

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council A Session**

Municipal Plaza Building
114 W. Commerce Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

2023 – 2025 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2
Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4
Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6
Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Marc Whyte, Dist. 10

Thursday, May 8, 2025

9:00 AM

City Council Chambers

The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 9:12 a.m. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: 10 – Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte

ABSENT: 1 - Pelaez

PROCEDURAL

1. Invocation

The invocation was delivered by Pastor John Garland of San Antonio Mennonite Church, guest of Mayor Nirenberg.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nirenberg led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed there to be a Coach Pop Day every January 28th in San Antonio, Texas, to honor the charities supported by former Spurs Coach Gregg Popovich on his birthday. During Coach Pop Day, COSA CARES Employee Volunteers and other organizations, including the San Antonio Spurs, would work together to enrich our community and help others. Mayor Nirenberg recognized that this was in support of a Council Consideration Request (CCR 2025-0023) by Councilmember Castillo calling for the creation of Coach Popovich Day.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed the month of May to be Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month in San Antonio, Texas, and invited guest speakers from the Asian American Alliance of San Antonio, San Antonio Lodge of Chinese American Citizens Alliance, and the Asian Resource Center of San Antonio. Mayor Nirenberg recognized Councilmember Kaur as the first South Asian City Councilmember and noted that he was the first Mayor of Pacific Islander descent.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed the month of May to be Better Hearing & Speech Month and invited representatives from the Sunshine Cottage for the Deaf to speak.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed the week of May 4 through 10, 2025, to be Municipal Clerk's Week and invited representatives from the Office of the City Clerk to speak.

ITEMS FOR STAFF BRIEFING

3. Briefing on Pre-K SA FY 2026 Annual Operating Budget. [Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Sarah Baray, Ph.D., CEO, Pre-K 4 SA]

Dr. Sarah Baray, Director of Pre-K 4 SA, provided an overview of the FY 2026 Budget. See attached presentation.

Mayor Nirenberg commented that this was a well-resourced education pipeline for young children to set them on a path to a thriving life.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported Pre-K 4 SA expanding to help military families.

Councilmember Kaur commented that as an educator, she fully supported the Program and the extension all the way to the second grade. Councilmember Kaur noted there was a threat to the Head Start Program with budget cuts at the Federal level and encouraged Pre-K 4 SA to see how the Program could help and also become involved with the San Antonio Housing Trust.

Councilmember Viagran commented that there was a study regarding high quality early childhood education, and she supported training for educators so children would also benefit. She was pleased with the services at Pre-K 4 SA South.

Councilmember Castillo supported the work of Pre-K 4 SA to decrease the poverty rate.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez was pleased that the Pre-K 4 SA South Campus would serve residents of the East Side as well and that they were expanding to infants and toddlers in addition to 3- and 4-year olds. Baray stated that there would be a press announcement when applications were open for the seats in the new site. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez commented on the Citywide need for quality childcare. Baray agreed that there was a shortage in infant and toddler care, which only made up 3% of the total childcare spots and she noted that Pre-K 4 SA was working with other providers to expand access.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia commented that childcare was necessary for workforce development and supported the work of Pre-K 4 SA.

4. Briefing on the San Antonio Ready to Work (RTW) FY 2026 Annual Operating Budget and post-solicitation for training and education providers. [Alex Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Ramsey, Executive Director, Workforce Development Office]

Mike Ramsey, Director of SA Ready to Work, provided an overview of the FY 2026 Budget and provided a briefing on the training and education providers solicitation. See attached presentation.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the Promise Program ensured that all San Antonio High School students could attend college. He noted that the one of the missing and most difficult to accomplish areas was training adult workers who were mired in jobs that did not pay a dignified wage and RTW was a testament to the City of San Antonio's focus on breaking cycles of poverty. He added that 77% of voters approved the Program at the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic and many other cities were trying to replicate what San Antonio was doing.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda spoke in support of the Program to help residents with good paying jobs.

Councilmember Kaur commented that the Program was a huge undertaking and had evolved to ensure participants were hired after training and recommended more community engagement with employers. Councilmember Kaur supported expanding the training to high school seniors, particularly in demand occupations such as healthcare. Councilmember Kaur recommended enhanced case management for RTW participants.

Councilmember Viagran commented that in the 1990s when some of the local military bases were closed, the community had to adjust and change as so many workers were displaced. Slowly more industries and businesses such as Toyota invested in San Antonio and brought jobs, according to Councilmember Viagran. She suggested that RTW was a focus on the whole person, which would make life better not only for families and children but for parents as well. She recommended growing apprenticeships and ensuring that housing was available.

Councilmember Castillo wanted to ensure that there were opportunities for all individuals including those with felonies on their record and recommended providing incentives to employers to hire that population.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked why the Return-on-Investment (ROI) Study included only those placed. Ramsey stated that the ROI Study included all enrollees and the lifetime earnings over a 20-year period to calculate the \$1.7 billion ROI while the \$29,000 increase in average salary was based on one year. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez wanted to ensure that participants received adequate support services.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported the work of RTW and recognized the employers who attended the meeting.

ACTION ITEM FOR STAFF BRIEFING

2025-05-08-0338

5. Ordinance authorizing the execution of contracts for On-the-Job Training and Incumbent Worker Training in a combined amount not to exceed \$5,873,760.04. Funding is available from the SA Ready to Work Fund. [Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Ramsey, Executive Director, Workforce Development Office]

Mike Ramsey, Director of SA Ready to Work provided an overview of contracts recommended for On-the-Job Training and Incumbent Worker Training. See attached presentation.

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage
Absent: Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Whyte

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chris Martinez with South Texas Electric, George Saliba with George Plumbing, Tyler Schroeder with Boeing, Cecilia Gutierrez with Let's Go Texas, Samantha Coleman with Center for Healthcare Services, Ivan Melchor with ArcLight and Shur Med EMS, and Manny Villa with In-Demand Labor spoke in support of the Item.

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Alderete Gavito pulled the Item for Recusal and completed the relevant forms in advance of the meeting; however, she left the meeting prior to the vote.

Councilmember Viagran commented that On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) were important programs to help residents, particularly women, obtain better jobs. She thanked all the businesses for their collaboration and recommended more OJT for City employees and the employees of the City Council and suggested more

innovation and creativity.

Councilmember Kaur requested metrics and information on reporting periods. Ramsey reported that participants were tracked for 12 months post-employment and status/wages was reported at six months.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted that many Council District 2 residents participated in the Program, but the employers were mostly in Council District 7, so he requested more outreach to employers in Council District 2.

Councilmember Castillo requested information from VIA on training for their workers.

CONSENT AGENDA

Capital Improvements

6. 2025--05-08-0339

Ordinance approving a construction contract with Jerdon Enterprise, L.P. in the amount not to exceed \$1,058,018 for construction improvements for Benavides Park. Funding is from the 2022 General Obligation Bond Program, Tree Canopy Preservation and Mitigation Fund, Unified Development Code Fund, and District 5 Infrastructure Improvements project funds included in the FY 2025 Capital Budget. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Castillo highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte

Absent: Pelaez

Acquisition, Sale or Lease of Real Property

7. 2025--05-08-0340

Ordinance renewing the lease with San Antonio, TX II SGF of 36,400 square feet of office space at 4402 West Piedras Street for the Texas Anti-Gang Program at an annual rate of \$836,714.76 through 2035. Funding for the first year is from the Texas Anti-Gang Grant (TAG). Funding for future years is contingent upon availability of grant funding. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager, Jorge A. Perez, Director, Building and Equipment Services]

Councilmember Alderete Gavito highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

8. 2025--05-08-0341

Ordinance approving the acquisition, on behalf of CPS Energy, through negotiation or condemnation of interests in land sufficient for project purposes involving five permanent electric transmission easements and four temporary construction easements on privately-owned real property located on the west side of Bexar County, in NCB 17634, 17648, 14915, 17640, beginning at the existing CPS Energy's Cagnon to Helotes transmission line along Wiseman Rd east, approximately 1.24 miles following Wiseman Rd to the SAT15 proposed Wiseman Substation tract; declaring the project to be for public use and a public necessity for the acquisition. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda pulled the Item from Consent Agenda. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre read the caption for the Item.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved that the City of San Antonio authorize the use of the power of eminent domain by CPS Energy to acquire property for the public use project. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre read a description of the property. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

9. 2025--05-08-0342

Ordinance approving the acquisition, on behalf of CPS Energy, through negotiation or condemnation of interests in land sufficient for project purposes involving eighteen permanent electric transmission easements and four temporary construction easements on privately-owned real property located on the south side of Bexar County, in NCB 11265, 11300, 11298, 11296, 11268, 11295, 14566, beginning at the Leon Creek Substation along New Laredo Highway and following an existing electric transmission corridor south across IH-35 to transmission structure 17 at Leon Creek; declaring the Howard to Leon Creek Phase 2 Transmission project to be for public use and a public necessity for the acquisition. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia pulled the Item from Consent Agenda. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre read the caption for the Item.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved that the City of San Antonio authorize the use of the power of eminent domain by CPS Energy to acquire property for the public use project. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre read a description of the property. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

Grant Applications and Awards

10. 2025--05-08-0343

Ordinance approving the submission of a Truancy Intervention and Prevention grant application and acceptance of funds, upon award, of up to \$365,470.40, from the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office, for the period of September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026, and authorizing additional personnel. [Carla Obledo, Presiding Judge]

Councilmember Castillo highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

City Code Amendments

11. 2025--05-08-0344

Ordinance amending Chapter 35, Unified Development Code, of the City Code to 1) create a mandatory 1,000 foot spacing requirement for tobacco and vape shops near public or private schools, daycare centers, and institutions of higher learning; 2) add definitions; and 3) provide for publication. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services]

Mike Shannon, Director of Development Services, noted that the Item resulted from Councilmember Courage's Council Consideration Request (CCR 2024-0024) titled B.R.E.A.T.H. (Building Regulations Enhancing Anti-vaping Trends Habits). Shannon provided a presentation which is attached to the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Boyd Baxter with San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Awareness, Ryan York with Rise Recovery, and Dr. Daniel Deane who was a Pediatric Pulmonologist spoke in support of the Item.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Courage commented that this was a very important issue, and it was the City's duty to protect young people from the proliferation of addictive substances such as vaping. He was pleased that vaping had already been included in the Smoking Ordinance and lauded this step to keep vape shops away from schools.

Councilmember Castillo commended Councilmember Courage for taking the initiative to keep vape shops away from schools and children.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Ryan York for his personal testimony.

Councilmember Kaur highlighted the work of Rise Recovery.

Councilmember Courage moved to Approve. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage
Absent: Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Whyte

12. 2025--05-08-0345

Ordinance approving the imposition of a municipal utility service lien for delinquent water and wastewater utility bills and delegating authority to administer and impose the lien to the San Antonio Water System Board of Trustees and President/CEO; approving an amendment to Chapter 34 of the City Code to reflect the same; and amending Chapter 6 of the City Code to allow automatic accrual of program points to the Proactive Apartment Inspection Program if water service is disconnected at apartments on a master meter. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services]

Councilmember Alderete Gavito pulled the Item from the Consent Agenda for clarification. No presentation was made, however, Director of Development Services Mike Shannon clarified that the automatic points in the Proactive Apartment Inspection Program would be for water disconnection due to nonpayment.

Councilmembers McKee-Rodriguez and Alderete Gavito spoke in support of the Item noting it was the result of their jointly authored Council Consideration Request (CCR 2024-0022) titled Preventive Measures to Eliminate Water Disconnections for Apartment Residents in Good Standing. Their concern was that landlords were collecting money from tenants and then not paying the water bills resulting in disconnections. They maintained that the Ordinance would allow SAWS to punish the landlords rather than the tenants.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage
Absent: Pelaez, Whyte

Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments

13. Approving the appointment of Christopher Mammen (District 1) to the Historic and Design Review Commission for a term of office to expire on May 31, 2025. [Debbie Racca-Sittre,

City Clerk]

Councilmember Kaur highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

Miscellaneous

14. 2025--05-08-0025R

Resolution 1) requesting financial assistance for the San Antonio Water System in the amount of \$32,000,000 from the Texas Water Development Board under its State Water Implementation Fund for Texas Program; 2) authorizing the System's Co-Financial Advisors, Bond Counsel, and Engineers to coordinate the submission of the application to the Texas Water Development Board for funding from its State Water Implementation Fund for Texas Program; and 3) approving related matters. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief of Financial and Administrative Services; Troy Elliott, Chief Financial Officer]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

15. 2025--05-08-0026R

Resolution establishing the City's intention to reimburse itself, in an amount not to exceed \$32,000,000, for the prior lawful expenditure of funds of the San Antonio Water System relating to constructing various capital infrastructure improvements to the City's combined water and wastewater system. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief of Financial and Administrative Services; Troy Elliott, Chief Financial Officer]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

16. 2025--05-08-0346

Ordinance amending the City of San Antonio Major Thoroughfare Plan, a component of the City of San Antonio Master Plan, within the southern sector of the City of San Antonio by naming the East / West Connector from IH 35 to IH 37 to "South Texas Parkway";

reclassifying a section from IH 35S to SH 16 from an “Enhanced Secondary Arterial 120’-142’” to “Freeway 250’-500’”; creating a "Freeway" alignment from SH 16 along Lone Star Pass to Blue Wing Road; reclassifying a section along Blue Wing Road to IH 37 from a “Super Arterial Type A 200’-250’” to “Freeway 250’-500’”; and reclassifying the Kelly Parkway / Mauermann alignment from south of Loop 410 to Pleasanton Road from a “Super Arterial Type A 200’-250’” to a “Secondary Arterial Type A 86’” and moving the alignment to follow Mauermann Road to Pleasanton Road, within Council Districts 3 and 4. Staff and Planning Commission recommend Approval. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Director, Transportation Department]

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rebecca Viagran, Stephanie Reyes, Liana Puente, and Brett Finley spoke in support of the Item.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Viagran highlighted her support for the Item and submitted letters of support from the South Texas Business Partnership and the San Antonio Mobility Coalition, Inc. Councilmember Rocha Garcia highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

17. 2025--05-08-0347

Ordinance creating the Multimodal Transportation Commission to provide input and recommendations to City Council on policies and other issues affecting vulnerable road users. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Director, Transportation Department]

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Pelaez

City Manager's Report

18. City Manager's Report

City Manager Erik Walsh noted that this was Public Service Recognition Week, and he thanked all 13,000 employees for their work especially the work of 3-1-1 Customer Service and other front line staff.

City Manager Walsh noted that Fiesta 2025 had just wrapped up and thanked the departments for their work in keeping Fiesta safe and clean. He showed a video spotlighting the work of Deborah Liu, Metro Health Inspector, who checked the food booths, and Marc Almodovar with the Public Works Street Marking Operations Division, who marked the streets for the parades.

Executive Session

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 12:13 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 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 litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Legal issues related to emergency preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Sec. 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 2:07 p.m. and announced that no official action had been taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**