

# City of San Antonio



## City Council A Session

No in-person access for this meeting

**Thursday, August 13, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**Videoconference**

### **ROLL CALL**

The City Council convened in a Regular 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 recognized the victims of the explosion in Beirut. He added that San Antonio had a vibrant Lebanese Community and the City stood with them in solidarity.

1. The Invocation was delivered by Father Charles Khachan, of St. George Church, guest of Councilmember Pelaez, District 8.
2. Mayor Nirenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. Approval of Minutes from the City Council Meetings of May 7, 2020, May 12, 2020, May 14, 2020 and May 20, 2020

Councilmember Perry moved to approve the May 7, 2020, May 12, 2020, May 14, 2020, and May 20, 2020 Minutes. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

4. Councilmember Roberto C. Treviño will be sworn-in as Mayor Pro-Tem, serving the term August 18, 2020 through October 27, 2020.

Acting City Clerk Flores administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Treviño, District 1, as Mayor Pro-Tem from August 18, 2020 to October 27, 2020.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Items 15, 24, and 29 were pulled for Individual Consideration. Mayor Nirenberg announced that Item 26 was pulled by staff and would not be considered.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the following individuals registered to speak.

Mike Knuffke spoke in opposition of Item 25 regarding the reappointment of Dr. Chichi Junda Woo, Medical Director for the San Antonio Metro Health District as the Local Health Authority for San Antonio. He spoke in opposition of the removal of the Christopher Columbus Statute. He noted that erasing history was not the solution and added the City needed a solid plan on how to protect statutes from vandalism and how to maintain San Antonio's history.

Jennifer Falcon spoke in support of the removal of the Christopher Columbus Statute. She asked City Staff to reallocate \$8 million from the Police Budget to address racism and support Health and Housing. She requested that the City abolish Columbus Day and instead recognize Indigenous Peoples Day.

Councilmember Perry spoke in support of Item 17 regarding the closure of an abandoned road to help facilitate Meals on Wheels relocating to Council District 10. He added that Meals on Wheels served over 1 million meals in 2019. He spoke in support of Item 27 approving the development agreement with Bright Kids Daycare and Learning Center. He noted that the former Daycare Center burned down, and that the owner wanted to redevelop the property to reconstruct another Daycare Center.

Councilmember Viagran highlighted Item 30 approving the removal of the Christopher Columbus Statute. She noted that the removal was not about erasing history, but about telling the truth of history and now was a good time to remove the statute.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan highlighted Item 31 regarding the Wilshire Terrace Trail Connection Project. She noted that this project was important to continuing the mission for residents of District 2 and to move the City forward and out of poverty.

Councilmember Treviño highlighted Item 30 and thanked the Indigenous Groups and the Italian Society for coming together on this important issue. He noted that the park would soon be a beautiful commemoration for the Italian Culture for all to enjoy and the process to rename the street had begun.

Councilmember Gonzales highlighted Item 28 approving a funding agreement between the Westside Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number 10 Board of Directors and SAY SÍ. She noted that renovations of the existing building would take place as the future headquarters for SAY SÍ West Side Campus. She added that SAY SÍ was an Arts Organization located in District 5 for over 25 years. She thanked Councilmember Treviño for the removal of the Columbus Statute and noted it was an important step to acknowledge the history and learning more about our Indigenous Community in San Antonio.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Councilmember Gonzales for her work regarding SAY SÍ and thanked Councilmember Treviño for his work regarding the removal of the Columbus Statute. He added that these issues were just the beginning for the efforts to restore equity in the community.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Dr. Woo for the great work she had done in the San Antonio community. He added that her work was extraordinary and respected by the esteemed members of the medical community.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked Councilmember Gonzales and Johnny Hinojosa for their work with SAY SÍ. She thanked Dr. Woo for her work within the Medical Community and for overcoming the pressure put upon her. She thanked Antonio Diaz for his persistent work regarding the removal of the Columbus Statute and noted Indigenous People's Day would be celebrated in October and the City would recognize Juneteenth as a City Holiday.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

**2020-08-13-0510**

6. Ordinance ratifying a contract with Scholastic, Inc. in the amount of \$149,467.50 for 3,250 school readiness kits consisting of various books for the Department of Human Services, Head Start Division. Funding is available from the FY 2020 - 2021 Head Start Grant Program Budget. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

**2020-08-13-0511**

7. Ordinance ratifying the purchase of 86 concealable body armor vests for the San Antonio Police Department Training Academy for cadet classes from Nardis Inc., dba Nardis Public Safety in the amount of \$75,243.13. Funding is available from the FY 2020 Adopted General Fund budget. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

**2020-08-13-0512**

8. Ordinance approving a contract with Atlantic Battery Co., Inc. to provide the Public Works Department with extreme temperature batteries for a total cost of \$70,785.00. Funding is available in the FY 2020 Adopted Annual Operating Budget. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

**2020-08-13-0513**

9. Ordinance approving the following contracts establishing unit prices for goods and services for an estimated annual cost of \$226,000.00, included in the respective department's FY 2020 Adopted Budget: (A) Vulcan Construction Materials, LLC for rock products; and (B) US Digital Designs, Inc. for Fire Station Alerting System maintenance & support including future build-out upgrades and Computer Aided Dispatch system component maintenance & support. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**2020-08-13-0514**

10. Ordinance approving a contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$370,000.00 and ratification of a contract with Trane Rental Services in the amount of \$90,000.00 for the Municipal Plaza Building Chiller Replacement project. Funding is available from previously authorized Deferred Maintenance Program savings and is included in the FY 2020 - FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**2020-08-13-0515**

11. Ordinance awarding a construction contract including two additive alternates to ASD

Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$634,327.00 for the Downtown Parks (Columbus Park & Travis Park) project, a previously authorized debt, Tax Notes and 2017 Bond funded project, located in Council District 1. Funds are available from previously authorized debt proceeds, Tax Notes and the 2017 - 2022 General Obligation Bond Program and are included in the FY 2020 - FY 2025 Capital Improvement [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2020-08-13-0516**

12. Ordinance awarding the 2020 - 2023 Traffic Signal Installation Task Order Contract Package 1 to E-Z Bel Construction, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$4,290,004.80 for the construction and installation of traffic signals and other traffic related equipment associated with transportation projects located Citywide. Funds are available and included in the FY 2020 - FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program and may be funded from various funding sources to include, but not limited to, General Obligation Bond, General Fund, Advanced Transportation District Fund, debt proceeds or other funding sources. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2020-08-13-0517**

13. Ordinance approving three on-call professional services agreements with Halff Associates, Inc., HDR Engineering, Inc., and Maestas & Associates, LLC. each in the amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 per contract year, for as-needed consulting services related to Storm Water Capital Projects citywide. Each agreement is for a term of one year with an option to renew each agreement for up to two additional one-year extensions at an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 per contract year at City's discretion, for a total amount not to exceed \$4,500,000.00 per contract. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2020-08-13-0518**

14. Ordinance approving a construction contract to Pronto Sandblasting and Coating and Oil-Field Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,254,979.50 of which \$367,191.00 will be reimbursed by San Antonio Water System (SAWS) for the District 5 Drainage Improvements (W. Gerald Avenue) project, a previously authorized debt funded project, located in Council District 5. Funds are available from previously authorized debt proceeds and are included in the FY 2020 - FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2020-08-13-0520**

16. Ordinance approving the closure, vacation and abandonment of a portion of Dignowity Avenue Public Right-of-Way located at New City Block 1199 and 1200 in Council District 2, as requested by Weston Company, LLC for a fee of \$40,150.00 to be deposited in the General Fund. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2020-08-13-0521**

17. Ordinance approving the closure, vacation and abandonment of an improved portion of Danbury Street Public Right-of-Way within New City Block 12104 in City Council District 10, as requested by Meals on Wheels San Antonio for a fee of \$5,150.00 to be deposited in the General Fund. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2020-08-13-0522**

18. Ordinance approving the submission and acceptance of a grant in an amount up to \$700.00 from the Texas Historical Commission for participant registrations for the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's FORUM 2020 conference. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Shanon Shea Miller, Director, Office of Historic Preservation]

**2020-08-13-0523**

19. Ordinance approving the submission and acceptance of a grant in an amount up to \$11,500.00 from the Texas Historical Commission for completion of a survey of properties potentially eligible for designation as local landmarks or historic districts in the Tobin Hill neighborhood. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Shanon Shea Miller, Director, Office of Historic Preservation]
20. Approving the following Board, Commission and Committee appointments for the remainder of unexpired terms to expire May 31, 2021 or for the term shown below. [Tina Flores, Acting City Clerk]

A) Appointing Sean Vina (District 1) for the remainder of an unexpired term ending April 25, 2021 to the Ethics Review Board.

**2020-08-13-0524**

21. Ordinance approving the settlement of a lawsuit styled Sandra Rios v. City of San Antonio, Cause No. 2017CI06923 pending in the 288th Judicial District Court, Bexar County, Texas in the amount of \$85,000.00. [Andrew Segovia, City Attorney]

**2020-08-13-0525**

22. Ordinance approving the issuance by the San Antonio Housing Trust Finance Corporation of its Multifamily Housing Governmental Note (Greenline North Apartments) Series 2020 (the "Bonds") for purposes of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code and in order to comply with the San Antonio Housing Trust Finance Corporation's organizational documents. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

**2020-08-13-0526**

23. Ordinance approving a non-exclusive license agreement with Enertex NB, LLC for the use of the City right-of-way. The total revenue generated by this agreement in the first year is \$10,522, which will be deposited into the General Fund in accordance with the FY 2020 Adopted Budget. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

**2020-08-13-0528**

25. Ordinance approving the reappointment of Dr. Chichi Junda Woo, Medical Director for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, as Local Health Authority for San Antonio and surrounding areas of Bexar County, submittal of a Certificate of Appointment of Local Health Authority to the Texas Department of State Health Services, renewals of the appointment, and approving an Interlocal Agreement with local municipalities to designate Dr. Woo as their Local Health Authority. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]

**2020-08-13-0529**

27. Ordinance approving a Development Agreement with Bright Kids Daycare and Learning Center, Inc. and Northeast Corridor TIRZ Board of Directors for eligible public improvements for up to

\$98,500 for the Bright Kids Daycare and Learning Center #2 located at 3939 Thousand Oaks Dr. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica Soto, FAICP, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

**2020-08-13-0530**

28. Ordinance approving a Funding Agreement between the Westside Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number 30 Board of Directors and SAY SÍ for eligible public infrastructure and public improvements for up to \$3,000,000-to be disbursed over three fiscal years-for the renovation of an existing building as the future headquarters for the SAY SÍ West Side Campus at 1310 S. Brazos, San Antonio, TX 78205. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica Soto, FAICP, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

**2020-08-13-0532**

30. Ordinance acknowledging and approving the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue from Columbus Park; approving the conveyance of the statue to the Christopher Columbus Italian Society; and renaming of Columbus Park to Piazza Italia Park located at 500 Columbus Street in Council District 1. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks & Recreation]

**2020-08-13-0533**

31. Ordinance approving a construction contract with ASD Consultants, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$776,696.00 for the Wilshire Terrace Trail Connection Project located in Council District 2. Funding in the amount of \$576,696.00 is available from the voter approved Sales Tax Venue funds included in the FY 2020 - FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program and \$200,000.00 is available for supplemental trees and irrigation from the Tree Canopy Preservation and Mitigation Fund FY 2020 Adopted Budget. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks & Recreation]

**2020-08-13-0534**

32. Ordinance approving six On-Call Civil Engineering and Program Management Services Agreements with BGE, Inc., Camacho-Hernandez & Associates, L.L.C., CP&Y, Inc., Don Durden, Inc. dba Civil Engineering Consultants, Freese and Nichols, Inc., and Pape-Dawson Consulting Engineers, Inc. each in the amount of \$4,500,000.00 for a three-year term for as needed civil engineering services, program management services, construction inspection services, construction engineering services, expanded construction management services, and training services. Each agreement is for a three-year term. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager, Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**CONSENT ITEMS CONCLUDED**

**POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Councilmember Rocha Garcia reported that this year marked the Women's Suffrage Centennial and recognized Women's Right to Vote. She stated that it was hard to believe that women were granted the right to vote only 100 years ago, in 1920, and women of color had to wait even longer. Councilmember Rocha Garcia added that Ashley Harris contacted her to celebrate this milestone and noted Ashley's great grandmother marched in Boston with the original group of Suffrages. Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that she worked closely with Councilmember Viagran and other women committed to work together to commemorate this important event.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia reported that a kickoff of virtual and symbolic events was scheduled to include decorating the trees at Brackenridge Park with White ribbons. She stated that Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan would tie the first commemorative white ribbon on a tree near the Joske's Pavilion, Councilmember Gonzales would tie a white ribbon at Elmendorf Park, and Councilmember Sandoval would tie white ribbons at Woodlawn Park. She noted that the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women donated white ribbons that would be tied at Brackenridge Park and along the Riverwalk. She added that Councilmember Viagran organized flyovers at various sites throughout the City that were significant to San Antonio Women's history. She reported that Councilmember Cabello Havrda and the 19 Acts of Random Kindness Group partnered with the Food Bank to raise funds and every \$10 donated enabled the Food Bank to buy a symbolic 100 pounds of food for families in need. She reported that downtown buildings would light up their buildings on August 18, 2020 in honor of the Centennial including the Tower of the Americas, the Convention Center, and the AT&T Center.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia recognized First Lady Erica Nirenberg and other local organizations and community partners for organizing virtual opportunities and calls to action, including registering people to vote. She added that August 26, 2020 was Women's Equality Day with celebrations hosted by the League of Women Voters. Mayor Nirenberg would present the City's Proclamation in honor of the Centennial.

### **ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

Acting City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 5.

#### **2020-08-13-0509**

5. Ordinance ordering a Sales and Use Tax Election to be held on November 3, 2020, to authorize an increase of 1/8th of one percent of Sales and Use Tax not to extend beyond December 31, 2025 for the purpose of financing job training and scholarship programs through the San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation in accordance with Chapter 379a of the Texas Local Government Code and commencing upon the full collection of the Sales and Use Tax previously authorized by the voters for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project and the Parks Development and Expansion Venue Project; authorizing a contract amendment with Bexar County for conduct of this election; and appropriating funds to pay a proportionate share of the estimated \$900,000.00 election costs as determined by the Bexar County Administrator. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Alejandra Lopez, Director, Economic Development]

Alejandra Lopez reported that the City had a very low unemployment rate along with substantial job and population growth at the beginning of 2020. She stated that San Antonio was named one of the largest cities with the highest poverty rate in the nation, and the most substantial contributing factor was the relatively low educational attainment rate of residents. She reported of a substantial difference in earnings that occurred at the bachelor's degree level where there was a significant decrease in the number of residents with that level of education and a significant increase in earnings. She added that over 154,000 residents had filed for unemployment since mid-March 2020, with claims in the industries of accommodations, food service, retail, healthcare, and social services that accounted for over one-third of claims filed. She noted that 20% of accommodations and food services jobs would not likely return over the next five years.

Ms. Lopez reported that City Council approved the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency

Plan on June 4, 2020 in an immediate approach to build back the local economy which included substantial investments in workforce development and focused on providing subsidized job training and certificates for in-demand occupations for up to 10,000 residents. She stated that the targeted population were residents that had experienced pre-COVID-19 substantial barriers to training, to include individuals with disabilities. She added that Mayor Nirenberg appointed a Workforce and Education Leadership Team in July 2020 to identify next steps in the economic recovery to specifically reduce unemployment and promote economic mobility and propose initiatives to promote job training and degree completion.

Ms. Lopez reported that the Workforce Development Initiative would support workforce training, and two and four-year degree programs and participants would receive wraparound services including child care, housing assistance, emergency financial assistance, referrals to social services, academic assessments and remediation, career mapping and coaching, and case management. She stated that apprenticeships were highlighted as a training option with a core of on-the-job training combined with classroom instruction. She noted that an option in the proposed initiative would be to offer allocated tuition expense funding to employers that provided transferrable apprenticeship training programs.

Ms. Lopez reported that industry commitment was needed to accompany the public investment in workforce development. She stated that industry leaders collaborated with training providers to identify and design job training programs that addressed employer needs and several members of the Workforce and Education Leadership Team made a direct commitment to support the hiring of program participants. She added that letters of commitment were received from Chief Executives with HEB, Rackspace USA, and Toyota and noted that the four companies represented thousands of jobs in diverse and in-demand fields with living wages, benefits, and career paths that promoted income growth.

Ms. Lopez reported that workforce development job retention would be measured at the one-year mark after participants completed their training; and if approved by the voters, the City would begin collecting sales taxes for the initiative in 2021. She provided a sample annual budget, as follows:

<b>SAMPLE ANNUAL BUDGET - \$38.5 million</b>				
	<b>Tuition</b>	<b>Wraparound Support Services</b>	<b>Emergency Aid</b>	<b>Administrative Cost</b>
Workforce Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2,000 per participant</li> <li>• 6,000 participants</li> <li>Total: \$12 million</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,000 per participant</li> <li>• 6,000 participants</li> <li>Total: \$6 million</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500 per participant</li> <li>• 3,000 participants</li> <li>Total: \$1.5 million</li> </ul>	
College:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3,000 per participant</li> <li>• 4,000 participants</li> <li>Total: \$12 million</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,000 per participant</li> <li>• 4,000 participants</li> <li>Total: \$4 million</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500 per participant</li> <li>• 2,000 participants</li> <li>Total: \$1 million</li> </ul>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$24 million</b>	<b>\$10 million</b>	<b>\$2.5 million</b>	<b>\$2 million</b>

Ms. Lopez reported that Texas Local Government Code Chapter 379A, Municipal Development Corporation (MDC), would provide the governance structure for the proposed initiative. She stated that municipalities were only allowed one MDC and in 2012, City Council authorized the creation of the Early Childhood MDC which voters approved a one-eighth sales tax in support of the Pre-K 4 SA Program. She stated that the proposed sales tax revenue for workforce development and training would still flow through the existing MDC for implementation. She noted that should voters approve the initiative, targeted population and training provider engagement would begin in September 2020,



periodic briefings to the Economic & Workforce Development Council Committee would begin in early 2021, and final approval from City Council would be sought in April 2021, and the program would launch in late 2021.

Acting City Clerk Tina Flores reported that the City had contracted with Bexar County to conduct a joint election with other political subdivisions. She stated that the City would be responsible for a proportionate cost of the election and voting precincts and hours would be established by the Bexar County Elections Administrator. She announced that City Council would be ordering the election today, August 13, 2020. She noted that October 5, 2020 was the deadline for residents to register to vote; early voting would take place from October 13, 2020 through October 30, 2020; and November 3, 2020 would be Election Day. She added that election results would be canvassed between November 6 and November 17, 2020. She reported that staff recommended the approval of the contract.

City Manager Walsh provided an update regarding the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP). He reported that Chief Financial Officer Ben Gorzell briefed the Conservation Advisory Board at a specially-called meeting on the pre-COVID-19 proposed option to allocate an increment of the City's annual SAWS revenue and create a plan that would issue debt through a local government corporation to continue the EAPP. He stated that the Conservation Advisory Board would review a proposed ordinance this month to bring forward to City Council in early September 2020 that would create a local government corporation with a complementary plan to continue the protection of the aquifer under the same provision and processes currently utilized.

City Manager Walsh provided an update on the Linear Creekway Parks Program. He reported that Bexar County Commissioners Court approved a broader five-year program that focused on watershed and Linear Creekway development. He stated that the plan approved earlier in the year assumed that the Linear Creekway Parks Program would continue to be built in increments and under the City's construction guidelines for consistency.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the following individuals registered to speak.

Anna Lisa Pease, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), stated that the GEAA was asked to review the Connect SA Transportation Plan (CSATP) and consulted with a transportation expert and the EAPP Scientific Team to determine a continuing need for the EAPP and it was decided that the sales tax should not be shifted. She noted that the GEAA was not asked for their opinion of the proposed workforce development initiative, nor did the Economic & Workforce Development Council Committee ever provide a presentation by experts to discuss their findings for the need to continue the EAPP. She reported that the EAPP was internationally recognized as a successful model of watershed protection and was awarded with the City's Sustainability Award this year.

Carol Patterson, Board Member, Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), spoke in favor of keeping the sales tax for aquifer protection. She stated that in order to protect water quality, a percentage of the total watershed needed to include the protection of areas most vulnerable to pollution, and the minimum protection needed was more than three times the 6% of watershed protected to date. She added that the potential cost of building a treatment plant or replacing water supply would cost billions of dollars and the EAA funding level needed to be increased, not reduced to half as was currently proposed.

Virginia Mata, COPS/Metro Leader, Holy Catholic Church, stated that she and her twin sister were the youngest of eleven children raised by their mother and were the first in their family to graduate from high school and college. She added that she retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander in 2017

and when she was young, she participated in a workforce development program. She credited the program for helping her see what she could do with her life. She stated that the City needed investment in workforce development more than ever and COPS/Metro would support the initiative.

Antonio Diaz stated that continuing education was vital to the community, but funding should come from the Federal or State governments and taking sales tax from the aquifer protection should not happen, was not equitable, and was not right.

Jim Smyle, Board Member, EAA, noted the critical need to address post-COVID-19 economic poverty and was against doing away with the EAA, which was an absolutely critical program and internationally recognized as a model for water quality protection. He stated that water protection required significantly more funding than the \$10 million a year currently being discussed and City policy and development codes needed to align with conservation protection efforts.

Dya Campos, HEB Leadership Team, stated that Craig Boyan, President of HEB, spoke in support of the measure. She reported that the HEB Emergency Operation Center was on Day 168 of its emergency COVID-19 response. She stated that training their workforce and taking care of San Antonians was the right thing to do and HEB was equally passionate for protecting the aquifer. She added that HEB had discussed a plan with the City and was confident that funding for the aquifer would continue.

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, stated that talent was universal, but opportunity was not, and it was important to consider providing an equitable solution for displaced workers and residents in need. She recognized the disproportionate impact in Council Districts 3 and 4. She stated that she was supportive of the proposed initiative that had potential to become a national model to look to for success in the future when San Antonio saw improvements in job placement, employment rates, and a decrease in poverty.

Dr. Taylor Eighmy, President, UTSA, stated that education was a wonderful equalizer, and two-year and four-year degree programs were essential for impacting the educational attainment trajectories of residents. He added that he was in support of the program and that the initial focus on workforce training, retraining, and certification programs was the right blend going forward.

Dr. Mike Flores, Chancellor, Alamo Colleges District (ACD), stated that the City was faced with COVID-19 challenges while confronting poverty. He added that creating local talent within the community would ensure upscaling and upgrading of families with an opportunity to be fully enfranchised in a post-COVID-19 economy. He reported that ACD served up to 10,000 residents annually and provided them with post-high school credentials. He stated that ACD had 65,000 students with an earning potential of at least a half million dollars in their lifetime.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that COVID-19 wreaked havoc across San Antonio and the United States with loved ones lost, families devastated, businesses closed, and jobs lost. He noted that the reality in the face of a global pandemic was that at least 60,000 local families struggled with food insecurities pre-COVID-19 and the number had now doubled. He recognized that many residents lived on the edge of crisis pre-COVID-19, were underemployed, lacked credentials or job training that was a requirement for most jobs that paid a living wage, and one out of five residents did not have a GED or high school diploma. He reported that over 150,000 San Antonians had filed for unemployment during COVID-19 and 66,000 of the claimants reported earning less than \$22,000 a year.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the City had the opportunity to set the stage for the future of the

community. He recognized industry and higher education leaders, organizers, and labor representatives that feverishly worked around the clock, many on short notice, to support the workforce initiative that would change the trajectory for the City.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that six of her family members died as a result of COVID-19. She noted that early economic circumstances combined with a lack of access to healthy habits contributed to underlying health conditions that left some of her family member unable to survive COVID-19. She recounted how her family members traveled north every year to pick crops and advocated for migrant worker rights. She recognized how much her family could have benefited from a workforce development program like the one presented today. She stated that the key to addressing anything was to unite and work together.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the percentage of students in low income situations that were eligible for Federal assistance. Dr. Flores reported that the majority of ACD students received aid whether it was Federal or other, and all students were assigned to a case-managed adviser to provide added support. He stated that case management would be the key to success for this program in particular, as case managers were able to navigate social services for students as needed.

Councilmember Sandoval noted that recent job reports showed that young women of color were the demographic most affected by COVID-19. She asked how the program would assist that demographic and emphasized that the program must be deliberate in specific, targeted outreach to prioritized vulnerable communities. Ms. Lopez stated that the plan specifically targeted all individuals with less than high school education levels and the aspirational targeted goal was to enroll at least 500 participants in a concentrated effort.

Councilmember Pelaez emphasized that the public would be given a choice on the ballot and the proposed plan would not create a new tax, nor a tax increase, but would be the realignment of an existing tax. He asked if putting the plan in action would imperil the aquifer. City Manager Walsh stated that there would be a continuation of the EAPP that utilized the same standards set by the voter-approved propositions and the Conservation Advisory Board with a 10-year financing plan in place.

Councilmember Courage stated that it was incumbent upon the City to provide workforce and development training and education to the 40,000 or 50,000 unemployed residents who would undertake the opportunities. He added that the voters needed all the information and education to make an informed decision.

Councilmember Perry stated that the CARES Act funding provided \$75 million for workforce development and the City received over \$100 million in requests from small businesses to help them stay open and only \$27 million would be granted to small businesses. He noted that most of the \$75 million for workforce development would be allocated for two and four-year degrees when residents needed immediate help. He added that the small business community was 90% of the City's backbone. He stated that the voters would not be provided with a choice and would only have the workforce development plan as an option. He noted that the funding to support the aquifer protection and the linear trail development expansion would impact the General Fund and Bexar County taxpayers. He requested a delay and the setting of a special meeting.

Councilmember Treviño read a partial statement from Cosima Coleman, District 1 Representative, Linear Creek Park Advisory Board, who was unable to connect live, which stated that she was opposed to the reallocation of the one-eighth sales tax. He added that the community needed immediate support

to stay in their homes and provide digital access for their children's distance learning. He stated that the City did not have sufficient support services and emergency assistance grants to meet the needs of the target population. He emphasized that sole breadwinners would not think twice about deciding not to destabilize their families further to pursue long term educational opportunities, and one-time wraparound services and emergency assistance grants would not be enough to rely on. He stated that the \$62 million could go towards housing assistance, and immediate food and shelter assistance was the priority. He reported that no funding from the General Fund was allocated for housing security through the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan stated that the City was in a time of change where the one-eighth sales tax would truly make a difference for residents to progress and be sustainable. She noted that water was the first priority in life and voters recently approved the completion of the Linear Creekway in Council District 2.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the working group liaisons to speak.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that none of the residents in Council District 4 reached out in support of the Linear Creekways and other residents reached out on a host of other matters. She noted that workforce and education initiatives, maintaining the aquifer protection program and greenway trails, and investing in the public transit system were critical for the City's future and it was important to strike a delicate balance. She added that she was certain that the City would be able to work with Bexar County Leaders and SAWS Leadership to identify and dedicate funding for the aquifer protection and the greenway system with meaningful input from residents.

Councilmember Viagran thanked her Councilmember colleagues and community leaders for their advocacy and forward thinking to change the narrative of the past and give residents the opportunity to vote.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve Item 5. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYES:** 9 - Mayor Nirenberg, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales  
Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, and Courage

**NAYES:** 2 - Treviño and Perry

Acting City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 15.

**2020-08-13-0519**

- 15.** Ordinance approving the acquisition through negotiation or condemnation of interests in land sufficient for project purposes 0.029 of an acre (1,250 square feet of a drainage easement right-of-way) of privately-owned real property located at 2257 Austin Highway within NCB 12162 LOT 16 in Council District 2 for the Fire Station #24 Replacement Project, a 2017 Bond project; declaring it to be a public project and a public necessity for the acquisition. The fair market value for the parcel is \$8,100.00 as determined by an independent appraisal [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Acting City Clerk Flores read the following property description: The privately-owned property for a permanent drainage easement right of way interest located in the San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas,

City Council District 2, and is out of the following:

One parcel of land consisting of approximately 0.029 acres (1,250 sq. feet) of real property in NCB 12162, Lot 167365 P-1 located at 2257 Austin Highway.

This property is depicted in the overall project drawing Map in Exhibit A-1 and the Metes and Bounds survey description in Exhibit A-2 of the Ordinance attached and incorporated as part of this motion.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved that the City of San Antonio authorize the use of eminent domain to acquire privately owned real property for a public use project for the Fire Station #24, by acquiring the following property described by the City Clerk and incorporated as part of this motion.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve Item 15. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

Acting City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 24.

**2020-08-13-0527**

- 24.** Ordinance approving an amendment to an Agreement with the University of the Incarnate Word to increase access to healthy fruits and vegetables through the Healthy Corner Stores Project by increasing the amount up to \$81,000.00 for a term ending September 30, 2020. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]

Assistant City Manager Colleen Bridger reported that food desert maps identified several neighborhoods in the City as lacking easy access to healthy foods. She stated that Metro Health collaborated with the University of the Incarnate Word to integrate healthy food options into corner stores to improve access to healthy foods. She noted that Councilmember Viagran proposed a \$45,000 budget amendment to the FY 2019 to fund a successful healthy corner store pilot in Council District 3. She reported that funding for the healthy food initiative was included in the City Budget for FY 2021 and was increased to \$65,000. She reported that Metro Health contributed an additional \$16,000 from its General Fund and the healthy food initiative fund totaled \$81,000, which would allow for an expansion of eight pilot corner stores that would offer residents in Council District 3 healthy foods at reduced prices.

Councilmember Viagran noted that the healthy corner stores were a lifeline to residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic and addressed health disparities that existed in the South sector of the City.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve Item 24. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

Acting City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 29.

**2020-08-13-0531**

- 29.** Ordinance adopting the \$22,350,369 FY 2021 Action Plan and Budget for the four federal grant

programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program; adopting a substantial amendment to the FY 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan; authorizing a staff complement of 48 positions; and authorizing contracts to execute program budgets. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department]

Councilmember Treviño stated that he continuously advocated for housing assistance during COVID-19, and specifically through the City's General Fund for the ability to set local guidelines and make the program as flexible as needed for residents. He noted that the current amount of funds in the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) amounted to less than 10% of the total FY 2021 Community Block Development Grant (CDBG). He asked if City Council had the ability to shift funds from the CDBG to EHAP. Assistant City Manager Lori Houston affirmed that City Council could make an amendment to the proposed HUD Action Plan, but it was not recommended by staff to do so today. She reported that there was a balance of \$1 million in CDBG funding allocated for EHAP and any reallocation of funding would impact the action plan of the projects included in the CDBG Fund.

Councilmember Treviño noted that even shifting 1% of CDBG funding to EHAP would provide assistance to dozens of families and asked if there were other line items that staff could readily identify as a potential source to increase EHAP funding. Assistant City Manager Houston reported that the current \$22.5 million Budget included \$13.6 million in CDBG funding that was part of the proposed \$25 million FY 2021 Affordable Housing Budget. She stated that staff would recommend shifting \$5 million from rental assistance and home ownership and would immediately solicit for any rental units or housing units that were financeable and needing funding this year; if so, staff would move forward with shifting the funds, and if not, staff would return to City Council and recommend that funding be reallocated or redirected to EHAP.

Councilmember Treviño requested a discussion on the merits of transferring funds to EHAP be brought to the Culture & Neighborhood Services Council Committee. He thanked City Staff for their work on EHAP and recognized that funding for FY 2021 CDBG Housing Assistance would increase ten-fold.

Councilmember Treviño moved to approve Item 29. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

#### **PULLED**

26. Ordinance authorizing the Health Authority to adopt rules to protect individuals from COVID-19, and to provide the City Manager with enforcement tools by creating an offense and penalty. [Colleen Bridger, Assistant City Manager and Acting Health Director]

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

33. City Manager's Report

City Manager Walsh presented an employee spotlight video which highlighted the efforts of the Neighborhood Engagement Administration currently located at the downtown San Antonio Public

Library. Barbara Ankamah Burford, Neighborhood Engagement Administrator, reported that Neighborhood Engagement Officers were in place to assist residents in various roles to ensure they received rental or mortgage assistance and other resource referrals. She stated that many residents experienced digital divide hardships during the COVID-19 Pandemic and did not have the ability to apply for housing assistance online. She added that Neighborhood and Housing Services Department Director Verónica Soto met with local COPS/Metro Leaders and residents to ensure that residents applied for emergency housing assistance and performed 1:1 intake applications immediately on-site.

City Manager Walsh thanked Neighborhood Engagement Administration staff and Director Soto for their continued dedication and hard work.

The Mayor and City Council sang Happy Birthday to Councilmember Cabello Havrda.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 12:33 pm to convene in executive Session 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 2:47 pm and announced that no action was taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 2:47 pm.

**APPROVED**

**RON NIRENBERG**  
Mayor

Attest:  
**TINA J. FLORES**  
Acting City Clerk