

City of San Antonio



Minutes Intergovernmental Relations

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8, Chair

Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6 | Ana Sandoval, District 7

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

10:00 AM

Council Briefing Room

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee convened a regular meeting in City Hall at 9:11 AM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Manny Pelaez, *Chair*
Teri Castillo, *Member*
Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*
Ana Sandoval, *Member*
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

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

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Pelaez, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Rocha Garcia

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing and possible action on Amending the City's State Legislative Program to include Support for San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Fund's 2023 Legislative Proposal [Ben

Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

Governmental Affairs Director Sally Basurto provided a brief update on the State's Legislature events and possible impact to City of San Antonio priorities of State and House Bills. She introduced Assistant Chief Financial Officer Troy Elliott who provided an overview of action on amending the City's State Legislature Program to include support of the San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Fund's 2023 Legislative proposal.

Elliott provided an overview of the Pension Fund Board actions and scope. He noted that two City Council members and a mayoral representative sat on the Board and that on January 9, 2023 the Pension Fund Legislative Committee met to discuss amendments to the Pension Fund. He reviewed administrative changes to the Pension Fund to include updated verbiage to provide better clarification of survivor benefits and he noted that the City supported the administrative changes.

Elliott reviewed an amendment associated with the death caused or abetted by a survivor which was a new provision. He also noted clarifications of the Line of Death and the non-line of Duty Death Benefit Annuity definitions and associated benefits. He noted amendments proposed by City staff associated with the non-line of duty death benefits. Elliott reviewed the financial impact of the amendments to the Pension Fund.

Elliott stated that staff recommended support of amending the City's State Legislative Program to include support for San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Funds' 2023 Legislative Proposal as amended and contingent upon approval by the Pension Fund's Board. Warren Schott, President of the Fire and Police Fund, expressed his support of the amendments.

Chair Pelaez acknowledged the work of City Leadership, staff and stakeholders in providing input to the Pension Fund amendments.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia expressed her support of the proposed amendments and staff recommendations. She stated that it was important to address these much needed changes to the Pension Fund and support of family survivors. She stated that she was willing to support this program at the Legislature. She asked if there were other cities that recommended changes to their funds. Schott confirmed that other cities were making changes but that San Antonio had made the most significant changes to survivor benefits.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle stated that it was important to receive support from the Committee to move this item forward for full City Council consideration.

Councilmember Castillo stated that she supported the Item.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda thanked City staff and Pension Fund representatives for their work on the Item and she expressed her support of the Item. She noted that it was important to support first responders families and made herself available to support the Item at the Legislature. She asked if the amendments were retroactive. Elliott stated that benefits would be retroactive for claims since 2005.

Chair Pelaez noted his support of the Item and the positive impact of the amendments.

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

Aye: Pelaez, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Rocha Garcia

3. Briefing on the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and an application to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Governmental Affairs Director Sally Basurto provided an overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Grants under the Building a Better America initiative. She provided a congressional update on the Omnibus appropriations package for FY 2022 signed into law on December 29, 2022 and spoke to the two requests by the City of San Antonio to enhance domestic violence prevention through the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program and funding increases associated with FEMA's Emergency Good and Shelter Program. Basurto provided an overview of Community Project Funds appropriations to include those at military installations and other community partners for child and education programs.

Basurto reviewed a BIL/IRA update and noted that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released an updated forecast of grant opportunities and spoke to recent and upcoming San Antonio applications associated with transportation and mobility areas. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle stated that staff would provide continuous updates to the Committee on submitted or available grants.

Basurto provided an update on the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant submissions associated with addressing natural disaster assistance and FEMA management efforts. She reviewed the grant submission scope and due date of submission. She spoke to the projects associated with the submission which included the Seeling Drainage Project.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Sandoval expressed support of the Seeling Drainage Project inclusion in the grant submission which fell within Council District 7.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested a meeting to gain more information on the autism testing program. She stated that she was grateful for the increase of the current minimum nonline of duty Death Benefit Annuity from 50% to 75%.

Councilmember Castillo expressed her support of the community project funding and noted that she spoke with Congressman Tony Gonzalez to review public housing opportunities within her council district. She also expressed her support of drainage projects within Council District 7.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia also noted the support of Congressman Tony Gonzalez for housing projects within San Antonio. She asked if letters of support for the community funding program in other areas would be beneficial in obtaining additional funding. Basurto stated that the legislature was looking to continue the program in 2024 but she did not know if the areas would be the same as this year. Coyle stated that support of other cities would be sought as the City would also support other districts in their efforts.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for clarification on how the City could work or assist community organizations for funding leverage for capital projects such as one at Palo Alto College. Basurto stated that the Legislative Committee worked closely with community partners to identify funding needs and that staff would reach out to Palo Alto to discuss grant funding availability and opportunities.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how drainage projects such as the Seeling Drainage Project were identified for grant submission. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez clarified that drainage projects needed to have completed engineering surveys.

Chair Pelaez asked for meeting to discuss future team meeting dates. Basurto stated that dates and meetings would be coordinated.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Approved

Councilmember Manny Pelaez, Chairman

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk