

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



**DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Session**

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

10:00 AM

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 noting the following Councilmembers present:

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

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for their efforts during and after Hurricane Harvey and asked for a moment of silence to honor those who had lost their lives. City Manager Sheryl Sculley described activities at the Emergency Operations Center and noted the state of evacuees in San Antonio. She provided an update on infrastructure impacts due to the hurricane.

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2018 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Management and Budget]

A. Solid Waste Management Department

David McCary presented an overview of the department's services and its history of automation and innovation. He stated that they were implementing a Zero Accident Strategy to improve driver safety. He noted that the proposed FY 2018 Budget totaled \$118 million. He stated that recycling had increased from 7% to 33% since 2007 and added that their goal was to continue increasing citizen usage of recycling and organic waste bins. He described the new "Pay As You Throw" rate structure and a \$2.50 increase for the large carts, \$1.00 increase for the medium carts, and \$0.50 decrease for small carts and noted that over time; the price gap between the large and small carts would increase. He stated that there were issues with citizens disposing items correctly and showed an instructional video regarding proper waste disposal procedures. He noted the addition of eight inspectors to enforce disposal guidelines. He stated that the department had worked with small business leaders to create ReWorksSA, a recognition program that would certify local businesses as part of a recycling plan.

B. Development Services/Code Enforcement

Michael Shannon provided an overview of the department's improvements and accomplishments since 2006 regarding Compliance, Proactivity, Response Times, and Abatements. He noted that Code Officers were deployed on an equity basis and described Code Enforcement's fine structure and procedures. He stated that the proposed FY 2018 Budget totaled \$48.3 million with \$33.1 million from the Development Services Fund; \$15 million from the Code Enforcement General Fund; and \$0.2 million from Grants. He noted the FY 2018 Budget had five goals: (1) BuildSA; (2) Short-Term Rental Registration; (3) Mobile Home Park and Senior Apartment Inspection Ordinances; (3) Development of a formal Code "Sweeps" Program; (4) Updates to the Neighborhood Conservation Districts and Infill Development Zoning Plans and Policies; and (5) Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan.

C. Animal Care Services

Heber Lefgren acknowledged the presence of members of the Animal Care Services Advisory Board and thanked them for their work. He provided an overview of department services and programs and stated that the department operated with four strategic priorities: (1) Enhancing enforcement; (2) Controlling the stray population; (3) Increasing live releases; and (4) Engaging and educating the Community. He noted that the proposed FY 2018 Budget totaled \$14.7 million including the addition of one officer and one truck for \$110,000. He stated that additional initiatives included Enhancing Customer Service and Implementing Chapter 5 Revisions. He described Strategic Result Goals in Enforcement, Live Releases, Controlling the Stray Population, and Education and Outreach.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for their presentations and asked if Solid Waste had ever assisted in cleanup efforts following a natural disaster. Mr. McCary stated that they had assisted after disasters in the past and reached out to other cities to offer assistance after Hurricane Harvey.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of where waste was processed. Josephine Valencia replied that the majority of paper products were processed in China, glass was processed in Texas, and plastic was processed both domestically and abroad.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the increase in bulk drop-off. Mr. McCary attributed the increase to improved messaging to the community. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the cost of increasing spay and neuter surgeries to 8,000. Mr. Lefgren stated that it would cost \$75 per surgery.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the anticipated impact of increased waste cart inspections. Mr. McCary replied that the program sought a fourfold increase to resident visits. Councilmember Viagran asked of state maximum fines and timelines for violating codes. Mr. Shannon replied that it depended on the code violation but generally residents were given 10-30 days to come into compliance, after which a fine up to \$500 for a Class C Misdemeanor could be assessed by a Municipal Court Judge. Councilmember Viagran asked DSD to coordinate with faith-based communities to assist with Code Compliance.

Councilmember Pelaez asked of collaboration between ACS and SAPD. Mr. Lefgren replied that they coordinated with SAPD in cases involving animals but the ACS dispatch did not coordinate with SAPD dispatch. Mrs. Sculley added that Animal Care Officers were not licensed peace officers. Councilmember Pelaez asked of a registry of animal abuse offenders. Mr. Lefgren replied that studies did not indicate efficacy of such registers on a local level.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of software improvements for Code Compliance. Mr. Shannon stated that DSD had purchased a system to streamline processing and implementation was currently in process.

Councilmember Courage asked of the average time to close out Code Compliance cases. Mr. Shannon replied that the average response time to 311-initiated calls was under 48 hours and that the goal was to resolve cases fully within 45 days. Councilmember Courage asked the City Manager to consider issuing body cameras to Animal Care Officers.

Councilmember Shaw asked of collaboration between ACS and Neighborhood Associations (NA). Mr. Lefgren replied that they could send more officers to NA meetings. Councilmember Shaw asked of assistance to elderly residents with Code Compliance. Mr. Shannon responded that DSD worked with volunteer organizations to assist with bringing residents in need into compliance.

Councilmember Brockhouse asked of increasing ACS staff response to public demand. Mr. Lefgren replied that they were expanding their services at the intake level.

Councilmember Treviño asked of disaster recovery services with Solid Waste. Mr. McCary replied that there were debris monitoring and removal contracts in place in case of storm damage. Councilmember Treviño asked of the hiring process for Animal Care Officers. Mr. Lefgren replied that the interview process included role playing to see how potential employees interacted with citizens in difficult situations and new hires went through a 12-week training process. Councilmember Treviño asked of enforcing cleanup in overgrown alleys. Mr. Shannon replied that DSD was active in identifying overgrown alleys and working with property owners to bring them into compliance.

Councilmember Perry asked how frequently DSD coordinated with industry leaders to review codes and ordinances. Mr. Shannon replied that they reviewed codes at least once every three years and that they met with industry leaders at least quarterly. Councilmember Perry asked of Solid Waste Management's response to the latest storms. Mr. McCary replied that crews were actively removing debris from city streets. Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on the increased Solid Waste Management Budget. María Villagómez replied that it was to implement the Pay As You Throw Program. Councilmember Perry asked of the ticketing process for ACS. Mr. Lefgren replied that the citation process would be fully automated by the end of the year.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentations.

RECESSED

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 2:01 pm to break for lunch.

RECONVENED

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 2:25 pm.

D. Economic Development

Rene Dominguez stated that the proposed FY 2018 Budget totaled \$14.6 million including encumbrances for rebates and debt service on past projects. He noted \$5.5 million for the Operating Budget; \$2.8 million for Economic Development Agreements; \$3.4 million for Delegate Agencies; \$1.7 million for the Economic Development Incentive Fund; and \$1.2 million for Economic Development Partners. He provided an overview of the department's four core functions: (1) Industry Development; (2) International Relations and Business Development; (3) Workforce Development; and (4) Small

Business Development. He noted that through partnerships in the last year, 4,200 jobs were created and they had secured \$600 million in private investment. He stated that the department's primary partner was the Economic Development Foundation with \$500,000 allocated to that partnership. He noted the importance of establishing an international strategy to attract global companies and partnerships. He highlighted the SA Works Program to enhance workforce development with the goals of ensuring companies have skilled workers and allowing individuals to access mid-level jobs. He noted the SBEDA Program's utilization with 33% of contracts going to minority and women-owned businesses; the highest rate since the program's inception. He described the activities of Launch SA to support small businesses and startups and showed a video of testimonials from small business owners and volunteers.

E. Center City Development

John Jacks presented an overview of why Downtown San Antonio was important due to (1) Economy, (2) Resilience, (3) Identity, (4) Vibrancy, and (5) Inclusion. He stated that the Operations Division oversaw Parking, River Operations, Events, and Facilities, while the Development Division oversaw Project Facilitation, Real Estate Development, Housing, and Development Incentives. He noted that the department offered five incentives and programs to attract development: (1) Inner City Reinvestment Infill Policy; (2) SAWS Impact Fee Waivers; (3) Center City Housing Incentive Policy; (4) Brownfield Program; and (5) Inner City Incentive Fund. He stated that every public investment dollar invested led to \$9.80 in private investment. He noted that the FY 2018 Budget totaled \$31.9 million with \$7.1 million dedicated to Development, \$10.2 million to Parking, and \$2.7 million to the Market Square Fund. He stated that FY 2018 goals including a housing analysis, Tricentennial Events, and a parking study.

F. EastPoint Office

Mike Etienne provided an overview of the creation and history of EastPoint. He noted that the Department Goals were to facilitate revitalization of the Eastside and manage the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. He stated that the proposed budget totaled \$876,322 and that EastPoint had \$54 million in Federal Grant Funds committed to SAHA and United Way. He highlighted community efforts and improvements in eight key areas: (1) Public Safety; (2) Workforce Development; (3) Education; (4) Affordable Housing; (5) Infrastructure; (6) Economic Activity; (7) Health and Wellness; and (8) Engagement and Sustainability. He noted a commitment to developing a Sustainability Plan with San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside to coordinate reinvestment initiatives.

G. World Heritage Office

Colleen Swain stated that the department mission was to promote the Missions' World Heritage Designation, maximize the economic impact of the designation, and implement and manage the Work Plan. She noted that the department provided oversight of the Spanish Governor's Palace and Mission Marquee Plaza. She stated that the proposed department budget totaled \$1.11 million. She noted that their main focus was implementation of the Work Plan and spoke of the multiple World Heritage Events that would increase citizen engagement. She described the components of the Work Plan including Transportation, Beautification, Marketing, Small Business Development, and Land Use.

Mayor Nirenberg asked for a summary of progress on Workforce Development. Mr. Dominguez stated that the department hired consultants to formulate a Strategic Plan regarding workforce needs. Mayor Nirenberg asked how San Antonio compared with other metropolitan areas in terms of job skills. Mr.

Dominguez replied that in San Antonio and on a national level there was a gap in mid-level skills. Mayor Nirenberg asked of innovation with parking meters. Mr. Jacks stated that the Department had issued an RFP that year to initiate pay-by-phone technology.

Councilmember Viagran asked if there was integration between the Alamo Plan and the rest of the Missions. Lori Houston replied that the plans would be coordinated to encourage connection and attract both local and visiting populations. Councilmember Viagran asked of legacy businesses and funding to support them. Mr. Dominguez replied that multiple departments were working to develop partnerships with South Side businesses. Councilmember Viagran asked of public safety staffing regarding the homeless population downtown. Mrs. Sculley responded that additional officers could be moved to downtown locations.

Councilmember Pelaez asked why venture capital investment was less than in other Texas Metropolitan Areas. Mr. Dominguez replied that the city was building its business network which would lead to investment growth. Councilmember Pelaez noted the importance of planning business outreach in South America.

Councilmember Sandoval asked what companies sought in considering San Antonio for relocation. Jenna Saucedo-Herrera of the Economic Development Foundation replied that they were focused on the local workforce. Mr. Dominguez added that they also sought amenities for good quality of life. Councilmember Sandoval asked for additional performance measures to assess alternate transportation usage downtown and noted concerns that brownfields were not adequately addressed.

Councilmember Brockhouse asked of incentives for residents and business owners outside the downtown corridor. Mr. Dominguez replied that the downtown focus was driven by competition for jobs and development. Councilmember Brockhouse asked that the department and Councilmembers consider small business owners and residents in all areas of the city when choosing development projects. Mrs. Sculley noted that the majority of the last year's projects occurred outside downtown.

Councilmember Treviño asked how San Antonio was being marketed in terms of its relation to South Texas. Mrs. Saucedo-Herrera replied that San Antonio was particularly strong as an energy leader to attract international companies. Councilmember Treviño asked of efforts to improve walkability conditions downtown in terms of heat control. Mr. Jacks replied that Capital Improvement and Bond Projects could incorporate materials or flora to reduce the temperature on walkways downtown.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed concern regarding investment of public dollars on parking projects rather than public transit. She asked of efforts to engage the local millennial population rather than target millennial transplants for employment purposes. Ms. Saucedo-Herrera replied that programs such as SA Works were in place to grow target industry employment in the local population as well as attract non-locals. Mr. Dominguez added that Delegate Agency Partners worked in areas of unemployment and underemployment. Romanita Matta-Barrera described the efforts of SA Works to build skills among the local population and connect them to employers.

Councilmember Perry asked of smartphone applications to show visitors parking locations. Mr. Jacks replied that there were third party applications available to provide that service.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for their presentations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was not held. Mayor Nirenberg stated that the Executive Session would be held the following day at any time during the Budget Work Session but no earlier than 2:00 pm.

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 contemplated litigation including matters involving capital improvements pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECESSED

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 5:46 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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