

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council A Session**
City Hall Complex
San Antonio, Texas 78205

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg
Mario Bravo, 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 |
Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8 | John Courage, Dist. 9
Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

Thursday, February 2, 2023

9:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 9:03 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: 10 – Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

PROCEDURAL

1. Invocation

The invocation was delivered by Pastor David Cameron of the The Refuge Church, guest of Councilmember Viagran, Council District 3

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nirenberg led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mayor Nirenberg invited Deborah Omowale Jarmon, Director of the San Antonio African American Community Archives and Museum, to speak in honor of Black History Month. Monica Love sang the Black National Anthem.

Councilmember Viagran read a proclamation in honor of the 74th annual San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo and invited ambassadors of the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo to kickoff the 2023 rodeo season.

Councilmember Bravo recognized the Monte Vista Historic Homeowner's Association. Mayor Nirenberg provided a distinguished congratulations on the celebration of 50 years of the historical association.

Councilmember Pelaez recognized Dr. Ralph Defronzo, Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Diabetes Division at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) and the Deputy Director of the Texas Diabetes Institute, who had provided significant contributions to diabetes science. Mayor Nirenberg read a citation congratulating Dr. Defronzo for winning the 2023 Prince Mahidol Award.

Councilmember Castillo recognized the work of John William Gauna Jr. who left the Veteran's Advisory Commission to work for the Department of Human Services.

Councilmember Perry recognized retired Army Lt. Col Hazel Zachar who was celebrating her 101st birthday.

ACTION ITEMS FOR STAFF BRIEFING

2023-02-02-0043

3. Ordinance approving the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) award recommendations for Non-Profit Social Services (Phase II), Senior Services, Youth Services and Mental Health Services combined competitive solicitation in the amount of \$40,150,000; and authorizing the negotiation and execution of contracts and amendments. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services & Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude Jacob, Director, Health]

City Manager Erik Walsh noted that the staff recommendation had changed since the B session last week and now staff recommended the return of the remaining \$3.7 million in unallocated funding to the Council Committees for discussion and recommendations related to potential reprogramming.

Jessica Dovalina, Assistant Department of Human Services (DHS) Director, provided an overview of the Item including background on the ARPA Spending Framework Plan, Request for Proposals (RFP) process, scoring criteria, evaluation panel, and timeline. Dovalina outlined the target service areas, provided a chart of funding by council district, listed the funding recommendations for non-profit social services, youth services and senior services.

Jessie Higgins, Chief Mental Health Officer, provided an overview of the Mental Health Grant recommendations. Higgins outlined the performance measures and a dashboard that would track the progress of the grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Angela White, Child Advocates of San Antonio; Ada Saenz, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Antonio; Asia Ciaravino, President and CEO of the Children's Shelter; Lauren Ferrero, Board Chair of the Children's Bereavement Center of San Antonio; Lea Rosenauer, President and CEO of Girls, Inc; Dawn White-Fosdick, President and CEO of Christian Assistance Ministries; Ashley O'Leary, representing Corazon Ministries; Evita Morin, CEO of Rise Recovery; Robert Salcido, Executive Director (ED) of Pride Center San Antonio; Cliff Zintgraff, Chief Learning Officer for San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology; Bill Neely, San Antonio Community Resource Directory; Bennie Price and Rose Williams ED with Big Momma's Safe House; Sandra Morales, ED House of Neighborly Service; Leonard Rodriguez, Senior Director and Edward Benavides, Vice President Adult Behavioral Health at The Center for Health Care Services; Peggy Eighmy with UTSA Bexar County Fostering Educational Success; Mercedes Bristol, ED Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren; Mario Obledo, Jr. Chief Government & Public Affairs Officer with San Antonio Food Bank; Brenda Schmachtenberger, ED San Antonio Oasis; Ginny Funk, Director of Programs Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders; Abigail Moore, ED of the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Awareness; and Cynthia Watson, President & CEO of the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind; spoke in support of the Item and funding for their agencies.

Kayla Carter, Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the non-profit For Her; Charles Sattiewwhite with San Antonio Rising Stars; Kim Abernethy, CEO of Child Safe; Denise Barkhurst, President and CEO of Big Brothers & Big Sisters; Dr. Amanda Villareal, Ride Connect San Antonio requested funding for their agencies as they were not included in the staff recommendations.

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item, particularly funding for Pride Center San Antonio.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg asked City Manager Walsh to restate the staff recommendation. City Manager Walsh stated that the recommendation was to award 59 agencies \$36,450,000; with the remaining \$3,700,000 unallocated funding returned to the City Council Committees for reevaluation of priorities. Mayor Nirenberg recommended starting preliminary evaluation with the Governance Committee.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda made the main motion to approve the staff recommendation except for funding for Child Advocates San Antonio, Communities in Schools, and Older Adults Technology Services due to recusals.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia spoke in support of the recommendations and mentioned that the San Antonio Housing Trust had a plan for upstream services particularly for youth aging out of

foster care. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked a youth to speak about her experience with the Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Program.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda spoke in support of the program and thanked everyone who came to speak and commented that funding for Mental Health was recommended by the Public Safety Committee which she chaired. She appreciated the agencies that came to speak and the work of all of the non-profits, even those not being recommended, noting that the number of applications received was overwhelming which indicated the immense need for services. Councilmember Cabello Havrda praised the work assisting youth aging out of foster care.

Councilmember Pelaez noted that some agencies were excluded because of the category which they applied for or because they included capital funding requests. Assistant City Manager Houston stated that only the non-profit social services category included funding for non-professional financial hardship and infrastructure needs. Councilmember Pelaez recommended that agencies who did not receive funding should be provided a debrief so they could improve their proposals to be successful later.

Councilmember Pelaez recommended making a more intentional effort to prioritize and fund domestic violence. City Manager Walsh stated that Councilmembers could make changes on the dais, but added that staff followed the process and priorities outlined. City Manager Walsh agreed that domestic violence was an important issue to address.

Councilmember Pelaez moved to reduce funding for University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), and Communities in Schools (CIS) each by \$100,000 to fund \$150,000 each to For Her and Child Safe. The amendment was seconded by Perry.

Councilmember Viagran stated that although she supported For Her and Child Safe she recommended going back to the Council Committees or B Session to discuss priorities. Councilmember Viagran supported moving forward with the staff recommendation now.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda expressed concern that removing \$100,000 from each of the three agencies would adversely impact their services. Councilmember Cabello Havrda noted that domestic violence had received a prior ARPA allocation, though she acknowledged that it was not enough. She invited Child Safe CEO Kim Abernethy to speak. Abernethy stated that she appreciated Councilmember Pelaez' support but did not want to take money from other agencies.

Councilmember Courage stated that even though he supported funding for Child Safe, he did not support reducing funding for Communities in Schools.

Councilmember Castillo thanked staff for their work on taking City Council direction to get us to this point. She appreciated the efforts of all the agencies who had submitted proposals as they all did important work. Councilmember Castillo supported funding to reduce domestic violence and noted that funding the services could help in those efforts so she did not support Councilmember Pelaez' motion and further recommended looking at the remaining funds to provide more help.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez commented that the amendment was in poor taste because it ignored the process. He supported reducing funding for UTSA and UTHSCSA to go back into the unallocated pot for additional discussion by Council Committees.

Councilmember Bravo did not support Councilmember Pelaez' amendment as it could take funding away from important programs. Councilmember Bravo noted that he supported the work of Child Safe and For Her and suggested that those organizations could be funded with remaining funds.

Councilmember Perry stated that he seconded the motion just to hear the discussion but noted that staff and agencies that submitted applications had put a great deal of effort into the process and noted the number of proposals received and large amount of funding. Councilmember Perry stated that there were always winners and losers in every process as many agencies had professional grant writers.

Councilmember Perry did not support Pelaez' motion to amend.

Councilmember Pelaez thanked Child Safe for speaking up and honored their position that they did not want the money so he asked UTSA and UTHSCSA if they would be willing to shave \$75,000 off their proposals to give to For Her. Both agencies stated that they could not make the decision for their organizations today but any reduction in funding would negatively affect their programs.

Councilmember Pelaez withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Courage noted that 50 agencies received \$21 million through the regular DHS Delegate Agency process, and this funding was for 59 agencies and almost double the funding. Councilmember Courage commented that 20% of the residents of San Antonio lived in poverty and committed to working to ending poverty and improving the lives of people in San Antonio.

Councilmember Perry commented that the process had taken a long time to get the funding out the door and asked how much total ARPA money had been received and if there was any left. City Manager Walsh stated that the City had received \$326 million and noted that there would be a discussion next week at City Council with the "3+9 Budget Report" which would include remaining ARPA funds. Councilmember Perry requested a side by side list of existing delegate agencies against the amounts those agencies were recommended today for ARPA. Woosley stated that most of the agencies proposed different programs for ARPA than the regular services they provided through the General Fund contracts.

Councilmember Castillo requested clarification on which Committees the \$3.7 million would be returned to. Staff recommended \$3.4 million to Public Safety, \$240,000 to Economic & Workforce Development (EWDC), \$72,000 to Community Health Environment and Culture (CHECC).

Mayor Nirenberg recommended that the funding discussion be returned to the Governance Committee and then back to the Committees.

Councilmember Castillo strongly recommended more funding through CHECC to ensure equity.

Councilmember Viagran thanked the agencies that spoke for attending the meeting. She supported the recommendation and for the remaining funding to go back through the Committees for a review of the framework and re-prioritization.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez supported the staff recommendation but noted that he still had concerns about equity noting that there was \$13.1 million that never went through the process before the framework was approved. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez commented that each Councilmember represented a single member district and he wanted to make sure the residents of Council District 2 would be served noting that today's presentation showed 17% of the services were targeted to Council District 2 which was positive. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez pondered how we could celebrate Black History Month and not fund black organizations adding that 40% of the rejected proposals were from Council District 2.

Councilmember Bravo spoke in support of the staff recommendations and noted that yesterday's briefing on the Violent Crime Reduction Plan included many of these services. Councilmember Bravo asked if the Governance Committee could change the allocations and recommended that the \$3.4 million stay in the Mental Health category.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported determining the appropriate Committee and requested clarification on the process to be brought before the Governance Committee. City Manager Walsh suggested that discussions would occur before next week's B session during the "3+9 Budget Report."

Councilmember Pelaez asked how the funding would be distributed and requested information on the proposed dashboard. City Manager Walsh stated that staff would provide regular updates. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez stated that a full report on ARPA expenditures would be provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Councilmember Perry requested clarification on contract negotiations and metrics, stressing that outcomes should be measured. Higgins provided a slide on the Mental Health Service Plan equitable outcomes and noted that progress would be checked through contract monitoring, desk reviews and audits. Councilmember Perry reminded the agencies that this was one-time funding for two years.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez clarified that the remaining funding would go back to the Governance Committee and work would occur in Committee noting that Council Districts 1, 2, 3, and 5 were not represented on the Governance Committee. City Manager Walsh commented that City Council could provide direction next week in B Session.

Mayor Nirenberg closed the discussion by reminding everyone that the American Rescue Plan Act was the first bipartisan Federal legislation to help communities recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mayor Nirenberg commented that he had attended an event hosted by the organization For Her and the program deserved a second look and would have an opportunity with the \$3.7 million. However, Mayor Nirenberg added that the list of needs was very long and there were never enough resources to match the community need. Mayor Nirenberg called on the community

to help with volunteer and philanthropic resources to help the agencies as well as government funding.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve the main motion Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry
No: Pelaez

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve for Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) Councilmember McKee- Rodriguez seconded the motion The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry
Recuse: Viagran

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve for Communities in Schools (CIS) Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry
Recuse: Rocha Garcia

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve for Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry
Recuse: Pelaez

CONSENT AGENDA

Purchase of Services, Supplies and Equipment

4. 2023-02-02-0044

Ordinance approving a contract with Caldwell Country Chevrolet, LLC, to provide nine replacement Police Pursuit Chevrolet Tahoe patrol vehicles for the San Antonio Police Department for a total cost of \$447,260. Funding is from the FY 2023 Equipment Renewal and Replacement Fund budget. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember

Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

5. 2023-02-02-0045

Ordinance approving a contract with Cox Subscriptions, Inc., to provide periodical subscriptions for the San Antonio Public Library, beginning upon award and ending November 30, 2025, with two additional, one-year renewal options, for an estimated annual cost of \$165,000 included in the respective department's FY 2023 Adopted Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

Acquisition, Sale or Lease of Real Property

6. 2023-02-02-0046

Ordinance approving a ten-year lease agreement with Basel Investments, Ltd., at 9179 Grissom Road for use by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District as a Women, Infants & Children Clinic, for the initial annual rental amount of \$138,612. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Director, Center City Development & Operations]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda highlighted her support for the Item.

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments

A. Approving the following Board, Commission and Committee appointments for the remainder of an unexpired term of office to expire May 31, 2023 or for the remainder of a term as indicated below [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk] Approving the reappointment of Francine Prosser-Johnson (City Manager) to the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission for the remainder of a term of office to expire on December 19, 2025 B. Approving the appointment of Maria Fernanda Cardenas (District 4) to the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

Councilmember Rocha Garcia highlighted her support for the appointment of Maria Fernanda

Cardenas to the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

Miscellaneous

8. 2023-02-02-0047

Ordinance approving the settlement of a lawsuit styled City of San Antonio v. Time Warner Cable Texas, LLC d/b/a Spectrum and Charter Communications, Case No. 5:17-CV-01232-JKP, in the United States District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. [Andy Segovia, City Attorney]

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

9. 2023-02-02-0048

Ordinance approving the issuance by the Arizona Industrial Development Authority of its tax-exempt and/or taxable revenue bonds (the "Bonds") allocable to the San Antonio Hospital Acquisition Project for purposes of Section 147 (f) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Borrower will pay the City an administrative fee of \$280,000 upon the adoption of the requested Ordinance which will be deposited into the General Fund. [Ben Gorzell, Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer].

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

10. 2023-02-02-0049

Ordinance approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of San Antonio and the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation to support the Military Spouse Fellowship Program (MSFP) for an amount not to exceed \$150,000. Funding is from the FY 2023 General Fund Budget. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Juan Ayala, Director, Military and Veteran Affairs]

Director of Office of Military Affairs, Major General Juan Ayala provided an overview of the Hiring our Heroes program that was focused on hiring military spouses. Ayala stated that the program had received national recognition and was of strategic importance to San Antonio.

Councilmember Perry, himself a retired Air Force Colonel, noted that San Antonio was Military City USA and noted his support of the Item.

Councilmembers Cabello Havrda, Rocha Garcia, Courage, and Viagran spoke in support of the Item.

Lori Stinson, Vice President, Military Affairs and Leadership Development with the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the Item.

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

11. 2023-02-02-0050

Ordinance approving an Omnibus Amendment agreement to the Contract for the Sale of Land for Private Redevelopment and Assignment Agreement with Franklin Development Properties, Ltd and the San Antonio Housing Trust Public Facility Corporation to provide additional improvements for the Greenline North Affordable Housing Project, and increased funding for the project for a total up to \$796,876.86. Funding in the amount of \$744,835.07 is from the 2017 General Obligation Bond and \$52,041.79 will be appropriated from the FY 2023 Tree Canopy Preservation and Mitigation Fund. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Director, Neighborhood & Housing Services Department]

Councilmember Viagran highlighted her support for the Item.

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

12. 2023-02-02-0051

Ordinance approving a Strategic Partnership Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the Landon Ridge Special Improvement District, generally located west of Potranco Road and Stevens Parkway, in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Bridgett White, Director, Planning]

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

13. 2023-02-02-0052

Ordinance approving an Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the Texas Department of Public Safety and the San Antonio Police Department for reimbursement of up to \$742,694 for services in connection with the Texas Anti-Gang Program and authorizing a personnel complement of one position. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

14. 2023-02-02-0053

Ordinance approving an Advance Funding Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) under which the City pays TxDOT in an amount not to exceed \$132,000 for the highway guide sign replacement along US 90 and SH 151 with new “Historic Old Hwy 90” signage. Funding is from the FY 2023 City Council District 6 Operating Budget. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda highlighted her support for the Item.

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

15. 2023-02-02-0054

Ordinance amending the City Council Project Fund election year moratorium guidelines. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council]

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

City Manager's Report

16. City Manager's Report

City Manager Erik Walsh provided an update on the Point in Time Homeless Count conducted by homeless serving agencies and provided clarification on the role of warming centers to serve

residents impacted by power outages but homeless individuals were always served by the non-profit partners. City Manager Walsh commented that Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) had returned to work. City Manager Walsh played an Employee Spotlight Video featuring David Whitt, Wellness Manager.

Councilmember Courage commented that the city helped transport people to the shelters. City Manager Walsh added that we could not force people to go. Councilmember Bravo requested data on the utilization of warming centers. City Manager Walsh reported that only 12-15 people went to the warming centers in December 2022. Councilmember Bravo expressed concern that there were so many residents that experienced power outages this week and we should have opened more warming centers to err on the side of making something available and not be used versus not providing necessary services.

Mayor Nirenberg requested assurance that anyone who needed and wanted shelter could receive it.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**