

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



**DRAFT  
Meeting Minutes  
City Council Special Session**

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

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Thursday, August 27, 2015

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

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The City Council of San Antonio convened in the "B" Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Taylor welcomed everyone to the Budget Work Session and recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 2:08 pm to discuss the following items continued from the previous day:

A. DELIBERATIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSS 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).

**RECONVENED**

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 3:48 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session. She addressed the Budget Work Session on the Library.

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2016 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Maria Villagomez, Director, Management & Budget]

A. Library

B. Animal Care Services

C. Information Technology Services (ITSD)

**A. LIBRARY**

Ramiro Salazar introduced Jean Brady, Chair of the San Antonio Public Library Board (SAPL). Ms. Brady reported that the SAPL Board had endorsed the Proposed FY 2016 Library Budget and thanked the City Council for their continued support of the SAPL.

Mr. Salazar presented a Power Point regarding the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) FY 2016 Proposed Budget. He outlined the services provided including Library Administration, Branch Libraries, Central Library, and Support Services. He reported that the FY 2016 Budget would increase by 8% and include 35 new positions. He provided a Budget and Position History from FY 2006 to FY 2016. He highlighted the Library Experience in which individuals could utilize Computers, Wi-Fi Access, Read, Attend Programs, Use Meeting Rooms, and Meet with Expert Staff. He mentioned that the Complete Library Experience was valued at \$151 Million. He reported a 96% Customer Satisfaction rating and highlighted significant projects in FY 2015. These projects include the new Encino Branch Library, Renewal of Collins Garden Branch Library, Teen Library at Central, and the Implementation of a Library Mobile Application. He stated that they were in the process of finalizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Bexar County Digital Library called Bibliotech. He outlined enhancements for FY 2016 that include the opening of Potranco

and Schaefer Branch Libraries, Facility Improvements, and Technology Initiatives. He introduced Ignacio Albarracin, Coordinator of Digital Services.

Mr. Albarracin spoke of one of their target audiences known as the Millennials who were born between 1980 and 2000. He stated that the Millennial Generation was the biggest in U.S. History; even bigger than the Baby Boom. He noted that this group of individuals had less money to spend and more student loans to pay. He indicated that Millennials wanted the convenience of access to products without the burdens of ownership. He highlighted the projects they participate in at the Library to include utilization of new technology and added that Millennials preferred reading in print.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation and stated that she was pleased with their innovative efforts.

Councilmember Viagran expressed support for the work of Library Staff and asked of the 10 Facilities receiving improvements. Mr. Salazar replied that Landa, Pan American, Collins Garden, Las Palmas, Great Northwest, Guerra, Maverick, Brook Hollow, Thousand Oaks, and Semmes Branch Libraries would have improvements made. He outlined some of the improvements that would be made including infrastructure, wiring to facilitate new technology, security cameras, and furniture. Councilmember Viagran asked of the percent of households that did not have access to Broadband Technology. Mr. Salazar replied that 40% did not have Broadband Technology in their homes. Councilmember Viagran asked if there was an estimate for necessary improvements at all Libraries throughout the city. Mr. Salazar stated that he did not have that information but would provide it to the City Council.

Councilmember Nirenberg thanked staff for their work and stated that he was surprised with the information presented regarding Millennials. He asked if there were opportunities to provide more services at strategic geographic areas. Mr. Salazar replied that they provided Adult Education in partnership with the Department of Human Services and would continue to identify areas to best target their resources. Councilmember Nirenberg spoke of the importance of future planning and being strategic with the two new branch libraries.

Councilmember Medina thanked the Library Staff and spoke of their great work. He asked of the maintenance for the Branch Libraries in District 7. Mr. Salazar replied that \$1.3 Million was included in the proposed budget for improvements and noted that the roof at the Maverick Library would be repaired or replaced.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the percentage of Library Users that were Millennials. Mr. Salazar responded that he did not have that information but would provide it to the City

Council. Councilmember Warrick asked of resources provide to Home School Students. Mr. Salazar spoke of the resources provided to parents that Home School their children to include kits, privileges to extend the amount of time they can keep materials, and access to programs and activities.

Councilmember Krier stated that the Encino Branch Library was off to a good start and asked if the Library System had a plan to serve the 200,000 people that may be annexed. Mr. Salazar replied that they were coordinating efforts with various City Departments to plan for potential annexation.

Councilmember Treviño asked of the Digital Library. Mr. Salazar replied that the Digital Library was very significant and had over 68,000 eBook Titles. He stated that they had initiated programs to facilitate access to the Digital Collection and were currently spending \$1.5 Million to support the Digital Library. He added that the partnership with Bibliotech would allow them to expand access to Digital Content.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how programming was determined for each of the branch libraries. Mr. Salazar stated that they utilized market segmentation, a service that allowed them to develop profiles for each community they serve.

Councilmember Gallagher asked of the budget cuts related to Bexar County reduced services. Mr. Salazar replied that Bexar County would not pay the City of San Antonio \$300,000 for the first year of the agreement but would redirect that amount to the Digital Content that would be made available to San Antonio and Bexar County Residents.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

## B. ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

Kathy Davis recognized Animal Care Services (ACS) Board Members that were present and thanked them for their service. She spoke of the History of ACS noting that in 2004, the Euthanasia Rate was 90% which was more per capita than any other major American City. She recognized Rita Braeutigam, ACS Board Chair. Ms. Braeutigam expressed support for the ACS Budget and stated that they had work hard to improve ACS over the years. Ms. Davis continued with the presentation and outlined the four components of their Strategic Plan: 1) Control the Stray Population; 2) Increase the Live Release Rate; 3) Enhanced Enforcement; and 4) Engage & Educate the Community. She highlighted community partnerships and introduced Susanne Kogut, Executive Director of the Petco Foundation. Ms. Kogut thanked the City Council for their support and spoke of Petco's work and investments in the San Antonio Community. She stated that they were pleased to

support ACS due to their great work and innovative partnerships.

Ms. Davis spoke of the work and investments also made by Petsmart and played a video regarding their efforts. Ms. Davis highlighted FY 2015 Initiatives within the Community Cat Program, 72% increase in Return to Owners Program, and 358% increase in Officer Initiated Calls. She reported on the Free Incentive Services they provided to include 11,875 Spay/Neuter Surgeries, 4,400 Rabies Vaccines, and 3,000 Microchips. She stated that they eliminated the City Licensing Program and now required a Registered Microchip. She noted the following results tracked comparing 2012 to 2015: 1) 18% decrease in Dead Animal Pickup; 2) 53% increase in Live Release Rate; and 3) 17% decrease in Bite Cases.

Ms. Davis provided an overview of the Organizational Chart and reported that the FY 2016 Proposed Budget totaled \$12.53 Million. She spoke of their FY 2016 Focus Initiatives that include a Spay/Neuter Clinic and Dog Park at Brooks City Base projected to open in the Fall 2016. She reported an 85% Live Release Rate in FY 2015 and thanked the City Council for their support.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for their work and stated that she was pleased with the great strides that had been made within ACS. She noted that there was still work to be done and spoke of the importance of balancing public safety and education.

Councilmember Warrick spoke of ACS issues in District 2 and asked when all animals would be picked up or have homes. Ms. Davis replied that she did not have an answer for that but stated that they would be implementing an Educational Program in District 2. Councilmember Warrick expressed concern with the animals that are being killed on the streets and asked of enforcement. Ms. Davis stated that the problem could be solved if people leashed their dogs instead of allowing them to run loose. She noted that ACS Officers issued citations and that they utilize a Violation Guide. She spoke of the Sweep Teams that were utilized to address stray animal issues. Councilmember Warrick asked of exporting of dogs. Ms. Davis replied that they work with five Rescue Organizations that transfer dogs all over the United States. Councilmember Warrick asked if they lowered the Live Release Rate by 10%; how many more dogs could be picked up each year. Ms. Davis replied that she did not have an answer to that but noted that the issue was that there was a Stray Hold Period for an animal that was picked up. Councilmember Warrick asked why a dangerous dog could not be taken from its owner. Ms. Davis stated that they were personal property and explained the process for removing an animal from their owner. Mayor Taylor spoke of the importance of educating the public regarding Responsible Pet Ownership.

Councilmember Viagran stated that they had made great progress but noted that there was

still much work to be done. She asked staff to continue to look at the option of transporting dogs noting the challenges with kennel space. She asked of the microchips that had been performed this year. Ms. Davis replied that they had performed 16,000 microchip services this year. Councilmember Viagran stated that she was pleased with the facility at Brooks and requested an update on mandatory microchipping in the next few months. She asked staff to look at a partnership with Palo Alto College due to their Veterinary Technology.

Councilmember Krier thanked staff for their work and asked them to reschedule a microchip event in District 9 that had not occurred due to confusion on scheduling. He asked of the policy regarding pregnant dogs. Ms. Davis replied that they followed a policy for releasing pregnant dogs and were sent to a qualified rescue partner. Councilmember Krier asked of the potential to reduce the price of adoption. Ms. Davis stated that they lowered their prices for Seniors and had been running substantial specials for the month of July. She added that they were seeking grant funds to help drop the prices even further. Councilmember Krier asked of the potential to drop a middle door within cages to increase the capacity. Ms. Davis replied that it would be a problem with humane housing and that the reason for the middle door was to protect staff when cleaning. Councilmember Krier asked of the impact of the potential annexation of 200,000 individuals. Ms. Davis replied that if annexation occurred, they would definitely need additional space.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he had found it more effective to attract dogs with food from home instead of traditional dog food. He asked of ordering leashes for people who could not afford them. Ms. Davis stated that they had ordered leashes and would distribute them as needed. Councilmember Saldaña spoke of the need to stay the course on the educational component.

Councilmember Medina thanked everyone for the progress that has been made thus far and noted that he was pleased with the many partnerships. He stated that he would be supportive of more stringent penalties for pet owners with multiple offenses.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of issues with public safety and asked of the individuals that kept animals for protection. Ms. Davis replied that they served a population that kept large dogs chained up on their property for protection purposes and spoke of their partnership with the San Antonio Police Department. Councilmember Treviño stated that they needed to find a way for all departments to work on this issue using a comprehensive approach. He asked of the hours of operation for service calls. Ms. Davis replied that they could receive calls 24 hours per day 7 days per week. She explained that there was one Officer on duty from 12:00 midnight to 7:00 am.

Councilmember Lopez spoke of the need to balance Animal Care and Animal Control and thanked staff for their great work and partnerships. Mayor Taylor stated that there were many parts to a solution and thanked staff for their work.

Item C regarding the Information Technology Services Department was not addressed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 5:48 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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