

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Economic and Workforce Development Committee

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

Members Present: Manny Pelaez, *Chair*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*
Teri Castillo *Member*
John Courage *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. **Approval of the minutes from the Economic and Workforce Development Committee meeting on January 10, 2022.**

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022 Economic and Workforce Development Council Committee meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Pelaez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Courage

Public Comments

None.

Briefing and Possible Action on the following items

2. **Consideration of applicants to the Small Business Advisory Commission (4 seats).**
[Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk, Office of the City Clerk]

Economic Development Assistant Director Ana Bradshaw stated that applicants would be interviewed for four positions on the Small Business Advisory Commission (SBAC). The following individuals were considered for the vacant Commission positions:

Non-Profit Small Business Service Provider Organization

- Lindsey Logan
- Scott McAninich (written statement)
- Francesca Rattray (written statement)

Small Business Owner with 10-50 employees (2 slots)

- Mark Hernandez
- Bianca Rhodes (no statement provided)
- Javier Roman (written statement)
- Marcos Sarmiento

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Pelaez recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:00 PM to discuss the following:

A. CONSULTATION WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE CONCERNING ATTORNEY CLIENT MATTERS UNDER CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE

RECONVENED

Chair Pelaez reconvened the meeting at 3:25 PM and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the appointment of Lindsey Logan to the Non-Profit Small Business Service Provider Organization Category and Mark Hernandez and Marcos Sarmiento to the Small Business Owner with 10-50 Employees Category. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Pelaez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Courage

3. Briefing on development and infrastructure on the Brooks campus. [Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Hicks-Sorensen, Director, Economic Development]

Leo Gomez, Brooks Development Authority President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), provided a briefing on development and infrastructure on the Brooks campus and recognized fellow Brooks Board Members in attendance at the meeting. Gomez reviewed development at the campus that included live, work which also included development utilizing Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) activity. Gomez noted that there were three high schools located at the campus along with the University of the Incarnate Word Medical School campus. Gomez stated that development on the campus had over \$10 million of annual tax revenue impact to the City of San Antonio.

Gomez provided an overview of the 2017 City Bond Program improvements on the Brooks campus to include infrastructure improvements to Research Plaza to South Presa Street, Inner Circle to Research Plaza, and Global Way to South New Braunfels Avenue. Gomez also reviewed proposed Sidney Brooks Complete Street improvements submitted in the RAISE Grants application and the impact it would have to the campus and economic development. Gomez discussed the future infrastructure priorities which totaled \$92.8 million.

Councilmember Courage noted his support of the development efforts at the Brooks Campus expressed concern regarding how long it would take Brooks to be able to develop the campus without City support. Gomez stated that he hoped that the City would continue to support the Brooks development to continue building jobs and economic opportunities to the neighborhoods surrounding the Campus.

Councilmember Castillo noted that the RAISE Grant submission would be submitted to increase jobs in the area but asked what the average median salary was for households in the area. Gomez responded that the average family income was \$62,000 per year. Councilmember Castillo asked if there were any other grant applications that City staff would be submitting for infrastructure improvements. Assistant City Manager Alex Lopez stated that the Transportation Department would provide an updated report of available or pending applications.

Councilmember Viagran asked for clarification on the residential development on the campus and noted that many resident communities surrounding the campus were still in need of infrastructure improvements. Councilmember Viagran expressed her support of proposed projects and stated that this model could be used to develop other areas of San Antonio.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that she was pleased with the Brooks Development Team having near shovel ready projects to be considered for grant funding applications. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for a cost benefit analysis of the proposed infrastructure projects. Gomez stated that he would provide the Committee with the data.

Councilmember Courage clarified that he was supportive of the improvements at the Brooks Campus and all areas surrounding the Campus and that he wished Brooks to be able to support improvements internal to the Brooks Campus. Gomez stated that he agreed with Councilmember Courage's challenge.

Chair Pelaez noted that the improvements on the Brooks Campus were welcomed by the City Council and was pleased with the economic activity and tax revenue in the area.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. Briefing on the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation Services Agreement and 2022 Business Plan. [Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Hicks-Sorensen, Director, Economic Development Department]

Economic Development Department Director Brenda Hicks-Sorenson introduced the Economic Development Foundation Services agreement and introduced Jenna Saucedo-Herrera, President of the Greater SATX Partnership, provided an overview of the SATX agreement and mission

of the organization in the area of jobs, people and place for the City of San Antonio. Saucedo-Herrera provided an overview of the organization's history and 2021 results in job creation, capital investments and business assistance provided. She also reviewed the 2022 Operations Plan which included five-year goals in the areas of job creation, job retention, and economic perception and development. Saucedo-Herrera reviewed the metrics of the 2022 Proposed Agreement to include new target industry jobs, capital investment, proactive company pitches, local business assists and building SMWBI Memberships in the greater San Antonio area. She noted that the agreement was a "pay for performance" agreement based on metrics met.

Councilmember Viagran stated that a greater conversation needed to be had on how a small business was defined, the poverty rate of women, and the impact of education/workforce on new business attraction to the area. Councilmember Viagran expressed her support of the agreement. Saucedo-Herrera stated that she agreed that education should not be a sole indicator of job opportunities and that San Antonio has had some successes in bringing job creation to the area.

Councilmember Courage noted his support of the agreement and partnership with Greater SATX and looked forward to seeing the organization's success.

Chair Pelaez expressed his support of the Greater SATX agreement and noted challenges that the organization had overcome to bring economic growth into the area. Chair Pelaez asked for clarification on the capital investments in the International arena. Saucedo-Herrera stated that it was important to define the investments in the international arena and to track investments, and clarified that the international efforts would be further defined in a separate agreement.

No action was required for Item 4.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Approved

Manny Pelaez, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk