

City of San Antonio



Minutes Governance Committee 2021 – 2023 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Chair
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6
Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8 | John Courage, Dist. 9

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

10:00 AM

City Hall Complex

The Governance Committee convened a regular meeting in City Hall at 10:01 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Ron Nirenberg, *Mayor, Chair*
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*
Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*
Manny Pelaez, *Member*
John Courage, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from January 25, 2023.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023 Governance Committee meeting. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Courage
Absent: Pelaez

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. **Briefing and possible action on program balances from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).** [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager]

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the Item and Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez who

provided an overview of the remaining fund balances including \$3.7 million from the competitive process for mental health, youth, and seniors; and \$3.9 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) interest income and program balances.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez recommended that the \$3.7 million be returned to the respective committees that had approved the previous allocations as follows: Community Health Environment & Culture Committee (CHECC) \$72,661 remaining funding for Senior Services category; Economic & Workforce Development Committee (EWDC) \$240,836 remaining funding for Youth Services; and Public Safety Committee (PSC) \$3,426,244 remaining funding for Mental Health.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez recommended that \$2.4 million of the \$3.9 million be allocated to non-profit social services agencies with strong applications that were not awarded funding due to lack of funds in the category and she provided a list of nine agencies that did not receive funding at 50% of their budget request and \$1.4 million for COVID-19 Construction Grants for Small Businesses which would be included in the current Request for Proposals (RFP).

Mayor Nirenberg read a letter provided by Councilmember Castillo which supported the staff recommendation and encouraged funding to decrease homelessness, gang violence and gang prevention.

Mayor Nirenberg asked about the methodology behind the split of funding between the non-profits and the construction grants. City Manager Walsh explained that staff considered the strong applications first with the remaining \$1.4 million to be added to the construction grants because of the high demand by City Council for more money for small businesses impacted by city construction. Mayor Nirenberg pondered whether all of the funding should go back through committee. City Manager Walsh noted that the staff recommendation would get the funds out in the community faster.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia commented that some organizations had thought they submitted their application but were confused by the procurement system, particularly Clarity Child Guidance. Jessica Dovalina, Assistant Director of Human Services, stated that the agency saved their application in the system but did not submit it so they had missed the deadline. City Manager Walsh clarified that the City Council could recommend funding for Clarity Child Guidance but staff could not.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked whether the City already funded the San Antonio Sports Foundation. Dovalina stated that the agency was not currently funded. Deputy City Manager Villagomez clarified that the recommendations were based on agencies who scored 70 or above and had not received funding for any program under the ARPA RFP.

Councilmember Courage expressed concern that Clarity Child Guidance misunderstood the system, and suggested an automatic notification that they had saved their application but had not submitted it, and recommended that the evaluation panel review Clarity Child Guidance's proposal and score it. Deputy City Manager Villagomez explained that the save button was intended to allow them to go back and work on their application at a later date. City Manager

Walsh did not recommend setting a precedent to accept late proposals. Councilmember Courage suggested that additional funding might be available later and Clarity Child Guidance could be considered.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda agreed with the staff recommendation but suggested sending the \$2.4 million back to the committee that was in charge of the money in the first place.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda commented that Clarity Child Guidance had received notification that they were not recommended which was confusing because if they did not apply, they should not have received a notice. Deputy Chief Financial Officer Troy Elliot stated that two to three more agencies saved their applications but did not submit them.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if any of the agencies had been notified regarding the recommended 50% funding and whether there were agencies that could not implement their program with only half of the requested funding. Deputy City Manager Villagomez explained that most agencies did not receive 100% of their request in the RFP original allocation and this could be handled with negotiations.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if a new competitive process would be re-opened after the committee review. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that a decision would be made at the committee level and brought back to City Council.

Councilmember Courage expressed concern that it would be difficult to break the \$2.4 million into the various committees.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested a list of agencies that had saved their applications in the system but did not submit and suggested that smaller agencies might not have the resources or staff to write grants. Elliott explained that the applicant received a pop up warning notice in the system when a user saved an application letting them know they still needed to submit. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that in addition to the pre-submittal conference two technical assistance workshops were held.

Councilmember Pelaez commented that the committees, with the exception of PSC, had small amounts of money. Deputy City Manager Villagomez explained that the original ARPA methodology allocated 72% of the funds for Mental Health and that was the largest bucket of remaining unallocated funding.

Councilmember Pelaez moved to approve the staff recommendation that \$3.7 million in remaining ARPA funding be returned to the committees but that CHECC would consider both Senior and Youth funding. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez clarified that under Councilmember Pelaez' motion, CHECC would consider a total of \$313,497 broken down as \$72,661 for the Senior Services category and \$240,836 for the Youth Services category; PSC would consider the remaining \$3,426,244 in funding for the Mental Health category.

Mayor Nirenberg opened discussion on grants to small businesses impacted by City construction. Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve the staff's recommendation that \$1.4 million be

allocated for grants to small businesses impacted by City construction. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by all present.

Mayor Nirenberg opened discussion on the \$2.4 million that staff had recommended to be allocated to the nine non-profit social services agencies that had submitted strong applications but were not awarded funding due to lack of funds in the category.

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the staff recommendation for the \$2.4 million. This motion did not receive a second and fell to the floor.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda recommended that the \$2.4 million go back to the respective committees. Deputy City Manager Villagomez clarified that most of the funding was interest income and was not previously allocated by committees. Councilmember Cabello Havrda suggested that the funding could be allocated in the same percentages as the original ARPA funding.

Councilmember Pelaez did not want to have excessive committee meetings and stood by his request that any allocation for Youth Services would be handled by CHECC along with Senior Services.

Mayor Nirenberg recommend simply splitting the allocation in half with CHECC discussing the fate of \$1.2 million and PSC \$1.2 million. City Manager Walsh stated that this action would cause staff to close the current solicitation and a new RFP would need to be released.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked the Governance Committee and staff for their work.

Councilmember Pelaez moved to Approve allocating \$3.7 million to CHECC and PSC with \$240,00 going to CHECC for youth services. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve allocating \$1.49 million for construction grants. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve allocating \$2.4 million to CHECC and PSC with 50% of that amount to each. Councilmember Pelaez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

APPROVED

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor

Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk