

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



**Meeting Minutes  
Public Comment 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

**Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

**5:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers**

The City Council convened the Public Comment Session in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 5:08 PM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call with the following Council Members present:

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

**ABSENT: 1** - Cabello Havrda

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Public Hearings on the City's 2024 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the FY 2025 Proposed Budget and the FY 2025 Proposed Budget. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Office of Management and Budget]

Mayor Nirenberg opened the Public Hearing Meeting at 5:03 p.m. and stated that this was the first

combined Budget Public Hearing and First Tax Rate Public Hearing to be conducted by the City Council in connection with the adoption of the City's FY 2025 Proposed Budget and setting of the City's tax rate for Tax Year 2024. Mayor Nirenberg called on individuals signed up to speak on the Item.

Chris Reyes with the AFSCME supported the proposed 3% increase for employee compensation but asked that the City Council consider a 4% increase and compression of healthcare premiums.

Antonio Diaz recommended more affordable housing in the downtown area and opposed the loss of affordable housing at the Soap Works Apartments as proposed in the new Ballpark Project.

There being no further comments, Mayor Nirenberg closed the Public Hearing at 5:08 p.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

2. Public Comment is your opportunity to address your City of San Antonio elected officials directly about issues that are important to you and your community. To sign up to speak visit [www.saspeakup.com](http://www.saspeakup.com). Click on meetings and events and select the meeting you'd like to participate in. Sign up to speak or submit a written comment. NOTE: Speaker registration closes 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Members of the public are given up to three minutes to speak, and groups are given up to nine minutes.

Emily Garza and John Bachman spoke to their concerns with the Animal Care Services Department euthanization of animals and the need for additional spay and neuter and other animal services.

Antonio Diaz, Brooklyn Ramos, Maureen Galindo, and Gerard Toliver spoke to their concerns of the new Ballpark Project and displacement of residents at the Soap Factory Apartments. They spoke to the need for more affordable housing in the City but specifically in the Downtown District where they currently lived and worked.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

**Approved**

**Ron Nirenberg  
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre  
City Clerk**