

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes
City Council A 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
Rosie Castro, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

Thursday, March 9, 2023

9:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 9:05 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

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

ABSENT: None

PROCEDURAL

1. Invocation

Reverend Dr. Mark N. Sontowski, pastor of Stone Oak Cumberland Presbyterian Church, guest of Councilmember Courage led the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nirenberg led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of minutes for the City Council meetings of February 15, 2023, and February 16, 2023.

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve the minutes for the City Council meetings of February 15, 2023 and February 16, 2023. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Councilmember Cabello Havrda honored the 80th birthday of the Navy Seabees and invited members of the group to be recognized. Mayor Nirenberg offered an official congratulations.

Councilmembers Cabello Havrda, Viagran, Castillo, Castro, and Rocha Garcia recognized Women's History Month and women in service, business, and the arts.

Mayor Nirenberg acknowledged that there was still much work to do regarding gender equity and congratulated Councilmember Rocha Garcia for being granted a full tenure professor position at Our Lady of the Lake University.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia announced the 2023 Girls Empowerment Summit.

Mayor Nirenberg read a Proclamation for the Persian New Year known as Nowruz and invited representatives of the San Antonio Iran-American community to speak.

ACTION ITEMS FOR STAFF BRIEFING

4. Ordinance approving the use of \$6,313,108 in ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to be invested in Mental Health, Youth and Seniors and establishing criteria for such funding. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

Jessie Higgins, Chief Mental Health Officer and Jessica Dovalina, Assistant Human Services Director presented background and recommendations for the funding. Higgins reported that the Public Safety Committee recommended the allocation of \$4.63 million in Mental Health Funding as follows: \$3 million for youth aging out of foster care and at-risk youth, \$1 million for family violence and \$600,000 for harm reduction.

Dovalina noted that the Community Health, Environment & Culture Committee (CHECC) recommended \$500,000 for non-profits, \$674,916 for youth services including increased services for homeless and opportunities and \$500,000 for senior services. Dovalina reported that staff planned to issue two separate competitive solicitations and provided an overview of a concurrent timeline for the solicitation processes which would have contracts considered by City Council on June 1, 2023 with contracts beginning in July 2023.

Dovalina added that \$1.49 million was set aside by the Governance Committee for COVID Construction Recovery Grants to small businesses. She stated that the program would be managed by the Economic Development Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Madelein Santibanez, Executive Director for the Corazon Harm Reduction Coalition which focused on reducing drug related illnesses, substance use disorders, and overdoses thanked City Council for investing in harm reduction.

Bethany Hull Somers, Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, spoke on behalf of ARPA funds going toward harm reduction services and programs.

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to any more funding related to COVID commenting that the pandemic was over.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg noted that today was the one-year anniversary of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and stated that while most people were not being infected with COVID today, there was still a significant long-term impact to vulnerable populations. Mayor Nirenberg thanked the Council Committees for their work and supported use of funding for harm reduction and other recommended services. Mayor Nirenberg recommended using the ARPA framework for budgeting even after the funding was depleted and thanked the United States Congress, Senate and the President for the funding to help us recover.

Councilmember Pelaez commented that during the pandemic, women and children were quarantined in their homes with their abusers which caused a heartbreaking spike in domestic violence, suicide, substance use, foster care referrals, and grief. He supported the recommendations for funding and asked how we could ensure that this last bit of funding got to the smaller more grassroots organizations. City Manager Erik Walsh stated that staff was debriefing agencies that had not been successful in previous solicitation processes and would provide technical assistance.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda, Chair of the Public Safety Committee spoke in support of the recommendations that would help fill in the gaps of services including harm reduction and at-risk youth. Councilmember Cabello Havrda noted that even though there was a lot of money, it was not enough for mental health but it would keep moving in the right direction and recommended continued dialogue about mental health and mental illness.

Councilmember Viagran recommended prioritizing family violence and violence against women and children. She spoke in support of the recommended allocations and hoped agencies that were not previously funded could be considered in this next round.

Councilmember Bravo commented that the ARPA funding was coming to an end and there was still much work to be done. He supported the recommendations including the funds for harm

reduction.

Councilmember Courage expressed confidence in the work of the Council Committees even though he did not serve on any of them, therefore, he supported the recommendations as they were intended to improve the health and safety of our community.

Councilmember Castillo supported the recommendations and was extremely grateful for the harm reduction coalition's work. She noted that ARPA investment in at-risk youth, seniors and mental health was the beginning of a conversation about community needs.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry
Absent: McKee-Rodriguez

CONSENT AGENDA

Purchase of Services, Supplies and Equipment

5. 2023-03-09-0158

Ordinance approving a contract with Scientific Resources Southwest, Inc., to provide replacement biomedical freezers and refrigerators for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District for a total cost of \$104,372. Funding is from the FY 2023 National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) Cooperative Agreement, Federal Grant. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

6. 2023-03-09-0159

Ordinance authorizing the City of San Antonio to participate in the Savvik Buying Group Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Program and approving a contract with Stryker Sales, LLC to provide ambulance stretchers, cots, and lifting systems for the San Antonio Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services Division for an estimated annual cost of \$525,000 beginning upon award and ending June 30, 2024 with two additional one-year renewal options. Funding is from the FY 2023 General Fund Adopted Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

Capital Improvements

7. 2023-03-09-0160

Ordinance approving a professional services agreement with Corgan Associates, Inc. for architectural and engineering services for the Terminal Development Program at the San Antonio International Airport in an amount not to exceed \$30 million. Funding for FY 2023 in the amount \$5,684,000 is from Interim Airport Financing, and funding for future years is from Interim Airport Financing, future Federal Aviation Administration grant funds, and Airport Improvement and Contingency Funds, contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

Grant Applications and Awards

8. 2023-03-09-0161

Ordinance authorizing the submission of a grant application and acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$2,178,947 from the Office of National Drug Control Policy for a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant, and establishing a budget and staff of seventeen for the grant period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William McManus, Chief of Police]

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

9. 2023-03-09-0162

Ordinance accepting and appropriating \$3,368,356.96 in Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA-2) funds, of which \$466,791.57 is from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for housing stability programs, including right to counsel and resident relocation assistance; and \$2,901,565.39 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for rental assistance under the city's housing assistance program. Ordinance also authorizes staff to negotiate and execute amended contracts with legal service providers and the TDHCA. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

10. 2023-03-09-0163

Ordinance approving the application for reimbursement and acceptance of funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Board of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) and Shelter and Services Program (SSP) grants for expenses related to assistance provided to migrants traveling through San Antonio in coordination with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of up to \$6,543,876 for the period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; authorizing the City Manager to utilize FEMA contingency funds if needed, and authorizing any necessary contracts. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Councilmember Perry pulled the Item from consent for individual discussion and consideration.

Director of the Department of Human Services Melody Woosley presented the purpose of the Item which was to request reimbursement for work the City was already performing. Woosley displayed a chart on the number of migrants traveling through San Antonio on a monthly basis beginning with January 2021 which showed 312 arrivals and indicated a peak of 37,146 migrant arrivals in December 2022. Woosley reported that Catholic Charities provided daily operations, food, assistance with travel arrangements and case management of the Migrant Resource Center.

Woosley reported on Federal funding authorization since March 2021 and City Council actions and noted that \$4,742,571 had been received for the program with \$9.2 million pending reimbursement for July through December 2022, which FEMA was reviewing. Woosley provided an update that FEMA was considering the additional reimbursement for future needs through its contingency funds.

Woosley recommended reimbursement of up to \$6,543,876 for the period of April 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg noted that this was an action to seek reimbursement from the Federal Government for the work that the City had been doing to assist migrants traveling through San Antonio in a compassionate manner.

Councilmember Perry requested clarification on the \$9.2 million pending to be reimbursed and asked what was the delay. Woosley stated that FEMA had notified the City that they would be reviewing those reimbursement requests next week. City Manager Walsh stated that the City was seeking funding reimbursement and was coordinating to receive the funds. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez clarified that most grants received were on a reimbursement basis. Councilmember Perry asked where the money from the City was originally spent and would there be some money that would become available once we got reimbursed. Deputy City Manager Villagomez explained that the \$9.2 million was booked in the City's accounts as a receivable.

Councilmember Perry asked why the City was still spending money if Catholic Charities was taking over the operations. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that the City held the building lease and provided building maintenance and janitorial services, however, Catholic Charities was spending a much larger amount of money. Councilmember Perry requested information on the total costs to the Center for the City and Catholic Charities as well as money owed from the Federal Government.

Councilmember Pelaez clarified that the Item posted on the agenda included a period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 and noted that staff presented that the period was December 31, 2023.

Councilmember Viagran thanked Catholic Charities for their work and noted that San Antonio and Texas were compassionate and the Item was simply about getting reimbursed from a Federal grant.

Councilmember Bravo was frustrated with the length of time it was taking to get reimbursed and noted that the Federal Government really needed to enact immigration reform but, in the meantime, our City had to act.

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry
Absent: McKee-Rodriguez

Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments

- 11.** Appointing Bonnie Salas (District 3), and reappointing Roland Lozano (District 3) and Milo Nitschke (District 3) to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 16 – Brooks City Base for the remainder of an unexpired term of office to expire May 31, 2023 [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

Miscellaneous

- 12.** **2023-03-09-0164**
Ordinance approving a professional services agreement for on-call Advertising and Marketing Services for the Terminal Development Program, the Airport Concessions Program, Air Service

Incentive Program at the San Antonio Airport System with KGBTexas Marketing/Public Relations, Inc. d/b/a KGBTexas Communications in the amount not to exceed \$10 million for an initial term of three years with two, one-year renewal options. Funding in the amount of \$2 million for the first year of the contract is from the FY 2023 Airport Operating and Maintenance Fund Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda pulled the Item from consent agenda for individual discussion and consideration.

Director of Aviation Jesus Saenz provided an overview of the contract scope of work, budget, history of the expenditures, and mentioned the annual economic impact to marketing the San Antonio International Airport was \$291,359,640 last year. Saenz reported that the advertising and marketing contract would support current air service and attract new flights, promote non-aeronautical revenue growth, support the airport concessions, communicate the impact of the terminal program and elevate the customer experience.

Saenz provided an overview of the contract solicitation process, timeline, scoring, interviews of top firms and stated that the \$10 million contract would be for an initial three year term with an option to extend for two additional one-year periods. There was \$2 million available for year one from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grants and Aviation capital and operating funds.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked if KGBTexas had a minority owner or if any of the applications were minority owned. John Gurwitz, Partner at KGBTexas, reported that the firm was 100% owned by Katie Harvey who was not a minority. Councilmember Cabello Havrda expressed concern that sometimes non-minority marketing firms had a history of stereotyping San Antonio rather than telling an authentic story and recommended engaging with communities of color.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda recommended telling stories of all of our diverse people, not just the Mexican culture but the Black, Asian and other local communities to show that San Antonio was a world-class city. KGBTexas introduced Melissa Aguillon, owner of Aguillon and Associates, who was a subcontractor on the marketing team. City Manager Walsh commented that the City's team, led by Saenz, would oversee the contract to ensure that goals were met.

Councilmember Pelaez noted that a high quality professional marketing firm was needed to attract more airlines and customers as well as maintain competitiveness. Councilmember Pelaez stressed that the airport public relations and marketing were expensive undertakings to get in front of new challenges.

Councilmember Viagran wanted to ensure that the marketing plan told a San Antonio story for locals as well as visitors and suggested international travelers might benefit from maps showing the vast size and offering of San Antonio with an opportunity to tell many authentic San Antonio stories.

Councilmember Perry supported the contract noting the tremendous return on investment and requested clarification on why KGBTexas moved to the top slot only after interviews. Saenz

stated that the final interview included a diverse team and demonstration of specific tasks which indicated KGBTexas was the best firm for the contract. Councilmember Perry commented that San Antonio had a successful small, minority, woman owned business program and expressed concern that a narrative was being presented by some Councilmembers about minority owners.

Saenz recognized all of the women who have contributed to the success of the airport.

Councilmember Castro asked who had the prior contract. Saenz stated that Pavlov, a firm located in Dallas, Texas, had held the contract for the past five years. Councilmember Castro recommended a review of the narratives and marketing examples by City Council to help ensure authenticity of the stories. She noted that the same vendors kept getting contracts and wanted to ensure we were getting the best contractor to represent our City and recommended that all of them commit to hiring from the Ready to Work Training Program.

Mayor Nirenberg supported more participation in the Ready to Work Program and requested an update. City Manager Walsh confirmed that staff would continue to expand opportunities for vendors to participate in Ready to Work and would provide an update. Mayor Nirenberg mentioned a process to align public contracting opportunities for small businesses.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia thanked Saenz for bringing the women with him today and asked if KGBTexas had any other contracts with the City. Staff confirmed that this was the only City contract for which the firm was being considered. Councilmember Rocha Garcia recommended showcasing diverse voices, not just cultures, but inclusion of persons with disabilities and the military. She suggested ensuring diversity of the team and engagement with the community to develop an authentic marketing narrative including ensuring appropriate diversity of concessionaires.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia commented that people often stereotype the typical Texas city as having boots and horses but also noted that the Spanish name often made folks think we were in South America and not the United States. Councilmember Rocha Garcia recommended including the UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in the marketing efforts. She recommended marketing all of our assets in addition to the River Walk and the Alamo. Gurwitz acknowledged the opportunity to break stereotypes.

Councilmember Castro commented about the various museums of Black History as well as the Mexican American Civil Rights story. She commented that art and culture in San Antonio was incredible and should be showcased.

Councilmember Bravo recommended more flights and expansion of our airport system and supported the work of KGBTexas and Aguillon & Associates to market the facility. Councilmember Bravo reminded City Manager Walsh that growth of the airport could create challenges for nearby residents and recommended taking care of the locals as well as marketing for growth.

Councilmember Pelaez commented that his and Mayor Nirenberg's participation in Sister Cities International was an opportunity. Councilmember Pelaez recommended that Saenz stress to all employees that we were all a part of the lasting impression for visitors and suggested including

them in the discussions about the marketing and image of our airport.

Mayor Nirenberg suggested that the growth of the airport and its own story was a compelling item to include in the marketing. He commented that Texas was a strong brand itself, but San Antonio was a confluence of cultures and unique items such as Dream Week which should be included in the marketing plan.

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

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

Absent: McKee-Rodriguez

13. 2023-03-09-0165

Ordinance amending the professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for Airfield Engineering Design Services for two airfield projects at the San Antonio International Airport for a net increase not to exceed \$1,411,469 for a total contract amount of \$11,856,265 for specialized modeling and analysis work. Also appropriating \$1,411,469 from the Airport Improvement and Contingency Fund and amending the FY 2023 - FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

14. 2023-03-09-0008R

Resolution of No Objection for Legacy-San An New Braunfels, LP's application for 2023 Non-Competitive 4% Housing Tax Credits (HTC) from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for the development of a 180-unit affordable multi-family rental housing development named Legacy Senior Residences, located at 6219 S. New Braunfels Avenue in Council District 3 and acknowledgment that more than 20% of the total housing in the Census Tract is supported by HTC. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

Councilmember Perry moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Castro, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

City Manager's Report

15. City Manager's Report

City Manager Erik Walsh played an Employee Spotlight Video highlighting the work of Dental Hygienist Jodie Hostetter.

Executive Session

Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**