

City of San Antonio



FINAL Meeting Minutes City Council Special Session

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

10:00 AM

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 noting the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 10 - Nirenberg, Treviño, Shaw, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

ABSENT: 1 – Brockhouse

Mrs. Vacek announced that Councilmember Brockhouse was out of town.

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2018 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Management and Budget]

A. Planning

Bridgett White reported that the proposed FY 2018 Budget totaled \$4.4 million. She spoke of SA Tomorrow which was comprised of the Comprehensive Plan, Multimodal Transit Plan, and Sustainability Plan. She provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Framework: (1) Complete Neighborhoods; (2) Urban Centers; (3) Corridors; and (4) Regional Centers. She stated that SA Tomorrow Implementation was budgeted at \$1.15 million for four Regional Centers: (1) NE I-35 and Loop 410; (2) Highway 151 and Loop 1604; (3) Port San Antonio; (4) Texas A&M – San Antonio; and two Community Planning Areas: 1) Near Eastside and 2) Southeast. She noted that video and translation services were budgeted at \$65,450 to improve community engagement for SA Tomorrow. She stated that the Northeast Corridor Improvement Project Budget totaled \$400,000 for façade, landscape, and signage improvements.

B. Neighborhood and Housing Services

Verónica Soto stated that the proposed FY 2018 Budget totaled \$20.2 million and would be supported primarily by grants in addition to the General Fund, the Neighborhood Improvements Bond, and Tax Increment Financing. She noted that the \$2.4 million General Fund included \$2.1 million for Housing Policy and Programs and \$300,000 for Neighborhood Engagement. She stated that 84% of the department's budget relied on HUD Grants for a total of \$16.9 million. She noted that the proposed Federal Budget would zero out said grant availability. She outlined the five main areas of the department's responsibilities: (1) Engaging with neighborhoods; (2) Overseeing the Neighborhood Improvements Bond Program; (3) Expanding local capacity for affordable housing; (4) Serving as Community Liaison on Housing Issues with San Antonio Housing Authority, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, San Antonio Housing Trust, and Developers; and (5) Administering CDBG and HOME Grants and TIRZ Programs. She stated that the department would be seeking enhancements for a total of \$1.58 million. She described the components of the Neighborhood Improvements Bond as well as the Under 1 Roof Residential Repair Program and the Let's Paint Program.

C. Historic Preservation

Shanon Shea Miller described ScoutSA as the brand for the comprehensive survey and designation and for increasing community engagement. She stated that the FY 2018 Budget would include a Living Heritage Symposium as part of the World Heritage Festival, inviting experts across the globe to address heritage, treatment protocols, and Heritage Impact Assessments. She noted that OHP oversaw 28 local Historic Districts, 1400+ individual local landmarks, 7 River Improvement Overlay Districts, and all public facilities. She stated that applications to the Historic Design and Review Commission had increased 67% since FY 2011. Sixty-seven percent of applications were awarded Certificates of Appropriateness through administrative channels, 31% were awarded through the HDRC, and only 2% were denied. She provided an overview of the Vacant Building Program and noted specific successes with the Hedrick Building, Voss Building, and Ford Gillespie Car Dealership. She stated that the FY 2018 Proposed Budget included \$1.9 million to be allocated as follows: \$0.63 million for Development Review, HDRC & Enforcement; \$0.59 million for the Vacant Buildings Program; \$0.27 million for Public Outreach and Public Relations; \$0.26 million for Cultural Initiatives, Designation, Survey, and Research; and \$0.18 million for Archaeology and Historic Resources.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if the Planning Department addressed demography to be able to modify projections and Master Plans. Ms. White replied that the department would like to take that on in the future but currently, projections were produced externally. Mayor Nirenberg asked of community engagement to register Neighborhood Associations. Ms. Soto stated that the department was focused on finalizing their current contact list of registered Neighborhood Associations before pursuing outreach to unregistered neighborhoods.

Councilmember Courage asked of accessibility to online resources for Neighborhood Associations. Ms. Soto replied that the official department site would launch the following day but the information was already available. Councilmember Courage asked if local trade unions were partners in housing improvements. Mrs. Miller replied that the department was in the beginning stages of building those partnerships.

Councilmember Perry expressed concern at hiring additional staff to reach out to Neighborhood Associations when it could be accomplished by Councilmembers and their staff. He asked staff to work

with District 10 in partnering with trade schools and unions for home improvements.

Councilmember Viagran asked staff to focus on correcting zoning errors and asked of the process to confirm a building's history prior to potential demolition. Mrs. Miller replied that they utilized staff Historians to verify the significance of buildings and there was a process outlined in the UDC in case of the need to de-designate a building from its historical significance status.

Councilmember Shaw asked of the requirements for the Under One Roof Program. Ms. Soto outlined the current program requirements. Councilmember Shaw asked that resources be provided to improve meeting efficiency for Neighborhood Associations. He asked of changing the way zoning cases were brought before City Council in cases of majority opposition. Mrs. Miller replied that formerly there was a process to remove the cases from consideration but said process had been removed. She noted that it could be considered for reinstatement.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed concern that the process for Neighborhood and HOA Registration did not offer sufficient incentives or enforcement mechanisms. He asked of outreach to constituents regarding programs, community meetings, and emergency communications. Jeff Coyle replied that the city engaged in social media outreach and Speak Up SA to communicate with citizens. Councilmember Pelaez asked staff to ensure that the city did not perform repairs for issues that could be addressed with homeowners' insurance policies.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the intent for the proposed Historic Preservation Budget increase. María Villagómez replied that it was related to staff increases due to the Vacant Building Program. Councilmember Sandoval asked of an alternate plan in case of federal cuts to housing programs. Mrs. Sculley replied that alternatives had not yet been developed. Councilmember Sandoval asked of the budget reduction from the Planning Department. Mrs. Sculley replied that the funding was transferred to support the creation of the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department.

Councilmember Treviño asked staff to consider changing workshop event hours to expand accessibility and asked of infographics and other resources for the public. Mrs. Miller replied that the department was expanding their offerings of infographics, training videos, and Spanish-language resources. Councilmember Treviño asked how the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department would handle additional applications for the Under One Roof Program. Ms. Soto stated that they were in the process of modifying the Work Plan and restructuring staff to address increasing needs.

Councilmember Courage asked of the success of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Program. Mrs. Sculley replied that it was a relatively new program and had spent the last two years building its staff. Ms. Villagomez added that she could provide a list of LISC accomplishments to date.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentations.

RECESSED

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 12:23 pm to break for lunch.

RECONVENED

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 2:16 pm and addressed the Metro Health Budget first.

E. Metro Health

Dr. Colleen Bridger provided an overview of the department's accomplishments in FY 2017 including an increase in breastfeeding initiation, youth education on healthy eating, and Student Ambassador participation. She noted increases in screening visits, infectious disease investigations, and immunizations in the Communicable Disease Division. She stated that since FY 2016, Air Quality Program registrations had increased 47%, clinical lab and environmental sample tests had remained steady, and routine and temporary event inspections had decreased 6%. She described the activities of Stand Up SA as the department's Violence Prevention Program and noted increases in case management participants and successful mediations. She explained the use of the 1115 Medicaid Waiver Program and its benefits for the community in terms of STD/HIV Treatment, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Baby Café, Healthy Neighborhoods, Diabetes Prevention and Management, and Oral Health. She noted the goals for FY 2018 including the department taking a role as Chief Health Strategist, obtaining a Bronze Medal from City Health, raising the age for purchasing tobacco products to 21, utilizing the Fast Track Cities approach to address HIV Rates, and focusing on Opioid Overdose Prevention.

D. Sustainability

Doug Melnick stated that the Office of Sustainability focused on municipal sustainability, community sustainability, sustainable transportation, and energy management. He outlined department implementation of the Sustainability Plan using internal workshops, community resilience dialogue, the anti-idling Administrative Directive, and bicycle safety and education. He stated that the Energy Efficiency Fund was established in 2011 and had completed 375 projects which reduced energy usage by 19.3% and provided \$5 million in savings. He noted that the department conducted a study in FY 2017 to assess the impact of air pollution and was currently under peer review to be released in September 2017. He stated that the proposed FY 2018 Budget was \$2.69 million with \$1.24 million for the Energy Efficiency Fund, \$0.95 million from the Solid Waste Fund, and \$0.5 million from grants. He noted that San Antonio was expected to be designated with Marginal Non-Attainment Status from the EPA in October 2017. He stated that they planned to continue their Air Quality Campaign and perform an Air Quality Ozone Study. He noted that a Special Projects Manager would be selected to help form a Climate Action Plan for approval and implementation by City Council with the assistance of CPS Energy and UTSA. He stated that the department aimed to create a more sustainable Work Plan, incentivize sustainable practices, and identify potential Eco-Districts.

F. Human Service and Delegate Agencies

Melody Woosley described the Department of Human Services' Family Assistance Services including emergency assistance, housing stability, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, training for job success, and financial empowerment centers. She noted that the department served 12,000 children daily through Early Head Start, Head Start, and Child Care Services. She stated that the Ambassador Summer Internship Program attracted post-college, paid interns and the proposed budget allowed for greater outreach efforts. She noted a \$2.4 million proposed budget for scholarships and advising through the San Antonio Education Partnership (SAEP) and \$685,000 to continue operations at Café College. She outlined senior services and added that there would be a Strategic Plan Update in FY 2018. She stated that the total proposed investment for homeless services was \$10.2 million including \$7.2 million for Haven for Hope. She outlined a Comprehensive Homeless Strategy with ongoing activities to end veteran homelessness, improve the Haven for Hope courtyard environment, create an effective continuum of care, and utilize multi-disciplinary outreach teams. She noted that FY 2018 priorities included proactive encampment outreach and mental health collaboration. She stated that the total

proposed budget was \$124.8 million with \$86.9 million coming from grants. She noted that the budget would cover Children's Services, Delegate Agencies, Senior Services, Community and Family Services, Administration, and SAEP.

Mayor Nirenberg asked how the Climate Action Plan would be developed. Mr. Melnick replied that UTSA would provide the technical resources and there would be significant community engagement to formulate a plan.

Councilmember Saldaña asked staff to reconsider a campaign regarding sugary beverages and asked of specific efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. Dr. Bridger replied that they were encouraging better use of the Prescription Monitoring Program as well as proper disposal of prescription medication in a timely manner. Councilmember Saldaña asked if there was any flexibility in providing assistance to families who fall just outside of assistance program requirements. Ms. Woosley replied that she had discretion to waive requirements in extenuating circumstances. Councilmember Saldaña asked that staff work together to streamline the application process for families in need.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed concern at the vetting process for Delegate Agencies regarding their internal processes. Ms. Woosley stated that each agency's finances were heavily scrutinized. Councilmember Pelaez asked of the role of resiliency or a Resiliency Officer in Sustainability. Mr. Melnick replied that resiliency should be part of all departments rather than exclusive to the Office of Sustainability. A Resiliency Officer would need to operate independently while reporting directly to the City Manager. Councilmember Pelaez asked of targeted health initiatives for certain ethnic populations. Dr. Bridger replied that the Department was in conversation with providers to conduct local health studies and stated that they could modify their sample populations.

Councilmember Perry suggested revising the process in which Delegate Agencies were awarded contracts to decrease award amounts over time.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of state funds to address the opioid crisis. Dr. Bridger stated that Bexar County would be the primary recipient but some nonprofit organizations partnered with the city would be eligible. She added that various groups were in the process of conducting studies on opioid overdoses and would be making presentations over the next year.

Councilmember Viagran asked of coordinated efforts with TxDOT in areas of homeless encampments. Ms. Woosley stated that TCI coordinated with TxDOT in cases of TxDOT land ownership but that TxDOT did not always cover the cost of cleanup efforts. Councilmember Viagran asked staff to examine how to better utilize faith-based communities to minimize spending on city staff. She asked if there was data coordination between Metro Health and DHS regarding senior citizens. Ms. Woosley replied that data sharing had not occurred but they worked together to improve the nutrition of meals provided to seniors. Councilmember Viagran asked of syphilis infection rates. Dr. Bridger replied that infection rates had decreased.

Councilmember Shaw asked if studies had been conducted regarding location-based needs. Dr. Bridger replied that staff were currently focused on single issues rather than mapping needs by location.

Councilmember Treviño asked of efforts regarding synthetic marijuana use. Dr. Bridger replied that the current focus was on reducing deaths and therefore; opioid abuse was determined to be higher priority. She noted that they were trying to increase education on the dangers of synthetic drugs. Councilmember Treviño asked of the process to improve or construct Comprehensive Senior Centers. Ms. Woosley

replied that it would likely need to go through the Bond Process.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if the current plan was for CPS and UTSA to lead on engagement for the Climate Action Plan. Mr. Melnick replied that engagement would rely on partnerships. He added that he envisioned multiple committees including a Mayoral Commission to help steer engagement and plan formation. Councilmember Sandoval asked if the collaborations would allow the Climate Action Plan to remain a product of the City of San Antonio. Mr. Melnick confirmed that the final decisions would be made by City Council and therefore, would remain a product of the city. Councilmember Sandoval asked of policies regarding health in the built environment. Dr. Bridger replied that they addressed health in all policies including the built environment, and new proposed policies were forthcoming.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was not held. Mayor Nirenberg stated that the Executive Session would be held the following day at any time during the Budget Work Session but no earlier than 2:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

Attest:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC
City Clerk