

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



**FINAL  
Meeting Minutes  
City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
105 Main Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

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Wednesday, February 8, 2017

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

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The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call and noted the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 11 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Medina, Nirenberg, Krier, and Gallagher

1. A Briefing on the roll-out of the Pay As You Throw and Organics Collection programs. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; David W. McCary, Director, Solid Waste Management]

David McCary stated that in June 2010, the City Council adopted the Recycling Resource Recovery Plan. He added that the Plan sets the goal for the city to divert 60% from the single-family waste stream by 2025. He mentioned that to achieve this goal; the City Council approved funding for the “Pay-As-You-Throw” Program in 2015. He explained that the Solid Waste Department rolled out said program in 2016. He stated that this meant that residents could save money on their Solid Waste Bill by recycling correctly and selecting a smaller brown garbage cart. He reviewed the items to be placed in the green and blue garbage carts and noted that residents could choose either a 48, 64, or 96 gallon brown garbage cart to match their needs. He played a video which explained the process for obtaining, keeping or refusing garbage carts. The video noted that one could always down

size their garbage cart with no charge and the first upsizing of a garbage cart would be free. The video also showed that on those occasions when one has a large amount of trash; an additional garbage cart could be obtained for a \$10 fee. He reported that the roll out was 80% complete and should be completed in April 2017.

Mr. McCary stated that the Plan Rate Structure would encourage residents to send less of their waste to landfills and noted the price difference between the three sized garbage carts began to grow; one could save money. He spoke of contamination and the results of same including increased costs for processing waste. He stated that the current contamination rate was 25% and noted that the Solid Waste Department would like to achieve a contamination rate of less than 15% for the blue garbage carts and less than 10% for the green garbage carts. He noted that communication efforts with residents had not been as successful as desired. He stated that beginning in 2017, the Solid Waste Department was developing a strategy to improve communication with residents through the following: 1) Reduced diaper contamination; 2) Revamped inspections; 3) Engaged field operations; 4) Implemented enforcement; and 5) Enhanced outreach strategy.

Mr. McCary reported that 10 years ago; the Residential Recycling Rate was 4%. He noted that the projected Recycling Rate for 2017 was 35%. He stated that the Oak Wilt Ordinance had been implemented to adjust this year's brush collection schedule to prevent the spread of Oak Wilt and reminded everyone not to trim their Oak Trees.

Mayor Taylor stated that the public outreach was critical to improving the results of the Recycling Resource Recovery Plan.

Councilmember Krier asked if a reminder would be sent out when it was acceptable to trim Oak Trees. Mr. McCary replied that a reminder would not be sent out. Councilmember Krier requested that the Parks and Recreation Department be consulted regarding when Oak Trees could be trimmed.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the success of the Bulky Waste Drop-Off Centers and of resident's adaptation to the green garbage carts. Mr. McCary stated that all residents would be notified of the Bulky Waste Drop-Off Centers by mail and via refrigerator magnets. He noted that additional advertisement would be accomplished. He stated that residents were enthusiastic about the green garbage carts and were learning what goes into them. He indicated that 90% of residents had elected to keep the green garbage carts and suggested holding a workshop for Council Staff as well as educating the entire city.

Councilmember Viagran asked when some of her constituents who had not received the green garbage cart would receive one. Mr. McCary stated that they would be receiving

their green garbage cart by February or the beginning of March 2017.

Councilmember Medina asked if educational information was provided at schools. Mr. McCary replied that over 800 educational components had been provided at schools. Councilmember Nirenberg asked if items going to the landfill were rejected due to contamination. Mr. McCary replied that no items were rejected at the landfill.

Mr. McCary stated that in response to a request made by Councilmember Gonzales; Department Staff were now wearing vests which identified them as city employees. Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for the presentation.

2. A Briefing on Animal Care Services key initiatives. [María Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Heber Lefgren, Director, Animal Care Services]

Heber Lefgren stated that the Animal Care Services Department focused on maintaining a safe community and ensuring positive outcomes for pets. He provided the following department overview: 1) 31,000 animal impounds; 2) 22,000 registered microchips; 3) 40,334 city supported spay/neuter surgeries; 4) 89% Live Release Rate; 5) 7,300 adoptions; and 6) 6,400 pets returned to owners. He stated that the construction of the Brooks Spay and Neuter Clinic was completed in January and would be operated by the San Antonio Humane Society. He noted that the clinic would be open to the public by the end of February 2017 and would provide over 5,000 Spay Surgeries in the first year of operation. He stated that thereafter; 8,000 surgeries would be performed each year. He stated that in 2016, Animal Care Services (ACS) piloted an Enhanced Intake Program which provides intake assistance/counseling for stray and owner surrenders and allows for the impoundment of 1,000 additional pets. He stated that to reduce the number of lost pets the Pet Hub Initiative was developed to compliment a Microchip and return pets quickly. He added that it also diverts pets from shelter and that they anticipated "Go Live" in April 2017.

Mr. Lefgren demonstrated how the Pet Hub Initiative Tag worked and noted that an estimated 96% of pets tagged would be returned to their home within 24 hours. He stated that less than 2% of pets would make it to the shelter which would create added capacity in the shelter. He noted that enforcement would be enhanced through the Community Based District Officer Initiative. He stated that in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, this initiative was piloted with District Officers assigned to Council Districts 2 and 5. He noted that in FY 2017, the initiative would be expanded to Council Districts 3 and 4. He stated that staff were continually exploring ways to improve the program. He noted that in an effort to increase the City's Live Release Rate the High Volume Pet Program was implemented in

2012. He mentioned that said Program compensated nine local rescue group partners to rescue over 8,200 pets from ACS. He noted that this year the City Council approved a restructured fee schedule to incentivize rescue of harder to place pets. He stated that this program would be evaluated at the end of the summer. He noted that the department's education and outreach efforts included an approach aimed at the promotion of enforcement, compliance with City Laws, and pet placement options. He noted that aspects of the method included: 1) Face-to-face interaction; 2) Grassroots education; and 3) Media relations/advertising. He stated that the Neighborhood Sweeps Initiative was implemented in FY 2012 and would include grassroots education, resources, and enforcement, as well as additional rabies, microchip, and low cost vaccination clinics.

Mr. Lefgren noted that ACS would work with its partners to provide additional spay/neuter resources. He added that the 4 Paws Project provided resources to those in need of resources to keep pets contained on their property. He noted that ACS was partnering with Municipal Court to identify individuals who were not in compliance due to financial issues. He noted that ACS recently partnered with two agencies to create a Responsible Pet Ownership Class. Municipal Court Judges have the option to assign this class to violators as part of the citation process. He noted that the Office of Innovation was tasked with revising the Strategic Plan of 2011 to ensure continual and future progress; seek community input; and ensure existing programs, services, and vision were consistent with community needs.

Mr. Lefgren stated that over the next six months, ACS would seek input regarding the revision of Chapter Five of the City Code. He noted that the following topics would be reviewed as part of the revision: 1) Tightening spay/neuter requirements; 2) Expanding Tethering Laws; 3) Strengthening breeding and selling regulations; and 4) Revising excess animal and other permits. He stated that between late February and May 2017, community and stakeholder input would be sought through eight public meetings and that resulting recommendations would be brought before the ACS Advisory Board and the Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Services Council Committee in June 2017. He stated that the revisions would be brought before the full City Council in August or September 2017 for consideration. He announced the eight public meetings and noted that said meetings would be advertised through ACS's Social Media Platform, the City and ACS Website, press releases, and through door-to-door efforts.

Mayor Taylor asked if ACS was seeing less stray dogs on the streets. Mr. Lefgren indicated that the numbers had improved but there was still much work to be accomplished.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the number of animals impounded. Mr. Lefgren stated that 10,000 animals had been impounded between October 2016 through January 2017. Councilmember Viagran asked how many of the 10,000 had been returned to their owners.

Mr. Lefgren replied that approximately 1,700 of those impounded had been returned to their owners.

Councilmember Saldaña asked if funds for fence repair were available. Mr. Lefgren replied that ACS would reach out to Council Districts over the next few months to identify recipients as part of the Neighborhood Sweeps Initiative.

Councilmember Gallagher suggested that a separate meeting be held with the Northeast Neighborhood Alliance. Mr. Lefgren stated that he would be available to attend said meeting.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the course of action for repeat offenders. Mr. Lefgren stated that ACS had the option to continue to issue them citations until they changed their behavior and that ACS could issue civil and criminal citations.

Councilmember Krier asked if ACS had seen an increased number of Pit Bulls in their facilities. Mr. Lefgren replied that they had not. Councilmember Gonzales asked of the city's policy on keeping chickens and roosters. Mr. Lefgren stated that an individual could have a total of three fowl in the city.

Councilmember Medina asked of the "Pets for Vets" Program. Mr. Lefgren explained that Veterans could adopt cats and dogs at a discounted price and noted that an adoption event would be held on Memorial Day. Councilmember Saldaña suggested that potty training classes be offered so that community members could keep their dogs inside.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 4:00 pm to discuss the following:

- A. Deliberations regarding economic development negotiations and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.087 (economic development) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- B. Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.072 (real property) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

- C. Discuss legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Discuss legal issues related to a utility line warranty program pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Discuss legal issues related to an audit of cable franchise and Public Education and Government Access fees pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- F. Discuss legal issues relating to grant requirements promulgated by the State of Texas pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 6:03 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Taylor called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez referenced a newspaper article regarding Muslim Women praying to Mecca and stated that it was advisable to pray to the East.

Mark Perez spoke of public safety concerns with businesses operating throughout the city without the proper permits. He noted that his wife had lost stillborn twins due to the chemicals at Tetco where he used to work.

Rhett Smith thanked the City Councilmembers and citizens that were present participating in Municipal Government. He expressed concern with the increased amount of violence in San Antonio and spoke of the importance of addressing same.

**RECESSED**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting at 6:16 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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