

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council A Session**

Municipal Plaza Building
114 W. Commerce Street
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, September 7, 2023

9:00 AM

City Council Chambers

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 Reverend Debra Seward of New Birth Community Church, guest of Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez.

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 23, 2023, and August 24, 2023.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve the minutes of the City Council meetings of August 23, 2023 and August 24, 2023. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed September to be National Library Card Sign Up Month. Ramiro Salazar, Director of the San Antonio Public Library, highlighted the immeasurable value and vast resources libraries provided to the communities they served, as they fostered literacy and love of reading for all.

Councilmember Courage spoke in support of the work of the Library.

Mayor Nirenberg proclaimed September 10, 2023 World Suicide Prevention Day in San Antonio and invited representatives from Metro Health to speak. Jessie Higgins, COSA Chief Mental Health Officer, explained that the day was aimed at increasing awareness, understanding and support of mental health conditions and suicide prevention, while removing the stigma and shame from seeking help and to increasing access to appropriate services for all people experiencing a mental health condition.

Councilmember Courage spoke in support of helping people with mental health issues.

Mayor Nirenberg spoke in support of Mental Health Workers.

Mayor Nirenberg recognized the retirement of Jim Reed, Director of the San Antonio Medical Foundation, who was responsible for establishing the South Texas Medical Center. Councilmember Pelaez congratulated Reed on his retirement and his work.

Councilmember Castillo honored the life and passing of Civil Rights Activist Tommy Acosta who founded Big Homie Street Mentoring, a violence intervention program.

Councilmember Castillo honored Bobby Vidales, a lifelong westside resident and member of the Texas Organizing Project who passed away at the age of 101.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda recognized September as Hunger Action Month and asked representatives from the San Antonio Food Bank to speak. Councilmember Courage commented that he had outreached to his council district for volunteers. Councilmember Pelaez suggested that hunters could donate meat to the Food Bank. Mayor Nirenberg suggested a city council district volunteer challenge.

Councilmember Viagran recognized September as National Senior Center Month and Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Month.

Councilmember Viagran announced the World Heritage Festival which would be held on September 6-10, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. 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 Pro-Tempore John Courage opened the Public Hearing at 10:11 a.m.

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez provided an overview of the Proposed 2023 Property Tax Rate and the FY 2024 Proposed \$3.7 million City Budget. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez reported that the Proposed Budget included property tax relief and nine community Town Hall meetings had been hosted throughout the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Barbara Robles-Ramamurthy, Kate Sanchez and Ariana Rodriguez spoke in support of funding for the Reproductive Justice Fund.

Jeff Goldblatt, Meredith Cooper, Steven Silver, Howie Nestel, Barbara Reyes, Loany De La Garza, Desteny Espinoza, Alma Gonzalez and Federica Soriano spoke in support of funding for Children's Rehabilitation Institute TeletonUSA (CRIT).

Meredith Cooper spoke in support of addressing the heat island effect but suggested that the \$2 million for the Cool Pavement Program could be better spent on proven programs such as green space vacant lot activation programs. Cooper recommended more funding for the Community Outreach and Resiliency Effort team (SA CORE) and Animal Care Services (ACS) instead of police. She recommended more funding for spay/neuter programs and ACS Officers.

John Bachman spoke in support of using unspent funds from vacancies in ACS for animal spay/neuter surgeries, pet food, rescues, adoptions, fosters and other direct services to achieve no-kill.

Crystal Villarreal, Linda Davila and Rey Villareal spoke in support of the Accessibility and Modernization Funding to Opportunity Home San Antonio that would be used to renovate and provide deferred maintenance to Cassiano Homes and other public housing units.

Leonora Walker spoke in support of FREED Texas, a program to help persons coming out of incarceration.

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to increasing the Solid Waste monthly fee.

Having heard all members of the public who signed up to speak, Mayor Nirenberg closed the Public Hearing at 11:12 a.m. No action was required on this Item.

CONSENT AGENDA

Purchase of Services, Supplies and Equipment

5. 2023-09-07-0609

Ordinance approving a contract with Signature Systems Group, LLC, to provide a turf cover at the Alamodome for a total cost of \$992,800. Funding is from the Alamodome Improvement and Contingency Fund and included in the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

6. 2023-09-07-0610

Ordinance approving the following contracts establishing unit prices for goods and services for an estimated annual cost of \$129,000, included in the respective department's FY 2023 Adopted Budget: (A) Brainfuse, LLC, for internet tutoring services for the San Antonio Public Library; and (B) ProQuest, LLC, for an amendment to the ProQuest Master License Agreement for library subscriptions. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Capital Improvements

7. 2023-09-07-0611

Ordinance approving a Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Department of Interior United States Geological Survey in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 annually for water resource investigations at Olmos Dam and Gate 5. Funding is from the Storm Water Operating Fund, and funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte

Absent: Pelaez

8. 2023-09-07-0612

Ordinance approving an Advanced Funding Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), authorizing payment in the amount not to exceed \$61,533 to TxDOT for administrative oversight of federal funds, and accepting reimbursement in the estimated amount of \$3,996,000 from TxDOT related to construction costs for the FY 2023 Citywide Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Equipment Project, funded by previously authorized FY 2023 Advanced Transportation District funds and federal funds. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte

Absent: Pelaez

9. 2023-09-07-0613

Ordinance approving the negotiation and execution of a Funding Agreement between the Alamo Community College District and the City of San Antonio in an amount not to exceed \$15.3 million for the construction of a new Aquatic Center and renovation of existing spaces for a Multi-generational Facility at Palo Alto College, a 2017 and 2022 Bond funded project. The ordinance also declares the 2017 Bond Project for the Aquatic Center at Palo Alto College cannot be implemented, and therefore appropriates \$5.3 million from the 2017 Bond project and \$10 million from the 2022 Bond project into a new project for the construction of the new Aquatic Center. Funding is from the 2017 and 2022 General Obligation Bond Programs included in the FY 2023-2028 Capital Improvements Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte

Absent: Pelaez

Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments

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

A. Appointing Sophia Melendez (District 10) to the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee

B. Appointing Aaron Elizondo (District 7) to the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee

- C. Appointing Jennifer Maestas (District 1) to the City of San Antonio Commission on Education
- D. Reappointing Rader Gilleland (Uvalde County Representative) to the Conservation Advisory Board
- E. Appointing Gerardo Valdez (District 1) to the Disability Access Advisory Committee
- F. Reappointing Christy Woodward (District 9) to the Ethics Review Board for the remainder of a term of office to expire on April 25, 2025
- G. Reappointing James Cervantes (District 8) and Jeffrey Fetzer (District 9) to the Historic and Design Review Commission
- H. Reappointing Alberto “Beto” Altamirano (District 1) to the Port Authority of San Antonio
- I. Appointing Arthur Campsey (District 1) and reappointing Eileen Kret (Mayoral) and Yadhira Lozano (District 3) to the San Antonio Arts Commission
- J. Reappointing Anna Hurd (District 1) to the San Antonio Youth Commission

Mayor Nirenberg, Councilmembers Kaur, Viagran, Alderete Gavito and Courage highlighted their support for the council district board appointments.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

11. 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 Natalie Garza (District 1) to the Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board
 - b. Reappointing Elizabeth Waguespack (District 9) to the Parks and Recreation Board
 - c. Appointing Roberto Mendez (District 1) to the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Committee
 - d. Appointing Arthur Downey (District 9) to the Streets, Bridges and Sidewalks Advisory Board
 - e. Appointing Janelle Chase (Mayoral), reappointing Charles Fuentes (District 3), and Marco Barros (District 9) to the Zoning Commission

Mayor Nirenberg, Councilmembers Kaur, Viagran and Courage highlighted their support for the council district board appointments.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

12. **2023-09-07-0614**

Ordinance appointing Michael Miller (District 2) to the City of San Antonio Commission on Strengthening Family Well-Being for the remainder of an unexpired term of office to expire May 31, 2025 and waiving the City Code residency requirement for the appointment [Debbie Racca-

Sittre, City Clerk]

Councilmember Courage highlighted his support for the board appointments.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Miscellaneous

13. 2023-09-07-0615

Ordinance terminating inactive Campaign Treasurer Appointments on file with more than 1 year of inactivity. [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14. 2023-09-07-0032R

Resolution consenting to the request from Emergency Services District No. 5 to incur debt, not in excess of \$4 million, for the construction of a fire station, contingent upon a waiver by the District of associated annexation fees. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15. 2023-09-07-0616

Ordinance approving amendments to rental agreements in the amount of \$55,000 for a term ending September 30, 2023, for a cumulative amount up to \$525,000. The ordinance also approves rental agreements in the amount of \$468,000 for terms beginning October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 with four, one-year renewal options, for a cumulative amount not to exceed \$2,340,000. Funding of \$55,000 is from the General Fund FY 2023 Adopted Budget, and funding of \$468,000 is contingent upon City Council approval of the FY 2024 Proposed Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Health]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16. 2023-09-07-0617

Ordinance amending an agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District for the San Antonio Food Insecurity Assessment and the SA Forward Plan in an amount up to \$100,000, increasing the total contract amount to \$172,100.70, and extending the term to September 30, 2024. Funding is from the General Fund contingent upon City Council approval of the FY 2024 Proposed Budget. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A Jacob, Director, Health]

Councilmember Viagran highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

17. 2023-09-07-0618

Ordinance amending and extending the contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) to include Third Party Administrator (TPA) services for the City's self-funded medical plans, flexible spending accounts (FSA) to include pre-tax reimbursement of health care and dependent care expenses, health savings accounts (HSA), COBRA administration, Employee Assistance Program (EAP), preferred provider network and total health management services for an estimated amount of \$5,276,771 (Year 1) with a contract term for three years beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026 with one, two-year renewal option. The Ordinance also amends and extends the contract with CVS/Caremark to provide Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) services for the City's self-funded pharmacy benefits for an estimated annual amount of \$470,000 for a term of three years beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026 with one, two-year renewal option. Funding is from the proposed FY 2024 Employee Benefits Insurance Fund, and contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Ben Gorzell, Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Renee Frieda, Director, Human Resources]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

18. 2023-09-07-0619

Ordinance approving an interlocal agreement with the Alamo Colleges District for curriculum and collateral materials development for CompassionateUSA for a term ending August 31, 2025. Funding of \$500,000 is from the General Fund FY 2023 Adopted Budget. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

19. 2023-09-07-0620

Ordinance extending the Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County for one year through September 30, 2024 to provide subsidized San Antonio Public Library services to Bexar County, non-City residents for an annual fee of \$3 million. [David W. McCary, CPM, Assistant City Manager; Ramiro S. Salazar, Library Director]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

20. 2023-09-07-0621

Ordinance extending the Interlocal Agreement between North East Independent School District and the San Antonio Public Library for public library services at the Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School for a term of ten years for an estimated annual cost of \$699,380. Funding is from the FY 2024 General Fund Proposed Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [David W. McCary, CPM, Assistant City Manager; Ramiro S. Salazar, Library Director]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

21. 2023-09-07-0033R

Resolution of No Objection for Palladium Old FM 471 W, Ltd.'s application for 2023 Non-Competitive 4% Housing Tax Credits (HTC) from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for the construction of a 321-unit affordable multi-family rental

housing development named Palladium Old FM 471 W, located at Old FM 471 W and Talley Road in the City of San Antonio's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction and allowing the construction of the development to be located within one linear mile or less from another development. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

22. 2023-09-07-0622

Ordinance approving professional service agreements with San Antonio Rising Stars, Inc. and Suit Up! the World LLC to support the San Antonio Police Department's Community Crime Prevention Program, each for a one-year term with a one-year extension option. Funding of \$250,000 is from the FY 2023 Confiscated Property Fund Budget. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

City Manager's Report

23. City Manager's Report

City Manager Erik Walsh played an Employee Spotlight Video highlighting with work of Vanessa Vallejo Human Resources Specialist responsible for the consolidated hiring process.

Executive Session

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. 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 related to emergency preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 12:00 p.m. and announced that no official action was taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**