. Councilmember Warrick expressed his belief that the third draft with the attached list would be the best option.

Councilmember Gallagher moved to support the third option with the attached list. Councilmember Warrick seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lopez expressed his belief that the third draft with the attached list would provide a more comprehensive sense of the impact of state legislation on local control.

Chairman Krier encouraged staff to provide copies of the other draft resolutions in addition to the supported third draft when presenting to the full City Council.

The motion to support the third draft resolution passed unanimously.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.

***Respectfully Submitted,***

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***Joe Krier, Chairman***

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