

City of San Antonio



FINAL Meeting Minutes City Council Special Session

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Wednesday, August 23, 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: 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]

Item B was addressed first.

B. Parks

Xavier Urrutia presented an overview of the Parks and Recreation Department consisting of Conservation, Play, Sustainability, and Fitness & Wellness. He reported a total of 20,538 park acres and highlighted programs such as Fitness in the Park and the Summer Youth Program. He noted that 81% of FY 2017 Deferred Maintenance was complete and spoke of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program in which 147,782 acres have been protected. He outlined the Greenway Trails Program and reported on its progress since 2005. He presented the FY 2018 Proposed Budget and provided an overview of the Parks Environmental Fund and Tree Canopy Preservation & Mitigation Fund. He stated that they would request general fund enhancements for Park Acquisition and Development, as well as the Linear Greenway Program. He mentioned the FY 2018 Deferred Maintenance Program and noted that 7 community workshops would be held regarding the SA Parks System Plan.

C. Library

Ramiro Salazar introduced Linda Nairn, Vice-Chair of the San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Nairn expressed support for the FY 2018 Proposed Budget for the San Antonio Public Library and stated that they appreciated the opportunity to be part of the process. A video was played regarding the San Antonio Library System. Mr. Salazar presented on the driving strategic service efforts and highlighted Smart City Initiatives. He mentioned their work to bridge the digital divide and address digital literacy needs. He stated that they had opened 10 new locations since 2005 and served the community 7 days per week. He spoke of the responsive library collection and highlighted budget enhancements to include \$1.1 million in building maintenance and capital. Lastly, he provided an overview of the FY 2018 Proposed Library General Fund Budget totaling \$40.4 million.

Mayor Nirenberg asked of the status of Launch SA. Mr. Salazar replied that they partner with them and that he sees many individuals accessing their services and programs. Mayor Nirenberg asked of the previous cuts to Library hours and if they had been reinstated. Mrs. Sculley replied that they had added back Sunday service as opposed to reinstating all hours. Mayor Nirenberg highlighted the great increase in park acreage and spoke of the need to increase opportunities for pocket parks.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the coordination with Federal Parks and keeping their gates open after certain hours. Mr. Urrutia replied that they had successfully partnered with the San Antonio River Authority to ensure uniform management. Councilmember Viagran spoke of the importance of Wi-Fi access on the Southside and need of additional computers/laptops at libraries.

Councilmember Pelaez spoke of the importance of utilizing all of the library square footage to its maximum potential. He referenced a program in Arizona in which roving nurses provide screenings and referrals to library patrons and asked that staff look at the potential to implement same.

Councilmember Courage asked of mobile library services. Mr. Salazar replied that they had one mobile unit which provided the opportunity to outreach target areas. Councilmember Courage asked of the number of aquifer recharge zone properties that could be preserved in northern Bexar County. Mr. Urrutia replied that there was only one large parcel available but it was privately owned and would be expensive to purchase.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the status of the West Side Creeks. Mr. Urrutia replied that the San Antonio River Authority had just completed the procurement process for design consultants which would take a year to complete. Councilmember Gonzales spoke of the need for deferred maintenance for various community centers and the need for additional Wi-Fi Access.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how properties were selected for purchase. Mr. Urrutia replied that the process was community-driven and usually associated with the bond process. Councilmember Treviño highlighted the Tree Fund and pocket parks which were good for neighborhoods with limited green space. He asked staff to review library hours as there was always a line of individuals waiting to enter the Westfall Branch Library.

Councilmember Perry requested an update on the work occurring at the Tobin and Semmes Libraries and a map of all of the Parks Facilities in District 10. Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentations.

A. Municipal Courts

Presiding Judge John Bull presented an overview of the San Antonio Municipal Court and highlighted their accomplishments on addressing truancy and warrant roundups. He highlighted the process for adjudication of criminal and civil offenses and outlined Municipal Court Staff. He reported that there were 13 Municipal Court Judges and 3 Hearing Officers. He presented an overview of Courtroom Services that maintain court records, organize court documents, and trial processes. He spoke of the Warrant Officer Program and Juvenile Case Manager Program and mentioned that there were 30 individuals dedicated to administrative support. He reported 246,736 Municipal Court Case Filings for FY 2017 through July. He presented the FY 2018 Proposed Budget totaling \$15.11 million and noted that \$1.2 million in grant funds were awarded from the State of Texas for the Juvenile Case Manager Program.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Councilmember Saldaña and Judge Bull for their work on the nationally recognized model on truancy.

Councilmember Viagran spoke of a proposed coordination between Code Compliance and Municipal Court with regard to perpetual code violators. She stated that they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent and maximum punishment. Councilmember Saldaña spoke of their efforts on truancy and addressing the issue comprehensively.

Councilmember Shaw asked if there were funds available for a court-appointed attorney regarding mental health issues or assault family violence cases. Judge Bull replied that they had a close working relationship with St. Mary's Legal Clinic and they assisted with the family assault docket. He noted that they try to be responsive when the issues come up and follow the code in the interest of justice when it is required. Councilmember Shaw commended the Municipal Court for being efficient and effective in addressing challenges proactively.

Councilmember Perry stated that he would like to have further discussions on the issue of panhandling. Councilmember Sandoval asked of the reduction of two positions. Judge Bull replied that they were higher level positions that would not affect their work. He noted that with the grant they received, they would be bringing in new case managers that would be housed at a campus to assist with Juvenile Case Management. Mayor Nirenberg thanked Judge Bull for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 5:12 pm to continue the previous day's Executive Session on the following items:

- 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 including pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E.** Discuss legal issues related to settlement offers in lawsuits against the City by Jose Samaniego and Arthur Vargas, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- F.** Discuss legal issues relating to state or federal grant requirements pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:15 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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