

**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, March 6, 2019**

**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 a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Hall, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

1. Briefing by VIA Metropolitan Transit on the implementation of service improvements with the City's FY 2019 \$10 million contribution towards annual operating costs. [Jeff Arndt, President/CEO, VIA Metropolitan Transit; Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Interim Director, Transportation & Capital Improvements]

Jeff Arndt provided a history of City Funding for VIA. He stated that VIA had 7,200 bus stops which were more than existed in Los Angeles, Houston, Pittsburgh, or Denver. He noted that 71% of VIA passengers utilized the service for work trips; and 8 or 9% of VIA passengers utilized the service for school trips. He stated that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Budget for VIA included \$259.8 million in total revenue.

Mr. Arndt noted that VIA did not receive State Funding. He added that Houston and Dallas both generate \$600 million in sales tax revenue and both received higher amounts of Federal

Funding due to the fact that their agencies provided fixed guideway services to include Light Rail or Bus Rapid Transit. He reviewed the funding per square mile for Calendar Year (CY) 2018 for VIA, compared with the cities of Austin, Dallas, and Houston and noted that VIA received less funding per square mile than other Metropolitan Transit Authorities (MTAs) in the State. He noted that VIA accomplished more with less funding than other MTAs in the State. He reviewed the VIA Bus System provided by the current sales tax prior to funding by the City and the phases for funding for improved services in the Partnership Plan. He stated that there was a 30.9% increase in ridership as the result of Phase I Improvements, and a 41.2% increase in ridership as the result of Phase II Improvements. He noted that more than one-third of VIA Bus Service runs every 20 minutes or less and played a video that included comments from VIA Riders.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the investment made to improve the ridership, experience, frequency, and reliability of VIA was money well spent.

Councilmember Saldaña asked if Federal Grant opportunities would be available if the City were to consider Bus Rapid Transit. Mr. Arndt replied that Federal Grants would be available if the City had a fixed guideway, whether it be for Bus Rapid Transit, an exclusive right-of-way for at least half of its distance, or Light Rail. Councilmember Saldaña stated that funding for VIA was a core function of the City and should continue to be.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how it was determined whether or not to maintain a bus route. Mr. Arndt replied that the VIA Board has developed service standards with a minimum threshold of a certain number of passengers per hour. He stated that ultimately; ridership determined frequency.

Councilmember Courage asked if VIA would release a more detailed plan for transportation with VIA as a partner. Mr. Arndt replied that it would and the plan was called VIA Re-Imagined.

Councilmember Perry requested data on the return on investment per rider benchmarked with other Texas Cities. Mr. Arndt stated that he would provide said data. Councilmember Perry suggested the use of smaller, battery operated buses. Mr. Arndt stated that VIA would be purchasing electric buses that were somewhat smaller.

Councilmember Brockhouse expressed support for providing more funding for VIA.

Councilmember Sandoval noted that the operating expense per revenue hour at VIA was lower than other Texas Cities. She asked what VIA customers were not receiving because of this. Mr. Arndt noted that the total funding influenced frequency.

Councilmember Saldaña requested that the Chief Innovation Officer partner with the Transportation Committee to discuss long-term strategies for VIA.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked everyone for the presentation.

2. Briefing on the San Antonio Urban Lighting Master Plan [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Director, Center City Development & Operations]

Erik Walsh stated that the City Council authorized a contract with a Consultant for the development of the San Antonio Urban Lighting Master Plan (ULMP). He noted that the total cost of the plan was \$500,000, which was funded equally by the City and CPS Energy. He stated that the ULMP was intended to provide guidance with the upgrade or replacement of lighting systems throughout the entire city.

John Jacks stated that the City and CPS Energy were implementing a Bond Project to replace older streetlights with new poles and LED Lighting. He noted that staff was directed to pause on downtown implementation until a lighting study and ULMP could be completed. He stated that on February 8, 2018, the City Council approved a contract with Alderson & Associates for the development of a ULMP. He noted that the ULMP effort resulted in the development of guidelines for lighting. He stated that said guidelines would inform Downtown Street Projects, Lighting Projects in parks, the lighting of art installations, and lighting for urban residential neighborhoods.

Randy Burkett stated that the first step in the process involved gathering opinion and stakeholder input and was ongoing throughout the process. He noted that three public outreach events were held during the process and an online survey was conducted with over 400 respondents. He stated that the third public outreach event included a nighttime walk around the City and a demonstration of building lighting effects. He reviewed the ULMP scope of work and major components of the ULMP. He reviewed the criteria for streetscapes and recommended the following light pole typography: 1) 30' high roadway assembly with LED cutoff optic luminaire; 2) 16' to 18' mid-height dual-purpose LED cutoff optic luminaire; and 3) 12' to 14' pedestrian scaled pole with LED cutoff or soft optic luminaire. He spoke of the varying light source colors available for use downtown and noted that streets could be divided into the following four major components: 1) Minor streets (Residential); 2) Minor streets (Commercial); 3) Secondary streets; and 4) Throughways. He stated that digital centers were recommended and noted that a CPS Energy Digital Network Grid would provide real time sensing. This would include light intensity, curfew, special event setbacks, and energy savings in off-peak conditions.

Mr. Burkett noted that the Building and Equipment Services Department was able to dim

certain pedestrian poles in the downtown area. He stated that the Office of Innovation was deploying Smart City tests to Innovation Zones such as: 1) Noise, air quality, and temperature sensing; and 2) Small cell and Wi-Fi Applications. He stated that 17 parks in the Downtown Area were surveyed and made the following recommendations regarding parks: 1) Provide adequate illumination of pathways, gathering areas, and other pedestrian areas; 2) Control stray light and glare; 3) Incorporate accent and highlight to reveal landscape, hardscape, and features; 4) Integrate special event lighting options; 5) Provide wireless controls; and 6) Emphasize long-term sustainability measures.

Mr. Burkett reviewed the recommendations for Civic Art and reported the following recommendations for lighting of building facades: 1) Use proven application techniques for façade floodlighting and accenting; 2) Conduct nighttime mock-ups for approval; 3) Produce renderings to study design options; and 4) Engage lighting professionals for design options, cost estimates, and biddable documents.

Mr. Jacks stated that the ULMP would be brought before the full City Council on April 4, 2019 for consideration in the form of a Resolution. He noted that the ULMP would be incorporated into the guidelines for Bond Projects and would inform future lighting design for capital projects, such as significant road projects, park improvements, and art installations. He stated that what was learned from the study could be utilized in other parts of the City which have a similar development pattern. He noted that the Downtown Street Light Improvement Project would be the first to be implemented with the ULMP's recommendations. He added that City Staff would consider the study's findings and the importance of lighting during future planning efforts.

Councilmember Treviño asked of the responses received by survey participants when asked if lighting played a role in their decision to stay downtown after work in the evenings. Mr. Burkett reported that 75% of respondents replied that lighting played a role in their decision to stay downtown after work in the evenings.

Councilmember Courage asked of the implications of the ULMP outside the Downtown Area. Mr. Burkett replied that the ULMP would translate very well into other types of applications. Councilmember Courage asked how the ULMP would affect the Unified Development Code (UDC). Mr. Jacks replied that there would be no changes to the UDC based on the ULMP.

Councilmember Perry requested that Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) be included as a stakeholder. He expressed concern that businesses would need to comply with the ULMP. Mr. Jacks stated that there were no regulations included in the ULMP and that it was simply a guide for Public Projects.

Councilmember Brockhouse stated that the ULMP would have to be cost effective. He expressed support for applying the ULMP in City Council Districts for public safety reasons as soon as possible.

Councilmember Pelaez stated that he was anxious to see plans for other areas in the city. He asked if the ULMP would be implemented at City Hall and the Frost Bank Building. Lori Houston replied that it would and stated that the ULMP was a plan for the entire city.

Councilmember Hall expressed support for the ULMP and noted that applicable parts of the plan could be utilized in areas other than downtown.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that lighting was the most critical element of a facility or a design. He thanked everyone for the presentation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 4:41 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. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Litigation matters involving the City, pending or contemplated litigation and/or settlement offers pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Deliberate the deployment of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices and related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.076 (security devices), Section 551.089 (security devices and audits) and Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

**RECONVENED**

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:03 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session. He addressed Item 3.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

City Clerk Vacek read the caption for Item 3:

3. First public hearing of a proposed annexation as requested by the property owners, LGI Homes-Texas LLC, of a 45.739 acre property, located at 10925 Green Road, which is contiguous to the City limits of San Antonio and located within the City of San Antonio's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) in eastern Bexar County. [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Bridgett White, Director, Planning]

Mayor Nirenberg opened the first public hearing of a proposed annexation as requested by the property owners, LGI Homes-Texas LLC, of a 45.739 acre property located at 10925 Green Road. He announced that there were no citizens registered to speak. Mayor Nirenberg declared the public hearing closed.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Joyce Hernandez-Kelley spoke in opposition to the Historic Designation of Beacon Hill Academy Historic and referenced a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of San Antonio and SAISD.

Tim Barr spoke in support of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan noting the effects of extreme heat and weather.

Amanda Gonzales noted her personal attachment to Beacon Hill Elementary and asked the City Council to vote against its Historic Designation.

Alex Darke spoke of his efforts assisting homeless communities and shared his experience of being homeless. He invited all to a fundraiser on April 6th at Travis Park.

Dr. William Sweet stated that he was a Retired Environmental Toxicologist Scientist and supportive of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Devin Gonzales urged the City Council to vote no to the Historic Designation of Beacon Hill

Elementary.

Antonio Diaz asked the City Council to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus and expressed opposition to the Historic Designation of Beacon Hill Elementary.

Cullen Jones noted that he had served on the Task Force that recommended the rules for public participation recently adopted by the City Council and expressed concern that more stringent policies were not adopted.

Artman Bland stated that he was speaking on behalf of his brother who continues to have issues with Code Compliance regarding his property.

Mark Perez expressed concern with businesses operating without the proper permits.

Steven Lane spoke in support of the adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Liz Franklin stated that the issue of Short Term Rentals began a year ago and she was optimistic with the new process in terms of everyone having a fair opportunity. However, she learned today that there was a challenge to Tier 2 at the Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting.

Karla Cortez stated that she was a Graduate Student and concerned with increasing Public Health issues. She spoke in support of the adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Briauna Barrera spoke in support of the adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Justin Lecea requested that the City Council adopt the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez referenced an article in the Express News regarding the San Pedro Creek and noted that it was a river; not a creek.

Justice Lovin expressed support for the adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Lauren Witt also supported adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Shawn Garner spoke of the great impact that climate change will have on residents and asked the City Council to adopt the Climate Action Plan.

Lissa Martinez spoke in support of the adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Brian Hughes expressed support for the adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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