

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



**Meeting Minutes  
City Council A Session**

City Hall Complex  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**2021 – 2023 Council Members**

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Mario Bravo, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2  
Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4  
Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6  
Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8  
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

---

**Thursday, September 9, 2021**

**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. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting aquorum with the following Council Members present:

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

1. The Invocation was delivered by Jerry Whitley, San Antonio Fire Department Head Chaplain.

2. Mayor Nirenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Nirenberg led the assembly in an observance of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Attacks on the United States during September 11, 2001. He noted that almost 3,000 lives were lost that day in an Al Qaida sponsored attack on our Nation and was unspeakable tragedy for the world.

Police Chief William McManus recalled the events of that day as a member of the Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department and attack at the Pentagon. Chief Nim Kidd, Director of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, also provided an overview of the San Antonio Fire Department emergency response efforts at the World Trade Center and other events such as the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing. He recognized personnel that were instrumental in the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center and thanked the Mayor and City Manager for their on-going support of emergency management efforts.

Mayor Nirenberg asked for a moment of silence to be observed in honor of individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

3. Approval of Minutes from City Council Meetings of August 11, 2021 and August 12, 2021

Councilmember Perry Approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2021 and August 12, 2021. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Councilmember Cabello Havrda noted the community challenge of food insecurity with the San Antonio community and stated that September was National Hunger Action Month. She reminded all that it was important for the entire community to act against hunger especially when considering area youth.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Nirenberg noted that Items 4, 17, 22, and 25 would be considered individually.

Mayor Nirenberg called on individuals registered to speak on Consent Agenda items.

Jack M. Finger spoke in opposition of Item 26.

Councilmember Pelaez highlighted Item 18 which approved the grant application to the 2021

State Homeland Security Program.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez highlighted Item 24 which appointed Taylor Watson to the Zoning Commission.

Councilmember Courage moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

**5. 2021-09-09-0660**

Ordinance approving a professional service contract with Unique Management, Inc. to provide a material recovery program and live chat services for an estimated total cost of \$535,000 for a period from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024, with an option to extend contract for two additional one-year periods under the same terms and conditions. [David W. McCary, CPM, Assistant City Manager; Ramiro S. Salazar, Director, Library]

**6. 2021-09-09-0661**

Ordinance approving a contract with The Brandt Companies, LLC, to provide preventive maintenance, repair, and cleaning services for the Central Utility Plant (CUP) at the San Antonio International Airport for an estimated annual cost of \$560,000.00, beginning upon award through March 31, 2024, with the option to renew for two additional, one-year periods. Funding is available from FY 2021 Airport Operating and Maintenance Fund. Funding for future years is subject to City Council approval of the annual budget. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**7. 2021-09-09-0662**

Ordinance approving a contract with The Playwell Group, Inc., to provide and install Poured in Place rubber safety surfacing applications for the Parks and Recreation Department for an estimated annual cost of \$450,000.00, beginning October 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023, with three, one-year renewal options. Funding for this contract is available through the Parks and Recreation General Fund operating budget. Funding for subsequent years is subject to City Council approval of the annual budget. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**8. 2021-09-09-0663**

Ordinance approving contracts with Accu-Aire Mechanical, LLC, and Premier Comfort Service Company, Inc., to provide “on-call” commercial heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) maintenance and repairs for an estimated annual amount of \$700,000.00, and an aggregate

amount not to exceed \$3.5 million over the term of the contracts, beginning October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023, with three, one-year options to renew. Funding for these contracts is available through the Departments' Operating Budgets. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**9. 2021-09-09-0664**

Ordinance approving a contract with TDIndustries, Inc., to provide maintenance, inspection, and repair services for boilers, heating systems and supporting components in various locations throughout the City for the Building and Equipment Services Department for an estimated annual amount of \$65,000.00, beginning upon award through March 31, 2024, with two additional, one-year renewal options. Funding in the amount of \$65,000.00 is available from the FY 2021 Facility Service Fund budget. Funding for subsequent years is subject to City Council approval of the annual budget. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**10. 2021-09-09-0665**

Ordinance awarding 2021-2022 Task Order Contract Pavement Preservation Package 6 Base Repair to J&P Paving Co., Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,289,517.20 with reimbursement from San Antonio Water System in an amount consistent with necessary adjustments to their existing infrastructure. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**11. 2021-09-09-0666**

Ordinance awarding a construction contract to E-Z Bel Construction, LLC in the amount of \$1,519,151.70 with reimbursement from San Antonio Water System in amount consistent with their existing infrastructure for the Paso Del Norte Street (Shady Oaks) Project, a 2017 Bond project, located in Council District 9. Funds are available from the 2017-2022 General Obligation Bond and are included in the FY 2021 – FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**12. 2021-09-09-0667**

Ordinance authorizing the negotiation and execution of three on-call environmental remediation services agreements with Rawhide Construction Service, LLC, Alamo Environmental Inc., dba Alamo 1 and Eagle Remediation and Demolition Services, LLC, each in an amount not to exceed \$750,000.00 per year for a one-year term with the option to renew for two one-year extensions. These contracts will provide on-call environmental remediation services related to public works and other projects located city wide, for a total amount not to exceed \$6,750,000.00 if all contract extensions are executed for the three-year duration. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works Department]

13. **2021-09-09-0668**  
Ordinance approving the 2021 - 2022 Task Order Contract for Pavement Markings Package A in an amount not to exceed \$2,584,100.00 to Interstate Barricades & Markings, Inc. for completion of roadway pavement markings. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works Department]
14. **2021-09-09-0669**  
Ordinance approving the 2021 - 2022 Task Order Contract for Pavement Markings Package B in an amount not to exceed \$2,342,500.00 to Interstate Barricades & Markings, Inc. for roadway pavement markings. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works Department]
15. **2021-09-09-0670**  
Ordinance approving the acceptance of donations from the San Antonio Public Library Foundation in an amount up to \$235,000.00; authorizing the appropriation and amending of the FY 2021- FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program with these funds from the Library Donation Fund to the 2017 Bond funded Central Library project; and, approving a task order to a Job Order Contract with Belt Built Contracting, LLC, in the amount of \$1,782,532.12 for construction of improvements for the 2017 Bond funded Central Library project. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]
16. **2021-09-09-0671**  
Ordinance awarding a construction contract with JGA Roofing Systems, LLC in the amount of \$282,974.48 for the roof replacement of the Ella Austin Community Center Deferred Maintenance Project located in Council District 2. Funds are available from 2020 Tax Notes and included in the FY 2021 - FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]
18. **2021-09-09-0673**  
This Ordinance authorizes the San Antonio Office of Emergency Management (SAOEM) to apply for, accept, and appropriate, upon award, up to \$1,000,000 from the 2021 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief].
19. **2021-09-09-0674**  
This ordinance authorizes the San Antonio Office of Emergency Management (SAOEM) to apply for, accept, and appropriate, upon award, up to \$2,800,000 from the 2021 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program and authorizes a personnel complement of one position. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief].
20. **2021-09-09-0043R**  
Resolution appointing Cory Kuchinsky, CPS Energy Chief Financial Officer (CFO) & Treasurer to the PFC Board of Directors for a term commencing July 26, 2021 and ending January 31, 2022.

[Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]

21. **2021-09-09-0675**  
Ordinance appointing Jesse Vasquez (Non-resident, Windcrest) to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and waiving the City Code residency requirement in Chapter 35, Sec. 801 (a). [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]
23. Approving the following appointments of Councilmembers to Boards, Commissions, and Committees as requested by Mayor Ron Nirenberg for the terms of office concurrent with their respective terms of office unless otherwise indicated. Appointments are effective immediately if eight affirmative votes are received or ten days day after appointment if passed with less than eight affirmative votes [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]  
a. Appointing Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda (District 6) to the San Antonio Economic Development Corporation
24. Approving the following Board, Commission and Committee appointments for the remainder of an unexpired term of office to expire May 31, 2023 or for the terms shown below [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]  
a. Appointing Taylor Watson (District 2) to the Zoning Commission  
b. Appointing Debra Guerrero (District 3) to the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee  
c. Appointing Scott Teeter (District 3) to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 37 – Nabors  
d. Appointing Gil Garza (District 8) to the Disability Access Advisory Committee  
e. Appointing Amy Hardberger (District 8) to the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee  
f. Appointing Katie Jarl-Coyle (District 8) to the Animal Care Services Advisory Board  
WITHDRAWN--G) Appointing Melissa Castro Killen (District 8) to the Alamo Citizen Advisory Board  
H) Appointing Rob McDaniel (District 8) to the Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board  
I) Appointing Anwar Tahir (District 8) to the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy Committee  
J) Appointing Haris Tahir (District 8) to the San Antonio Youth Commission
26. **2021-09-09-0044R**  
Resolution of No Objection for Viento Apartments, LTD.'s application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Non-Competitive 4% Housing Tax Credits program for the construction of the Viento Apartments, a 324-unit affordable multi-family rental housing development, located at 10348 S Zarzamora Street in Council District 4; allowing the construction of the development to be located within one linear mile or less from another development; and acknowledging the development will result in more than 20% of total housing units in the proposed census tract being supported by housing tax credits. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, FAICP, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]
27. **2021-09-09-0677**  
Ordinance approving the Workforce Solutions Alamo Annual Operating Budget for FY 2021-2022 for submission to the Texas Workforce Commission. The WSA Partnership Agreement

requires approval by City Council, Bexar County Commissioners' Court, and Area Judges. The WSA Board of Directors and the Committee of Six have recommended approval. [Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Ramsey, Director, Workforce Development]

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

### **4. Briefing on the 87th State Legislative Special Sessions. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager]**

Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle provided an overview of the August 7, 2021 Legislative Special Session. He noted that 17 items were on the Special Session agenda with 11 covered in the first session with the remainder covered in a second session.

Mr. Coyle reviewed the Senate Bill (SB) items which the City was engaged in that included:

- SB 1 – Election Reform
- SB 3 – Critical Race Theory
- SB 14 – Employment Benefits

Mr. Coyle reviewed the next steps of the Special Session meetings which included a third meeting on September 20, 2021. He stated that the session would review: 1) Redistricting; 2) ARPA funding; 3) Vaccine mandates; 4) Transgender student athlete; and unlawful restraint of a dog.

Mr. Coyle noted that the redistricting process had differed each decade and often followed unpredictable path and added that the Census delays had impacted the redistricting process nationwide. He provided an overview of the regular State and Congressional processes for redistricting and reviewed the 2021 timeline for finalization of the process.

Mayor Nirenberg called on individuals registered to speak on Item 4.

Jack M. Finger expressed concern of election reforms and Critical Race Theory issues during Bexar County and City elections.

Councilmember Viagran asked for clarifications on when election reform would take effect. Mr. Coyle stated that the reform would not impact the upcoming election in November but would the election after that. She requested a meeting off-line to discuss Critical Race Theory and its impacts to the Office of Equity issues.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the State had addressed the distribution of ARPA funding for mortgage and rent relief efforts. City Manager Erik Walsh stated that the following week's A-Session Agenda would include an item accepting a half million dollars from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to assist with mortgage and rental assistance. She also requested a meeting to discuss impacts of redistricting and environmental issues associated with the Climate Action Plan.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked Mr. Coyle and Sally Basurto for their efforts at the State Capital and coordinating communications on City priorities.

Councilmember Castillo expressed her disappointment of the City's support of SB 14 and its impact of anti-worker issues.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that the Legislative Special Session had been a disaster that attacked education and Critical Race Theory issues surrounding various community sectors to include senior citizens, the LGBTQ community, transgender, and indigenous community.

Councilmember Courage asked if whether the City Council could proceed with the City's City Council redistricting or wait until after the State redistricting was accomplished. First Assistant City Attorney Elizabeth Provencio stated the City's redistricting could occur concurrently with that of the State's. Councilmember Courage requested that staff keep the Council informed of the State's progress in on redistricting efforts.

Councilmember Pelaez applauded the efforts of the City's Legislative Team and their thoroughness of addressing and communicating City priorities at the State Capital.

Councilmember Bravo expressed concern on the State's legislative process and how it had not changed much during the past years. He noted his interest in the expansion of the CPS-Energy Board of Trustee positions from four to six and the interest at the State of expanding that board.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if the upcoming Special Session would be the right time to for the City to address and refine the Session's agenda. Mr. Coyle clarified that it was important to inform the Legislature of the City's stance on agenda items, but the City would not be able to add items to the agenda. He noted that City Council priorities could be vetted through the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee for further recommendations to the full Council. Councilmember Sandoval agreed on the importance of coordination with the IGR Committee and stressed the importance of including specialized groups to obtain their feedback and perspectives such as those addressing environmental issues.

Councilmember Pelaez agreed with Councilmember Sandoval that items should be vetted through the IGR Committee and stressed the importance of advocating the City's priorities at the State Capital.

Councilmember Castillo stated that a voting day holiday should be considered in addressing voting equity.

Mayor Nirenberg stressed that legislation that attacked certain marginalized communities needed to be addressed by the City in order bring forward amendments to State agenda items.



Councilmember Courage asked that the City provide input on the upcoming State funding allocations to assure that the City obtained funding for several key initiatives.

**17. 2021-09-09-0672**

Ordinance approving the acquisition, on behalf of the San Antonio Water System, through negotiation or condemnation of interests in land sufficient for project purposes involving approximately 15 permanent and 19 temporary easements of privately-owned real property located in the northeast quadrant of Bexar County in New City Blocks 17728, 34957, 34920, 34964A and CB 4917, 4918, 4912B, 4910B, 4907G, 4911 in Council District 10 related to the E-54 Sewer Main Outfall Project; declaring the project to be for public use and a public necessity for the acquisition. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works Department]

Deputy City Clerk Perkins read the caption for Item 17.

Councilmember Courage asked clarification on the eminent domain components of the Item. First Assistant City Attorney Elizabeth Provencio stated that the relevant homeowner's association required a friendly condemnation which required a two-thirds vote from the City Council for approval. Councilmember Courage asked if the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) could move forward with action even if the City Council did not approve the item. SAWS staff confirmed that SAWS could proceed with the action, but this process was done in order to address any liens or title issues associated with the property.

Councilmember Perry noted that he had discussions with SAWS associated with the easement since there were several homeowner associations impacted by the action and stated that he felt that utility company had worked well with the associations and provided great guidance.

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve Item 17. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

**22. Approving the following Board At-Large (Alternate) appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the remainder of the unexpired terms of office to expire May 31, 2023. [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]**

- A) Patrick Conroy (District 1)
- B) Elizabeth Ingalls (District 1)
- C) Jo-Anne Kaplan (District 9)
- D) Lisa Lynde (District 3)
- E) Lillian Miess (District 8), and
- F) Jesse Zuniga (District 6)

Deputy City Clerk Perkins read the caption for Item 22.

Councilmember Bravo expressed concern that he had been given the opportunity to review the applications of the at large appointments from District 1. He felt that he should have input on the candidates and asked that the Item be continued to the following A Session meeting.

Deputy City Clerk Perkins provided an overview of the vetting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment At-Large alternate candidates and stated that the process went through the Governance Council Committee. She noted that there were 11 candidates that were interviewed and after the Committee vetted these six applicants were brought forward for full City Council approval. She clarified that each Councilmember and the Mayor each appointed a member to the Board and that these individuals would be alternates which would attend meetings as needed in order to meet voting quorum requirements. She added that many zoning items required a super majority vote and alternates often were used to meet this quorum requirement.

Councilmember Courage expressed concern of continuing the Item to the next meeting since there was a process in place for at-large appointments and stressed that it was not realistic for each Councilmember to vet all applicants from their districts to at-large positions.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if a continuance would impact the Zoning approval process. Mike Shannon, Director, Development Services Department, stated that there were scheduled meetings every two weeks and that there were currently two council district vacancies which made alternate appointments vital for approvals especially in the cases where a super majority vote was required. He stressed the importance of meeting quorum in order to make sure there were no delays or backlog in zoning cases.

Councilmember Perry stated that he agreed with the current vetting process and their recommendations of the at-large appointments and agreed that their recommendations should be approved. Mayor Nirenberg stated that he would provide his comments at the end of the Councilmembers discussions.

Councilmember Castillo asked if City Council could vote to remove an at-large appointee. City Manager Walsh stated that the City Code did not currently allow for that and would require a code change in order to do that.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on the number of applicants that were scheduled to be interviewed but did not appear. Ms. Perkins confirmed that there 15 applicants that had been scheduled to be interviewed but that only 11 had been interviewed and the other did not show for their scheduled interviews.

Councilmember Sandoval requested that the members of the Governance Committee provide some feedback on their recommendations.

Councilmember Courage stated that when the Governance Committee interviewed the applicants, they were not made aware of which districts they resided in due to the fact that they were at-large appointments and not specific to a district. He added that it would be extremely difficult to interview all at-large appointments from individual districts and this is why the Council Committee review process was established. As a member of the Governance Committee, he was very comfortable with the slate of proposed appointments.

Mayor Nirenberg asked when the Governance Committee had deliberated the applicants. Mr. Shannon stated that they were interviewed and selected on August 27, 2021. Mayor Nirenberg asked if a memo was sent to notify Councilmembers of the selected applicants. Councilmember Rocha Garcia noted that the applications and list of appointments was listed on the Council Agenda which had posted a week prior to that day's meeting. Mayor Nirenberg noted that this was how each Councilmember, and their staff, did their homework on agenda items but he recommended that a memo be distributed to the full Council on these appointments at the conclusion of interviews. City Manager Walsh stated that his office and that of the City Clerk's would work together to provide a memo of these type of appointments.

Councilmember Bravo moved to Continue Item 22. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Aye:** Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo

**No:** Nirenberg, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

Councilmember Pelaez moved to Approve Item 22. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**Aye:** Nirenberg, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

**No:** Castillo

**Abstained:** Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez

**25. 2021-09-09-0676**

Ordinance approving the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to purchase gift cards from H-E-B Grocery in a total amount up to \$1,000,000.00 by October 2021 for distribution before June 30, 2024 for the Department's COVID-19 Vaccination Incentive Plan funded by the COVID-19 Immunization Round 4 grant budget. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Health]

Deputy City Clerk Perkins read the caption for Item 25.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia state that Item 25 was pulled due to Mayor Nirenberg's voting refusal.

Mayor Pre-Tem Rocha Garcia called on individuals registered to speak on Item 25.

Jack M. Finger spoke in opposition of Item 25 and the payment of incentives for individuals to obtain their vaccines.

Claude Jacob, Director, Metro Health Department, provided an overview of the proposed \$100 HEB Grocery gift card incentive which would be provided to individuals receiving their COVID19 vaccine. He noted that data showed that 70% of eligible individuals had been vaccinated within the City and County. He added that individuals receiving the incentive would be individuals initiating their vaccines after July 31, 2021 and would provide opportunity to have reluctant individuals to get vaccinated. Mr. Jacob stated that staff would be working closely with community partners to verify eligible individuals and distribute cards once the second dose of vaccine was administered.

Councilmember Sandoval asked for confirmation that the \$1 million grant would allow for 10,000 gift cards valued at \$100 each would be purchased. Mr. Jacob confirmed that it would. Councilmember Sandoval thanked all the individuals that had already been vaccinated and stated that this incentive program would boost the numbers of individuals vaccinated making the community safer against the COVID-19 virus.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how many individuals were getting vaccinated on a daily basis. Metro Health Manager Miguel Cervantes stated that 60-70 individuals were being vaccinated daily with an additional 150 individuals being vaccinated at the Alamodome site which was opened Wednesday through Friday.

Councilmember Viagran stated that the need for vaccines was high in her district and that she felt the incentives would be positively received. She asked how long it would take for the incentives to be exhausted. Mr. Jacob stated that this was a moving target, but that staff would keep the Council and City leadership updated on the incentives awarded regularly.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia asked what the UTSA Football Game vaccination efforts. Mr. Jacob stated Metro Health would have a clinic available at the UTSA football game season opener and could provide an update after the weekend.

Councilmember Courage announced that he and Councilmember Perry would be holding a vaccination event at McCallister Park on September 11, 2021. He asked if the 70% of the individuals vaccinated resided in the City or County. Mr. Jacob clarified that these were individuals who had been fully vaccinated in the County which included San Antonio and other smaller cities residents.

Councilmember Bravo expressed his support of the vaccination incentives and asked when the incentives would begin. City Manager Walsh stated that the incentives would begin by the end of the month in order to finalize administrative processes. Councilmember Bravo asked that good communications be provided to residents on eligibility for incentives. City Manager Walsh stated that he would work with staff to make sure a good communication plan was set in place.

Councilmember Bravo asked how much of the total County population had been vaccinated. Mr. Jacob stated that 55-60% of the total population had been vaccinated which took into consideration all individuals not eligible to receive the vaccination which was mostly children under the age of 12. Councilmember Bravo asked if City staff would be eligible for the incentive. City Manager Walsh stated that staff had been offered a \$300 incentive to receive the vaccination and that this incentive was offered to the general public. City Manager Walsh stated that all vaccinated staff members would receive two weeks paid leave if they contracted COVID, but any staff not vaccinated would have to use their own leave related to the contraction of the virus.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed his opposition of the vaccine incentives and stated that the incentives were manipulative and would be perceived by individuals as free to refuse vaccination. He stressed that individuals needed assistance for utilities, mortgage, and rent and not vaccine incentives. City Manager Walsh stated that he understood Councilmember Pelaez concern but that the City continuously found itself in unique situations over the past 18 months in addressing COVID and would continuously look at ways of motivating individuals to get vaccinated.

Councilmember Perry asked if the City would get reimbursed for any incentive gift cards not used. City Manager Walsh stated that the gift cards would not be purchased all at one time and would work administratively with HEB to be reimbursed for any cards not issued.

Councilmember Bravo asked why the ending date for distribution of incentives was set at June 30, 2024. City Manager Walsh stated that the different rounds of Federal funding allowed for funding until that date but that it was anticipated to be spent well before then. Councilmember Bravo asked if the funds could be reutilized for other purposes if not used by the incentive program. City Manager Walsh stated that the contract could be revisited and adjusted.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that she understood Councilmember Pelaez's concerns but that she did not feel that the City had the luxury of time in addressing the COVID virus and anti-vaccine concerns. She added that in her research she found that financial incentives could motivate individuals to get vaccinated.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia stated that the article Councilmember Pelaez referenced was available for download and that it also contained a second portion that provided arguments favoring incentive payments. She noted that there was an urgency of getting sights on long term goals and building strong relationships to meeting those goals.

Councilmember Pelaez stated that no matter the vote outcome, it was beneficial having the robust conversation on ethics. He thanked his fellow Councilmembers in addressing the issue at hand.

Councilmember Sandoval moved to Approve Item 25. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

**No:** Pelaez

**Recusal:** Nirenberg

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **28. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Erik Walsh highlighted that the World Heritage World Festival would run from September 8<sup>th</sup> through September 12<sup>th</sup> which was annual event in partnership with the City's World Heritage Office, Bexar County, The River Authority, the National Park Service, and the Alamo Mission Heritage Partners. He added that the event provided funding for non-profits and projects that preserved, maintained, and promoted the San Antonio Missions.

City Manger Walsh introduced the Employee Spotlight video which highlighted 20 year City staffer Jeff Moore who was the founder of the SATX Social Ride which was started over 10 years ago which brings together several hundred bicyclist each Tuesday night in Downtown San Antonio. He noted that Mr. Moore had won eh 2021 Cyclist Advocate of the Year from the Earn-a-Bike Foundation.

Councilmember Perry recalled his experience during the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on the Country and stated that he was employed by a defense contractor that was located about a mile from the Pentagon. He then spoke of what he witnessed immediately after the attack and the confusion, panic, and lack of communication available for individuals to communicate with their loved ones to let them know they were safe. He stated that he would always remember and think of the lives lost and the courage of first responders and bystanders to help the wounded and people stranded from the day's events.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked the City Councilmembers and City staffers that had served in the military as we remembered the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Nirenberg stated that there would not be an Executive Session and adjourned the meeting at 11:58 AM.

**Approved**

**RON NIRENBERG**

Mayor

Attest:

**Debbie Racca-Sittre**  
Interim City Clerk