

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018
10:30 AM
PLAZA DE ARMAS BUILDING**

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> ; Megan Dodge, <i>Assistant Director of Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Other Present:	Snapper Carr, <i>Focus Group</i> ; Marc Rodriguez, <i>Office of Marc A. Rodriguez</i> ; James Griffin, <i>Brown and Ortiz</i> ; Carrie Simmons, <i>Texas Lobby Group</i> ; Jesse Ancira, <i>Legislative Consultant</i>

Items 1 and 2 were addressed jointly

- 1. Briefing and possible action on consent for Emergency Services District No. 7's request to incur debt** [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]
- 2. Briefing and possible action on consent for Emergency Services District No. 10's request to incur debt** [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle reported that Emergency Services District (ESD) No. 7 was requesting consent to incur \$10 million in debt for station renovations and equipment; and that ESD No. 10 was requesting consent to incur \$7.545 million to implement their five-year capital improvement plan. He stated that the City consent to incur debt was required pursuant to the agreement terms between Bexar County and the City of San Antonio; and that the agreement created ESD No. 7 in 2006 and ESD No. 10 in 2008. He noted that the imposed conditions for ESD were included on the ballot for the election to confirm the creation of the ESD and authorize the imposition of a tax. He added that the ESD was approved by voters and imposes an ad valorem tax of \$.10 per \$100 of valuation on property owners within the Districts. He mentioned that ESD No. 7 began collecting a 1.5% sales and use tax in October 2016 after voters approved same.

Mr. Coyle stated that in May 2018, ESD No. 7 and ESD No. 10 submitted a request for the City's Consideration to remove the conditions agreed to and consider allowing the ESD to incur an additional \$10 million in debt. He noted that on June 18, 2015, City Council had approved a resolution allowing ESD No. 7 to incur debt in the amount of up to \$5 million for the construction of a new fire station. He added that the City would not be required to assume any debt if either of the Districts defaulted on the loan.

Mr. Coyle stated that the City's Finance, Planning, and Fire Departments reviewed ESD No. 7 and ESD No. 10's requests to analyze the District's capacity to incur the debt. He noted that the compatibility of renovations and equipment were up to San Antonio Fire Department Standards. He reported that the Finance Department determined that both ESD's tax base was sufficient to manage the proposed debt.

In response to Councilmember Peláez, Mr. Coyle stated that the ESDs could not incur debt in excess of \$20,000 without the consent of the City. Councilmember Peláez suggested that staff considered raising the \$20,000 limitation.

Councilmember Perry asked of the funding being requested by ESD No. 7. James Griffin stated that the funding would be used to renovate and expand the fire stations. He noted that they would purchase two fire trucks.

Councilmember Peláez moved to approve the staff recommendation to provide consent to ESD No. 7 and ESD No. 10 to incur debt of up to \$10 million. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Briefing and discussion on State Legislative Program priorities for the 86th State Legislative Session [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle reported that the City Council approved the State Legislative Program that guides staff and consultants to advocate on behalf of the City. He stated that the structure of the 86th State Legislative Program would include a preliminary discussion on proposed City Policy Priorities, Endorsements, Protections of Community Interests, and Partnerships. He noted that the City of San Antonio sought property tax relief through a combination of state funding for public education. He added that the City would like flexibility for local elected officials to provide targeted tax relief.

Councilmember Perry stated that he would be advocating for Homestead Tax Relief for the 2020 Fiscal Year (FY) Budget.

Mr. Coyle stated that the City opposed to reduce the rollback rate that would provide minimal to no relief to taxpayers while limiting the City's ability to deliver public safety, enhanced infrastructure, and other critical services. He noted that the City opposed legislation with negative impact on municipally-owned utility companies. He added that the City supported the continued ability of local elected officials to pass ordinances for the benefit and best interest of their constituents.

Mr. Coyle stated that the City supported legislation to enhance military value and protect military installations from future Base Realignment and Closure. Also the City supports additional funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant. He added that the City was faced with legislation that attempted to facilitate encroachment on military installations and undermine the City's Tree Ordinance.

Councilmember Perry suggested that staff seek alternative methods to support the military noting that military bases in other states were better funded compared to those in Texas. He noted that the State of Texas should be providing funding and assistance to keep the military bases in Texas up to standard. He added that staff should pursue establishing a nonprofit to fund the preservation of military bases in San Antonio.

Mr. Coyle reported that the City supported the continued viability of San Antonio to attract businesses and compete for major events that grow the local economy. He stated that the continuation of state incentives to supplement local economic development strategies to recruit and retain employers was supported by the City. He noted that the City opposed legislation that would limit or eliminate the current flexibility of the Major Events Reimbursement Program as a tool for cities to attract and host major events and conventions.

Councilmember Peláez suggested that staff communicate with City Partners to indicate the City's Priorities.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she was interested in collaborating with local school districts and asked that staff gather input from other City Council Committees to identify their legislative concerns.

Councilmember Perry asked the consultants to identify future concerns of which the City should be aware. Snapper Carr stated that the City's State Legislative Program Priorities were significant to the community and that it was important that the City Council advocate for those Priorities.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. 2020 Census update [Megan Dodge, Assistant Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Megan Dodge provided an update on the preparations for the 2020 Census. She stated that the Government & Public Affairs (GPA) Department had been working with a wide variety of community stakeholders, Mayor's Office, City staff and the U.S. Census Bureau to begin preparations for obtaining an accurate count of the San Antonio Population in 2020. She noted that staff census preparation included the Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) to verify local addresses. She added that staff would be pooling resources with the Census Bureau Operation for the San Antonio-Austin Region and would open two offices in the San Antonio Area in January 2019.

Ms. Dodge stated that the Bureau was hiring Partnership Specialists to serve in a liaison role between the Bureau and local community engagement efforts. She noted that on June 21, 2018, City Council passed a resolution in opposition to the inclusion of a citizenship question in the 2020 Census Questionnaire. She added that GPA would be providing future updates to the Committee on the citizenship question; an update on related lawsuits that had been filed; and comments made to the Federal Register regarding the 2020 Census.

Councilmember Peláez asked of the status of the Council Consideration Request (CCR) to create a board consisting of members from homeowner associations and condo associations. He stated that creating the board could assist in the Census Efforts. Ms. Dodge responded that staff would locate the CCR.

In response to Councilmember Perry, Mr. Coyle stated that the City Manager was presenting the City's Census Efforts into the FY 2019 Budget as a line item.

No action was required for Item 4.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia K. Beckham
Office of the City Clerk

Rey Saldaña, Chairperson