

**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 15, 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 9:17 a.m. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

**PRESENT: 11** – Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

**ABSENT:** None

**PROCEDURAL**

**1. Invocation**

The invocation was delivered by Melanie Harwood of Divine Yoga, guest of Councilmember Kaur, Council District 1.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Nirenberg led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of minutes for the City Council meetings of November 21, 2024 (Corrected A Session); April 30, 2025; and May 1, 2025.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024, April 30, 2025, and May 1, 2025, City Council meetings. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

### **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed May 17 through 24, 2025 to be Police Week and May 24, 2025, to be Peace Officer's Memorial Day and invited Chief of the San Antonio Police Department, William McManus to speak.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed May 15, 2025, to be San Antonio Area Public Schools Education Foundation Day and recognized representatives to speak.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed May 12 through 18, 2025 to be National Salvation Army Week.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed the month of May to be Bike Month.

Councilmember Viagran recognized students from East Central Independent School District who won the 7th Annual Alamo City Electrathon known as ACE Race hosted by the South Texas Foundation.

Councilmember Kaur honored the passing of Disability Advisory Committee member Sonny Valdez who was an advocate for the blind.

### **ITEM FOR STAFF BRIEFING**

4. Briefing on the 89th State Legislative Session. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Sally Basurto, Director of Government Affairs, presented an update on the legislative session.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Councilmember Pelaez, Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR), was pleased that House Bill (HB) 19 was expected to die in committee. He thanked Basurto for opposing any bill that would erode the City of San Antonio's authority as a Home Rule City. Councilmember Pelaez commented on the Bill that would prohibit Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in local governments and asked if the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, Elderly, LGBTQ or Disability would be dissolved. City Attorney Andy Segovia did not believe boards and commissions

would be impacted and suggested that compliance activity in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Department (DEIA) would continue as those were integral to City operations. First Assistant City Attorney Elizabeth Provencio explained that the current bill was narrow and specifically prohibited activities that were already prohibited by other; the City's DEIA office currently did not perform those activities. However, Provencio noted that new activities and training might need legal review.

Councilmember Pelaez clarified that employment law was not impacted and police officers and other staff could still be trained to work with different cultural communities.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito was pleased that HB 19 was not going further and spoke in support of the Dangerous Dogs Bills as well as other bills that supported the City of San Antonio agenda.

Councilmember Whyte requested an update on Senate Bill (SB) 32 and HB 9 which would increase property tax exemptions on business inventory which the City had registered in opposition. Basurto reported that HB 9 was amended in committee to lower the exemption proposed from \$250,000 to \$150,000; even with the reduction, this would be a \$7 million loss to the City, so the City was still registered as opposed. Councilmember Whyte understood the fiscal impact, however, because it would benefit small businesses, he recommended supporting the bill and did not think staff should make the decision that this was a bill to oppose. Councilmember Whyte asked his council colleagues to weigh-in on HB 9.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked about the Horse-Drawn Carriage Bill by Lujan (HB 5356) and asked when it would be heard. Basurto stated that the bill was on the House Floor Calendar for today but at the bottom of the agenda so it would be very late. Councilmember Rocha Garcia noted that HB 6 relating to discipline in public schools negatively impacted families of children with mental health issues. Basurto was not familiar with HB 6 and indicated that she would seek further information on the bill.

Councilmember Kaur noticed that many of the housing bills that were previously being tracked were not on the report including SB 208 and SB 234. Basurto explained that these were left pending in committee and had essentially run out of time because they were not already on the Senate floor at the present time. Councilmember Kaur requested an update on any pending housing bills and supported more State assistance for housing.

Councilmember Kaur questioned how much HB 9 would really help small businesses versus large businesses. Assistant City Manager, Jeff Coyle, stated that the bill was an exemption on business inventory that produced income and was for all businesses with no size limit. Councilmember Kaur suggested that the exemption was too broad for her support, and she would only support if it was targeting small businesses under a certain revenue size.

Councilmember Courage agreed that HB 9 needed to be more targeted to small businesses. He noted that people usually did not think about personal property when discussing taxes and suggested that the focus of tax breaks needed to be on shelter for residents rather than

businesses. Therefore, he opposed HB 9.

Councilmember Whyte suggested that there should have been a City Council conversation before registering opposition to HB 9 so that the City Council could have affected the content of the bill. Councilmember Whyte argued that the City did not have a revenue problem but rather a spending problem. He supported leaving money in the pockets of businesses so they could be more prosperous which was what HB 9 was trying to accomplish.

City Manager Erik Walsh explained that designing the Legislative Agenda included a summarization of the City's position in advance of bills being filed and included opposition to legislation that impacted the City's interest including its revenues which was a broad statement. City Manager Walsh added that the property tax relief position was specific to residents and excluded businesses but if the City Council would like to add business tax relief to the agenda, they could do so in the next policy discussion.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked City Manager Walsh for his summary and noted that the City Council was a consensus body, and all members of the City Council should support the decisions of the body including the policy direction since the goal was to benefit the community as a whole. Mayor Nirenberg noted that one District's "Spending Problem" was another District's "Homeless problem" or need for services. Mayor Nirenberg cautioned against creating policy as a "sound bite."

The Item was for briefing only, so no action was taken.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Capital Improvements**

#### **5. 2025-05-15-0349**

Ordinance approving a Funding Agreement between the City of San Antonio and Kelly Heritage Learning Center (Journey of Flight, Inc) in the amount of \$500,000 for design services for the Airman Heritage Museum and Aerospace Learning Center. Funding is from Certificates of Obligation included in the FY 2025 Capital Budget. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia highlighted her support for the Item.

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

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

### **Acquisition, Sale or Lease of Real Property**

**6. 2025-05-15-0350**

Ordinance renewing and amending a restaurant lease agreement with ATR Foods, LLC dba Alfredo's Gelato Pizza Cannoli & Caffé located at 531 Navarro Street for a five-year term. Revenue generated in the amount of \$118,638 will be deposited into the Parking Operating and Maintenance Fund. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Jorge A. Perez, Director, Building and Equipment Services]

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

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

**Grant Applications and Awards**

**7. 2025-05-15-0351**

Ordinance authorizing the submission of a grant application and acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$2,174,657, including the acceptance of additional grant funds up to 20% of the grant, from the Office of National Drug Control Policy for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Grant; and establishing a budget and personnel complement of 16 positions for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William McManus, Police Chief]

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

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

**City Code Amendments**

**8. 2025-05-15-0352**

Ordinance amending Chapter 16 Licenses and Business Regulations for Used Automotive Parts Recyclers and Metal Recycling Entities. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services]

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Vice President of Pick N Pull, Lloyd Welty, Marvin Marwan Hassanieh, Art Ramos, Jeff Vexler with Monterrey Iron, Commander of VFW Post 4700 Mike Molina, Alexander Sanders with All Star Recycling, Curtis Morehead with CHM Recycling, Peter Kane, Manuel Alanzo, and Cheyenne Reneon spoke in support of the Item.

Debra Ponce, Community and Climate Justice Organizer spoke in opposition to the Item.

**DISCUSSION:**

Councilmember Castillo highlighted her support of the Item which was approved on the Consent Agenda. She thanked the industry, community, and members of the Task Force, as well as the public who came to speak at the meeting for their work on the new City Code updates which were intended to keep residents safe.

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

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

### **Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments**

9. Approving the appointment of Katherine (Kathy Ren) Torres (District 3) to the Disability Access Advisory Committee for a term of office commencing June 1, 2025 and expiring May 31, 2027. [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

Councilmember Viagran highlighted her support for the Item.

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

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

### **Miscellaneous**

10. **2025-05-15-0353**  
Ordinance approving the assignment of rights, title, and interest of the professional services agreement for On-Call Environmental Remediation Services for the San Antonio International Airport and Stinson Municipal Airport from The Cleaning Guys, LLC dba CG Environmental to EnviroServe Inc. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

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

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

11. **2025-05-15-0354**  
Ordinance approving a contract for Election Services with the Bexar County Elections Administrator for the June 7, 2025, Runoff Election. [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

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

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

**12. 2025-05-15-0027R**

Resolution by the City Council of the City of San Antonio, Texas establishing the City's intention to reimburse itself for the prior lawful expenditure of funds from the proceeds of one or more series of tax-exempt or taxable obligations to be issued by the City for authorized purposes and as further designated by series and federal tax treatment; authorizing other related matters; and providing an effective date. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief of Financial and Administrative Services; Troy Elliott, Chief Financial Officer]

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

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

**13. 2025-05-15-0355**

Ordinance terminating the City's prior creation of Project Financing Zone Number One, City of San Antonio, Texas and other related items. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief of Financial and Administrative Services; Troy Elliott, Chief Financial Officer]

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

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

**14. 2025-05-15-0356**

Ordinance designating a certain geographic area in the City of San Antonio as "Project Financing Zone Number Two City of San Antonio, Texas" and providing an expiration date for the zone. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief of Financial and Administrative Services; Troy Elliott, Chief Financial Officer]

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

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

**Absent:** Viagran, Pelaez

**15. 2025-05-15-0357**

Ordinance approving the execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of San Antonio and VIA Metropolitan Transit establishing a cooperative partnership to deliver the East/West (E/W) "Silver Line" Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) Corridor Project. [John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Director, Transportation Department]

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

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

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

**16. 2025-05-15-0358**

Ordinance amending the FY 2025 Annual Operating and Capital Budget based on actual revenues and expenditures for the first six months of FY 2025 (October 2024 to March 2025) and projections for the remaining six months of FY 2025 (April 2025 to September 2025) in the General Fund and Restricted Funds. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Management and Budget]

Councilmember Alderete Gavito requested that the Item be pulled for Individual Consideration but did not request a presentation; she wanted a full understanding of the cuts being recommended including reductions to the Department of Human Services, Parks, Arts, and Public Works. Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Justina Tate stated that the adjustments would align spending with the departments' projections and no services would be impacted. Councilmember Alderete Gavito wanted to ensure there were not service reductions to homeless services.

Councilmember Whyte moved to Approve. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Viagran, Pelaez

**City Manager's Report**

**17. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Erik Walsh showed a video of mothers and daughters working together at the City of San Antonio Parks Trails System in honor of Mother's Day.

**Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**Approved**

**Ron Nirenberg**  
**Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre**  
**City Clerk**

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