

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**FINAL
Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Meeting**

Thursday, June 25, 2015

9:00 AM

HBG Convention Center

The City Council convened in a City Council Budget Policy Goal Setting Session in Room 204 of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 10 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Lopez, Medina, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

ABSENT: 1 - Gonzales

Mrs. Vacek announced that Councilmember Gonzales had given birth to Zachary, a baby boy on June 23rd and would not be present.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mayor Taylor recognized students that were present from Central Catholic High School and welcomed them to the meeting.

1. City Council Budget Policy Goal Setting Session establishing budget policy direction that will guide the development of service priorities for the FY 2016 Proposed Budget and the FY 2017 Budget-Plan to include possible action on matters presented

and discussed. [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Maria Villagomez, Director, Management and Budget]

Mayor Taylor provided opening remarks noting that the meeting was the first of many to discuss the FY 2016 Budget. She stated that the Budget was the most important policy document produced by the City Council and spoke of the importance of maintaining fiscal stability for the City of San Antonio.

City Manager Sheryl Sculley presented an overview of the agenda and introduced Patrick Ibarra who would serve as the Facilitator. Mr. Ibarra stated that his role was to keep the process moving and help the City Council develop a shared understanding of priorities.

Mrs. Sculley presented a Power Point and outlined the three Major Policy Issues for the FY 2016 Budget: 1) Property Tax Rate; 2) Collective Bargaining; and 3) 2017 Bond Program. She stated that preliminary Property Values were up 9.5% and that the Property Tax Certified Roll would be received from the Bexar Appraisal District in late July. She indicated that she had received direction from Mayor Taylor and the City Council to develop a FY 2016 Proposed Budget that includes a reduction of the City's Property Tax Rate. With regard to Collective Bargaining, Mrs. Sculley reported that meetings were scheduled with the Police Union on July 10th, July 15th, and July 17th. She reiterated the negotiating guiding principles in which Public Safety would be kept at 66% of the General Fund; Uniform Employees would contribute to their cost of healthcare by paying monthly premiums; and the City's AAA Bond Rating must be maintained. She outlined the 2017 Bond Program timeline noting that preliminary project scopes and cost estimates would be developed from July 2015 through July 2016. She stated that staff would present draft project recommendations to the City Council in August 2016 and community meetings would be held from October to December 2016. She indicated that the City Council would approve the Bond Program and call the Bond Election in February 2017 to be held on May 6, 2017.

Ms. Maria Villagomez presented the Five Year Financial Forecast noting that the City's Total Budget was \$2.4 Billion. She stated that the General Fund totaled \$1 Billion and that Public Safety consisted of 66.7% of that amount. She reported that there was a manageable challenge for FY 2016 of less than \$1 Million which reflected Public Safety spending at the level proposed at the March Collective Bargaining Session. She noted that the Five Year Forecast maintains the General Fund Ending Balance at 15% for every year of the forecast.

Ms. Villagomez provided an update of the FY 2015 Revenue since the Five Year Forecast was first presented to the City Council. She noted that General Fund Revenues were \$5 Million less than projected due to lower CPS Energy and Sales Tax Revenues. However,

she reported that they had experienced \$2.5 Million in savings from less than projected General Fund Expenditures. She highlighted the “Speak Up” Budget Meetings that were held in the community and noted that over 1,100 individuals had attended 30 meetings throughout the city. She outlined the top three community priorities: 1) Streets, Sidewalks, & Drainage; 2) Social and Senior Services; and 3) Parks & Recreation. She mentioned that the Proposed Budget would be presented to the City Council on August 6th with Budget Adoption scheduled on September 10, 2015.

Mr. Erik Walsh presented Public Safety Policy Issues and provided a summary of the Police Department. He stated that there were 2,375 Authorized Uniform Positions; 152 Park Police, and 568 Civilians supporting Uniform Positions. He provided an overview of the Uniform Vacancies and reported that violent crime was down through May by 0.3% from last year and property crime was down by 9.7% from last year. He stated that Emergency Response Time had decreased from 7:07 minutes to 6:56 minutes in FY 2015. He highlighted the process they were utilizing to solicit Body Cameras which would be phased in over three years. He indicated that the estimated cost for Phase 1 was up to \$1 Million and up to \$5 Million for Phase 2. He noted that they had applied for a grant in the amount of \$1.2 Million and that additional staff would be needed to manage data and video.

Mr. Walsh spoke of the Shot Detection Technology, a system to detect the location of gun fire. He mentioned that they would be implementing a one-year pilot program in two areas of the city with an estimated cost of \$280,000 to \$1.7 Million. He reported that a COPS Grant was submitted in June to the Department of Justice for 25 Police Officers which would require a City Contribution of \$7.8 Million over four years. He stated that positions would be assigned to a newly created Direct Patrol Unit focused on supporting Patrol Operations. He noted that there had been a change in the Federal Mandate related to the Public Safety Radio System that would have an impact on the Capital Budget. He stated that the City Council Committee was reviewing same and recommended that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be issued for a new radio system.

Ms. Lori Steward presented information on the Civilian Living Wage and provided an overview of Employee Demographics in which there were 11,737 authorized positions. She stated that prior to 2006, the City’s Wages were below market rate and the benefits package exceeded industry standards. She noted that over the last nine years, a Step Pay Plan has been developed and implemented to provide Civilian Employees with market competitive wages. Additionally, healthcare benefits have been modified to provide for employee cost sharing. She reported that the current Living Wage was \$11.47.

Ms. Steward provided a Civilian Compensation History from FY 2008 to FY 2015 and a comparison of the Minimum Wage offered by other Comparable Cities and Local Entities.

She spoke of the Potential Salary Compression that could result if the Living Wage was increased to \$13.00 and then \$15.00. She outlined the Fiscal Impact of a 2-year phased approach to reaching \$13.00 and a 3-year phased approach to reach \$15.00. She stated that the City of San Antonio was committed to a compensation philosophy that balances market competitive wages with employee participation in the cost of healthcare.

Mr. John Dugan presented information on City South Annexation noting that Limited Purpose Annexation was implemented in January 2014. He stated that Full Purpose Annexation must occur within 36 months which would be December 2016 and outlined the Financial Impact for FY 2016 totaling \$1.5 Million; FY 2017 totaling \$7.2 Million; and FY 2018 totaling \$5.6 Million. He noted that operating expenses in FY 2016 included ramp-up costs for 42 new Firefighters and 12 new Police Officers. He reported that Capital Costs in FY 2017 included 2 Interim Fire Stations, 2 Engine Trucks, and 1 Ambulance Unit. He added that City Property Tax Revenue Collections would begin in FY 2018.

Mrs. Lori Houston spoke of the Alamo Plaza Master Plan and provided maps of the area. She stated that the Vision for the Plan was to engage Local Residents and Visitors in ways to personally connect to the Alamo Area Experience. She noted that they wanted to tell the story of the Battle of the Alamo and its impact on the Republic of Texas, City of San Antonio, State of Texas, United States, and International Community. She highlighted the Guiding Principles that include Unified Leadership under the management of a single steward with a sustainable business model. She indicated that Master Plan Development would include opportunities for public engagement and that their goal was to adopt the Master Plan in Summer 2016.

Mr. Hugh Miller presented information on the City's Broadband Project, noting that the City Council had approved an agreement with CPS Energy to build a shared high-speed fiber network in 2007. He stated that the current COSANet Agencies include Bexar County and Alamo Colleges. He noted that the City Council approved a second agreement with CPS Energy for additional fiber sites and give ownership of 4-8 strands of fiber to the City of San Antonio. He mentioned that Bexar County was interested in investing into the network and that they had passed a Resolution regarding same on June 23, 2015. He stated that additional government agencies had also expressed an interest in participating on the City Network and that they would be conducting feasibility studies to help potential partners make a decision on whether or not to participate.

Mr. Peter Zanoni provided an overview of Solid Waste and Storm Water Fees and outlined the City's Pathway to a 60% Recycling Rate. He stated that the City Council had approved the implementation of Variable Rate Pricing in the FY 2015 Budget. He noted that roll out

would begin in October 2015 and that all residential customers would be converted over a 2-year period. He highlighted the Projected Fee Schedules for FY 2016 and 2017 for Small, Medium and Large Carts and presented a map of the Variable Rate Pricing Rollout. He spoke of the Storm Water Utility Fee that supports a \$41 Million Budget with 6 City-Wide Programs impacting drainage infrastructure, neighborhoods, and water quality. He reported that the fee for most residential accounts would remain the same and the fee for commercial accounts would be tiered based on a range of impervious cover methodology. He added that there would be a five-year freeze for School Districts. He provided a comparison of current and proposed fee structures within Residential and Commercial Categories in which 75% of residential customers would pay \$4.25 or less and 19 accounts would have a monthly fee of over \$1,000.

RECESSED

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting at 10:40 am.

RECONVENED

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 10:55 am.

Mr. Patrick Ibarra asked the City Council to provide their level of support for each of the three issues presented by Mrs. Sculley beginning with the City Property Tax Rate.

Mayor Taylor stated that she was comfortable with the information presented and would like to look at alleviating the burden to homeowners.

Councilmember Saldaña concurred with the information presented and asked if they would recoup the same amount of revenue as last year to maintain existing services. Mrs. Sculley replied that her recommendation was not to reduce the rates so much that they reduce the amount of revenue collected last year.

Councilmember Warrick stated that he did not support reducing the Property Tax Rate and spoke of the need to add funding for streets and sidewalks.

Councilmember Nirenberg stated that most concerns with the new property valuations stem from the appraisal and valuation process. He agreed that it was preferable to reduce the burden on homeowners but would like to keep everything on the table until they receive final data from the Bexar Appraisal District (BAD) in July.

Councilmember Treviño stated that he served on the BAD Board of Directors and spoke of the appraisal process they utilized which was implemented statewide. He noted that the assessments were calculated by the State Comptroller and were recently addressed in court

by the BAD. He concurred that everything should remain on the table as a lot of information was still unknown.

Councilmember Lopez stated that they must better define the Effective Tax Rate and set a policy to assume an Effective Tax Rate plus or minus some deviation over the next five years.

Councilmember Krier stated that he had received hundreds of calls from citizens concerned with the appraisal process. He noted that he was supportive of reducing the Property Tax Rate but it would be challenging due to the unknown costs associated with Collective Bargaining. Councilmember Gallagher noted that he too had received many citizen concerns with the appraisal process and that they must keep a close eye on the appeals process. He stated that he was supportive of reducing the Property Tax Rate but did not have all of the facts to make that decision at this time.

Councilmember Warrick spoke of the increases in Variable Rate Pricing for Solid Waste and the Storm Water Fee and asked if it may be beneficial to defer some of these increases instead of decreasing the Property Tax Rate.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she was supportive of reducing the Property Tax Rate and also expressed concern with the BAD Property Appraisals. Councilmember Medina expressed support for reducing the Property Tax Rate and providing relief to Homeowners. Councilmember Lopez added that when drafting the new policy, they could create an exemption to ease the burden on the most vulnerable population.

Mr. Ibarra asked the City Council to provide their level of support regarding maintaining the Public Safety Budget at 66% of the General Fund.

Councilmember Nirenberg stated that most of the policy decisions hinged on the resolution of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He noted that he was supportive of maintaining the 66% threshold and no retroactivity.

Councilmember Saldaña expressed support for maintaining Public Safety at 66% of the General Fund and noted that the City's March Collective Bargaining Proposal did not require Uniform Employees to pay for their healthcare but required their dependents to pay premiums.

Councilmember Krier stated that he was supportive of the position adopted by the City Council last year regarding maintaining the Public Safety Budget at 66% of the General Fund. Councilmember Lopez added that he was also supportive of maintaining the Public

Safety Budget at 66% of the General Fund and that negotiations should be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Ibarra asked of the level of support for the 2017 Bond Program Timeline.

Councilmember Gallagher expressed support for the timeline presented by Mrs. Sculley noting that there could be issues with an accelerated timeline.

Councilmember Medina stated that he was open to moving the Bond Election to November 2016 due to the many drainage issues in District 7.

Councilmember Lopez stated that they should be strategic on the timing of the Bond Election and select the best date for it to pass. He noted that he did not want to rush and would like to receive community input, specifically from the Bond Committee. He indicated that he would be open to moving up the timeline if 2012 Bond Projects were completed and if the community supported same.

Councilmember Nirenberg stated that he was strongly opposed to moving up the timeline noting that they must align priorities with the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that he was supportive of the timeline as presented.

Councilmember Warrick stated that they may get more consensus if they place the Bond Program on a November Ballot.

Councilmember Treviño stated that he was opposed to moving up the timeline and was supportive of the timeline as presented. Councilmember Viagran stated that she was supportive of the timeline as proposed noting that they may need time to include a Housing Program in the Bond.

Mayor Taylor stated that she was comfortable with the timeline presented and that they could review the possibility of moving the Bond Program to a November Ballot in the future. She noted the importance of the Comprehensive Plan and investing in the projects that may be identified. She mentioned that the Bond Program would only cover a fraction of the needs and added that at least two months would be needed for marketing.

Councilmember Lopez asked if the Bond Committee had given guidance on the timeline in the past. Mrs. Sculley replied that they had not provided input on the timeline but could do so in the future.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he was open to looking at a timeline other than May

2017 noting that there were some projects that must be completed as soon as possible. He asked how much time was needed to prepare for a Bond Program. Mrs. Sculley replied that they had spent over a year working on the last two Bond Programs. Councilmember Saldaña stated that he would be supportive of the staff recommendation due to the possibility of including a Housing Program in the Bond.

Councilmember Krier stated that they must have a carefully planned Bond Program that will be approved by the voters.

Councilmember Warrick added that Bexar County was working on a Housing Bond and that gathering information from them could assist the City of San Antonio in making a decision on the timeline.

Mr. Ibarra asked the City Council to discuss their level of support for the Police Department Initiatives to include Body Cameras, Shots Fired Technology, and Additional Police Officers.

Councilmember Warrick spoke in support of Body Cameras and Shots Fired Technology noting that they were both very important. He stated that some neighborhoods were not as safe as others and referenced a recent incident that occurred in District 2 regarding shots fired.

Councilmember Nirenberg expressed support for new technology to include Body Cameras and Shots Fired and stated that they should make a strong investment as possible. He noted that he would be supportive of a Lease Option due to the constant change in technology.

Councilmember Gallagher stated that he was supportive of Body Cameras and Shots Fired Technology and was pleased with the decrease in response times.

Councilmember Treviño stated that he was also supportive of new technology and that they should provide the best tools possible to Police Officers. He noted that he would support a pilot program in District 1 and was in favor of the Lease Option due to the rapid changes in technology.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he was supportive of Body Cameras which had proven to be very effective and that he would support a pilot of the Shots Fired Technology. He asked if Promise Zone Grant Funds could be used to support the pilot program.

Councilmember Krier stated that he was fully supportive of moving forward with Body Cameras but would support a Lease Option for Shots Fired Technology.

Councilmember Warrick stated that Byrne Grant Funds could be used for schools now and that they could potentially apply for these funds in the future for the Shots Fired Technology. He noted that the technology had been utilized by the Federal Government since 2001 and was utilized by the Military Bases here in San Antonio.

Councilmember Viagran spoke in support of Body Cameras and the Lease Option for Shots Fired Technology. She asked of the large difference in cost for the Shots Fired Technology. Mr. Walsh replied that the cost varied due to Lease versus Purchase Options. Councilmember Viagran asked of the number of Pilot Programs that were currently in effect. Mrs. Sculley stated that they would gather that information during the lunch break and provide it to the City Council.

Councilmember Lopez asked if additional manpower would be required for the Shots Fired Technology. Mr. Walsh replied that in other cities, call loads had increased. However, he noted that this was unknown and would report to the City Council after one year. Councilmember Warrick stated that the Shots Fired Technology would help identify where resources should be placed based on historical data.

Councilmember Medina stated that it was important to implement the Shots Fired Pilot Program and to include the West Side.

Mr. Ibarra thanked the City Council for their input and stated that they would resume the discussion after lunch.

POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mayor Taylor recognized Councilmember Viagran who was celebrating her birthday today. The City Council wished Councilmember Viagran a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Taylor recognized Councilmember Gonzales who was watching the Goal Setting Session on NowCast.

RECESSED

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting at 12:08 pm to break for lunch and announced that the meeting would resume at 1:05 pm.

RECONVENED

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Mrs. Sculley reported that there were three Pilot Programs being operated by the City of San Antonio: 1) Vacant Building Registration Program; 2) Adult Education and Literacy Program at four libraries; and 3) Mobile Integrated Health Program.

Mr. Ibarra stated that they would continue discussion on the Policy Issues presented by staff and asked the City Council to provide their level of support for the Civilian Living Wage.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that it was important for San Antonio to be an Employer of Choice and that he was supportive of considering an increase of the Civilian Living Wage to \$15.00. He requested to see the demographics of employees that live in the City of San Antonio.

Councilmember Warrick concurred with Councilmember Saldaña about considering the increase of the Civilian Living Wage to \$15.00; however, he stated that there were other factors that should be considered.

Mayor Taylor stated that she was open to continued dialogue regarding the Civilian Living Wage and recognized the work of city staff. She noted that they had come a long way but would like to help a larger range of people. She spoke of the importance of education and training and asked of the number of employees that would be affected by the change. Ms. Steward replied that there were 800 employees currently receiving the Living Wage that would move up to \$11.67 if approved; increasing to \$13.00 would affect 1,300 positions; and increasing to \$15.00 would affect 2,300 positions.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she would like to continue discussions on the issue noting that it was important to maintain a balance. She asked of the number of employees that were affected by the Pay Plan when it was implemented. Mrs. Sculley replied that there were 900 employees earning less than the Federal Living Wage in 2005. Ms. Steward added that there were currently 5,112 on the Civilian Step Pay Plan. Councilmember Viagran noted concerns with individuals that had reached the top of their Step Plan and were no longer eligible for pay increases.

Councilmember Nirenberg stated that it was important to resolve the Collective Bargaining Agreement and proceed with analysis on Compression Issues. He asked if there was a wage level required for City Contracts. Mrs. Sculley replied that there were some grants that required a Federal Minimum Wage to be paid while other contracts did not have wage requirements.

Councilmember Saldaña recognized Civilian Employees for the help in driving down healthcare costs and stated that it was important to send a signal to them and lowering the

Property Tax Rate could help with same.

Councilmember Krier stated that he concurred that ongoing discussions were necessary and asked of the annual cost related to implementing a \$15.00 Living Wage. Ben Gorzell replied that there would be an annual cost of \$9.6 Million. Councilmember Krier stated that he would prefer to spend that amount on education and training such as Project Quest or the Alamo Academies which would have a greater impact.

Councilmember Gallagher stated that he was pleased that San Antonio was leading other Texas Cities in regard to the Living Wage but expressed concern with the Compression Issues that could occur if it was increased. Councilmember Lopez stated that they should give attention to the Wage Scale noting that the work was being accomplished with fewer people.

Mr. Ibarra requested that the City Council provide their level of support on City South Annexation. There were no comments from the City Council. Mr. Ibarra requested that the City Council provide their level of support on the Alamo Master Plan. Mrs. Sculley stated that \$1 Million was approved in the 2012 Bond Program for the Alamo Master Plan. She noted that when the City Council decided not to move forward with the Streetcar Project, capacity was made available for Capital Projects. She indicated that the funds could be used for the Alamo Plaza Project or Streets & Drainage Projects.

Councilmember Gallagher expressed support for utilizing funding capacity for Streets Projects. Councilmember Lopez noted that the Alamo Plaza Project was very worthy of funding and could support utilizing capacity for same. He expressed concern that other funding may not be identified to address capital needs for Alamo Plaza.

Councilmember Krier stated that this was a historic opportunity to address Alamo Plaza and recommended that funding be requested in the 2017 State Legislative Session for same. Councilmember Treviño expressed support for allocating funding capacity for Alamo Plaza noting that The Alamo was not just a tourist destination but a Historic Site.

Mr. Ibarra asked the City Council to provide their level of support for the City Broadband Project.

Councilmember Viagran asked if it would help address the digital divide throughout the city. Mr. Hugh Miller replied that they currently use this for City Services and it would enhance the network.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the fiscal impact. Mr. Miller replied that some

enhancements to people and tools would have to be made; however, there were cost sharing opportunities as other entities were added to the network. Councilmember Nirenberg recommended moving forward on said initiative and recommended that revenue received from Verizon be utilized to help build out future technology.

Councilmember Lopez spoke of the importance of fiber networks and expressed support for the Project noting that it was the right approach to address the digital divide.

Councilmember Treviño asked if there was a partnership with the School Districts. Mr. Miller replied that the School Districts already receive Federal Funds for this type of service but could look at doing so in the future. Councilmember Treviño stated that he was fully supportive of moving forward on the initiative noting that the additional capacity could open up opportunities.

Mr. Ibarra asked the City Council to provide their level of support for the Solid Waste and Storm Water Fees.

Councilmember Nirenberg spoke of the drainage issues related to new development and stated that they should work on a solution. He noted that they should look at how business is conducted and incentivize the development process.

Councilmember Treviño concurred with Councilmember Nirenberg and stated that people want accessible streets and walkways. He noted that they should encourage and incentivize innovative strategies to address infrastructure needs.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of other cities that have implemented Variable Rate Pricing (VRP). Mr. McCary replied that the cities of Fort Worth, Austin, and Plano had implemented same. He stated that Fort Worth's approach was moderate and that their recycling rate was less than San Antonio's; however, Austin had a reasonable approach which resulted in a 40% recycling rate. Councilmember Saldaña expressed support for VRP but noted concerns with the Rollout Map. Mr. McCary explained the factors utilized to create the Rollout Map to include efficiency. Councilmember Saldaña expressed support for the Storm Water Utility Fee as presented and commended staff for their work.

Councilmember Viagran asked when the stakeholders came to an agreement regarding the Storm Water Utility Fee. Mr. Zanoni replied that they came to an agreement on the new rate structure in late December/early January. Mike Frisbie added that the San Antonio Restaurant Association had been a part of the discussions and that the Storm Water Fees for most restaurants would remain the same.

Councilmember Krier stated that the Real Estate Council had not seen the final Storm Water Utility Fees and that additional information was needed with regard to the amount of increase and the time frame in which it would be implemented. Mr. Frisbie stated that they did not expect to see a big change in the fees and that they would phase in the revenue requirements.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the schedule for street sweeping. Mr. Zanoni replied that street sweeping occurred after each brush pick-up. Councilmember Warrick asked if research was being conducted on non-impervious sidewalks and rainwater collection. Mr. Frisbie stated that they were always looking for best practices and were open to utilizing new technology to include sustainability elements.

RECESSED

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting at 2:35 pm.

RECONVENED

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 2:50 pm.

Mr. Ibarra asked the City Council to provide their feedback on the top three priorities identified during the Community Budget Hearings: 1) Streets, Sidewalks, & Drainage; 2) Social & Senior Services; and 3) Parks & Recreation.

Mayor Taylor stated that she was supportive of increasing the Street Maintenance Budget and would like to develop a comprehensive plan on sidewalks.

Councilmember Krier stated that he was supportive of additional funding for streets and drainage and expressed concern that last year's funding for same had been decreased due to the lack of a Collective Bargaining Agreement. He asked that other areas be reduced if cuts are needed in the future.

Councilmember Lopez stated that Councilmember Gonzales had asked him to to distribute her list of priority items for the Budget Process to Mayor Taylor and the City Council. He read her top 3 Budget Priorities identified by District 5 Residents: 1) \$15 Million for sidewalk and street infrastructure improvements for District 5; 2) \$2 Million in funding for park improvements including water fountains, walking trails, playground covers, and both indoor and outdoor programming activities; and 3) \$1 Million additional funding for the Light Up District 5 Program to bring more street lights to the District. Councilmember Lopez stated that he had met with District 6 Residents and recommended that funding be prioritized on projects or programs that could leverage funds from other entities.

Councilmember Treviño stated that they should invest funds in innovative technology and design projects that will have the longest life span.

Councilmember Gallagher stated that he was pleased that the community had identified streets, sidewalks and drainage as a priority but noted that most sidewalks were the responsibility of the developer and homeowner. He noted that he was supportive of utilizing innovative technology to address infrastructure needs. He added that private industry should help address street maintenance.

Councilmember Warrick spoke in support of building safe sidewalks to parks.

Councilmember Nirenberg stated that he was supportive of leveraging resources for projects and enhancing sidewalk efforts to include incentivizing their repair. He requested that funds be allocated toward speed reduction projects.

Councilmember Medina stated that he was also supportive of building safe sidewalks to parks and leveraging funds for drainage projects. He noted the importance of street lighting and asked that staff coordinate additional lighting efforts with CPS Energy.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she was in support of increasing funding for streets, sidewalks, and drainage and addressing older neighborhoods that did not have sidewalks. She spoke of the drainage issues that have increased due to recent rains and concurred with Councilmember Gallagher that private industry that contributes to street deterioration should be held accountable.

Councilmember Warrick recommended that funding similar to Neighborhood Access Mobility Program (NAMP) Funds be allocated for Street Lighting.

Councilmember Saldaña spoke of the challenges with streets and drainage projects noting that many projects were too small for the Bond Program and some were too large to be addressed with NAMP Funds. He stated that they needed to work on educating the community on reducing their speed in neighborhoods.

Mr. Ibarra thanked everyone for their work and stated that there were many moving parts to the Budget.

Mayor Taylor thanked the City Council for their participation and challenged everyone to think of the connections among the issues such as streets, parks, and social services which speak to neighborhoods and public safety. She asked of the community engagement that would occur after the Proposed Budget was presented. Mrs. Sculley replied that they would

continue to receive input from the public via city facilities, online budget input box, and additional community meetings. Mayor Taylor again thanked everyone for their work today and reminded the City Council of the Retreat that would be held the following day at Hardberger Ecology Center.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC
CITY CLERK