

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Meeting**

Municipal Plaza Building
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

ROLL CALL

The City Council convened in a Regular Meeting. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha-Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

1. Staff presentation of the FY 2022 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments or Initiatives. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Scott Huizenga, Director, Management and Budget]

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the two items for the meeting.

A. Aviation Department

Presentation by Airport Director Jesus Saenz who thanked City Council and the Aviation Department team for all the work in FY21 and on the FY22 Budget and provided an overview of operations of the department as well as introductions of department leadership team and explained that the San Antonio International Airport (SAIA) had won global awards.

Mr. Saenz described the San Antonio Airport system as having two airports; SAIA and Stinson. Mr. Saenz noted that Federal law required that revenues be used to benefit the Airport and revenues were expected to increase in FY22 over FY21 by \$61.4 million or 33.9% including concessions, parking, and landing fees. Mr. Saenz stated that the FY22 proposed total expenses, budgeted at \$222.1 million, include \$89.3 million of Federal Stimulus Funding in the areas of

CARES, CRRSAA, ARPA and noted that these funds were expected to allow Aviation to hold FY22 Airline rates flat, enable funding for future capital projects and improve Airport position with bond rating agencies.

Mr. Saenz reported that passengers were 6.5 million for FY21 and were expected to increase to 9.9 million in FY22 and he provided a comparison of SA Airport System versus other National airports noting that new markets and airlines were being added to the SAIA portfolio of the current 41 markets served. He noted that FY22 program enhancements included 2 new positions in the Supports Revenue Development team with a fiscal impact of \$123,022. Mr. Saenz stated that, in FY22, Whataburger should open in Terminal A, Jet Blue services to JFK and Boston were expected as well as and a relationship building event through Routes Online.

Mr. Saenz outlined the capital improvements for FY22 at a total of \$67 million; projects included SAIA improvements to 3 gates, baggage handling, security, infrastructure of the airfield and perimeter road, runway safety enhancements and extensions all at SAIA with facilities improvements such as the TSA and Airport Police K-9 Building. Mr. Saenz mentioned the Stinson Airport master plan, new taxiway E and laid out the priorities and timelines for the 20-30 year Strategic Plan that was expected to be presented to City Council in December 2021.

B. Administration of the City

Scott Huizenga, Director Office of Management and Budget presented the administrative budget for the City which included: City support, internal support, and community services. Mr. Huizenga gave an overview of the total City Budget and stated that of the \$3.1 billion in the FY22 Proposed Budget, \$67.6 million funded 13 departments and offices as a part of the General Fund. Mr. Huizenga explained that City support Budget was flat at \$47.3 million with broadband support, elections cost and redistricting. Government and Public Affairs Department (GPA) was expected to receive almost \$500,000 for nine new Open Government positions to comply with open records requirements because the City has seen a 600% increase of ORRs since 2013. He added that the GPA Department also received PEG funds which could only be used for capital improvements.

Mr. Huizenga explained the following increases planned for FY22: Internal Services Budget was proposed at \$246.5 million and included funding for vehicle replacement and fuel, Information Technology (IT) department increased by \$1 million for IT license agreements, physical and cloud security and that insurance costs were expected to rise.

Mr. Huizenga discussed the proposed creation of a new department called the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) which would consolidate the functions of several departments. Mr. Huizenga outlined efforts to develop a language access plan and expand Spanish Language and American Sign Language (ASL) translation. Community Support departments of Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and World Heritage Office (WHO) was planned to increase by \$500,000 along with the addition of one OHP staff, funding to increase awareness of UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy and programming for Mission Marquee Plaza, according to Mr. Huizenga.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentations.

Councilmember John Courage asked Mr. Saenz about the SAIA future growth plan and runway extension. Mr. Saenz explained that adding to the runways was needed to accommodate departures of larger aircraft which would take some advanced planning with at least a 3-5 year timeline but would need to be discussed with the FAA. Councilmember Courage inquired about development of concourse C at the SAIA. Mr. Saenz noted that this would also take advance planning of 3-5 years with number of additional gates to be determined after the new gates are added that are included in the current plan. Councilmember Courage asked if adding the three new gates would max out the existing gates, which Mr. Saenz replied that there was still capacity. Councilmember Courage inquired about FAA assistance for noise mitigation which Mr. Saenz replied could be available.

Councilmember Viagran noted that citizens would like improved responses to Open Records Requests (ORRs). Mr. Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager responded that the 9 positions were paralegals to review requests, video specialists to support SAPD and administrative support since requests have increased dramatically in the past year. Mr. Coyle explained the statutory requirements for ORRs, and the City had followed the law. Councilmember Viagran maintained that the City might not need so many people to address ORRs if we were simply more proactive in providing the community with information. Mr. Coyle explained these new resources would not take away from the community engagement process.

Councilmember Viagran requested metrics for the new DEI office and noted that the WHO hosts events that serve the entire city and encouraged more support for WHO and their events and asked Colleen Swain, World Heritage Officer, what more could be done to help with these events. Ms. Swain mentioned advertising efforts and enhanced social media presence in multiple countries around the world. Councilmember Viagran asked Ms. Swain to provide info on the World Heritage Festival attendance and outreach to the rest of City Council. Councilmember Viagran mentioned that Stinson Airport was an asset of the Aviation Dept in District 3 and invited her fellow Councilmembers to visit Stinson Airport.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if there were already airlines interested in the proposed new gates. Mr. Saenz said Southwest Airlines was interested as well as others. Councilmember Pelaez noted that SAIA had better 2019 customer experience numbers than many other airports in the area and asked when 2020 numbers were expected as well for an analysis of what areas needed improvement. Mr. Saenz replied the 2020 numbers would come out on September 19, 2021. Mr. Saenz explained that the two new positions included in the proposed budget would focus on these areas of improvement which included a need to improve concessions and that in FY22 and that he would bring additional concession contract extensions to City Council.

Councilmember Pelaez noted an article about the UNESCO Creative Cities and asked Swain how they measured success. Ms. Swain explained that WHO conducted a community survey and have chef ambassadors to do outreach, partnerships with other city departments as well. Councilmember Pelaez thought the UNESCO designation would make an impact on increasing visitors and asked Ms. Swain to work with Visit San Antonio.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked Mr. Huizenga to explain broadband support improvement under the City Attorney's Office (CAO), to which City Attorney Andy Segovia explained that since the City had been undertaking efforts to expand broadband, CAO wanted to add a legal expert in the field. Brian Dillard, Director of the Office of Innovation, noted that the Budget included a position to provide outreach. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if the City was

using innovation and technology to help with the redistricting plan, which Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager, responded affirmatively and also clarified that there were two elections in 2021 and only one in 2022 (Bond election) which explained the decrease in funding for elections. Councilmember Rocha Garcia noted an increase of 20 new positions and asked OMB to provide percentage of total dollar increase that will be spent on staff positions. Councilmember Rocha Garcia noted that this seemed to be a new presentation from last year. City Manager Erik Walsh explained that a briefing on this area was skipped last year but was included in FY20.

Councilmember Sandoval asked for an explanation of the uses of PEG funds. Mr. Coyle explained that revenues came from cable bills and must only be used for capital equipment to produce public on-air content while the General Fund paid for staffing components. City Manager Erik Walsh mentioned that PEG funding had been set up to help Bexar County, SAWS and CPS-Energy upgrade their equipment to provide access to on-air content.

Councilmember Sandoval noted \$200,000 set aside for redistricting and inquired how these funds would be used and mentioned that after redistricting, we should develop a plan to notify the community of changes including coordinating with school districts, as well as how redistricting would align with the bond election. City Attorney Segovia explained the funds would cover legal costs related to redistricting and the plan was expected to be detailed in a special session. City Manager Walsh mentioned that staff could investigate if more community outreach would be needed regarding changes. Mayor Nirenberg noted that the Bond Election would come prior to redistricting. Councilmember Sandoval asked about the progress of the DEI department. City Attorney Segovia noted that the first step would be to hire a director. Councilmember Sandoval expressed her support of developing a Language Access Plan and requested some sort of feedback loop to ensure we were making an impact with language access.

Councilmember Bravo asked about the types of and access to cargo service at SAIA, whether it could be expanded and if refrigerated cargo came into SAIA. Mr. Saenz confirmed United Parcel was the largest cargo provider and access could be expanded to other providers, most refrigerated cargo from Latin American was coming into Florida but Mr. Saenz noted, staff could work on increasing the refrigerated cargo at SAIA. Councilmember Bravo suggested SAIA expand non-stop airline routes, to which Mr. Saenz replied to expansion of non-stop flights was an ongoing project and SAIA staff continuously work alongside VSA and the Economic Development Foundation (EDF) to increase international flights as well as domestic.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked who would serve as Civil Rights Coordinator within the new DEI Office. City Attorney Segovia explained that the Chief Equity Officer served in this capacity with regard to the Nondiscrimination Ordinance (NDO). Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez explained that he wanted the Civil Right Coordinator to enforce State and Local nondiscrimination laws as well as reaching out to the community and remarked that representation of diverse perspectives was crucial for the DEI Office, and he called for action to ensure the Civil Rights Coordinator position was to be created.

Councilmember Perry asked about the closeout of \$3 million in airline contracts and asked for clarification on the amount of the \$44 million revenues were attributed to new agreement with the airlines as well as whether Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) and Customer Facility Charges (CFC) were revenues and also included in expenditures. Mr. Saenz replied that the revenues were projections and that expenditures would match revenues.

Councilmember Perry asked about the two new positions that were proposed, which Mr. Saenz explained were targeted to increase opportunities with concessions and parking expansion and the department would provide metrics related to increased workload of staff managing these contracts from 2011 to 2021. Councilmember Perry mentioned a new hangar at Stinson and wanted to see if there was an existing hangar available instead of building a new one as he was aware of a non-profit that wanted to use a hangar for programming. Mr. Saenz said the new hangar was planned to accommodate for future growth and noted that he would provide Councilmember Perry with the number of hangars available at Stinson.

Councilmember Perry asked Mr. Huizenga about the detailed breakout of increases to City Support administration. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez explained that the total increase was \$28.7 million from FY21 to FY22, half of this increase was for heavy equipment, vehicle replacement and fuel, while other increases covered additional IT equipment licensing agreements and various security improvements. Councilmember Perry wondered why there would be an increase in insurance premium if the City is self-insured. Chief Financial Officer, Ben Gorzell explained that the City was mostly self-insured, however, the City bought commercial and property insurance and these costs had increased by \$2.6 million and added that cyber insurance had also increased by \$500,000.

Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda asked about the role of the DEI Office. City Attorney Segovia explained the department would consolidate efforts and cover accessibility, investigation, compliance with Title VI and Title VII, making sure NDO was appropriately scoped and enforced. Erik Walsh mentioned that of the 17 positions, 11 were being moved from other departments already doing this work in Public Works Accessibility Office, Equity Office, Human Resource, and GPA as well as recycling 6 positions in other departments to create the DEI office. City Manager Walsh confirmed that the director of the new DEI department would serve as a Civil Rights Coordinator. Councilmember Cabello Havrda noted that the legal component was missing from this group. City Attorney Segovia clarified that the DEI department would report to the City Attorney and many attorneys would assist the DEI Office.

Councilmember Castillo noted that OHP and WHO were important components of the hospitality industry and supported the requests from these offices.

Councilmember Mario Bravo supported Councilmember McKee Rodriguez's request for Civil Rights Coordinator.

Councilmember Viagran recommended the DEI Office address those communities living with disabilities or trauma and not leave out mental health. She also requested information on number of Civil Rights complaints received previously and suggested that since MALDEF and other non-city agencies work on these issues already, this office might simply duplicate their efforts. Deputy City Attorney Elizabeth Provencio noted that new DEI office is expected to consolidate efforts of departments already doing this work in coordination with City Attorney's Office and that there were separate components for internal versus external complaints which are the NDO complaints; assuring Councilmember Viagran that the City would not duplicate work of MALDEF.

Councilmember Perry asked for clarification on the offices that were combined into DEI. Deputy City Manager Villagomez explained there would be five positions from Office of Equity,

four positions from Disability Access Office within Public Works, two positions from Municipal Integrity within the Department of Human Resources and six vacant positions recycled from other departments. Councilmember Perry suggested there could be efficiencies through combining these functions, however, City Manager Walsh said these positions were already doing the work and there was no administrative function available to consolidate in the reorganization and he noted that efficiency should come with the coordinated efforts and leveraging of other resources. Councilmember Perry wanted to know why the City needed another preservation specialist, which Deputy City Manager Villagomez explained was specifically for the Historic Design Review Commission process.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez clarified that he asked for an Office of Civil Rights and feels that the DEI is a nod to his request but not a direct response since this has been described as simply moving people around. City Attorney Segovia explained the goal of this consolidation was to be more effective in the City's equity efforts including adding gender as a measure to enhance diversity, not to maintain the status quo, but to take us to the next level of diversity efforts. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended taking two of those positions and to make sure there would be at least one specialized individual.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed his support for a Civil Rights Office, and he wondered if this discussion needed more work at a City Council Committee level instead of two days before the budget was to be adopted and suggested Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez' request delved too much into operations. Councilmember Pelaez noted that the City Attorney's Office was an in-house law firm that existed to advise the full City organization including taking cases all the way to the Supreme Court. City Attorney Segovia explained that the 57 employees in the City Attorney's Office supported all departments including the DEI.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how often the City hired outside consultants to review and propose staffing models and suggested the DEI Office should have utilized a more rigorous process. Chief Financial Officer Ben Gorzell explained that although the City had hired outside consultants, most staffing studies had been done in-house by the Human Resources Department including the DEI. City Manager Walsh mentioned that he wanted to create the DEI office last summer when Equity Office hosted training for City Council with their limited scope which only focused on racial and ethnic diversity, however, gender equity was desired by the City Council.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia wondered if each city council office could hire a civil rights coordinator for their district. City Attorney Segovia replied that if that person's job would be to enforce the NDO, then that would be operational and not something under the individual city council office's purview.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 4:31 PM.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
City Clerk

DRAFT