

**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, June 6, 2018**

**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 noting the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 10 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

**ABSENT:** 1 - Shaw

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

1. Briefing on the City’s Sidewalk Programs and the development of a Conceptual Sidewalk Master Plan. [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Director, Transportation & Capital Improvements]

Sheryl Sculley stated that there was \$6.3 million available in the current Operating Budget for sidewalk improvements. She noted priority funding for student, senior, and disabled pedestrians, as well as areas with high pedestrian fatalities. She added that the city maintained 5,000 miles of sidewalks.

Mike Frisbie stated that the intended outcome of the Sidewalk Program was to build quality

sidewalks in the areas that need them most. He provided an overview of activities over the previous six months to involve stakeholders in developing a Conceptual Sidewalk Master Plan. He noted that 450 miles of sidewalks were removed from the network where they were not desired due to development plans. He reviewed prior programs and funding to address sidewalk gaps and noted the importance of emphasizing sidewalks in future Bond Programs. He stated that sidewalk costs ranged from \$50 to \$90 per linear foot depending on the conditions of the project and provided the prioritization by Council District. He presented the proposed completion timeline through 2042 totaling \$18 million annually with substantial Bond Program contributions.

Mr. Frisbie provided an overview of Existing Sidewalk Miles across Council Districts. He stated that staff knew the condition of 200 miles of sidewalks and would gather data through FY 2019 on the remainder. He reviewed current programs and funding for existing sidewalks and highlighted the success of the Cost-Sharing Program to work with homeowners on panel replacement. He noted that the Charter gave the City the authority to construct and maintain sidewalks as well as compel abutting property owners to do same. He reviewed Chapter 29 of the Municipal Code relating to property owner responsibilities and stated that without an Ordinance; the City would not be allowed to impose liability for sidewalk defects on property owners. He provided the following options for future sidewalk maintenance: (1) Keep the current Ordinance as is; (2) Keep the current Ordinance in place and increase program allocations for sidewalk repair; (3) Modify the ordinance to exclude residential property owner responsibility; or (4) Repeal the ordinance completely to place all responsibility on the city. He recommended the second option to keep the current Ordinance in place and increase program allocations for sidewalk repair.

Mayor Nirenberg expressed support for staff recommendations and asked of the proposed portion of the budget to be allocated for sidewalk repair. Mr. Frisbie replied that 5% of the base allocation was recommended for repair allocation.

Councilmember Treviño expressed support for the staff recommendation and noted strong community desire for connectivity via sidewalks.

Councilmember Courage asked of projected funding for FY 2019. Mr. Frisbie replied that the base budget totaled \$5 million and dedicated Bond Program funding totaled \$10 million with some additional funds possible from street-related Bond Projects and the Neighborhood Access and Mobility Program (NAMP). Councilmember Courage asked of the life cycle of city-built sidewalks. Mr. Frisbie replied that they were designed to last 30 years. Councilmember Courage asked of liabilities related to sidewalks. Andy Segovia replied that primary responsibility lies with the abutting homeowner except in exceptional circumstances. Councilmember Courage asked staff to investigate widening sidewalks to increase mobility.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how the prioritization process incorporated drainage issues. Mr. Frisbie replied that drainage would be considered following the prioritization process and expensive projects may be reserved for Bond Programs. Councilmember Sandoval asked staff to provide the locations of the projects as prioritized in correspondence to TxDOT roads and expressed support for widening sidewalks. Mrs. Sculley noted that widening sidewalks would reduce the number of linear miles that could be built or repaired.

Councilmember Viagran asked of addressing areas where drainage problems prohibited construction of sidewalks. Mr. Frisbie replied that the logistics and cost of construction were considered to identify the best way to accomplish construction wherever sidewalks were needed. Councilmember Viagran expressed concern that the prioritization structure would lead to inequity for areas with less amenities.

Councilmember Perry suggested completing condition surveys prior to policy and program changes and asked of sidewalk practices in other cities. Mr. Frisbie replied that approximately half of cities surveyed had a similar Ordinance to San Antonio for property owner responsibility. Most cities utilized multiple programs to address gaps.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed support for staff recommendations and noted the importance of public engagement to communicate changes and program components.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentation.

2. Briefing on proposed Innovation Zones to serve as proving ground for smart city technology and smart city transportation technology. [Maria Villagomez, Assistant City Manager; Jose De La Cruz, Chief Innovation Officer]

Jose De La Cruz stated that the Smart City Vision was to be a connected, inclusive, and resilient community supporting a high quality of life. He provided an overview of the governance structure and noted that the City of San Antonio, CPS Energy, SAWS, VIA, and San Antonio River Authority comprised SmartSA Leadership. He stated that SmartSA's focus areas were Mobility, Access to Services, Environment and Utilities, and Infrastructure and Data. He noted the importance of collaborative and advisory groups in the governance process. He stated that Innovation Zones were proving grounds that allowed cities to test emerging technology in a real-world setting and San Antonio could use Innovation Zones to advance SmartSA Pilot Projects, support SA Tomorrow Regional Plans, embrace new and emerging technology, and gain immediate actionable insights. He reviewed considerations gathered from other cities including fiber availability; access to existing or planned transportation; working, living, and playing options; residential or commercial development; and attractiveness to innovative companies.

Mr. De La Cruz stated that there were three areas identified as potential Innovation Zones. He noted that Brooks was an option for projects regarding transportation of people and goods, flooding and drainage, and public wi-fi. He stated that the benefits to treat Brooks as a “mini” city, integration with their Master Plan, building on the SATRIP Project, and a controlled environment. He noted that the Medical Center was a second option for an Innovation Zone with project opportunities in traffic congestion, parking, and pedestrian safety. He stated that the benefits of selecting the Medical Center included integration with their Master Plan, impacts to a large number of residents and visitors, the opportunity to test various mobility use cases, and the variety of large employers. He noted that Downtown was the third potential Innovation Zone with project opportunities in parking, pedestrian safety, lighting, and transit. He stated that benefits of selecting Downtown were integration with Activate Houston and the Downtown Lighting Master Plan; expansion of living, working, and playing options; and impact to a large number of residents and visitors. He recommended customer engagement from June to September 2018, a Vendor Summit in October, development of a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal (RFCSP) in November and December, and release of the RFCSP in January 2019.

Mayor Nirenberg asked for clarification regarding activities within the Innovation Zones. Craig Hopkins stated that Innovation Zones would facilitate data sharing between stakeholders on a smaller scale to test more innovative solutions. Mayor Nirenberg expressed support for fiber-based projects and asked how fiber contributed to the selection of the Innovation Zones. Mr. Hopkins replied that only Zones with existing fiber infrastructure would be used as fiber project testing sites. Mayor Nirenberg expressed the importance of including Joint Base San Antonio in innovative opportunities and asked staff to include the city’s strategic priorities in selecting potential test sites.

Councilmember Courage expressed concern that the proposed Innovation Zones would not offer enough challenges to simulate realistic conditions and support successful citywide implementations.

Councilmember Saldaña asked why staff chose an RFCSP as the best option to pursue partnerships. Mr. De La Cruz replied that the RFCSP would create competition and offer multiple potential solutions rather than limiting choice with an exclusive partner. Councilmember Saldaña expressed support for the staff recommendation as well as expansion to areas with greater infrastructure challenges.

Councilmember Pelaez stated that failures were acceptable in Innovation Zones to facilitate finding the best solutions for San Antonio’s technological problems and expressed support for staff recommendations.

Councilmember Viagran stated that the Innovation and Technology Council Committee had only approved recommendations for Brooks and the Medical Center to date and asked if staff had changed selection criteria prior to the B Session. Mr. De La Cruz replied that criteria had not changed but innovative changes were already occurring downtown that would make it a good fit as an Innovation Zone. Councilmember Viagran asked that changes to recommendations be given to Committee Members well in advance of B Sessions and suggested coordination between Innovation Zones and surrounding Opportunity Zones. She asked of community engagement strategies. Mr. De La Cruz replied that staff would coordinate with CPS Energy to conduct outreach through public meetings and social media. Councilmember Viagran asked that outreach be inclusive of residents without digital access and asked of the potential cost of projects proposed through the RFCSP. Mr. De La Cruz replied that pricing was variable due to the nature of emerging technology and it would be presented at a future session. Mr. Hopkins added that they were considering \$25,000 as the cost of a pilot program but better information would be gathered at the Vendor Summit with ideas for the RFCSP to be brought before City Council prior to its release. Councilmember Viagran expressed support for Brooks, Medical Center, and the UTSA Downtown Campus as Innovation Zones.

Councilmember Perry asked why San Antonio should use its resources to develop Innovation Zones if other cities were already doing so. Mr. De La Cruz replied that every city's challenges were unique so unique solutions were necessary. Councilmember Perry expressed concern that there were more pressing issues requiring public investment and suggested allowing the private sector to develop innovative technological solutions. Mr. Hopkins stated that partnerships through Innovation Zones could lead to beneficial cost sharing that supported better innovation and development.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed support for inclusion of the UTSA Downtown Campus as part of the Downtown Innovation Zone.

Councilmember Pelaez noted the importance of communication with constituents regarding the intent behind innovative programs and the potential benefits. Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 4:25 pm to discuss 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. Settlement offer in a lawsuit against the City by Chandra Subedi pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 5:35 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session. He addressed the Ceremonial Items.

### **CEREMONIALS**

Mayor Nirenberg presented Official Congratulations to Derrick Howard who stepped down from the CPS Energy Board of Trustees after more than a decade of service.

Mayor Nirenberg presented Official Congratulations to Duane Wilson who will retire this summer after serving 25 years as President and CEO of the North San Antonio Chamber.

Mayor Nirenberg presented Official Congratulations to the Children's Hospital of San Antonio on their upcoming inaugural graduation of the Baylor Pediatric Residency Program. He noted that it was the city's first and only free-standing children's hospital whose partnership with Baylor allowed them the opportunity to develop a new and distinct Pediatric Residency Program.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

City Clerk Leticia Vacek announced that Councilmember Sandoval was not in attendance due to her attendance at the Climate Action Steering Committee Meeting.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Nikki Kuhns expressed concern with the limited scope of the Charter Review Commission and asked that increased debt transparency be included as a Charter Revision.

Mark Perez expressed concern with environmental safety and transparency in zoning processes.

George Alejos expressed concern with the level of public engagement and transparency with the Charter Review Commission.

Stanley Mitchell expressed concern with the processes of the Charter Review Commission and potential violations of the City Charter. He distributed suggestions to improved transparency.

Sandy Smith spoke of the history of peacocks in the Glenoaks Area and noted that there were no protections to prevent their removal from the neighborhood.

Elizabeth Villarreal asked City Council to pass an Ordinance to protect the peacocks of Glenoaks.

Mayor Nirenberg excused himself from the meeting and Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales presided.

Keri Hillyer expressed concern with the lack of information and transparency regarding the Alamo Citizen Advisory Committee.

Paul Gescheidle expressed concern with transparency in the process to modify Alamo Plaza and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Pastor Shawn Price, Gregory Jackson, Rachel King, Ethel Garrett, Chuck Bayne, and Carlos Gonzalez spoke on behalf of West End Hope and Action and asked the City Council to support programming at the Frank Garrett Community Center and West End Park. They highlighted the success of individuals who participated in neighborhood programs.

Lamar Henry expressed concern with public money being spent on minority causes.

Maggie Wright asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to honor Veterans and History.

Charisma Villarreal spoke of her family's connection to The Alamo and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Maria Lopez asked the City Council to restore her ability to sell curios on the Riverwalk.

Henry Rodriguez spoke in support of Maria Lopez's request. He asked that citizens be allowed to opt out of Smart Meters without paying additional fees and investigate citizen complaints made at Citizens to be Heard.

Carmen Torres spoke in support of Maria Lopez's request.

Liz Franklin asked the City Council to take more action on constituent issues raised during Citizens to be Heard and spoke of housing challenges in San Antonio.

Richard Hidalgo expressed concern with non-local contractors being hired for local projects and unfavorable wage agreements.

Lee White asked that Alamo Plaza remain unchanged.

Ed Ocampo expressed concern with environmental contaminants in San Antonio and with discrimination in housing complaints.

Brandon Burkhardt asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to honor History.

Ramon Garza asked that the Cenotaph remain in place and spoke against redesigning The Alamo.

Lane Woods asked that the Cenotaph remain in place and expressed concern with a lack of transparency.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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