

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019
12:00 PM
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:	Erik Walsh, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Troy Elliott; <i>Deputy Chief Financial Officer of Finance</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director of Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Juan Ayala, <i>Director of Military and Veteran Affairs</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations</i> ; Colleen Bridger, <i>Director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District</i> ; Megan Dodge, <i>Assistant Director of Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Other Present:	Baltazar R. Serna Jr., <i>Serna & Serna</i>

1. Approval of the minutes from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting on October 10, 2018.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the Minutes for the October 10, 2018 Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting. Councilmember Peláez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Briefing and possible action on proposed Federal Legislative Program for the 116th Congress [Jess Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle stated that the City Departments, the City's Federal Consultant Team and community partners collaborated to identify issues important to the San Antonio Community to assist in developing the 116th Federal Legislative Program. He noted that in December 2018, the Intergovernmental Relations Committee received a briefing on the recommended priorities. He noted that the proposed Federal Legislative Program was comprised of the following categories: Priorities, Legislative and Agency Initiatives, Partnerships, and Protection of Municipal Interests.

Mr. Coyle stated that the Priorities involved Military Protection, Aviation, Transportation Infrastructure and Affordable Housing. He noted that the Legislative and Agency Initiatives entailed:

- Public Safety Enhancements
- Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security
- Workforce and Training
- Work Opportunity Tax Credits
- Historic Tax Credit Enhancements
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- Public Charge Rule
- Anti-Trafficking and Smuggling
- Domestic Violence Abuse and Prevention Services
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Services
- Homeless Prevention and Services
- San Antonio Missions National Park
- Air Quality

Mr. Coyle stated that the Protection of Municipal Interests supported federal regulations and legislation that would benefit the City. He noted that the Protection would oppose any regulations or legislation that would be adverse to the City's interests. He added that the Partnerships linked community, businesses, stakeholders, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, delegate agencies and higher education.

In response to Chairperson Saldaña, Mr. Coyle stated that Federal Legislative Program for the 116th Congress would be presented to the full City Council. Chairperson Saldaña suggested that staff include language that supported Brownfields Funding. He requested that staff identify methods that would move the City out of Air Quality Non-Attainment in the next three years. He added that he would like for staff to remove language from Air Quality Non-Attainment that requested Non-Attainment within five years.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the impact on the City if the Government Shutdown continued. Mr. Coyle stated that there would not be an immediate impact because there was a lag in funding from the prior year. He noted that if the Government Shutdown remained, there would be an impact on funding no longer being available to the City. Sally Basurto added that the Federal Consultant Team identified agencies that were impacted by the Shutdown and that City Councilmembers and Staff would target the agencies that were open during the 2019 SA to DC Trip.

Councilmember Perry suggested that staff provide a detailed report of what meetings were held in Washington D.C. and the outcome of SA to DC Trip. Mr. Coyle stated that he could hold a meeting so that the Councilmembers could have a strategy and agenda before going to Washington D.C. Councilmember Perry requested a debriefing before and after the Trip.

Councilmember Peláez stated that he was not in support of altering any Air Quality Non-Attainment Language that the City agreed to without having a discussion with the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmember Viagran moved to forward the proposed Federal Legislative Program for the 116th Congress with input of other City Councilmembers to the full City Council for approval. Councilmember Peláez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Update on the 86th Texas Legislative Session [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle stated that the Big City Mayor's Meeting was hosted by Mayor Nirenberg in November 2018. He noted that the consensus among the Big Cities was that public school financing was a top priority because it would help address property taxes. He mentioned that there was discussion of Local Transportation Funding, Property Taxes, Sanctuary Cities and Land Use at the Texas Municipal League (TML) Retreat.

Mr. Coyle reported that Dennis Bonnen was voted as the Texas House Speaker. He stated that the House was made up of 83 Republicans and 67 Democrats. He noted that there were 31 new House Members, four Local Delegates, and that Democrats gained 12 House Members. He added that there were six new Senators including one delegate.

Mr. Coyle stated that the House and Senate Leadership Priority Legislation had not been filed and that Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick had not laid out his Legislative Priorities. He added that the message from both Chambers was to tackle Property Taxes and School Finance.

Mr. Coyle reported that the Senate and House had filed over 959 bills. He stated that during the first 60 days of Session; Lawmakers were prohibited from passing any legislation unless the Governor declared it an emergency item. He noted that Governor Greg Abbott was scheduled to give the State of the State Address in the next few weeks. He highlighted the Bills of Interest to the City:

- Preemption
- Revenue Caps
- Property Tax Exemptions
- Lobbying Restrictions
- Alamo and Monuments
- Mail Theft
- Additional Vehicle Registration Fee

Councilmember Perry stated that he would like details from the San Antonio Hosting Committee for the 2019 National League of Cities and TML Conferences. Megan Dodge stated that the Intergovernmental Relations Committee would receive updates on hosting activities for the 2019 National League of Cities and the TML Conferences.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the Congressional District 125th Seat. Mr. Coyle stated that Representative Justin Rodriguez was appointed to Bexar County Commissioner Precinct 2 and that the Governor scheduled a Special Election on February 12, 2019 to fill the Seat.

Chairperson Saldaña asked if the State's approach to solving property tax would be assigned to a Committee. Mr. Coyle replied that Congressman Diego Bernal was filing an Anchor Neighbor Tax Relief Bill that would address rising property tax statewide.

Councilmember Perry stated that he would like to view data on the City's Property Tax Rate over the past 10 years.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rey Saldaña, Chairperson

Alicia K. Beckham
Office of the City Clerk