

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



**FINAL  
Meeting Minutes  
City Council Special Session**

City Hall Complex  
105 Main Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

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Wednesday, August 22, 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, Shaw, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

**ABSENT:** 1 - Brockhouse

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2019 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Management and Budget]
  - A. Solid Waste Management -- 45 minutes
  - B. Development Services/Code Enforcement -- 45 minutes
  - C. Animal Care Services -- 45 minutes

**ANIMAL CARE SERVICES**

Heber Lefgren stated that the Animal Care Services (ACS) Department existed to protect people and pets by encouraging responsible pet ownership through education, enforcement, and community partnerships. He provided an overview of the ACS Strategic Plan, Equitable

Service Delivery, and Strategic Improvements. He presented Strategic Results from FY 2011-2018 in which there has been a 41% decrease in dead animal pickup and 16% decrease in animal bites. Additionally, he reported a 92% Live Release Rate in FY 2018 and 25% Return to Owner Rate. He stated that the FY 2019 ACS Proposed Budget totaled \$15.5 million which includes three new Field Officers and one Management Analyst to enhance customer service. Additionally, staff recommends one Animal Cruelty Specialist to provide Puppy Mill Enforcement and the implementation of K9s for Warriors to help maintain a high release rate. He stated that 44,933 spay and neuter surgeries were planned for FY 2019 and added that staff would redesign the Volunteer Program to include education and outreach to Spanish Speaking Residents.

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Michael Shannon stated that the Development Services Department (DSD) exists to build and maintain a safer San Antonio. He highlighted DSD Milestones since 2007 noting that technology projects were implemented in 2015 to enhance services. He reported that the amount of days for staff to perform Land Development, Complex Commercial Plan Reviews, and Residential Plan Reviews had decreased and that 96% of Field Services Inspections were being conducted as scheduled. He outlined equity-based resources for Code Enforcement Cases and noted that the compliance rate for Tier 1 and 2 Code Enforcement Cases was 97%. He provided an overview of FY 2018 Accomplishments to include implementation of a Mobile Living Parks Ordinance, DSD Academy, and World Heritage Large Area Rezoning. He stated that FY 2019 Enhancements would include adding two Plans Examiners, one Combo Inspector, and two Code Enforcement Officers. He provided an overview of the FY 2019 Proposed Budget totaling \$48.3 million and goals to include proactive inspections of Senior Living Facilities and implementation of Phase 2 for Build SA.

### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

David McCary presented an overview of the Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) that serves over 355,000 customers and provides Recycling, Organics, Trash, Brush, and Bulky Services. He reported that the SWMD Proposed FY 2019 Budget totaled \$145 million. He spoke of the Fleet Maintenance and Repair of 2,000 heavy trucks and the four Bulky Centers that serve over 100,000 visitors a year. He noted that safety was the highest priority and highlighted continuous safety improvements. He stated that staff conducted 1.5 million collections per month and made over 1,000 educational presentations on the benefits of recycling. He spoke of their efforts to downsize carts by implementing equity pricing and consumer choices. He reported that the addition of two new service centers could result in a change in collection days. He mentioned their recycling efforts to China noting that they were the largest buyer of U.S. commodities. He stated that the contamination rate of recycling material was improving due to the success of the Inspection Program and talking to customers in person. He added that they would broaden outreach

efforts and provide better clarity on acceptable recyclable materials.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked everyone for their presentations. He asked of the cost avoidance from taking less to the landfill. Mr. McCary replied that they were favorable at \$21 per ton from recycling and \$5 per ton from organics. Mayor Nirenberg asked of the Puppy Mill Enforcement. Mr. Lefgren replied that they would use the pilot program to investigate the illegal sale of animals throughout the city and prosecute for animal cruelty.

Councilmember Saldaña commended Solid Waste for their use of innovation and technology and recognized Animal Care Services for their great work. He noted that he was pleased with the Puppy Mill Enforcement and asked if there was sufficient Code Enforcement Staff to meet service level agreements. Mr. Shannon confirmed that there was sufficient staff in most areas and needed to make some adjustments.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the city fees for development. Mr. Shanon replied that Development Services Permitting Fees were generally between 1-2% of construction costs but there were other fees that impacted development to include SAWS and CPS Energy fees. Councilmember Gonzales asked of the additional fees for dirty diapers being disposed of in recycling containers. Mr. McCary replied that the amount of dirty diapers had decreased from 150 pounds per hour to 82 pounds per hour. Councilmember Gonzales commended the ACS Department and stated that they were on the right path.

Councilmember Perry asked of the deployment of ACS Officers to high-volume districts. Mr. Lefgren replied that they were housed at ACS and then stationed in the field for the rest of the day to respond as needed. Councilmember Perry asked when the Unified Development Code (UDC) would be updated. Mr. Shannon replied that the UDC was scheduled to be updated in 2020. Councilmember Perry asked staff to look at the potential of providing an incentive to the households that are property disposing of trash, recycling, and organics materials. Mr. McCary replied that the cart downsizing was the incentive as they would pay less annually.

Councilmember Viagran commended ACS for their efforts to address the stray and roaming population and asked of the number of Enforcement Officers. Mr. Lefgren replied that there were anywhere from 12 to 37 Enforcement Officers deployed on any given day. Councilmember Viagran asked if Code Compliance Officers worked on Sundays. Mr. Shannon replied that they did not schedule Code Officers on Sundays but would call one out in a dangerous situation if necessary. Councilmember Viagran thanked Solid Waste for their work and requested a copy of Slide 26 comparing the Solid Waste Fees for the various sizes of brown carts to share with her community members.

Councilmember Courage asked of commercial recycling. Mr. McCary stated that they

incentivize recycling and meet with the private sector every six months. Councilmember Courage asked of the spay and neuter surgeries performed. Mr. Lefgren replied that they provided 43,000 surgeries of which some were performed through partnerships with other entities.

Councilmember Sandoval spoke of the need to bridge the gap between education and enforcement with regard to Code Compliance. She asked of the cost of alley service versus street service for Solid Waste. Mr. McCary replied that the cost for alley service was a little higher due to not being able to use automated trucks in alleys. Councilmember Pelaez recognized ACS and Solid Waste for their accomplishments. Mayor Nirenberg thanked everyone for their presentations.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 5:44 pm to discuss the following:

- A. Legal issues relating to the lawsuit filed by Secure San Antonios Future, Political Action Committee against the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 624 and the City of San Antonio pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:07 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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