

**CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2014
1:00 PM
MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL**

Council Present:	Mayor Julián Castro, <i>Chair</i> Councilmember Diego Bernal, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Rey Saldaña, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, <i>District 8</i>
Staff Present:	Sheryl Sculley, <i>City Manager</i> ; Robbie Greenblum, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Leticia Vacek, <i>City Clerk</i> ; Erik Walsh, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Asst. City Manager</i> ; Leslie Haley, <i>Asst. City Attorney</i> ; Edward Benavides, <i>Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office</i> ; Leticia Saenz, <i>Deputy City Clerk</i> ; Jed Maebius, <i>Liaison, Mayor's Office</i> ; Nina Nixon-Mendez, <i>Planning Manager, Planning and Community Development</i> ; John Peterek, <i>Special Projects Manager, City Manager's Office</i> ; Lincoln Avant, <i>District 1 Office</i> ;
Others Present	Skeeter Miller, <i>County Line Restaurant</i> ; Rebecca Sibley, <i>Overland Partners</i> ; Kay Floyd, <i>President, Kay F. Floyd and Associates</i> ; Rob Killen, <i>Attorney, Kaufman/Killen Law Firm</i> ; E. Duane Wilson, <i>President & CE, North SA Chamber of Commerce</i> ; Brian Must, <i>SARA</i> ; Lisa Armstrong; Stephanie Serna, <i>Reporter, KSAT 12</i> ; Jim Forsyt, <i>Clear Channel News</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Castro called the meeting to order.

- 1. Approval of minutes from the March 19, 2014, March 27, 2014 and March 31, 2014 Governance Committee Meetings.**

Councilmember Nirenberg moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2014, March 27, 2014 and March 31, 2014 Governance Committee Meetings as submitted. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Individual Briefings

- 2. A Briefing and possible action on a request from Councilman Cris Medina, District 7, regarding Environmental Policy Updates.** David W. McCary, Solid Waste Management; Roderick Sanchez, Development Services; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff, Office of the City Manager

Councilmember Cris Medina was out of the office for military service, therefore submitted a letter to be read into the record by Leticia Vacek, City Clerk.

Mrs. Vacek read the letter as follows:

Mayor Castro & Members of the Governance Committee:

"I am presently out of the office for military service and as such, have requested this letter be read into the record. Much time and effort has gone into researching and consideration of a single-use bag transition ordinance in an effort to accomplish the following:

- Protect our invested capital dollars in city-wide development and maintenance projects at our parks, waterways, schools, economic development corridors/districts, streets and Riverwalk;
- Reduce city expenses (i.e. taxpayer dollars) on litter cleanup;
- Serve as a steward to our city's natural resources by reducing threats to wildlife habitats, fossil fuel usage, and climate change and air quality impacts;
- Develop a plan for a robust and comprehensive transition period that educates citizens, businesses and retailers, schools and other stakeholders, and
- Sets out to meet our community-derived goals of the SA2020 Plan a few of which include:
 - o Reducing the amount of materials entering landfills,
 - o Adding to and maintenance of neighborhood green spaces, and
 - o Increasing our City's economic competitiveness.

Recycling alone is not enough of a strategy to protect our community waterways, parks and neighborhoods. In many other cities across the United States, recycling rates only marginally increase when adding curbside recycling options. For example, Phoenix, Arizona saw a meager 12 percent increase in recycling rates after implementing curbside recycling options. Our own pilot project to increase recycling and reduce the number of single-use plastic bags at the point-of-sale was unsuccessful as it only saw a slight increase in recycling at volunteer drop-off stations located at retail facilities and did not see any decrease in the number of bags issued at the point-of-sale. We spent nearly \$400,000 to achieve few results. As our city continues to grow in population, marginal increases simply will not do.

I, therefore, fully support and encourage the Governance Committee to consider a single-use plastic bag transition ordinance that:

- Funds a robust education campaign for 12 consecutive months allowing the City of San Antonio and its partners time to inform the public about a transition away from single-use plastic bags at the point-of-sale,
- Funds an incentive program during the 12 month transition period encouraging shoppers to bring reusable bags, and
- Implements a ban on single-use bags at the point-of-sale for retailers operating inside the City of San Antonio city limits."

David McCary reported that Councilman Cris Medina submitted the Council Consideration Request (CCR) to develop a proposal for the prohibition of single-use carryout bags as recommended by the Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee within 90 days. The CCR also requested a recommendation on the Unified Development Code and a paperless system for City Council and Committee Meetings.

Mr. McCary reported the following approaches for single use carry-out bag reduction and recycling:

1. Allow the business community to do their own education and outreach program regarding single use carry-out bags.
2. Institute a fee for all single-use carry-out bags distributed, both plastic and paper, at the point of sale.
3. Institute a ban on all single-use carry-out bags, both plastic and paper, at the point of sale.
4. Approve and implement a City Ordinance requiring business retailers to require incentives for the usage of reusable bags.
5. Maintain the current status and continue focusing on outreach to the San Antonio residents who receive SWMD services informing them that beginning August 1, 2014 bundled single use plastic carry-out bags can be recycled with the blue cart program.

Mr. McCary recommended staff present additional information on a ban of single-use plastic and paper carry-out bags to the full City Council during an upcoming City Council "B" Session.

Rod Sanchez reported on the Unified Development Code-International Electric Conservation Code and recommended the City, the Building-Related & Fire Code Board of Appeals and Advisory Board, and the Stakeholders Sustainable Building Committee (SSBC) have the opportunity to study the 2015 International Electric Conservation Code (IECC) and make a recommendation to the City Council on which code would be best for San Antonio. He added that the 2015 IECC is expected to be published this year.

Lastly, related to the paperless Council and Committee Meetings, Edward Benavides recommended the electronic delivery of same. He added that City Staff would continue with "Think before you Print" Initiative as part of the FY 2014 City of San Antonio Organization Goal.

Mayor Castro suggested creating an Opt-in System for the delivery of electronic City Council and Committee packets. As it relates to the plastic bag issue; Mayor Castro asked what Texas Cities were surveyed. Mr. Zaroni stated that they looked at several cities and that Dallas imposes a fee of 5 cents per bag.

Mr. McCary added that effective August 1; San Antonio residents will be able to recycle plastic bags in their blue can. Mrs. Sculley added that the recycling for plastic bags is only for single family residential homes, and does not include multi family residential or commercial. She noted that there are 344,000 residential customers that will be able to recycle plastic bags into their blue can.

Councilmember Bernal requested measuring the outcome of the Brownsville or Dallas Communities and how their implementation has affected them. Councilmember Viagran requested measuring the tourist impact of a fee and the outreach to the community. Mr. McCary stated that this item will be brought before City Council "B" Session in May or early June.

Councilmember Viagran moved to forward the analysis and additional information to the upcoming City Council B Session. Councilmember Nirenberg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sanchez reported that as part of the second piece of the CCR; he recommends the City, Building-Related & Fire Code Board of Appeals and Advisory Board, and the SSBC have the opportunity to study the 2015 IECC and to make a recommendation to City Council on which Code would be best for San Antonio.

Councilmember Nirenberg moved to forward a Summary for the Committee to receive input and forward to the City Council B Session for implementation in April, 2015. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Briefing and possible action on a request from Councilman Ron Nirenberg District 8, regarding a Comprehensive Water Policy Study.
John Dugan, Director, Planning and Community Development

Councilmember Ron Nirenberg reported that he submitted a Council Consideration request directing staff to research and publish a comprehensive report on all City Policies, Procedures, Standards, Regulations and initiatives involving the cost quantity and quality of the water drawn from the Edwards Aquifer. He added that the goal of the study is for long term planning to provide for affordable and adequate supplies of water to support the needs of San Antonio and the Economic Development of the San Antonio Region through the year 2050. He stated that the report should include a plan to provide affordable rates and abundant clean water to San Antonio to determine how the City protects the Edwards Aquifer as its main source of drinking water. He added that the report show how City Growth Policies impact the management and operation of the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and vice versa. Lastly, he stated that recommendations for changes or improvements be provided.

John Dugan presented a PowerPoint noting that the issue is that the City's Master Plan adopted in 1997 does not sufficiently address the need for a Comprehensive Water Policy in relation to the City's Projected growth.

Mr. Dugan added that in response to Councilmember Nirenberg's CCR Request, a draft scope of work for a Comprehensive Water Policy of the City of San Antonio is proposed for review by the Governance Committee. The Comprehensive Water Policy, once completed, would be brought forward to City Council for consideration as a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Dugan added that there were three components to developing the Comprehensive Water Policy:

1) Data Collection and Analysis Phase – Entails the review of existing studies, reports and data related to local and regional ground and surface water planning. Said data will include data available through local, regional and state water planning entities and other agencies such as the Texas Water Development Board, Edwards Aquifer Authority, State Data Center, San Antonio River Authority, and SAWS. He noted that data shall also be obtained on current planned projects related to surface and ground water.

2) Policy Analysis – Entails the review of San Antonio policies and procedures related to ground and surface water standards and regulations and will provide regulatory, administrative or legislative recommendations to improve local water resource management. The analysis will take into consideration the City's growth policies, annexation plans, and

development regulations to ensure these policies support water quality and protect the water supply to meet the demand of residential, commercial military and industrial users at affordable rates on long term basis.

3) Action Plan Strategies – Based on the policy analysis, strategies will be recommended to ensure San Antonio's water security. Strategies will take into consideration the identification of water sources/supply, conservation methods, source diversification (reuse, desalination, importation, etc.) and coordination with neighboring governments and regions concerning mutual interests and shared resources, in order to meet future needs. The costs/benefits of the current policies should be assessed related to alignment with regional and state water plans, future annexation and growth plans, and financial risks to residents and ratepayers.

Mr. Dugan added that the Comprehensive Water Policy Study, upon completion, would be considered for adoption as a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan. He noted that the cost of the study is estimated between \$60,000 to \$100,000 or greater. He added that the study could be undertaken by private consulting firms and/or University Water Institutes. The funding sources were stated to be possible in the 2015 Fiscal Year Budget and/or possible grant funding through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through the Clean Water Act.

Councilmember Viagran referred to the Fiscal Considerations of the General Aquifer Flowpath and asked if that was the area that would be studied. Mr. Dugan responded that they are looking at the entire City's Watershed.

Councilmember Nirenberg moved to proceed with establishing a partnership via a Memorandum of Understanding with a partnering organization to conduct the study. Councilmember Saldaña Seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of items for future meetings

4. Next Meeting Scheduled: May 21, 2014

Mayor Castro announced that the next Governance Council Committee Meeting would be held May 21, 2014.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mayor Castro adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

ATTEST:



Julián Castro
Mayor



Leticia Vacek, TRMC/MMC
City Clerk