

**GOVERNANCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
JUNE 20, 2018 at 12:00 PM  
CITY HALL, MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

Committee Present:	Mayor Ron Nirenberg, <i>Chair</i> Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Rey Saldaña, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i>
Staff Present:	Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>District 8</i> ; Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i> ; Sheryl Sculley, <i>City Manager</i> ; Andy Segovia, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Erik Walsh, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Leticia Saenz, <i>Deputy City Clerk</i> ; Rod Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Ed Guzman, Camila Kunau, & James Kopp, <i>City Attorney's Office</i> ; Ben Gorzell, <i>Chief Financial Officer</i> ; Troy Elliott, <i>Deputy Chief Financial Officer</i> ; Kevin Barthold, <i>City Auditor</i> ; Michael Shannon, <i>Director, Development Services Department</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Chris Callanen, <i>Assistant to the City Council</i> ; John Peterek, <i>City Manager's Office</i> ; Denice F. Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Michael Beldon, <i>Chair, Campaign Finance Task Force</i>

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Nirenberg called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the Minutes from the City Council Governance Committee Meeting of May 16, 2018.**

Councilmember Saldaña moved to approve the Minutes from the City Council Governance Committee Meeting of April 18, 2018. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Individual Briefings**

**2. Recommendations from the Campaign Finance Task Force Regarding Campaign Contribution Limits and Disclosure.** [Kevin Barthold, City Auditor; Michael Beldon, Task Force Chair]

Michael Beldon stated that the Campaign Finance Task Force (Task Force) was charged with reviewing whether campaign contribution limits should be raised, and whether principal occupation, job title, and employer disclosures should be required. He noted that the Task Force made the following recommendations:

1. Increase campaign contribution limits for Mayor (from \$1,000 to \$1,500) and City Council (from \$500 to \$750) Elections
2. Require principal occupation, job title, and employer disclosure of donor if the donor's contribution equals or exceeds \$100

Mayor Nirenberg thanked the Task Force for their work and noted that he supported their recommendations.

Councilmember Saldaña expressed his support for the disclosure of employers and the increase in contribution limits.

Councilmember Sandoval asked when the recommendations would become effective. Mr. Beldon replied that if approved, it would be brought before the City Council for consideration on June 21, 2018. He noted that it was intended to be effective for the next reporting cycle which would begin on July 1, 2018. Councilmember Sandoval noted that she did not support the increase in contribution limits. She moved to approve the disclosure recommendation adding language which would require the reporting of the industry for those self-employed. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYES:** Mayor Nirenberg, Councilmember Treviño, Councilmember Saldaña, Councilmember Sandoval

**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember Viagran

Councilmember Treviño expressed support for the recommendations made by the Task Force. He requested information on the unintended consequences of employer disclosure. He moved to approve the remaining recommendation of the Task Force to raise the campaign contribution limits. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYES:** Mayor Nirenberg, Councilmember Treviño, Councilmember Saldaña

**NAY:** Councilmember Sandoval

**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember Viagran

**3. Briefing on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 6, Licenses and Business Regulations, and Chapter 35, Unified Development Code, of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas, Relating to Short Term Rentals.** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services]

Rod Sanchez stated that a Council Consideration Request (CCR) was sponsored by former Councilmember Mike Gallagher in 2017 to review current Ordinances and City Code procedures for Short Term Rentals. He noted that the CCR requested that staff review the impact of Short Term Rentals (STRs) on neighborhoods and to research if STRs should be required to remit Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT). He stated that a task force was developed and met in over 16 meetings to develop a proposed Ordinance. He noted that the proposed Ordinance was presented to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Planning Commission, the Zoning Commission, and the Community Health and Equity Council Committee. He stated that the Development Services

Department (DSD) proposed an Ordinance to the City Council at the April 11, 2018 B-Session that sought to address the elements of the CCR. He noted that the City Council provided feedback which has been incorporated into the modified proposal.

Michael Shannon reviewed the changes to the proposed Ordinance. He stated that staff met numerous times with neighborhood groups and the original task force. He noted that a general public meeting was held on June 9, 2018 and another would be held on June 28, 2018. He stated that the proposed Ordinance would be brought before the Boards and then to the City Council at a B-Session.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that he was pleased that a level of compromise was reached.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of basic safety of STRs. Mr. Shannon noted that a checklist of basic safety rules would be provided to registrants and safety would be monitored as part of enforcement of the Unified Development Code.

Councilmember Viagran expressed concern about vulnerable and older areas of the City and their property appraisals. She moved to bring the proposed Ordinance before the full City Council at a B Session. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Briefing on Council Consideration Request (CCR) from Councilmember Pelaez – Request for a Comprehensive Study to Examine Ad Valorem Appraisal Practices in Bexar County.** [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

Kevin Barthold stated that on March 15, 2018, Councilmember Pelaez submitted a CCR for a comprehensive study to examine how ad valorem valuation practices in Bexar County compare to other Texas Counties. He noted that the study was to include an analysis of the impact to the following:

1. The City's economic development;
2. The City's efforts to address current and future housing needs including affordability for the average San Antonio Homeowner;
3. The City's infill development goals;
4. The cost of real estate;
5. The City's job competitiveness;
6. The Tourism Industry's profitability;
7. The cost to small businesses; and
8. Other anchor industries

Mr. Barthold stated that additionally, Councilmember Pelaez requested that the study include a breakdown (district by district and census tracts) of Bexar County Appraisal District's (BCAD's) tax valuation practices and protests, appeals, arbitration, and lawsuit outcomes. He noted that Councilmember Pelaez requested that City Staff study and propose how the City can improve communication to taxpayers about how their valuations are conducted and the legal rights to

appeal, protest, arbitrate, and sue BCAD. He stated that staff recommended a Request for Proposals (RFPs) Process to engage one or more consultants to conduct the comprehensive study in late July 2018 in two stages.

Councilmember Pelaez stated that he was requesting objective, trustworthy data and not an audit of BCAD. He reviewed support letters received for the study.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that this would call for difficult conversations with State Legislators.

Councilmember Saldaña asked if the RFP was the best option. Councilmember Pelaez replied that a third party was necessary to remain objective.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed support for the study and reported on workshops she held in her District on tax relief.

Councilmember Viagran moved that staff move forward with the RFP Process. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYES:** Councilmembers Viagran, Saldaña, and Sandoval

**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember Treviño

Councilmembers Treviño and Saldaña excused themselves from the meeting.

**5. Briefing on Council Consideration Request (CCR) from Councilmembers Brockhouse, Sandoval, and Perry – Request Discussion on Creation of Mailbox Theft Task Force and Best Practices to Reduce Mail Theft.** [Erik Walsh, Deputy City Manager; William McManus, Chief of Police]

Chief McManus stated that staff did not support the creation of a Mailbox Theft Task Force and recommended that other options be explored such as strengthening existing laws against mail theft. He noted that current laws did not address mail theft specifically and that other options included strengthening mailboxes, creating better lighting, and installation of cameras.

Mayor Nirenberg distributed a memorandum from Councilmember Brockhouse requesting that the issue be brought before the Public Safety Council Committee.

Erik Walsh stated that this could be potentially placed on the Legislative Agenda and brought before the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Council Committee.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if there was a spike in mailbox thefts. Chief McManus replied that there was not.

Councilmember Sandoval moved that guidelines for mailboxes be discussed in a Public Safety Council Committee Meeting and that the item be brought before the IGR Council Committee for possible inclusion in the Legislative Agenda. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Briefing on Council Consideration Request (CCR) from Councilwoman Sandoval – Request to Review City Processes Related to Public Participation.**  
[Jeff Coyle, Director, Government and Public Affairs Department]

Jeff Coyle stated that Councilmember Sandoval submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) which asked staff to review five areas of public participation in the city. He stated that best practices were reviewed and guiding principles were established. He stated that staff made the following recommendations:

1. Bring all public participation under the SASpeakUp Banner.
2. Public meetings should supplement efforts.
3. Everything should be completed prior to a City Council Committee Meeting and a standard response created.
4. City efforts should utilize all methods available.
5. All surveys should be online and on paper.
6. All efforts should capture basic contact information.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that public participation must be meaningful. She suggested that expectations be clarified for citizens who speak before the City Council and that their comments be addressed.

Jeff Coyle stated that a document or page would be created to explain Citizens to be Heard (CTBH). He suggested that contact information of participants be captured and added that CTBH was a City Council tool and was not mandated.

Councilmember Viagran requested that this item be brought before the Innovation and Technology Council Committee.

Mayor Nirenberg acknowledged how far the SASpeakUp Campaign has come.

Councilmember Sandoval moved to bring this item before the Community Health and Equity Council Committee. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 1:44 pm.

**ATTEST:**

---

***Ron Nirenberg, Mayor***

---

***Leticia Y. Saenz, TRMC***  
***Deputy City Clerk***