

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



**City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
105 Main Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

**2:00 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

**ROLL CALL**

The City Council convened in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. City Clerk Leticia M. Vacek took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

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

- 1. Briefing on the Status of SA Climate Ready, Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.**  
[Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Doug Melnick, Director, Office of Sustainability]

City Manager Walsh stated that the SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) were developed in partnership with CPS Energy, UTSA, and a consultant from Navigant funded by CPS Energy. He noted that this item would be brought before the City Council on October 17, 2019 for consideration.

Douglas Melnick noted that on June 22, 2017 the City Council passed a Resolution supporting the Paris Climate Agreement with goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for climate change. He added that the City was designated as marginal non-attainment for ground-level ozone, by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He added that the City was developing a plan with emissions reduction control strategies. He reported as of September 23, 2019 there were a total of 6,557 surveys completed and 4,862 written comments received regarding the draft CAAP. He noted the CAAP was endorsed by SAWS, CPS, SARA, West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Planning Commission, and VIA. He stated that the following

climate projections were made by Dr. Hatim Sharif of UTSA and were down-scaled for San Antonio and consistent with best practices.

Mr. Melnick noted that in 2016, building energy and transportation accounted for 85% of San Antonio's greenhouse gas emissions. He stated that in 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the "Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C." He added that it states: "For reduction pathways which were technically feasible currently, i.e. include no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C, global anthropogenic CO2 emissions need to decline by about 45% from 2010 Levels by the year 2030, reaching net zero around 2050." Mr. Melnick added that the CAAP was divided into two sections: 1) Mitigation Section; and the 2) Climate Adaptation Section. He reported that the Mitigation Section was comprised of.

- 1.) Increase carbon-free energy
- 2.) Reduce building energy consumption
- 3.) Reduce transportation energy consumption
- 4.) Advance the circular economy
- 5.) Promote biodiversity and healthy ecosystems
- 6.) Educate and empower

He noted that the Climate Adaptation Section was comprised of the following:

- 1.) Increase infrastructure resilience
- 2.) Strengthen public health systems
- 3.) Enhance emergency management and community preparedness
- 4.) Promote, restore, and protect green infrastructure and ecosystems
- 5.) Protect local food security
- 6.) Increase resiliency awareness and outreach
- 7.) Ensure equity in adaptation

Additionally, Mr. Melnick stated that the following 2019 Draft CAAP edits were driven by feedback/strategies from the City Council in July 2019:

- Added additional lead and partner agencies
- Mitigation strategy #8 was amended to include broad community responsibility for water conservation.
- Adaptation strategy #45 amended to include "clear title" and "energy burdened households and thermal health"

Regarding the implementation, the amended plan update frequency is every 3-5 years or "as directed by City Council. Additionally, community engagement and education principles were added to the CAAP.

Mr. Melnick noted that 31 Climate Plans from U.S. Cities were reviewed of which 26 did not include an economic analysis. He stated that cities primarily focus on economic evaluation as part of plan implementation and several city Climate Plans noted issues with projecting long-term implementation costs. He noted that the SA Climate Ready near-term strategies to be initiated in 2021 were comprised of 12 community strategies, eight municipal strategies, and 22 adaptation strategies. He stated that five of the municipal strategies and eight of the community

strategies had been initiated. He noted that the Office of Sustainability would focus on communications and engagement, buildings, transportation, leading by example, monitoring, assessment, and transparency. He stated that the Technical and Community Advisory Committee was proposed to be comprised of 21 Council appointed members (15 at-large and 6 from partner agencies such as SAWS, CPS, SARA, and VIA). He added that the Climate Equity Advisory Committee was proposed to be comprised of 15 Council appointed representatives from community-based organizations and other key stakeholders representing the interests of low-income populations, communities of color, and other frontline communities. He stated that the Advisory Committees would:

- Provide expertise and input
- Deliver an annual report to City Council on committee activities
- Work collaboratively with other City Boards and Commissions
- Engage the general public and leverage Committee Member networks
- Provide input on the implementation of the CAAP to ensure an equity-centered approach
- Utilize the Climate Equity Screening Tool and provide feedback to the Technical and Community Advisory Committees

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the CAAP did not include costs and mandates and every action taken would be accompanied by a cost benefit analysis, community feedback, and an economic impact analysis.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested attendance numbers for events held in Council District 6. Mr. Melnick stated that he would send attendance data to Councilmembers in all Council Districts. Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested a separate briefing on the Implementation Tracking Tool.

Councilmember Viagran asked how the natural resource assets played a part in the CAAP. Mr. Melnick replied that the CAAP identified the concept of ecological planning and sustainability development.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the marketing strategies to be utilized for those without computer or social media access. Mr. Melnick stated that staff would partner with Councilmembers to market to their constituents.

Councilmember Gonzales asked for the definition of building energy. Mr. Melnick stated that building energy was the energy supplied by CPS to residential, commercial, or industrial buildings to include electricity and natural gas. Councilmember Gonzales expressed support for providing incentives for energy efficient buildings and requested information regarding reduced congestion coupled with increased capacity in transportation.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of the need to emphasize actions that the City had already taken to mitigate climate change, such as the Under One Roof Program. He spoke of the need to communicate the benefits of energy efficiency, and emphasized energy conservation.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia encouraged staff to ensure that bias was not included in survey

questions. She spoke of having a plan to address the cost of the CAAP and the need to focus on incentives which would create greater disparities. She requested the demographics for the survey respondents.

Councilmember Peláez asked if builders would be included on the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Melnick replied that they would. Councilmember Peláez asked of the role of the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Melnick stated that they would provide technical expertise and feedback from the community. Councilmember Peláez distributed the memorandum from the International Chamber of Commerce and requested that it be incorporated with the records of the meeting.

Councilmember Courage asked if the cost of the CAAP would be researched and discussed prior to implementation. Mr. Melnick replied that it would.

Councilmember Perry noted that survey respondents were not representative of the entire City. He expressed concern that there was no cost associated with the CAAP and the CAAP lacked endorsements by private businesses and organizations. He noted that costs associated with the CAAP would be passed on to the Consumer.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that the CAAP would enable residents to save energy and money. She noted that staff was exploring the Property Assess Clean Energy Program which was a financing tool loan extended to builders which would be paid off with electricity savings. She proposed the introduction of strategies related to Green Jobs creation, incorporation into economic development strategies, and creating a Clean and Green Tech Venture Capital Fund.

Councilmember Courage asked if additional strategies could be added to the CAAP if approved. Mr. Melnick replied that the CAAP was a living document in which strategies could be added.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that it was the City Council's prerogative to bring the CAAP back for review and revision before the five-year suggested implementation stage.

## **RECESSED**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 4:25 pm.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 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. Settlement offer in litigation styled Carlos Mendoza v. City of San Antonio pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

E. Settlement offer in litigation styled Natalie Simms v. City of San Antonio pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(consultation with attorney).

### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:15 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sean Vina, Sociologist employed at A&M San Antonio spoke in favor of Paid sick leave policies noting that they have unequal outcomes. He added that research that shows vulnerable populations left behind with Paid Sick Leave. He added that health inequality exists which he was collecting data on. He requested that the Council approve sick day policies that target disadvantaged populations.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez noted that government was doing away with religion. He told the story of a baby and seven-headed dragon.

Elizabeth Franklin noted the Jazz Event was being held on October 12, 2019. She added that this year's event would recognize seven veterans. She noted the need for donors to donate more to local non-profit entities.

Dr. Meredith McGuire spoke in support of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) noting the importance of implementation as soon as possible. She added recommendations were made by technical working groups which were necessary to reach goals of CAAP. She expressed the importance of keeping equity groups involved.

Antonio Diaz requested that the Columbus Statue be removed. He stated that he had a proclamation read by Commissioners' Court regarding Indigenous People's Day and requested the same from Council. He added that Indigenous People's Day should be a ceremonial in Chambers.

Jack Miller noted that a man was written a citation on the Riverwalk for handing out business cards with a bible verse. He added that the man was written a ticket for a patch on his motorcycle jacket because the police said it could disturb the peace.

Edward O'Campo Sr. spoke in opposition of the San Antonio Housing Authority. He stated that he had been exposed to toxic chemicals. He added that he had reached out to TCEQ and noted they use a different type of scale to measure chemicals. He noted that he aspired to be a Council member at one time.

Otis Thompson spoke in support of the MLK Jr. March and looked forward to the record March to be held in January.

David Fry spoke in opposition of Paid Sick Leave, adding that PSL increases the tax burden when profit margins were already tight. He added that government mandates were not the answer, adding that the local government's time was better spent focused elsewhere.

Greg Harman spoke in support of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. He added that the Commission held many public meeting and considered many changes. He was impressed by the equity discussions and noted the importance of same. He added that CPS had a substantial part of pollution in San Antonio.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting 7:10 pm.

**APPROVED**

**RON NIRENBERG**  
MAYOR

Attest:

**LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMCMC**  
City Clerk