

**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

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

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: 9 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Lopez, Medina, Nirenberg, and Gallagher

ABSENT: 2 - Gonzales, and Krier

Mrs. Vacek announced that Councilmember Gonzales was on City Business attending the 2017 Women in the World Summit and Councilmember Krier was at the Legislative Session in Austin testifying on behalf of the City of San Antonio.

1. A Briefing by the San Antonio River Authority on the San Pedro Creek Improvement Project. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Interim Director, Center City Development & Operations]

Lori Houston stated that the City conveyed 23 parcels of property valued at \$5 Million to the San Pedro Creek Project. She noted that another \$19.5 Million for the project was included in the 2017-2022 Bond Program. She stated that Phase 1 of the San Pedro Creek Project from Fox Tech High School to Cesar Chavez would be completed by December

2018 but a smaller portion of that would be completed in May 2018 in time for the Tricentennial Celebration.

Suzanne Scott stated that the project was a little over two miles in length and stretched from Fox Tech High School near the tunnel inlet to where San Pedro Creek intersected with all of the Westside Creeks as they entered the Downtown Area. She noted that Bexar County was the lead funder of the project and spoke of the funding and roles of Bexar County, the City, and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA). She stated that the San Pedro Creek Subcommittee met monthly and with the co-chairs on a regular basis. She reviewed the status of the project:

- May 2016: Selected Sundt Davila JV as the Construction Manager at Risk
- August 2016: 70% Design completion
- September 2016: Groundbreaking celebration
- November 2016: Council approved land rights to 20 city-owned parcels
- December 2016: Began construction on utility relocations
- January 2017: Council approval of addition of Project to 2017-2022 Bond Program
- January 2017: Began full creek construction
- February 2017: RIO 7 Design Guidelines approved

Ms. Scott described the work accomplished and reviewed renderings of the work to be completed. She stated that the project would have an extensive Way-Finding System and that SARA was partnering with the City on same to achieve commonality in the Downtown Area. She spoke of the utilization of technology on the project and reviewed the word and cultural art which would be placed on some of the walls. She presented photos of the ongoing construction and utility relocation. She stated that creek construction was underway near the tunnel inlet area. She offered to provide tours of the construction for the City Council. She spoke of the Public Art for the project and noted that a San Pedro Creek Arts Alliance would be created which would bring together various local art organizations. She stated that branding of the project had been achieved and fact sheets had been distributed to the community. She noted that presentations had been made to various neighborhood associations to supply information regarding the project and that the Project Website had information on the Project.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for the presentation and asked of the process for identifying the art content on large scale pieces. Ms. Scott replied that large installations were commissioned as part of the design process. She noted that the Muñoz Team, working with Bexar County, had selected a local artist to perform the work. Mayor Taylor asked for more details related to way-finding. Mrs. Houston stated that many way-finding initiatives were underway and staff would ensure that all were working with the same base map. She

noted that sign changes would be seen in the next six months. Mayor Taylor asked of the communication strategy for communicating street closures. Mrs. Houston stated that the strategy was to over-communicate. Mayor Taylor encouraged staff to provide information to a wider array of people.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of having some of the Word Art translated into Spanish and seeing indigenous interpretation within Word Art. Councilmember Viagran spoke of the need for continuity of signage throughout the Downtown Area. Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the timeline for all four phases of the project. Ms. Scott stated that Phase 1 would be completed by the end of 2018; phase 2 would be completed by 2019; and that the other two phases were not currently funded.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the timeline of the San Antonio Story depicted in the project. Ms. Scott stated that it would be a layered history depicting the past, present, and future. Councilmember Warrick asked who would be responsible for maintenance and oversight once the project was completed. Ms. Scott replied that SARA would be responsible for maintenance and oversight.

Councilmember Lopez spoke of the need to convey that water for the project would be recycled. Councilmember Medina asked if Bexar County would be the lead on the entire project. Ms. Scott replied that Bexar County was the lead as the primary funder and had contributed \$125 Million for the project. Councilmember Medina suggested including the Military History of the City in the Project. Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for the presentation.

2. A Briefing and Update on the City of San Antonio Smart City Program [María Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Jose De La Cruz, Chief Innovation Officer, Office of Innovation]

Erik Walsh stated that with the approval of this year's budget, the city began a process of focusing on the Smart City Program and technology to creatively solve community issues. He noted that the Office of Innovation aligned Smart City Projects with SA Tomorrow's focus areas of transportation, sustainability, and digital connective living.

Jose De La Cruz stated that a Smart City leverages data and technology to improve the quality of life for residents and provided examples of how other cities were creative at solving problems. He reviewed the reasons why the City of San Antonio should become a Smart City:

- Improve quality of life
- Manage population growth
- Access to information
- Improve citizen safety
- More responsive services

Mr. De La Cruz reviewed the following components of a Smart City: 1) Collect information; 2) Communicate; and 3) Analyze. He stated that last year at the City Council Goal Setting Session, the Office of Innovation recommended that the City focus on transportation, sustainability, and digital connected living. He noted that these projects were approved as part of the FY 2017 Budget Process. He stated that the City participated in Smart Cities Week in Washington, D.C. as well as the Texas Mobility Summit in Austin, Texas. He noted that the Transportation Project aimed to improve pedestrian safety, reduce congestion on our roadways, and was called San Antonio Traveler Real-Time Information Portal (SATRIP). He stated that it would provide increased pedestrian safety, valuable data for traffic control, and notifications at low-water crossings.

Mr. De La Cruz stated that the city would integrate a High Water Detection System in six locations throughout the City. He noted that in August 2017, the traffic technology would be installed and in November 2017, the pedestrian sensing technology would be installed. He stated that the High Water Detection System would be fully integrated early next week. He added that drones would be utilized to enhance Fire/EMS Rescue Operations and would provide more efficient rescue operations and increased safety for Firefighters. He stated that this project would become operational in August 2017. He noted that to increase safety in neighborhoods; LED street lights would be installed in Council District 5. He stated that the LED lights were energy-efficient, cost-effective, and had a low replacement rate. He stated that there were 1,000 more lights to install through September 2017 which contributed to a total of 53,000 LED lights across the City. He noted that the project would be finalized in September 2017. He added that to enhance Code Enforcement; 15 trail cameras and 10 solar-powered blue tooth cameras would be employed at 10 chronic dumping locations in early Summer 2017.

Mr. De La Cruz stated that in order to bridge the digital divide, Wi-Fi in the parks and solar benches would be installed which provided free Wi-Fi and sensors which gathered usage data. He noted that the Wi-Fi would be installed in 10 parks in the summer of 2017 and up to 20 benches would go live in July 2017. He stated that the Wi-Fi and solar benches would be installed in the following parks:

- San Pedro Springs Park (D1)
- Pittman-Sullivan Park (D2)

- Harlandale Park (D3)
- Pearsall Park (D4)
- Palm Heights Park (D5)
- Cuellar Park (D6)
- Woodlawn Lake Park (D7)
- Friedrich Park (D8)
- Walker Ranch Park (D9)
- Lady Bird Johnson Park (D10)

Mr. De La Cruz stated that in order to make customer service more convenient, 3-1-1 and park applications were created. He noted that they were user friendly, had social media and gamification elements, more service request categories, park navigation tools, and information on park events. He noted that the 3-1-1 Application would go live in July 2017 and the Parks Application would go live in November 2017. He stated that 25 Digital Community Kiosks would be installed downtown, at the Airport, and at The Missions in late 2017. He noted that the kiosks would be user friendly and promote nearby services, events, and businesses. He stated that the kiosks would be Wi-Fi hotspots and would collect pedestrian data. He noted that the Potranco Library opened in November 2016 and was co-located with the YMCA. He reported that they had a self-service kiosk for laptops and had received an award from the Alliance for Innovation for Outstanding Achievement in Local Government.

Mr. De La Cruz stated that the automated tracking of senior service activities had been implemented at two Senior Centers with full implementation in the summer of 2017. He noted that this would eliminate paper reporting and increase efficiency. He stated that the Online Parks Reservation System would go live on April 3, 2017 and would provide facility, event and class reservations, and online payment. He noted that last year, Open.gov was launched and provided the budget at the line item level to include five years of data. He stated that on March 21, 2017, a Smart Cities Readiness Workshop was held with over 100 attendees from over 30 organizations. He noted that government, universities, non-profits, private business, the military, and the technology community were represented. He stated that the Readiness Workshop takeaways were:

1. Collaboration and partnerships among organizations
2. Data sharing and communication
3. More convenient access to public services

Mr. De La Cruz noted that San Antonio was one of 10 cities selected by Envision America this year for SATRIP. He stated that Metrolab Network partnered with UTSA to select three projects for partnership. He noted that earlier this year; the City, VIA, Southwest Research

Institute, the Alamo Area MPO, and TxDOT partnered to submit an application to be named a proving ground for automated vehicles. He stated that said designation was received in early January 2017. He noted that staff would participate in the Smart Revolution and Smart Cities Connect Conferences this year. He noted that the city would utilize results from the Smart Cities Readiness Workshop to continue collaborations and partnerships with other agencies and would participate in the national/regional conversations to promote San Antonio as a Smart City. He stated that staff would provide Smart City quarterly updates to the Transportation, Technology, and Utilities Council Committee.

Mayor Taylor asked how projects were prioritized. Maria Villagómez replied that all city services would be reviewed to see how said services could be provided more efficiently. Mayor Taylor stressed the need to utilize feedback which would provide the opportunity for adjustments in City Services.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the 3-1-1 Application. Mr. De La Cruz stated that the current 3-1-1 Application was being redesigned.

Councilmember Viagran asked of collaboration with other entities on the integration of platforms. Ms. Villagómez stated that one of the priorities of the Smart Cities Readiness Workshop was to work in collaboration and that progress was beginning on said collaboration. Councilmember Viagran asked of the cost for maintenance of benches in parks. Mr. De La Cruz stated that the cost was \$100 per bench per month for the connectivity site.

Councilmember Gallagher asked of the security of the systems. Mr. De La Cruz stated that security was built into the systems. Councilmember Gallagher asked if driverless cars had been discussed. Mr. De La Cruz replied that they had but said technology existed mainly at the research level. Councilmember Warrick asked if city policies existed for driverless cars. Mr. De La Cruz replied that there were no policies in place for driverless cars. Councilmember Warrick spoke of the need to involve the technology community in the process.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of data sharing amongst the various entities. Ms. Villagómez stated that data sharing had been discussed and currently a common platform did not exist. She noted that this was discussed along with the development of infrastructure to support data sharing. Councilmember Saldaña asked of data sharing in other cities. Mr. De La Cruz stated that the City of Los Angeles had a comprehensive data set that was available online.

Councilmember Medina asked if the city was partnering with the U.S. Department of

Transportation and TxDOT. Mr. De La Cruz replied that the Transportation and Capital Improvements Department had partnered with both entities in the past. Art Reinhart stated that SATRIP Data would be shared with TxDOT.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 4:10 pm for discussion on the following:

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Litigation matters involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Discuss legal issues relating to City policy concerning political activity and City resources pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- F. Discuss legal issues relating to the SAPD procedures for investigation of certain crimes pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- G. Discuss legal issues related to municipal courts operations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

- H. 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 6:00 pm and announced that no action had been taken in Executive Session.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Taylor called upon the citizens registered to speak under Citizens to be Heard.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez referenced a newspaper article regarding the Syrians that were killed by a chemical attack and expressed concern with the young people and elderly that were affected.

Mark Perez spoke of issues with public safety and noted the businesses operating throughout the city without the proper permits. He referenced the AGE Refinery Building and mentioned various city employees that had not responded to his concerns.

Jesse Barba stated that he was a Taxi Driver and requested that permits be released from the Taxicab Companies to the drivers.

Hector Garcia stated that he was speaking on behalf of many Taxi Drivers to request that permits be released from the Taxicab Companies to the drivers. He expressed concern with the long hours that Taxi Drivers must work. He noted that the Taxicab Companies did not do anything for the drivers except take their money.

Lionel Arteaga also requested that permits be released from the Taxicab Companies to the drivers.

Octavio Manresa stated that he was a Taxi Driver and worked 12-18 hours per day in order to make money. He expressed concern with the lack of time he was able to spend with his family and requested that permits be released to Taxicab Drivers.

Pavel Ferrera stated that he was a Taxi Driver and requested that permits be released from the Taxicab Companies. He expressed concern with the lack of time he is able to spend with his family due to the long hours he works.

Martiliano Lambert requested that permits be released from Taxicab Companies to drivers.

Salad Abdi stated that he was a Taxicab Driver going through many hardships. He requested that permits be released from the Taxicab Companies to drivers.

Restem Omer stated that he was a Taxicab Driver that owned his vehicle but was still required to pay a Taxicab Company for his permit. He expressed concern that he spends too much time working and not enough time with his family.

Miheretab Fisseha stated that he was a Taxicab Driver and requested that the permits be released from the Taxicab Companies to drivers.

Bishar Haji also requested that permits be released from Taxicab Companies to drivers.

Anselmo DeLeon stated that he has been a Taxicab Driver for 15 years and is going through very hard times. He requested that permits be released from Taxicab Companies to drivers.

Maria Teixeira-Goncalves stated that she was a Taxicab Driver and requested that permits be released from the Taxicab Companies. She expressed concern with the long hours they must work in order to make money and asked for assistance from the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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