

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Intergovernmental Relations

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8 Justin

Rodriguez, County Commissioner

Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4

Marialyn Barnard, County Commissioner | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

10:00 AM

Council Briefing Room

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 10:47 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Manny Pelaez, *Chair*

Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*

Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*

Clayton Perry, *Member*

Members Absent: Justin Rodriguez, *Co-Chair*

Marialyn Barnard, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the May 11, 2022 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the minutes of the May 11, 2022 Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Pelaez, McKee-Rodriguez, Rocha Garcia

Absent: Rodriguez, Barnard, Perry

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing on the City's Legislative Program development for the 88th State Legislative Session and state interim hearings. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Director of Governmental Affairs Sally Basurto presented an overview of the potential legislative priorities including Affordable Housing, Access to Healthcare, Firearm Policy & School Safety and Protecting the Municipal Authority.

The following members of the local delegation for the State of Texas 88th Legislature attended the meeting and provided their support of the City's priorities as well as their perspectives:

District 26 Senator Jose Menendez
District 119 Representative Elizabeth Campos
District 121 Representative Steve Allison
District 123 Representative Diego Bernal
District 125 Representative Ray Lopez

Chair Pelaez noted that the City's priorities were developed through extensive survey of its residents and reflected their priorities, not just the priorities of City Council and added that Domestic Violence prevention as well as the other carry-overs from the prior session were important.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed support for the Texas Climate Action Act, protecting women's healthcare and the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community in addition to the priorities listed by Basurto.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia expressed support for the priorities listed by Basurto, the use of microgrids as mentioned by Senator Mendendez to maintain energy stability at military installations, setting a living wage, allowing non-citizens who had served in the United States Military to be eligible to get their Texas Peace Officer license, and addressing the digital divide.

Chair Pelaez thanked all of the attendees for their participation.

No action was taken on this Item.

3. Briefing on the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, federal FY 2023 appropriations and Congressional outlook. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Director of Governmental Affairs Sally Basurto presented an overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Federal Consultant Congressional Update. Basurto provided information on the availability of funding through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program along with the scoring criteria and timeline for the grant. Basurto listed potential projects that staff recommended to be included in the City's RCP grant application including: a project at

Port San Antonio (FY 2022 application), a Citywide mobility program (FY 2023 application) and a project focused on the Hemisfair area streets (FY 2024 application). Basurto also provided information on the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program grant which Public Works would apply for through the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) for Federal funding to pay for grade separations at Rittiman and Walzem Roads.

Chair Pelaez advocated for a systematic approach to applying for the grants and asked if the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) supported our RCE grant and whether they could help lobby the legislature. Director of Public Works Razi Hosseini confirmed that UPRR was in support of the grant application and would potentially provide some funding for the projects. Basurto mentioned that her office would coordinate with a broad stakeholder support group for the grants.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed support for the projects selected for both grants especially the mobility and the railroad crossings that would benefit residents of Council District 2.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia expressed support for the projects selected for both grants, especially the Port Authority project as it was in Council District 4.

Legislative expert Kevin Kelly from Clark Hill in Washington D.C. explained the funding timelines for the grants. Basurto added that the grant applications and coordination would be an ongoing process. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle stated that the goal was that all partners agreed to the order of the applications so that multiple partners in San Antonio were not competing for the same funding.

Kelly provided an update on other items presently under discussion at the Federal legislative level as well as the current political climate.

Co-Chair Pelaez recommended creating opportunities to develop microchips and lure the semiconductor industry to San Antonio and perhaps capitalize on Federal funding available through the CHIPS Act.

No action was taken on this Item.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 PM.

Approved

Manny Pelaez, Co-Chairman

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk