

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



**Meeting Minutes
Public Comment 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

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

5:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council convened a Public Hearing and Public Comment in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 5:15 PM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

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

ABSENT: 1 - Viagran

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearings on the City's 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the FY 2024 Proposed Budget and the FY 2024 Proposed Budget. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Office of Management and Budget]

Mayor Nirenberg opened the public hearing at 5:15 p.m. Justina Tate, Director of the Office of Management and Budget made a presentation on the City's 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Rate and the FY2024 Proposed Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Federica Soriano recommended funding for The Children's Rehabilitation Institute TeletonUSA.

Laura Molinar, Crystal Gonzalez, Natasha Hernandez, Yaneth Flores and Erika Galindo requested funding for San Antonio Reproductive Justice Fund. Kate Sanchez spoke in support of funding health, housing and human services over police including the San Antonio Reproductive Justice Fund.

Mariah Smith recommended more funding for Animal Care Services (ACS). Vanessa Acosta, Joanne Knight and Laura Linam recommended more funding for animal spay/neuter and Animal Care Services.

Jack Finger commented that taxes were increasing even though the tax rate was decreased.

Kathleen Sheets opposed including \$1 million in the Budget for a police fitness facility.

Mary Bureau stated that she was homeless and recommended money for homeless rather than staff raises.

Jamie Gonzalez and Mitch Hagney spoke in support of urban farming and the San Antonio Food Policy Council.

Denise Barkhurst, President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters, spoke in support of funding for her agency. Lina Eklof, Daniel Newman, Sigrid Manly and Tim Hicks spoke in support of funding for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program.

Teresa Gutierrez supported more funding for human services rather than police.

Joanne Margo Gonzales supported more funding for education and health programs such as Next Level.

Bryan Hummel proposed funding for tree planting and greenspaces.

Ananda Tomas and Edoardo Munoz with Act 4 SA advocated for reducing funding and positions and a fitness facility for police and a focus on more positions in ACS, reproductive justice, housing, and mental health and opposed funding for a police fitness facility.

Elijah Walton requested funding to combat homelessness.

Having heard all members of the public who signed up to speak, Mayor Nirenberg closed the public hearing at 6:17 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Robert Ramos, Lea LaPort and John Bauchman spoke in support of funding for spay/neuter, other ACS programs and moving the shelter to no kill.

Maria Turvin, Albert Campbell, Paula Cary and Mary Bureau spoke in support of funding for housing, more services for the homeless and against abatement of homeless camps.

Hugh Hawthorne Farr and Kenneth Olson spoke in support of funding for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program.

Makayla Montoya Frazier spoke in support of funding for the SA Reproductive Justice Fund.

James Hamilton spoke regarding the needs of a 75-year-old handicapped woman.

Debra Ponce, an organizer for Public Citizen spoke in support of funding for environmental justice and against high utility bills.

Steve Silver spoke in support of funding for The Children's Rehabilitation Institute TeletonUSA.

Scarlett Pacheco spoke in opposition to more funding for police and instead, supported funding for housing, health, mental health and social services.

DeeDee Belmares advocated for clean energy and recommended mitigation of the climate crisis.

Bryan Hummel spoke in support of the City applying for Federal funding and other grants to fight climate change.

Ananda Tomas recommended decreasing the amount of time SAPD takes to release body camera footage from 60 days to 10 days.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**

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