

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019
11:30 AM
PLAZA DE ARMAS BUILDING**

Members Present:	Councilmember Rey Saldaña, Chair, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Manny Peláez, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	Mayor Ron Nirenberg
Staff Present:	Erik Walsh, <i>City Manager</i> ; Ed Guzman, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> , Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director of Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Juan Ayala, <i>Director of Military and Veteran Affairs</i> ; Michael Shannon, <i>Director of Development Services</i> ; Megan Dodge, <i>Assistant Director of Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Other Present:	Shauna Goodman, <i>Visit San Antonio</i> ; Mario Hune, <i>Emergency Services District 8</i>

1. Update on the 86th Texas Legislative Session [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle reported that on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, the Texas House of Representatives debated on the State Budget and stated that the City's priority was to achieve funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) Military Grant Program. He noted that it had gone unfunded until two sessions ago and the City formed a coalition with other cities to solicit \$30 million. He added that the Appropriations Committee Chair designated \$50 million in the House Budget for DEAAG Funding but it was not included in the Senate Budget.

Mr. Coyle stated that Texas Representatives (Rep.) Kyle Biedermann and Jonathan Strickland proposed House Bill (HB) 1836 that opposed the plan of moving historic monuments. He noted that Rep. Biedermann requested a hearing on HB 1836. He added that staff partnered with the Texas General Land Office (GLO), the Endowment, and their Legislative Teams at the Capital, to educate Members in the House.

Councilmember Viagran asked which Committee HB 1836 was in and if there was a Representative on the Committee from the City. Mr. Coyle stated that HB 1836 was in the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee and that San Antonio Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins was a Member on that Committee.

Councilmember Perry stated that he and Councilmember Courage had voted against the Cenotaph being removed from the Alamo Site.

Chairperson Saldaña stated that there was a majority vote of the City Council to move the Cenotaph.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she was opposed to HB 1836 that supported eminent domain.

Mr. Coyle stated that HB 2 was a Tax Reform Bill that proposed a 2.5% cap on property tax and that it was voted out of the House. He noted that HB 2 would have a negative impact to the City at a 2.5 % tax cap. He added that schools, hospitals districts, emergency service districts, community colleges, and river authorities were exempt.

Mr. Coyle reported that Senator Brandon Creighton had split Senate Bill (SB) 15 into four bills addressing: 1) Benefits; 2) Leave; 3) Scheduling; and 4) Criminal Background Checks. He stated that SB 15 proposed that cities could not regulate private employer's terms of employment in those four areas. He noted that it did not affect the City's Non-Discrimination Ordinance (NDO) because the City did not regulate private employment terms. He added that SB 15 would affect fair hiring terms and NDOs in other cities in Texas.

Chairperson Saldaña stated that Mayor Nirenberg was sending a letter to the State Capital clarifying that the City's NDO was based on the City of San Antonio and not specific to other City's NDOs. Ed Guzman stated that the City specifically crafted its NDO to address internal policies, working conditions, appointments, public accommodation and fair housing. He noted that the NDO did not regulate employment or hiring practices. Chairperson Saldaña stated that the City's position should be clear if we were in support, neutral or against preemption bills.

Carlos Contreras reported that SB 17 protected an individual that holds a State License so that the State could not withhold that license for voicing religious objections. Mr. Coyle stated that business groups had come together in opposition to SB 17 as it had the same effect of the Bathroom Bill.

Chairperson Saldaña stated that he was opposed to the bill.

Councilmember Perry stated that he was in support of SB 17 because it protected the rights of individuals.

In response to Councilmember Viagran, Mr. Coyle stated that Senator Charles Perry was the author of SB 17. He noted that Senator Perry's focus was to address the people who had exercised their religious beliefs by refusing services and then had their vocational licenses revoked.

Councilmember Peláez requested a copy of SB 17.

Chairperson Saldaña suggested that the full City Council be briefed on SB 17.

Mr. Coyle stated that HB 2439 and HB 2496 were Historical Designation Bills and that staff was in negotiation on them so that they would not conflict with the City's Agenda. He noted that HB 2439 advocated that a city may not regulate the use of certain building materials in development and that for HB 2496; a city may not designate a property historic without the consent of the property owner or a majority vote of a Commission and a majority vote of the Council.

Mr. Coyle stated that HB 3432 was a Partisan Election Ballot Bill and that it had not been set for a hearing. He noted that staff had drafted a Resolution for the Committee's consideration that expresses support for nonpartisan elections. He added that the Committee could move the Resolution to the full City Council for a vote.

Councilmember Peláez asked staff to clarify HB 2439 that would prohibit cities from mandating certain building materials to be used. Michael Shannon responded that the City did not have to approve building material that was not adopted in the National Codes.

No action was required for Item 1.

2. Briefing and possible action on a resolution supporting nonpartisan municipal elections [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Chairperson Saldaña stated that nonpartisan municipal elections were important to the City; therefore, the Committee was putting together a Resolution supporting nonpartisan municipal elections.

Megan Dodge reported that the Partisan Election Ballot Bill would require a candidate to identify their party and the candidate's party would be listed on the ballot.

Councilmember Viagran moved to forward the Resolution Supporting Nonpartisan Municipal Elections to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Pelaez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Briefing and possible action on consent for Emergency Services District No. 8's request to incur debt [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle stated that there was a request from Emergency Services District (ESD) 8 for the City to consent to incurring debt. He noted that to incur debt greater than \$20,000; the ESD must have the consent of the San Antonio City Council. He added that the request was for \$8 million to build a second fire station, equipment, and to design a third fire station. He stated that staff recommended to approve the request but to reduce funding to \$4.3 million for only a second fire station and the purchase of equipment.

Mario Hune stated that ESD 8 was requesting a new fire station and the fire truck to assist in response times.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the consent for Emergency Services District 8's request to incur debt. Councilmember Perry seconded that motion. Motion carried by the following vote:

AYE:	Viagran, Perry, and Saldaña
ABSTAIN:	Peláez
ABSENT:	Mayor Nirenberg

4. Update on National League of Cities City Summit Planning [Megan Dodge, Assistant Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Megan Dodge provided a briefing on the City of San Antonio hosting the National League of Cities (NLC) City Summit Planning. She stated that attendance at the City Summit this year was anticipated to be more than 4,000 which would be a record breaking number. She noted that they were promoting the City Summit in San Antonio at the Congressional Cities Conference in Washington D.C. She added that the Intergovernmental Relations Committee was the Hosting Committee and that part of their obligations were to welcome the City Representatives.

Ms. Dodge stated that the Hosting Committee was responsible for planning 12 to 15 Mobile Workshops which would be walkable and mobile. She added that the Mobile Workshops would highlight City Programs, Partnerships, and Development happening in the City.

Councilmember Perry recommended that staff use Morgan's Wonderland as a Mobile Workshop noting that the amusement park was an eye opening experience.

Councilmember Viagran asked staff why the NLC Board Dinner and the Closing Event were being hosted at Hemisfair Park and not La Villita. Ms. Dodge responded that Maverick Plaza would be closed and that Hemisfair Park was accommodating. Councilmember Viagran asked of the amount of money needed to be raised for the event. Ms. Dodge stated that the City would be mailing out fundraising letters this week. Councilmember Viagran suggested that there be a military reunion for NLC Members.

Councilmember Peláez stated that the City's Brand was Cyber Security City USA and noted various facilities that could be used as Mobile Workshops Locations. He stated that he would like to see a discussion topic on the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Community. He requested that there be a robust airport program to assure that NLC Visitors get around the Airport with ease. He mentioned that the corridor on Highway 281 from the airport to downtown should have working billboards and asked staff to coordinate with Clear Channel so that all billboards welcome visitors to San Antonio. He suggested that staff coordinate with VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority on advertisement on their buses and provided possible discussion topics that were significant to the City.

In response to Councilmember Perry, Ms. Dodge stated that staff was using the mobile workshops at the Texas Municipal League Conference as a practice run for NLC.


No action was required for Item 4.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rey Saldaña, Chairperson

Alicia K. Beckham
Office of the City Clerk