

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council A Session**
City Hall Complex
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, August 17, 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 9:00 AM. 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 Pastor James Amerson of St. Paul United Methodist Church, guest of Mayor Nirenberg.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nirenberg led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of minutes for the City Council meetings of August 2, 2023 and August 3, 2023.

Councilmember Courage moved to Approve the minutes of the August 2, 2023 and August 3, 2023 City Council meetings. Councilmember Rocha Garcia 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

Councilmember Cabello Havrda announced the Council District 6 back to school bash.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed August 8, 2023 to be Whataburger day in honor of the company's 73rd anniversary and invited representatives of Whataburger to speak.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed August 26, 2023 to be Women's Equality Day. Mayor Nirenberg recognized that the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920 but women were still not equal in all ways. He recognized the majority woman City Council comprised of Councilmembers Kaur, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda and Alderete Gavito and provided them an opportunity to speak.

Mayor Nirenberg recognized the State Delegation who represented the residents of San Antonio in the State Legislature. Councilmembers Pelaez, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage and Whyte thanked them for their work. Mayor Nirenberg invited members of the delegation to speak including Representatives Trey Martinez Fischer (District 116), Philip Cortez (District 117), Barbara Gervin Hawkins (District 120), Ray Lopez (District 125), Liz Campos (District 119), Steve Allison (District 121), John Lujan (District 118), and Josey Garcia (District 124).

Councilmember Castillo told the story of a homeless person named Albert Garcia who was assisted by many residents and leaders. She spoke in support of providing more services to houseless persons including permanent supportive housing.

CONSENT AGENDA

Purchase of Services, Supplies and Equipment

BUDGET WORK SESSION (Item for briefing only)

4. Staff presentation on the FY 2024 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City policies and initiatives: [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Management & Budget]

- A. Animal Care Services
- B. 311 Customer Services
- C. Good Neighbor Program and Dangerous Assessment Response Team (DART)

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the Items and stated that the three topics would be presented sequentially with discussion to occur afterward for all topics simultaneously.

Shannon Sims, Director of Animal Care Services (ACS), presented an overview of the FY 2024 Proposed Budget for ACS. Sims stated that the Proposed Budget included a 26% increase over the FY 2023 Revised Budget and included 29 new positions focusing on supporting a safe community for the people in their neighborhoods, protecting the humane treatment of pets, supporting the placement of pets for life, fostering positive connections with the community and championing a healthy and thriving workforce.

Sims stated that in FY 2023, the staffing levels allowed capacity to respond to 44% of public safety calls, however, the Proposed Budget included a three-year plan to respond to 100% of the calls by gradually increasing the number of Officers. Sims proposed \$784,000 and one new position to provide free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries for a total investment of \$2.6 million. Sims recommended an additional \$77,000 to increase access to vaccinations and microchips which would target areas high on the Equity Atlas.

Sims stated that placing the pets in permanent homes through rescues and adoptions was a priority of ACS and the Proposed Budget included \$288,000 to rescue 1,500 more animals annually as well as \$673,000 and five new positions to increase adoptions by 1,500 annually. Sims proposed educating the public on responsible pet ownership through marketing and building a community standard of care and showed a television commercial that was airing as a result of the FY 2023 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment.

Paula Stallcup, Director of 3-1-1 Customer Service Office (3-1-1), provided an overview of the department's FY 2024 Proposed Budget which included a 14% increase with three new positions for quality assurance to ensure satisfactory outcomes, advocate on behalf of residents and facilitate resolution for repeat issues. Stallcup described 3-1-1 as the first point of contact for the City which had received 875,000 calls in FY 2023 and were expected to answer 95% of those calls. She reported that 54% of the calls were requests for information with 46% for service requests which was a 27% increase over FY 2021. She added that top services requests were related to trash collection, overgrown yard, graffiti and dead or stray animals.

Stallcup stated that the department implemented an Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) Program on July 1, 2023 which allowed more calls to be handled in a quicker timeline. Stallcup described the process for servicing requests which included continuous communication to residents including a proposal to provide more descriptive case notes for the customer to better document work and efforts by the City.

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez provided an overview of the Good Neighbor Program (GNP) and Dangerous Assessment Response Team (DART) and provided statistics on the number of calls received by 9-1-1, non-emergency, and 3-1-1. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the GNP was created as a result of a tragic incident in Council District 5 where a resident lost his life to a dog attack. She stated that the program addressed chronic nuisance single residential properties up to four units across the boundaries of the City in the areas of roaming dogs/aggressive animals, code violations, disturbances and mental health.

The GNP had a goal of connecting residents to mental health, home repair, senior and youth services as well as mediation services along with enforcement. Deputy City Manager Villagomez provided a heat map analysis of the 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 calls which indicated 707 properties were responsible for 15,888 calls during the 90 day period. The Good Neighbor City Taskforce included the following departments: City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Police, Fire, 3-1-1, Code Enforcement, Animal Care Services, Metro Health, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, Neighborhood and Housing Services, and Human Services.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that DART was created in 2007 to target and abate the worst of the worst nuisance properties defined as having criminal or code violations for two+ years, drug and gang houses, prostitution motels, disadvantaged housing, dilapidated houses, bars, restaurants, facilities and salvage yards. She noted that the program addressed violations by utilizing legal remedies with a goal to abate the nuisance conditions.

Deputy City Manager Villagomez proposed adding three Data Analyst positions to assist with the review of 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 calls and one additional new Attorney position to support the DART review and investigation process. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that program recommendations would be taken before the Public Safety Committee.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Viagran recommended there be a designated person to ensure coordination between all departments on the GNP Taskforce. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the Taskforce was comprised of Department Executives supported by a subcommittee of mid-level managers; but the new Public Safety Outcomes Coordinator who would report to Deputy City Manager Villagomez who would be the main point of contact for the Taskforce.

Councilmember Viagran supported the budget increase for ACS but expressed concern that there would not be enough shelter capacity to meet the needs of the added enforcement. Sims stated that there was a new kennel under design that was included in the FY 2023 Capital Budget and the proposed increase in reimbursement to non-profits from \$85/animal to \$200 would also increase the ability for partners to help. Sims noted that added staff would also work on returning more pets to their owners. Councilmember Viagran recommended development of smaller and new organizations to become rescue partners.

Councilmember Viagran recommended more spay/neuter surgeries, better vehicle maintenance and employee retention to include a signing bonus for Veterinarians with a 3-5 year contract. Sims reported that Human Resources had recently developed and implemented a signing bonus with three year contracts. Councilmember Viagran suggested a detailed analysis of statistics of stray animals in certain zip codes where the rates were high as well as review of more rural areas for puppy mills.

Councilmember Viagran supported the improvements to 3-1-1 and suggested a representative for each department. Stallcup stated that an individual 3-1-1 representative for each council district was not included in the Proposed Budget but services would be improved with the proposed additional staff.

Mayor Nirenberg asked Sims when the Strategic Plan for ACS might be presented. City Manager Walsh stated that the plan was presented in the spring and implementation began with the FY 2023 mid-year budget improvements. Mayor Nirenberg commented that the focus on ACS was a result of the February tragedy mentioned by Deputy City Manager Villagomez and that the challenges were not new. Sims commented that staff had been overwhelmed in the past but felt the City's efforts were paying off including the investments included in the Mid-Year Budget Adjustment.

Mayor Nirenberg quoted a 2013 article which stated there were 187,000 stray animals in San Antonio. He mentioned that prior to Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez placing a spay/neuter clinic on the 2022 Bond Program, there had not been a request from ACS. Mayor Nirenberg asked about previous call response percentages and noted that the metric had not been reported in the past. City Manager Walsh agreed and stated that tracking of responses to calls had not been analyzed in the past even in the 2011 Strategic Plan noting that the new plan focused on the customer's perspective.

Mayor Nirenberg commented that we needed to be more critical about the messages and metrics that were being tracked or communicated and suggested a continued focus on bringing issues to the City Council's attention. Mayor Nirenberg commended no-kill as a goal but suggested more meaningful measurement and strategies.

Mayor Nirenberg supported the recommended reporting changes in 3-1-1 and asked Stallcup to provide information on staffing needs, training and retention. Stallcup stated while there was some staff turnover, the addition of positions and resources has helped. Mayor Nirenberg expressed concern that the new IVR system might not adequately serve the residents.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia expressed concern about the large number of calls to 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 in Council District 4 and the fact that her residents emailed her directly so she requested a deeper exploration of the need of that particular neighborhood and suggested a town hall.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported the three new GNP staff and asked who the main coordinator of the GNP would be. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the Coordinator of the GNP would be an Outreach Coordinator position. Councilmember Rocha Garcia recommended review of some of the dangerous structures at the Planning and Community Development Committee (PCDC) and providing access to legal services.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia commented that the culture of the westside contributed to the loose dog problem and supported community education but recommended adding progress measures for ACS related to microchipping and other services. Sims stated that many pets were microchipped when they spayed/neutered or vaccinated the animal, so the plan was to expand access. Councilmember Rocha Garcia expressed concern that we were not meeting our goal for the spay/neuter surgeries and noted that a recent clinic in her council district produced long lines and it had been difficult for residents to access services as some zip codes in her council district had been removed from the critical list. Sims stated that the zip code review occurred every two years and would provide feedback. Councilmember Rocha Garcia commented that the cost of advertising was very high and recommended more funding for marketing.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito commented that there was a great need for more ACS Officers and

stated that she planned to partner with our State delegation to update the laws to allow ACS to spay/neuter owned pets which was currently illegal. Councilmember Alderete Gavito supported increasing the live release rate and spay neuter but mentioned a loose dog that attacked a couple walking in the neighborhood. She noted that when the dog owner came out, they threatened the couple so more needed to be done in the area of enforcement.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito advocated for a mobile spay/neuter on Culebra Road which was the boundary of Council Districts 5 and 7. She asked if pet owners were fined when a loose pet was returned to their owner. Sims stated the owners were cited and fined if impounded or not microchipped. Councilmember Alderete Gavito expressed concern about what happened when there was a dog bite and supported more investigation and enforcement of penalties for irresponsible pet owners. Councilmember Alderete Gavito recommended increasing the availability of live rescue partners and spoke in support of community education and the advertising campaign.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda recommended more proactive efforts related to ACS including free/low cost spay/neuter and potential assistance with fixing fences for the elderly. Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported the advertising campaign noting that most loose dogs were owned and simply roaming. She supported the process of and cost transporting animals to other areas. Sims stated that animals had to be healthy and quarantined for two weeks before they could be transported which included increased veterinary care and fostering. She recommended advocating for a veterinary school in San Antonio, since there were only two in Texas.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported the improved 3-1-1 case notes and communication efforts. She requested clarification on the structure of the GNP team. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the analysis was performed every 90 days and the Taskforce met every two weeks, with the subcommittee working on a daily basis to resolve the cases. Councilmember Cabello Havrda recommended including community engagement.

Councilmember Castillo supported the efforts of ACS to improve services, provide more access and education including the advertising campaign. She recommended adding more spay/neuter locations across the city potentially using decommissioned fire stations and other City buildings and suggested that prison inmates could help foster dogs and rehabilitate them. Councilmember Castillo recommended additional resources for ACS.

Councilmember Castillo recognized the effort of the GNP to address issues, but wanted to ensure that DART followed up on nuisance properties that could include transferring those to a land bank or non-profit partner that could activate the parcel and put it into productive use. Councilmember Castillo recommended expansion of the GNP to include apartment complexes. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that apartment complexes were included in DART and the Proactive Apartment Inspection Program, but the focus for GNP was currently on single family homes. Councilmember Castillo suggested connecting the Ready to Work Program and Stand Up SA to DART.

Councilmember Whyte asked why an Attorney was needed on DART. First Assistant City Attorney Elizabeth Provencio explained that the City Attorney's Office determined if the properties qualified and which legal remedies were available for the property.

Councilmember Whyte asked how 3-1-1 measured success and if there were a timeliness measure. Stallcup stated that for 3-1-1 it was answering the call, however, for the City organization it would be resolution of the issue based on the individual service level agreement for each issue. City Manager Walsh noted that communicating the resolution back to the resident was crucial.

Councilmember Whyte asked if not being able to respond to 100% of the calls was purely an issue of staffing resources and clarified that by 2026, we should get to that call. He asked what the data analytics staff person would do. Sims stated that the Analyst would ensure that data was usable for the department to create efficiencies and provide transparency to the public. Councilmember Whyte asked how ACS would decide which council districts would receive the wellness clinics and if any other cities offered incentives for live release. Sims stated that the plan was to begin the wellness clinics in areas with the greatest need and expand through partnerships with non-profit organizations providing more services. Sims added that the incentives were recommended through the Strategic Plan and community experts but was a new concept.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that ACS had been his focus since he was elected and supported the increase in staffing and budget but expressed concern that there was still more need for services such as spay/neuter. He noted that enforcement of all calls was at 64% which was still a failing grade and supported achieving 100% enforcement more quickly, reduction of call time to a reasonable time and more Veterinarian exams to help facilitate adoptions. He recommended an independent study of operational efficiencies instead of staff, affordable Veterinarian clinics and spay/neuter in Council District 2 and requested that the city facilitate the largest spay/neuter event ever.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested a 3-1-1 Customer Service Representative in the council district field office noting that his staff fielded more than 600 constituent cases in July 2023. He felt that the current 3-1-1 system was not adequate to meet the needs of his residents and was cautiously optimistic about the improved case note system and suggested there might be disparate systems used city-wide that fed into the 3-1-1 system. He requested a timeline on the implementation of the improved case notes.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked about the number and process to respond to mental health calls through the GNP. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the program included mental health services.

Councilmember Courage expressed concern with the growing number of dangerous dogs and suggested it was an issue of educating the public and asked about the marketing budget. Sims stated that \$59,000 was included in the FY 2024 Proposed Budget for paid media advertising and staff also utilized social media. Councilmember Courage recommended more resources for education and advertisement and asked about the penalties for owners that abused or neglected their animals. Sims stated that the citations were usually civil and could be reduced from \$300 to \$25 if the owner showed the Municipal Court they were compliant. Councilmember Courage requested the number of repeat offenders that let their dogs roam loose or neglected them and recommended harsher penalties along with education.

Councilmember Courage asked City Manager Walsh where the \$3.5 million increased funding for ACS was from and suggested more funding. Justina Tate, Director of Management and Budget,

clarified that ACS was proposed to receive a \$5.6 million increase which included the citywide increase in civilian compensation.

Councilmember Courage asked how much additional resources would be provided to 3-1-1 in the FY24 Proposed Budget. Stallcup stated that there were three positions for \$158,000 in improvements plus the citywide increase in civilian compensation. Councilmember Courage requested a timeline for the 3-1-1 follow-up process improvements and hiring of the new staff. Stallcup stated that it would take 3-6 months to implement.

Councilmember Courage requested clarification on the amount and source of funding for the GNP and DART Programs and whether the design of the program was being changed. Deputy City Manager Villagomez listed the improvements for the GNP and DART Programs which included \$332,000 for four positions in FY 2024. City Manager Walsh stated there was a reliance on existing enforcement tools but others might be needed in the future and updates would be brought before the Public Safety Committee and the City Council.

Councilmember Kaur questioned why three new Data Analysts were needed for the GNP and DART Programs. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the data was disparate and needed a person to sort, filter and combine/compile the data to better serve the community. Councilmember Kaur requested an informational flyer for constituents explaining the GNP and the proposed metrics for the programs. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that focus on the identified properties for intervention saved emergency resources.

Councilmember Kaur supported a mobile spay/neuter vehicle as it was more convenient for residents and an increased live-release rate. Sims stated that the capacity of a spay/neuter vehicle was 15 surgeries per day and noted that the vehicle had significant maintenance and repair costs. Councilmember Kaur mentioned two low cost spay-neuter clinics in her council district and supported adding more clinics or modifying the location to serve more residents including adding a spay/neuter clinic in Council District 1.

Councilmember Kaur stated that the community had expressed concern with the filing of a report for a dangerous dog. Sims stated the affidavit had to be notarized in accordance with State Law but the ACS office provided free notary service. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coye stated that there was legislation this year related to dangerous dog affidavits that was approved at the State Legislature but the Governor vetoed it.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia recommended creation of a voucher program with local private veterinary clinics to provide spay/neuter surgeries and asked of the number of Officers needed to get to 100% response. Sims stated they would need 20 additional staff to get to 100%. Tate stated that in FY2025, there were an additional seven Officer positions.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that the 3-1-1 calls from Council District 4 had remained steady and asked Stallcup to review the data. Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that residents were receiving notices that ACS might note that they could not service a call which upset the resident. Stallcup and Sims stated that the new staff would help them become more proactive.

Councilmember Alderete Gavito requested clarification on the urgency of ACS calls for stray

versus aggressive dogs. Sims stated that they reviewed hot spots for stray dogs but aggressive dogs were prioritized. Councilmember Alderete Gavito advocated for a Data Scientist position at 3-1-1 to ensure real-time valuable information was provided to the Councilmember and the public. Stallcup stated that one of the GNP Data Analysts would be assigned to 3-1-1. Councilmember Alderete Gavito suggested adding the ability for customers to press zero and speak to a person.

Councilmember Viagran suggested a review of the needs for fleet and public relations/engagement. She offered to provide educational information to her residents through her office. Councilmember Viagran commented that there needed to be an educational component to the language we use to describe dogs and asked if an investigation regarding a dangerous dog could begin without an affidavit. Sims replied that State Law required a first party witness to the incident to provide the notarized affidavit. Councilmember Viagran recommended requesting assistance from local Veterinarians for low-cost medical care.

Councilmember Whyte supported spending money for boots on the ground versus administrative tasks like employee retention.

Councilmember Kaur asked how 3-1-1 was creating increased awareness regarding the mobile application. Stallcup stated that it was promoted on the City's website, through direct texts and on social media. Councilmember Kaur suggested using the Net Promotion Score to measure customer satisfaction. Councilmember Kaur requested clarification on the types of calls that were appropriate for 3-1-1.

Item was for briefing only so no action was taken.

5. 2023-08-17-0547

Ordinance approving contracts with Briggs Industrial Solutions, Inc., and Chaves Brothers Management, LLC, to provide utility terrain vehicles for a total cost of \$168,905.16. Funding of \$67,605.20 is from the Equipment Renewal and Replacement Fund FY 2023 Adopted Budget, and funding of \$101,299.96 is from the 2021 Urban Areas Security Initiative Program Grant offered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security Grant Program. [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, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrdá, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

6. 2023-08-17-0548

Ordinance approving a contract with Hali-Brite, Inc., to provide four LED runway closure lights for the Aviation Department for a total cost of \$100,758.32. Funding is from the Airport Operating and Maintenance Fund FY 2023 Adopted 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, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

7. 2023-08-17-0549

Ordinance approving a contract with SAT Radio Communications, Ltd., dba Industrial Communications for providing emergency lights and accessories for the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) beginning upon award and ending March 31, 2026, with two additional one-year renewals, for an estimated annual cost of \$135,000, included in the SAFD 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, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

Capital Improvements

8. 2023-08-17-0550

Ordinance approving a professional services agreement with Parsons Transportation Group Inc. for Capital Improvement Plan Program Management Services for the San Antonio Airport System in the amount not-to-exceed \$3,750,000 for an initial term of three years with the option to extend for two, one-year periods. Funding of \$2,667,884 is from the Airport Improvement & Contingency Fund with future funding contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

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

9. 2023-08-17-0551

Ordinance approving a task order to Premier Comfort Service Company, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$423,000 to replace HVAC equipment at the John Igo Branch Library, a FY 2023 Deferred Maintenance Program project. Funding is from FY 2023 Tax Notes and included in the FY 2023- FY 2028 Capital Improvements Program. [David W. McCary, CPM, Assistant City Manager; Ramiro S. Salazar, Director, Library]

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

10. 2023-08-17-0552

Ordinance approving a funding agreement between the San Antonio Botanical Society and the City of San Antonio in an amount up to \$2.5 million for the construction of improvements and restoration of existing structures associated with the Lucille Halsell Conservatory, Greenhouses, and garden grounds at the San Antonio Botanical Center; and accepting a contribution of up to \$800,000 for master planning, design and improvements from the San Antonio Botanical Society. Funding is from the 2022 – 2027 General Obligation Bond Program and included in the FY 2023 – FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage 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. 2023-08-17-0553

Ordinance approving an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to pay TxDOT an amount not to exceed \$378,231 for construction costs and administrative oversight of federal funds and accepting \$3,024,152 in Highway Safety Improvements Program (HSIP) improvements to promote safe pedestrian passage along Pleasanton Road/Moursund Boulevard. Funding is from the General Fund and is included in the FY 2023– FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager, Catherine Hernandez, Interim Director, Transportation]

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

Acquisition, Sale or Lease of Real Property

12. 2023-08-17-0554

Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement with SK3 Logistics Business Solutions, LLC for an initial five-year term for an estimated annual revenue of \$8,400 to provide a full service business center located in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. [Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Patricia Muzquiz Cantor, Executive Director, Convention & Sports Facilities]

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

13. 2023-08-17-0555

Ordinance accepting a grant award in an amount not to exceed \$336,600 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through the Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet Grant Program to help offset costs for the purchase of 18 light-duty electric vehicles and related recharging infrastructure. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Jorge A. Perez, Director, Building and Equipment Services]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage 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. 2023-08-17-0556

Ordinance authorizing the City Manager or Designee to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,217,391.30 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the required grant match of \$182,608.70 is included in the FY 2023 General Fund Budget. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

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

15. 2023-08-17-0557

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Shelter and Services Program in an amount up to \$13,051,737 for local costs incurred to assist families and individuals traveling through San Antonio in coordination with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the period of March 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage 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. 2023-08-17-0558

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of grant funds in an amount up to \$1,354,711 from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority for the Regional Auto Crimes Team grant for the period of September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024, and establishing a project budget of \$ 4,774,977. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William McManus, Chief, 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, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments

- 17.** Approving the following board, commission and committee appointments for the remainder of an unexpired term of office to expire May 31, 2025 [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

A. Appointing Gena Meyer (District 5) to the City of San Antonio Commission on Strengthening Family Well-Being
B. Appointing Jonah Espinoza (District 8) to the City of San Antonio Higher Education Student Advisory Board
C. Appointing Scott Halty (San Antonio Water System), and reappointing Thomas Marsalia (Edwards Aquifer Authority) and Dr. Francine Romero (Parks and Recreation) to the Conservation Advisory Board

Councilmember Pelaez highlighted his support for the appointment of Jonah Espinoza to the City of San Antonio Higher Education Student Advisory Board.

Councilmember Castillo highlighted her support for the appointment of Gena Meyer to the City of San Antonio Commission on Strengthening Family Well-Being.

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

- 18.** **2023-08-17-0559**

Ordinance approving the settlement of a motor vehicle accident lawsuit styled Douglas Chapa v. City of San Antonio, Cause No. 2021-CI-16525, in the 438th Judicial District Court, Bexar County, Texas, for a total amount of \$150,000. [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, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

- 19.** **2023-08-17-0560**

Ordinance approving the settlement of a motor vehicle accident lawsuit styled Eloisa Garcia Ipina v. City of San Antonio, Cause No. 2021-CI-01908 in the 408th Judicial District Court, Bexar County, Texas, for a total amount of \$75,000. [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, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

20. 2023-08-17-0561

Ordinance approving the settlement of a motor vehicle accident claim filed on behalf of Diana Galvan for the amount of \$61,828.65. [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, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

21. 2023-08-17-0030R

Resolution directing City Staff to work with the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission to develop recommendations for City Council consideration concerning land use and zoning classification or boundary changes for approximately 427 acres of land located within the boundaries of the Harvard Place Eastlawn Neighborhood Association, generally bounded by East Houston Street to the South, North New Braunfels Avenue to the West, and the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks to the North and East. [Roderick J. Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services]

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez highlighted his 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, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

22. DENIED

Resolution initiating historic landmark designation for 116 E. Dewey Place located in City Council District 1 and waiving application fees. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Shanon Shea Miller, Director, Office of Historic Preservation]

The Item was pulled from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration by Councilmember Kaur.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michelle Hausmann with LandUse Solutions, and Patrick Christiansen, both representing the property owner requested the City Council deny the request to designate the property as historic as it was in poor condition.

Frederica Kushner representing the Tobin Hill Neighborhood Association spoke in support of the designation.

Richard Moore, retired architect and resident of Tobin Hill Neighborhood Association spoke in opposition of the designation noting that the house was beyond repair.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Kaur commented that the property had been abandoned and vacant for nine years. She asked the applicant what the property would be used for if demolished. The applicant representative stated that there was no plan. Councilmember Kaur noted that the Development Services Department (DSD) had already initiated the demolition process due to its poor condition.

Councilmember Castillo asked about the property owner's other properties. The applicant representative stated that the owner had facilitated restoration of other properties and had one other vacant property. Councilmember Castillo asked if there had been any move to initiate demolition on the property by DSD. Mike Shannon, Director of DSD, stated that the property had been cited for code violations and was under review as a dangerous premises. Councilmember Castillo commented that absentee property owners often left vacant properties to deteriorate while the neighborhood had to deal with the problems they caused.

Councilmember Viagran questioned why this property had not been designated as historic many years ago; noting that now since a demolition was requested it was being considered for historic designation. Councilmember Viagran wanted to ensure that any new development on the property met the goals of the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan (SHIP). She recommended a discussion in committee about what to do in these situations where older homes were left vacant.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed concern that this seemed like a case of demolition by neglect where the owner waited until the property got so bad that the City was forced to knock it down but agreed that the historic designation process should be a discussion at committee to get ahead of this issue. Director of the Office of Historic Preservation, Shanon Miller, noted that as properties aged, they became historic when they might not have been previously and mentioned that the Vacant Building Program could help develop recommendations. Councilmember McKee- Rodriguez suggested the future use might be town homes since the zoning allowed for this and recommended that any future buildings keep with the style and character of the existing home.

Councilmember Courage commented that he had initiated a Council Consideration Request to review and expand the Vacant Building Ordinance. Although he understood the community's desire to rehabilitate the property, the owner was responsible to maintain, sustain and improve their property. Councilmember Courage hoped there would be more opportunities for housing in this area.

Councilmember Castillo questioned the applicant's ability to afford rehabilitating the house since he had a \$20 million portfolio.

Councilmember Kaur moved to Deny. 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

23. 2023-08-17-0562

Ordinance approving a contract with the University of the Incarnate Word – Nursing Cardinal Clinic for the provision of health care services for the City of San Antonio Head Start Program through July 31, 2028 for an amount not to exceed \$475,000. Funding is from Head Start federal grants, and future funding is contingent upon future grant awards. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage 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 Manager's Report

23. City Manager's Report

Executive Session

Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**