

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017
12:00 PM
MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM

Members Present:	Councilmember Rey Saldaña, Chair, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Manny Peláez, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	<i>Mayor Ron Nirenberg</i>
Staff Present:	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director of Government & Public Affairs</i> ; General Juan Ayala, <i>Director of Military Affairs</i> ; Michael Shannon, <i>Director of Development Services Department</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations</i> ; Megan Dodge, <i>Assistant Director of Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Melissa Ramirez, <i>Assistant Director Of Development Services</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Other Present:	Mario LaSoya, <i>Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas</i> ; John McLeod, <i>Southwest Research Institute</i> ; Brandon Aghamalian, <i>Focus Group</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Item 2a was considered first.

2. Briefing from Major Employers on Federal Priorities [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

a. Toyota

Mario LaSoya reported that the San Antonio Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas (TMMTX) Facility was one of 10 facilities in North America. He stated that TMMTX was interested in improving their Human Resource Development and noted that 75% of their resources are used to mitigate the workforce gap. He indicated that the workforce was divided into four areas: 1) Production, 2) Administration, 3) Multi-Skilled, and 4) Engineering. Mr. LaSoya stated that there were an insufficient number of Multi-Skilled Employees in the San Antonio Area.

Mr. LaSoya stated that Multi-Skilled Areas did not require a degree and that employee starting earnings were \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year. He noted that in order to mitigate the shortage in the area, TMMTX had partnered with St. Philips College to enroll students into a two-year skilled program and work for TMMTX simultaneously. He added that TMMTX had invested over \$4 million in the past three years to design a path that would develop local Multi-Skilled Workers. He noted that in their effort to develop local Multi-Skilled Workers, they have sponsored a Robotics Team, partnered with UTSA for mentoring, and provided advanced equipment in high schools.

Mr. LaSoya stated that TMMTX's State and Federal Legislative Agenda was to reform the Career and Technical Education (CTE) to allow students to receive academic credit for after school Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Programs. He noted that it would assist in sustaining and funding the CTE long term.

In response to Chairperson Saldaña, Mr. LaSoya stated that they wanted to reform the CTE because they needed to attract big companies into the region but there was not enough skilled workers.

Councilmember Peláez suggested that TMMTX collaborate with the City and other entities that have similar State Legislative Agendas.

No action was required for Item 2a.

Item 1 was considered at this time.

1. Approval of the minutes from the City Council Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting on August 9, 2017.

Councilmember Perry moved to approve the Minutes for the August 9, 2017 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2b was considered at this time.

2. Briefing from Major Employers on Federal Priorities [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

b. Southwest Research Institute

John McLeod reported that the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) was a 501c3 organization founded in 1947. He stated that SwRI's mission was to seek funding for research. He noted that their 2017 revenue was \$498,063,396; 57% from government entities and 43% from commercial entities.

Mr. McLeod reported that most of their research was contracted and that their contract with NASA made up 40% of their revenue. He stated that SwRI's Priority was to support the funding of all federal agencies. He noted that their key contracted agencies included the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Defense. He added that Base Realignment and Closure would be a City Priority that SwRI would support.

Chairperson Saldaña asked of the growth of chemical counter measures, cybersecurity, autonomous vehicles, and electrification areas that would benefit the workforce in the City. Mr. McLeod replied that that those research areas would increase the workforce in the City and added that drug manufacturing was also beneficial to the workforce.

In response to Councilmember Perry, Mr. McLeod stated that SwRI's did not provide major weapons for the Department of Defense (DOD). He noted that SwRI engaged in niche roles and specialized items for the DOD.

Mr. McLeod stated that SwRI was a capital concentrated facility and did not have debt.

Councilmember Peláez suggested that due to SwRI's limited ability to lobby because of their 501c3 status; they should partner with the City to identify areas of support.

No action was required for Item 2b.

3. A briefing on the proposed Interlocal Agreement between the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and Texas Parks and Wildlife regarding managing and monitoring requirements in the Government Canyon State Natural Area related to the SEP-HCP. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Interim Director, Development Services]

Michael Shannon reported that the City Council passed an ordinance authorizing an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Bexar County to begin the process of establishing the Southern Edwards Plateau-Habitat Plan (SEP-HCP). He noted that the SEP-HCP was created to ensure that it met the needs of the local community and regulatory requirements. He added that the ILA between the City, Bexar County, and Texas Parks and Wildlife would allow all to collectively implement management and monitoring requirements for the six Karst Fauna Areas located inside the Government Canyon State Natural Area.

Mr. Shannon stated that in 2015, US Fish and Wildlife Service approved the final SEP-HCP; and in 2016, a joint 30-year Incidental Take Permit (ITP) was issued to the City and Bexar County. He noted that in January 2017, the City Council passed an ordinance executing another ILA that established the organizational structure and allocation of shared responsibilities for the coordination, administration, implementation, and funding for the approved SEP-HCP and Permit. He added that the SEP-HCP provided for local administration of the Endangered Species Act and helped the process for achieving compliance for anyone conducting non-federal activities within the jurisdiction of the area plan.

Mr. Shannon reported that in May 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to establish the coordination, administration, implementation, funding, and performance of obligations in accordance with the ITP. He stated that the MOU was pursued as funding was allocated in the original ILA (2016) between the City and Bexar County to implement the plan. He noted that the MOU expired on September 20, 2017, and an amendment was approved to extend the term of the MOU, to allow for development and approval of an ILA.

Mr. Shannon stated that the City and Bexar County would allocate \$50,000 each to provide an annual contribution of \$100,000 per year for 15 years. He noted that the annual funding allocation would be subject to City Council Budget Approval. He added that each year, funding would be distributed to obligations and endowment.

Mr. Shannon stated that not taking action would negatively impact the plan and may terminate the permit. He noted that staff recommends approval of the ILA between the City, Bexar County and Texas Parks and Wildlife to forward to the full City Council.

In response to Councilmember Perry, Mr. Shannon stated that the intended plan would be for the City to purchase preserves that have protected species on the land. He noted that the City would create regional conservation efforts around Camp Bullis and Bexar County. He added that people would purchase credits from the preserves and with that funding; the City would purchase additional land. Councilmember Perry suggested that staff include the Edwards Aquifer with the preserves.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the ILA between the City, Bexar County, and Texas Parks and Wildlife to forward to the full City Council. Councilmember Perry second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. 85th State Legislative Interim Session Update [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle reported that most of the Interim Session Committee Hearings focused on Hurricane Harvey Recovery. He stated that there were a total of 342 Interim Charges (Charges) released. He noted that there were 237 House Charges and 105 Senate Charges. He added that staff identified 63 Charges that were City-related.

Mr. Coyle stated the House Select Committee and Senate Finance Committee were related to the City. He noted that staff developed a legislative agenda that would lead to January 2018. He added that staff proposed to split up the major topics into a series of discussions between delegates and the committee in a public setting. He provided a list of City Related Charges:

- Taxes
- Electricity
- Military
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Housing
- Regulatory
- Economic Development
- Ethics

Mr. Coyle stated that staff recommended having discussions on opportunities to discuss public school finance reform. He noted that staff recommended engaging with local Bexar County Independent School District Superintendents at an Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Viagran suggested that staff consider private organizations to partner with public schools to help fill the workforce gap.

In response to Chairperson Saldaña, Brandon Aghamalian stated that the School Finance Committee had not convened because the Speaker had not named his appointees.

Mr. Coyle reported that the Texas Military Preparedness Commission announced that the San Antonio Region was awarded \$5 million from the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant.

Mr. Aghamalian reported that out of the 342 Charges; he identified 27 Charges that would directly affect City Finances and Operations. He stated that the Charges on Property Tax Reform could identify modification that would yield the rollback process. He noted that the Charges on Electricity would examine the competitive nature of the Texas Retail Electric System and what government competitive intrusions may have on distorting the market. He added that the Charges on Land Use affected the City because it reviewed Eminent Domain adequate balance between regulatory authority and private property rights.

Councilmember Viagran suggested that staff meet with local City Leaders on how Reform on Tax Rates would be a threat to a city's ability to expand. She stated that the Reform on Tax Rates impact the growth of all cities.

Chairperson Saldaña asked of the entities that were advocating for Free Market Electricity. Mr. Aghamalian stated that this was pushed by energy companies in the private sector as an effort to get more customers.

No action was required for Item 4.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rey Saldaña, Chairperson

***Alicia K. Beckham
Office of the City Clerk***