City of San Antonio

Minutes
Intergovernmental Relations
2021 – 2023 Council Members

Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
Justin Rodriguez
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4
Marialyn Barnard | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10
Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager

Monday, October 17, 2022 **10:00 AM** **Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber**

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 10:08 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Manny Pelaez, *Chair*
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*
Marialyn Barnard, *Member*
Clayton Perry, *Member*
Members Absent: Justin Rodriguez, *Co-Chair*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. **Approval of minutes from the September 14, 2022 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.**

   Councilmember Perry moved to Approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Councilmember Barnard seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

   Aye: Pelaez, Rocha Garcia, Barnard, Perry
   Absent: Rodriguez, McKee-Rodriguez

Briefing and Possible Action on

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

Sally Basurto, Director of Governmental Relations Department, presented the four pillars of the 88th State Legislative Program for the City of San Antonio: 1) Protection of Community Interest: Local Governance, Municipal Utilities, and Military City USA;.2) Economic & Community Development: Affordable Housing & Property Tax Relief, Economic Development, Workforce & Education; 3) Public Health & Safety: Healthcare & Nutrition and Violence Prevention; and 4) Infrastructure and Resiliency: Digital Inclusion, Transportation, and Sustainability. Basurto provided a list of partnerships that included community stakeholders and a list of key dates with anticipated approval of the Program by City Council on November 3, 2022.

Chair Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia called for a motion on the Item to begin the discussion. Bexar County Members were able to discuss the Item but would not vote on the City's Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Public Health & Safety pillar particularly related to abortion.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Peleaz spoke in support of the Item and thanked staff for their work on bringing these issues forward.

Commissioner Barnard stated that the Legislative Agenda should include a more broad look at the issues rather than focusing on particular population segments and recommended more specifics.

Councilmember Perry recommended asking our lobbyists which items were unlikely to be successful and suggested focusing on items that were really important and had more likelihood of being approved. Councilmember Perry requested a list of barriers to healthcare for women, children and mothers. Basurto provided the safe haven baby boxes as an example. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle commented that many residents were uninsured and the position was to support expansion of Medicaid.

Councilmember Perry commented that he could not support the language because it was too broad. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that these were general policy positions but that regular updates would be made throughout the session and City Council could address the specific legislation. Assistant City Manager Coyle added that the Health Care policy position supported the Resolution passed by City Council to protect reproductive rights.

Chair Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia recognized the consultants that were in attendance and thanked the work of partners such as the Texas Municipal League (TML), Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), and Alamo Colleges. She highlighted the importance of each of the pillars and spoke in support of all aspects of the Program.

Councilmember Palaez commented that family violence was discussed often but that it impacted women's health disproportionately, particularly for low-income women. He supported the expansion of Medicaid and felt that even though the abortion issue was included, he would still support it because healthcare was important.

Councilmember Perry requested a list of barriers to healthcare services and suggested that the position was really targeting abortion as the position was a waste of City funds.

Commissioner Barnard suggested that the City focus on areas that were likely to succeed and evaluate its return-on-investment related to this Program.

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

Aye:	Pelaez, Rocha Garcia
No:	Perry
Abstain:	Barnard
Absent:	Rodriguez, McKee-Rodriguez

3. **Briefing on the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Sally Basurto, Director of Governmental Relations Department, provided an overview of the Implementation Plan, the guiding strategy and noted that the City submitted a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant and partners submitted a partner planning grant for SS4A. She stated that UTSA and Prosper West, VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) and Port San Antonio submitted Reconnecting Communities Grant applications. Basurto stated that the Emergency Operations Team was following the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant opportunity and the Aviation Department was also planning to apply for funding under the Airport Terminal Program. Basurto listed an opportunity for grants under the Thriving Communities Program Grant from the Department of Transportation (DoT) with a focus on planning and community capacity building.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Pelaez thanked staff for their work and spoke in support of the grant applications.

Councilmember Perry recommended that the City's grant applications be routed through City Council Committees for review and comment prior to submission. Councilmember Perry asked Jesus Saenz, Aviation Department Director, what the Airport planned for their application. Saenz stated that the staff developed its applications consistent with the Airport Strategic Plan priorities and stated that the number one priority was to expand gate capacity at the San Antonio International Airport (SAIA) and maintenance at Stinson Air Field. Assistant City Manager Coyle commented that due to the short turn-around, the application would be submitted prior to taking the application to the Transportation Committee. Councilmember Perry stated he had several questions related to the application and requested a meeting for review.

Commissioner Barnard expressed support for the Airport Grant noting that it was a key component of Economic Development.

Chair Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia requested more information about the upcoming Thriving Communities Grant opportunity. Basurto stated that this was an effort from the Federal Government to assist communities that had difficulty applying for funding due to limited resources and barriers and would be reviewed by the Economic and Workforce Development Committee.

Chair Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia suggested that the Resiliency Hubs, micro-grids, and Greenway Trails apply under the BRIC and stated that she would share a report. Basurto stated that these would be reviewed by Council Committees as appropriate.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia adjourned the meeting at 11:08 AM.

Approved

Councilmember Manny Pelaez, Co-Chairman

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk