

State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio



Meeting Minutes
City Council B 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

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 2:18 PM. Interim City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

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

ABSENT: None

ITEMS

1. Briefing from the City Council Redistricting Advisory Committee on the 2021 Redistricting Process. [Andy Segovia, City Attorney]

City Manager Erik Walsh provided background on the City Council Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) and introduced City Attorney Andy Segovia who stated that the Committee had

held nine meetings and noted that this was the first time the City Council used a Citizen Advisory Committee with extensive community input to develop maps. City Attorney Segovia thanked the legal team that worked on the process and introduced Assistant City Attorney Iliana Castillo Daily who served as the liaison for the Advisory Committee.

Castillo Daily provided an update from the Advisory Committee, the first draft plan and information on future meetings. Castillo Daily stated that Federal law required City Council to redraw City Council boundaries every 10 years (with new census data) to make the City Council Districts equal in population. Castillo Daily stated that municipal redistricting did not change Federal, State, County or School District boundaries and would not impact City services for residents. Castillo Daily reviewed the legal requirements and priority considerations for redistricting. Castillo Daily explained that today's meeting would be an opportunity for City Council to give feedback on the draft and provided the timeline for the process which included four more meetings of the Committee with more community input gathered before returning to City Council with a final recommendation in June 2022.

Bonnie Prosser Elder Co-Chair of the RAC described the process undertaken by the Committee which included initial review of the maps, setting the ground rules for the committee's work sessions, establishing the guiding principles for decision making, listening to community feedback and debating the issues.

Dr. Rogelio Saenz Co-Chair of the RAC presented the Draft Plan and provided maps and described population shifts.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg opened the discussion by thanking staff and the Committee for their work and City Council for agreeing to a nonpolitical process for redistricting. Mayor Nirenberg called for City Council to ratify the work of the Committee once completed by approving the Committee's recommendations.

Councilmember Courage thanked the Council District 9 appointees to the RAC for their work and expressed support for the nonpolitical process of redistricting. Councilmember Courage proposed integrating the redistricting process with the City Budget process so that voters knew which Council District they were living in to be able to identify their representative Councilmember and allow the Bexar County Elections Department time to update their systems. City Attorney Andy Segovia clarified that the Councilmember was requesting that City Council approve the council districts to take effect in October 2022.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda thanked the co-chairs and the Council District 6 appointees to the RAC for their work and expressed support for the nonpolitical process of redistricting. Councilmember Cabello Havrda stated that ensuring that the members of the community were heard was a priority and recommended robust community engagement in both English and Spanish.

Councilmember Castillo supported the plan and the public input process by the Committee and requested making 3-1-1 available for residents to call and provide feedback. Councilmember

Castillo thanked the Council District 5 appointees to the RAC for their work.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez thanked Prosser Elder and the Council District 2 appointees to the RAC for their work. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested the average street PCI scores for the current and proposed council districts. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked about continuity and why a certain precinct was left in Council District 10 and not moved into Council District 2. City Attorney Segovia explained that the precinct was historically located in Council District 10 and, if moved into Council District 2, would negatively impact the concentration of Black voters in Council District 2. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez spoke of maintaining Brackenridge Park in 2 council districts.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia thanked the Council District 4 appointees to the RAC for their work. Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested a breakdown, by council district, of the comments received and the population difference between the least and most populated council districts and how did that compare to the previous number. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how many total precincts/neighborhoods had been divided into two council districts by this process. Castillo Daily stated that she would provide that information.

Councilmember Perry thanked the Council District 10 appointees to the RAC for their work and asked for an overlay of the maps to clearly show the proposed changes. City Attorney Segovia stated that he would provide that.

Councilmember Bravo recommended more detailed maps to be included on the City's website for residents and suggested mailing residents that might be impacted. Councilmember Bravo asked for tables clarifying which precincts were proposed to be moved to include the districts moving from and into.

Councilmember Viagran thanked the Council District 3 appointees to the RAC for their work. Councilmember Viagran noted that according to the 2020 Census numbers, it appeared that Council District 3 was undercounted. Councilmember Viagran recommended all outreach to be in English and Spanish and posting at various locations. Councilmember Viagran asked if there was flexibility to have the boundaries take effect. City Attorney Segovia stated that the October 1, 2022 timeframe was acceptable based on the 2023 election schedule and agreed that there might have been an undercount, however, the official Census numbers were legally required to be utilized for redistricting.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked the Council District 7 appointees to the RAC for their work. Councilmember Sandoval supported mailers to impacted residents and, once approved, mailed reminders to those residents whose council district changed and suggested that the cost should be included in the FY2023 budget. Councilmember Sandoval recommended that the Councilmembers meet to discuss changes and transitions of precinct files between council districts but did not support the change occurring during the Budget. City Attorney Segovia stated that his office would return with more details and clarification on the timeline for the new maps to take effect.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 3:36 PM to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

- A.** Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B.** The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C.** Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D.** Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E.** Legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- F.** Discuss the 2022 evaluation timeline and process for the City Manager, City Auditor, City Clerk, and Presiding Municipal Judge and any related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (personnel matters) and Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 4:29 PM and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 PM.

Approved

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Racca-Sittre
Interim City Clerk