

City of San Antonio



AGENDA City Council Special Session

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Friday, June 21, 2019 9:00 AM Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the Cantilever Room of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center at 9:00 am. City Clerk Leticia M. Vacek took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry.

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET POLICY GOAL SETTING SESSION ESTABLISHING BUDGET POLICY DIRECTION THAT WILL GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICE PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET AND THE FY 2021 BUDGET PLAN TO INCLUDE POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. [MARIA VILLAGOMEZ, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER; JUSTINA TATE, DIRECTOR, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET]

Mayor Nirenberg welcomed everyone to the Budget Goal Setting Session. He noted that the City Council would identify priorities as there were funding challenges projected for FY 2020.

Mayor Nirenberg welcomed the newly elected City Councilmembers Jada Andrews-Sullivan, Adriana Garcia Rocha, and Melissa Cabello Havrda to their first Goal Setting Budget Session.

City Manager Erik Walsh stated that staff was requesting policy direction to guide the development of the FY 2020 Proposed Budget and planning for FY 2021. He introduced Linda Ximenes, President and Lead Facilitator and Sonia Jimenez, Business Operations Manager and Lead Consultant for Ximenes & Associates.

Desired Outcomes of the Work Session

- Concur on three to six policy issues to serve as a guide for the City Manager Walsh in the preparation of the FY 2020 proposed budget and the FY 2021 Budget Plan
- Identify and agree on a set of operating guidelines for working together
- Begin to deliberate together and understand the different perspectives represented among City Councilmembers
- Feel Confident in the direction provided the City Manager Walsh to develop the budget

- Establish the beginnings (and continuation) of a good working relationship among Councilmembers

The Budget Session resulted in agreed upon guidelines for working together and key priorities. The following key priorities were identified by the Mayor and City Councilmembers during the course of the day. The following priorities were identified to guide staff in development of the FY 2020 Budget.

Affordable Housing
Streets
Strong Families and Children
Police
Property Tax Relief

Ms. Jimenez reviewed the desired outcomes for the session and the agenda. The overall process for the day included “Reaching for Higher Ground Consensus” followed by a review and discussion of eight of the policy issues. Ms. Ximenes facilitated the consensus discussion.

BUDGET DISCUSSION – POLICY AREAS

City Staff presented on the following topics:

Financial Policies – Ben Gorzell, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Property Tax Relief - Ben Gorzell, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Streets, Sidewalks, and Transportation – Razi Hosseini, Director TCI
Strong Families and Children – Dr. Colleen Bridger, Assistant City Manager
Affordable Housing – Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager
Public Safety Police – Chief William McManus
Public Safety Fire – Chief Charles Hood
Civilian Compensation – Lori Steward, Director Human Resources

City Councilmembers requested clarification on several of the presentations. Ms. Ximenes asked presenters to briefly address same after the break.

RECESSED

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 12:45 pm for a break.

RECONVENED

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 1:30 pm.

A briefing was held relating to the budget policy topics.

FINANCIAL POLICIES – BEN GORZELL, JR

Mayor Nirenberg and Councilmembers supported the following proposed Financial Policies:

- Maintain current financial policies
- Annually review the impact of the State imposed 3.5% Property Tax Cap on service delivery and provide recommendations on whether to adjust the Property Tax Rate
- Annually review Property Tax Relief with focus on homeowners
- Annually review and periodically adjust fees and charges to provide cost recovery inflation, and/or alignment with comparable charges

Additional discussion ensued from Councilmembers to explore consideration for renters as it relates to Property Tax Relief. City Councilmembers also suggested rewriting the financial policy as it relates to adjusting fees to clearly express the possibility of reducing, not just increasing fees and charges.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF – BEN GORZELL, JR.

It was the consensus of Mayor Nirenberg and City Council to obtain additional information and move forward on the homestead exemption. The City Council agreed to call a Special City Council Meeting to be held Monday, June 24, 2019 to discuss and possibly take action on a Homestead Exemption.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND TRANSPORTTION – RAZI HOSSEINI

Mayor Nirenberg and City Council supported the following proposed financial policies to the Street Maintenance Program:

- 50% of Street Maintenance Program allocation is based on district's street condition and 50% is based on the district's network
- Annual Street Maintenance Program – projects completed within 12 months
- Two-year Reconstruction Program – design begins in Year 1, construction begins in Year 2, and projects are completed within 18-24 months

Mayor Nirenberg requested ConnectSA as a future City Council Agenda Item to be brought forth in August or September. It was the consensus of the City Council that as the Street Maintenance Program is implemented, the City incorporate elements of traffic calming in future street maintenance projects.

STRONG FAMILIES AND CHILDREN – DR. COLLEEN BRIDGER

The Mayor and Councilmembers supported the following proposed recommendations for Year 1 Plan that include:

- Establish a Trauma informed Care certifying entity
- Implement Triple P – Positive Parenting Program
- Implement Too Good for Violence School curriculum
- Implement Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic

Additional discussion ensued related to identifying other areas of funding besides the General Fund or realignment of funds to help fund Strong Families and Children. Funding for additional homeless programs and more information on the above measures will be developed during the summer.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING – LORI HOUSTON

The Mayor and Councilmembers supported the following recommendations:

- Focus on affordable housing with 30% to 50% of area median income (AMI)
- Maintain the funding for Affordable Housing at the level funded in FY 2019

Additional budget requests for Affordable Housing to continue the business plan and identify other funding sources.

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE – CHIEF WILLIAM MCMANUS

The Mayor and Councilmembers supported the proposed FY 2020 SAPD Staffing Priorities with additional SAFFE Officers and Crisis Response Team as most important:

- Additional SAFFE Officers
- Crisis Response Team Enhancement
- Additional Patrol Officers
- Creation of Neighborhood Nightlife Corridors with additional sworn positions

A discussion ensued to clarify the process to help facilitate areas that may need additional lighting and areas where the lights are not working. It was noted that staff would identify additional Neighborhood Nightlife Corridors prior to all corridors being finalized.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE – CHIEF CHARLES HOOD

The Mayor and Councilmembers supported the proposed improvement to add one Ladder Company to the Fire Department.

CIVILIAN COMPENSATION

The Mayor and Councilmembers supported the proposed five year forecast to include:

- Step increases of 2% to 4%
- Performance pay between 0 and 4%
- 1% cost of living adjustment

Additional discussions ensued to consider a higher cost of living adjustment.

City Council Aide Compensation was brought forth by Councilmember Treviño, who requested it be considered part of the Civilian Compensation package. City Manager Walsh stated that he would bring the topic of Council Aide Compensation to a future session.

8 POINTS EXERCISE – WHAT IS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY

Following the discussion on the various budget policies, Ms. Jimenez presented the Mayor and Council with eight issues that were considered during the session. She asked them to choose the one issue they would fund if no other resources were available. The Mayor and Councilmembers selected their preferences.

TOP THREE PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES PER MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER

Mayor Nirenberg – Streets, Affordable Housing, and Strong Families & Children
Councilmember Treviño - Streets, Affordable Housing, and Strong Families & Children
Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan - Streets, Affordable Housing, and Public Safety Police
Councilmember Viagran – Streets, Strong Families & Children, and Public Safety Police
Councilmember Rocha Garcia – Property Tax Relief, Streets, and Public Safety Police
Councilmember Gonzales – Streets, Affordable Housing, and Strong Families & Children
Councilmember Cabello Havrda - Property Tax Relief, Streets, and Public Safety Police
Councilmember Sandoval - Streets, Affordable Housing, and Strong Families & Children
Councilmember Pelaez – Financial Policies, Streets, and Strong Families & Children

Councilmember Courage – Streets, Affordable Housing, and Public Safety Police
Councilmember Perry – Property Tax Relief, Streets, and Public Safety Police/Fire

In total, the policy issues were prioritized and are noted below:

- 1) Streets, Sidewalks, and Transportation
- 2) Affordable Housing
- 3) Strong Families and Children, and
- 4) Public Safety Police

Following the budget prioritization discussions, Ms. Jimenez facilitated a reflection for the day. The reflection was followed by closing remarks from City Manager Walsh and Mayor Nirenberg.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

Attest:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMCMMC
City Clerk