

City of San Antonio



City Council Special Meeting

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Thursday, May 28, 2020

9:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

ROLL CALL

The City Council convened in a Special Meeting. Acting City Clerk Tina J. Flores took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

Mayor Nirenberg led the meeting in a moment of silence in recognition of the victims of the COVID-19 Pandemic and those protecting the life and safety of our neighbors.

1. The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Jonathan Ellis of the Conquerors Assembly, guest of Mayor Nirenberg.
2. Mayor Nirenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Rick Treviño stated that evictions cause depression, divorce, and suicide. He challenged the City to commit \$110 million to rental assistance.

Jack M. Finger noted that the State said that the number of individuals infected with COVID-19 may be inflated.

Beverly Watts Davis asked the City Council to consider working with community-based organizations

to reach and keep in contact with individuals affected by other diseases.

Frank Villani spoke in support of allocating emergency relief funds to local performing, visual arts, and artists.

Nazarite Ruben Flores Perez complimented the City Council on the good job that it was doing.

Acting City Clerk Flores read the caption for Items 3 and 4.

3. Briefing on the City's FY 2020 Budget financial performance for the period of October 2019 to April 2020 and projections for May to September 2020. A mid-year budget adjustment will be presented which includes revisions to the City's Adopted Budget for revenue impacts and programs suspended or delayed as a result of the impact of COVID-19; ratification of emergency purchases and grant awards related to the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and approval of other actions taken by the City related to COVID-19. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagómez stated that the total City Budget was \$2.9 billion. She noted that the Budget was comprised of the General Fund (\$1.27 billion), restricted funds (\$938 million), and the Capital Program (\$715 million). She noted that the projected revenue loss to the City was \$198.6 million.

Ms. Villagómez reported that the Budget remained balanced with the actions taken by the City Manager in March and April 2020 and with the proposed mid-year Budget adjustment presented to you today for City Council consideration next week.

Ms. Villagómez stated that the major sources of revenue in the General Fund included property tax, CPS payments, sales tax, EMS transport fees, traffic fines, and liquor by the drink tax. She indicated that roughly 2/3 of those revenues were allocated to the Police and Fire Departments followed by streets, infrastructure, public works, parks, and roughly 20 other important functions.

Ms. Villagómez provided a summary of revenue sources that have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. She stated that the City did not anticipate any deviation in the adopted Budget funded by property tax and noted that sales tax was the revenue source which had been impacted the most.

Ms. Villagómez reported that the estimated revenue loss impacted by sales tax for FY 2020 General Fund Budget was (\$44.1) million. She stated that there was a (\$25.7) million impact to other General Fund revenues. She indicated that the proposed mid-year Budget adjustment included placing back \$322,000 for a modified pool season at 11 targeted pools across the City.

Ms. Villagómez stated that the FY 2020 General Fund mid-year Budget adjustment was (\$85) million. She noted that the better beginning balance for FY 2020 was \$15 million and staff recommended that the FY 2020 Budget be reduced by \$85 million which would result in an ending balance over and above the budgeted financial resource of \$15.6 million for FY 2020.

Ms. Villagómez reviewed the FY 2020 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenue and stated that the current

revenue and the anticipated revenue loss totaled (\$40.1) million for FY 2020. She stated that the current and anticipated revenue loss for the Convention Center and the Alamodome was (\$14.8) million.

Ms. Villagómez reported that the proposed mid-year Budget Adjustment for FY 2020 was (\$57.5) million and included reductions for convention facilities, Visit San Antonio, arts and culture, history and preservation, International Affairs, use of contingency and transfer of capital projects to Property Tax Debt Fund, and hosting obligations and film incentives. She reviewed the revenue impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic on airport funds which totaled (\$43.2) million. She noted that the airport had seen a reduction in passengers of 1.8 million from October 2019 to April 2020 and another\$ 3.3 million was anticipated from May 2020 to September 2020.

Ms. Villagómez stated that staff suspended and delayed the opening of projects in the Airport Fund. She noted that there was a revenue loss of \$16.1 million in other restricted funds.

Ms. Villagómez stated that the City was awarded \$361 million in grants and staff requested ratification of \$347 million to be included in the mid-year Budget adjustment. She provided a breakdown of the grants proposed for ratification.

Ms. Villagómez stated that staff requested the ratification of the purchase of emergency supplies since March 2020 which included PPE, lab services, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, vehicles for testing and other equipment, and hotels for COVID-19 positive and high risk homeless. She reviewed the recommended abatement or deferral of rent from the general, airport and restricted funds.

Ms. Villagómez indicated that the Five-Year Financial Forecast and Trial Budget would be presented to the City Council on June 18, 2020; the City Council Goal Setting Session and Trial Budget discussion would be held on June 26, 2020; the FY 2021 proposed Budget would be presented on August 6, 2020; and the Budget would be presented for adoption on September 17, 2020. She added that City Council Budget work sessions and community input would occur from August to September 2020.

Ms. Villagómez reported that there was a tremendous amount of uncertainty, and an unprecedented economic disruption. She stated that with actions taken by the City Manager, the General Fund remained balance for FY 2020. She noted that there would be budget challenges for FY 2021.

4. Briefing and update on a proposed plan for the City's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan for City Council input and discussion. [Maria Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager]

Assistant City Manager Colleen Bridger stated that the guiding principles for the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan were: 1) Public health and safety; 2) Equity; 3) Braided funding; 4) Community resilience; and 5) Well-being. She noted that the four pillars of the Recovery Plan were workforce development, small business support, digital inclusion, and housing security.

Dr. Bridger presented the following strategies for each of the four pillars along with the amount budgeted for each:

Pillar	Strategies	Budget
Workforce development	Workforce training and support services with a focus on high demand jobs	\$70 million
Workforce development	Temporary child care support for working families	\$10 million
Housing security	Family independence initiative Up Together investment	\$4 million
Housing security	Fair-housing counseling and family resource center	\$27,874,216
Housing security	Virtual and place-based financial recovery and resilience hub for residents	\$4 million
Housing security	Connect residents to low cost financial products	\$120,000
Housing security	Homeless shelter options with services	\$9,238,000
Housing security	Expand domestic violence prevention and intervention strategies	\$3.3 million
Small business support	Virtual and place-based financial recovery and resilience hub for small businesses	\$200,000
Small business support	Door-to-door engagement with hard-to-reach micro businesses to connect them to resources	\$1.3 million
Small business support	Micro business support	\$27 million
Small business support	Arts support	\$2.6 million
Small business support	Protective equipment and sanitizer	\$2 million
Digital inclusion	Distance learning in-home internet access to students K-12 and college	\$27,047,546
Digital inclusion	Create CoSA recovery portal	\$250,000

Dr. Bridger stated that input received from the City Council on the distribution recommendations would be incorporated into the final Plan which would be considered on June 4, 2020. She noted that from June 2020 through September 2021 the Plan would be implemented in collaboration with the Council Committees.

Ms. Villagómez stated that the framework utilized for the FY 2020 and FY 2021 Budget was to determine the costs for the ongoing response, manage fiscal challenges, assess the impact of City services, and assist the community in recovery.

Ms. Villagómez stated that the City received \$361 million in Federal grants and the other Federal resources anticipated were:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)
- Assistance to Fire Fighters
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Ms. Villagómez stated that the expenses associated with the ongoing response to the COVID-19 Pandemic were divided into three categories: 1) Eligible payroll expenses (\$114.6 million); 2) Watch Expand Assure Plan (\$54.5 million); and 3) City PPE and supplies (\$20.7 million).

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the work of the City Council was to ensure that funds were implemented

properly. He noted that the City's efforts over the last several months were focused on response, operations, and recovery of the City.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the balance of the \$25 million allocated to risk mitigation. Assistant City Manager Lori Houston stated that approximately \$10 million remained out of the \$25 million. She added that the additional \$25 million would assist 10,000 families.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested the cost, including equipment and personnel, of taking temperatures in all City facilities. Dr. Bridger stated that she would provide that information.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if COVID-19 relief funds could be utilized to support furloughed employees. Mr. Walsh replied that COVID-19 relief funds could not be utilized to support furloughed employees. He stated that the furlough would continue until at least July 31, 2020.

Councilmember Perry stated that the strategy and funding should focus on small businesses. He spoke of the need to ensure that the City provided core services. He asked for the definition of micro businesses. Dr. Bridger replied that micro businesses were defined as having 20 employees or less.

Councilmember Courage stated that funding should not be limited to micro businesses. He asked if workforce development, and digital inclusion were eligible for CARES Act funding. Ms. Villagómez replied that they were. Councilmember Courage asked if there was enough money to fund everything with the CARES Act funding. Ms. Villagómez replied that there wasn't, and the programs presented for cybersecurity would extend beyond December 30, 2020 which was the deadline for expending CARES Act funding.

Councilmember Viagran asked why the Plan focused on businesses with 20 employees or less. Assistant City Manager Carlos Contreras replied that the goal was to focus on businesses which were not likely to enroll in the Payroll Protection Plan Program or secure a Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan. Councilmember Viagran requested data on individuals which have made multiple requests for housing assistance.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that she wanted to make sure that PPE would be provided for police. Ms. Villagómez stated that \$11 million was allocated for PPE for police, fire, Metro Health, and civilian employees interacting with the public.

Councilmember Pelaez stated that COVID-19 affected individuals that were poor, African American, and Hispanic the worst. He expressed support for the Plan.

Councilmember Treviño stated that a lot of individual artists were left out of the Plan and noted that funds should be allocated for some for-profit art businesses. He requested a line item Budget for the Plan. Ms. Houston stated that individual artists, for-profit and non-profit organizations could apply for arts funding.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if the door-to-door engagement was just for housing security or if it was to communicate other benefits and services. Dr. Bridger replied that the concept behind door-to-door engagement was to utilize well informed individuals that could interact with the community and

assist them in accessing all resources available.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if there would be an opportunity to be flexible after the Plan was approved. Mr. Walsh replied that outcomes would be tracked monthly and adjustments would be made where needed. He noted that adjustments could be made before the Plan was considered on June 4, 2020.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan requested a report from LiftFund to include a breakdown of businesses which have received funds. She requested that LiftFund partner with community-driven partners. She requested incentives for businesses which offered on-the-job training.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the river barges could currently operate. City Attorney Andy Segovia stated that river barges were not in a category specifically addressed in the Governor's order. He noted that staff were working with the vendor as to when and how that would occur.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if delegate agencies would assist the City in implementation of the Plan. Dr. Bridger replied that they would.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for capturing the priorities of the City Council in the Plan.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Walsh stated that David McCary, Craig Hopkins, and a group of executives and departments were working on a Return to Work Plan. He noted that three priorities were identified in the development of the plan:

1. Protection of individuals (employees, residents, visitors, and contractors)
2. Redesign of the work environment
3. Improve operational productivity, performance, collaboration, and customer service through remote work and social distancing

Mr. Walsh noted that the decision to return to work was based on the reasonable public demand for service or function, compliance with CDC, State, and local emergency orders, and financial viability and available operating revenues.

Mr. Walsh reviewed the following return to work protocols:

1. On-site screening (temperature check)
2. Personal Protection Equipment (mask)
3. Social distancing-conference (webEx)
4. Building maintenance and hygiene (clean)
5. Public facing services (contact free)
6. Remote work employees (productive)
7. Workplace/office design (redesign space)

Mr. Walsh stated that the Return to Work Plan included four phases. He noted that the City was

currently in phase 1 and phase 2 was scheduled to begin on June 15, 2020 and phase 3 and 4 would begin depending on local conditions.

Mr. Walsh reported that currently, 2,304 employees were working from home, and 538 were deployed to alternate work assignments. He stated that the current closed facilities included libraries, community centers, senior centers, the Alamodome, the convention center, municipal courts, Pre-K Centers, some of the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department, and all public facing service desks except for the One Stop curbside service.

Mr. Walsh stated that on June 15, 2020, there would be a partial reopening of all library locations for curbside pick up and drop off of books and materials. He noted that nine libraries would open for public computer access. He stated that the Grab and Go Food Program would be available on June 1, 2020 through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Walsh indicated that eight Parks and Recreation Centers would open for summer programs on June 15, 2020. He noted that the Vital Records Division of the Office of the City Clerk would open June 15, 2020. He stated that the Municipal Courts would open two kiosks and begin utilizing Zoom trial hearings. He noted that the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department would partially open for the assistance program. He stated that the date for Phase 3 was yet to be determined and would be determined in Phase 3.

Mr. Walsh stated that in Phase 3 additional openings of key department functions (facilities up to 50% occupancy) would occur in the following departments:

- Library
- Parks and Recreation
- NHSD
- Municipal Courts
- DHS
- Convention and Sports Facilities

Mr. Walsh indicated that additional openings of key public-facing services would occur in:

- CCDO
- DHS
- Finance
- GPA
- City Clerk
- OHP
- NHSD

Mr. Walsh stated that in Phase 4 normal business would resume and the date would be determined in Phase 2.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if there were plans to reconfigure the open layout of the City Tower. Mr. Walsh replied that work in the City Tower was ongoing and the design was not complete. He noted that

the City could control who was at work and how they were working which was more important than the design of the building. Councilmember Pelaez suggested that an update on the progress of the City Tower be presented to the City Council. Mr. Walsh stated that the City Council would be briefed on the progress.

Mr. Walsh reported that a program was developed to allow for citizen input. He noted that the citizen input after “B” Session would require a quorum of the City Council. He stated that he would distribute a memo to the City Council detailing the process.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the Grab and Go Food Program would be available at all parks. Dr. Bridger replied that the Grab and Go Food Program would be available at many locations and staff would distribute district-specific locations to City Council offices today.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested an update on the financial dashboard and protocol to the Governor’s Office if we should see a spike in the number of COVID-19 positive cases. Mr. Walsh stated that the financial dashboard would be developed as part of the Plan. Mr. Segovia stated that if a spike was noted the State would deploy resources.

Mr. Walsh spoke of the importance of tracking the City’s progress and warning indicators.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the City Council was here to protect the health and safety of its citizens. He noted that if the City was in the position where the State’s orders hindered the City’s ability to do that, the City would have to consider a legal test.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the plan to reopen senior centers. Mr. Walsh stated that the senior centers would not open until Phase 4 and probably would be one of the last areas to reopen.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the status of City employees who have tested positive for COVID-19. Mr. Walsh stated that he would provide that information.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if individuals could utilize curbside pick up without being in a vehicle. Mr. Walsh replied that the option to do that would be available.

Mayor Nirenberg led the City Council in singing happy birthday to Councilmember Gonzales.

At any time during the meeting, the City Council may recess into executive session in the "B" Room to consult with the City Attorney's Office (Texas Government Code Section 551.071) and deliberate or discuss any of the following:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 1:20 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- 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.** Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E.** Discuss legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney)].

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 2:00 pm and announced that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
Acting City Clerk