

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council B 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

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 2:01 PM. 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

ABSENT: None

ITEMS

1. Consideration of applicants and selection of up to three candidates to interview to temporarily fill the City Council District 7 office. [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre provided an overview of the application process to fill the vacancy left when Councilmember Sandoval resigned in January 2023. Mayor Nirenberg asked each applicant to make an opening statement. The following applicants were interviewed: David Avila, Maria del Rosario Castro, Delia Guajardo, and Sean Murphy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:14 PM to deliberate and 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 relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Deliberate and evaluate the applicants for the District 7 City Councilmember and discuss legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (personnel matters) and Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 3:31 PM and announced that no official action had been taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to select Maria del Rosario “Rosie” Castro for interview at tomorrow’s A Session to fill the Council District 7 City Council vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Pelaez

- 2. Pre-Solicitation Briefing for FY 2024 – FY 2025 Human Services Consolidated Funding Process. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the Item and Director of the Department of Human Services Department, Melody Woosley, who provided a background on the Consolidated Funding Process noting that the City began funding non-profits in 1979 with the biennial process beginning in 2005 with a combination of grants and General Funds to support human services reflecting City Council Policy direction.

Woosley provided a timeline for the Request for Proposals (RFP) process that would align with the FY 2024 Budget cycle and be developed with an equity-based approach. Woosley recommended continuation of the FY 2022-2023 funding priorities with \$9.3 million designated for

homelessness and youth. Woosley provided an overview of the RFP outreach process, stakeholder input, technical assistance to applicants, scoring, and evaluation.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg opened the discussion by asking for a review of the designated funding. Woosley reported that the FY 2024 proposed Budget included \$9.6 million which was designated with the remaining \$14.5 million to be part of the competitive process for a total investment of \$24.1 million. Assistant City Manager Houston further described the history of designated funding to ensure continuity of services.

Mayor Nirenberg requested a review of how the Delegate Agency funding complemented other recent funding such as American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Councilmember Courage requested a report on the non-profits that applied under the current cycle but did not receive funding and the amount the non-profits requested. Councilmember Courage stated that his priorities included transportation services for Seniors. Woosley stated that transportation was provided using ARPA Funding but not regularly. Councilmember Courage suggested that since this was a two-year cycle, staff should be presenting the funding in a two-year form rather than an annual format and recommended an increase in the total allocation. City Manager Walsh suggested reallocation and review of the total funding amounts during the Budget process noting that the solicitation would not mean more money could not be added in the Budget process so long as the proposals met the City Council's objectives.

Councilmember Castillo recommended scaling up of funding for harm reduction programs related to opioid addiction and overdose prevention and supported programs transitioning persons recently released from incarceration. Councilmember Castillo asked what the expectation was for funding related to the Courtyard at Haven for Hope. Woosley stated that the funding was for maintenance such as fixing toilets/sinks and providing soap/toilet paper.

Councilmember Perry asked if the distribution of funding had changed since the last allocation was made. Woosley pointed to her presentation noting that some changes had been made to add more funding from the State in the youth category, but level funding was recommended for homelessness. Councilmember Perry requested a side-by-side comparison of last year versus this proposal and whether funding was expected to increase for homelessness city-wide. Woosley stated that the Federal ARPA funding was running out so the investment would likely decrease.

Councilmember Perry requested a report on the metrics by agency for the existing contracts. Woosley committed to providing City Council with the link to an online dashboard which included a final report for FY 2022. Councilmember Perry suggested that there needed to be more investment in Seniors. Woosley noted that the investment in Seniors was almost double. Councilmember Perry recommended 60 days instead of the 45 days for the RFP to be advertised so agencies could have more time to put together a good proposal.

Councilmember Viagran recommended a focus on women in the areas of priority such as homelessness and strengthening families. Councilmember Viagran recommended more funding for senior independence.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested information on the panel process and a link to the dashboard. Woosley stated that community members, stakeholders, end-users and members of the Boards & Commissions were utilized on the policy and draft RFP feedback panels.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez wanted to ensure that the Technical Assistance Workshops were available during the RFP process. He recognized that there was significant need and not enough money but also wanted to see more funding for foster, rescue and animal care and suggested that the zoo could provide programs at the senior centers. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez suggested that funding could supplement root causes of crime and promote community safety initiatives. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if there was an option for a one-year contract rather than the two years. Woosley stated that the two year contracts were recommended because it helped with continuity of services but if there was nonperformance or changes in program, the contracts could be terminated.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested clarification on the non-communication period. Woosley responded that the abbreviated non-communication period started the day the applications were due to the City and ended when the documents were posted on the City Manager's Proposed Budget rather than starting when the RFP was issued until budget adoption. She noted that this would allow the agencies to come to city council meetings and provide an overview of their proposals and services.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda commented that the pandemic made clear how invaluable the non-profits were in our community and recommended keeping the new investments in line with the priorities that had been recently approved by City Council under ARPA and suggested that there needed to be a review of agencies that had been funded for many years. Councilmember Cabello Havrda recommended funding for senior independence (including the Ron Darner Center), youth, foster youth housing, and harm reduction. Woosley stated that there was a Federal grant targeting homeless youth and funding was available for the Darner Center. Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested a breakdown of the services related to Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS. Councilmember Cabello Havrda also requested a breakdown of the data that informed the prioritization of populations with the highest need. Woosley stated that there was a demographer on staff and data was collected from partner organizations as well.

Councilmember Bravo supported the recommendations by Councilmember Castillo but expressed concern that there were too many homeless persons in San Antonio and the numbers seemed to be steady but not reduced suggesting that the Permanent Supportive Housing Strategy should finally begin to make a difference.

City Manager Walsh recommended a full review of all investments during the budget process so that City Council could make informed decisions and set priorities using a blend of ARPA policy with the historical investments in delegate agencies.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended development of a simplified application and a review of the process with both successful and unsuccessful applicants. City Manager Walsh concurred that providing more technical work groups was a good model which was a result of the ARPA process and commented that the staff was continually working to improve the process.

Councilmember Courage requested clear categorization of funding requirements and how the programs aligned so that City Council could better identify gaps.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 PM.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**