

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, March 8, 2023

10:00 AM

Council Briefing Room

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee convened a regular meeting in City Hall at 10:04 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*
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the February 8, 2023 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023 Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Chair Pro-Tem Rocha Garcia called for the vote at 10:04 AM. Chair Pelaez entered the meeting at 10:07 AM.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. **Briefing on the 88th State Legislative Session.** [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Governmental Relations Director Sally Basurto provided an overview of the current status of the 88th State Legislative Session. She noted that the session had begun and that over 5,800 bills had been filed in the House of Representatives and Senate and stated that the deadline for bill filing was March 10, 2023.

Basurto stated that Governor Abbott had announced seven emergency items to be addressed in the Session. She added that Speaker Phelan announced 11 of his 20 priorities and Lt. Governor Patrick announced 30 priorities. Basurto reviewed each of the priorities and their impact to the City of San Antonio.

Basurto reviewed bills of interest which included Senate Bill (SB) 1110 addressing municipal utility fund transfers, SB 491 addressing limitation on building height regulations, SB 2127 under local governance preemption and House Bill (HB) 2649/SB 1207 addressing local pensions.

Basurto reviewed additional bills of interest under the categories of property tax relief to include HB 2 and SB 3 which addressed appraisal caps and homestead exemptions. She noted that both bills had mixed support in the House and Senate. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle provided additional clarification on both proposed bills and tax savings to residents, small businesses and governmental entities.

Chair Pelaez expressed concern on SB 1110, which addressed utility fund transfers, and its impact to the City and potential development. Basurto provided background on the Bill and noted that it was targeted primarily to Austin Energy to address previous concerns. She noted that staff had engaged stakeholders and economic development organizations to educate legislative members on potential impact to small businesses and residents. Chair Pelaez requested that the GreaterSA and San Antonio Greater Chamber of Commerce be engaged in those efforts.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda also expressed concern on SB 1110 and asked for clarification on the potential impact of passage of the Bill. Assistant City Manager Coyle provided clarification on the impact to CPS Energy and the City associated with revenue transfer of fees to customers and the General Fund Budget. He noted that meetings with Senator Schwertner (Bill Sponsor) had proved beneficial in discussing potential impacts to all cities and utility companies. He added that if the Bill did pass, the City would need to identify other sources of revenue to include increased property taxes and Hotel Occupancy Taxes.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked for additional follow up on bills associated with local pensions. She asked if there were any bills filed to address school district funding assistance. Basurto stated that additional information would be provided to the Committee.

Councilmember Castillo expressed concern on the SB 1110. She asked for additional information on bills associated with dangerous animal and bite incidents. Basurto stated that Senator Menendez was

working on a bill to address this legislation and issues.

Councilmember Castillo asked if the San Antonio Trust legislation of interest had been included in tracking initiatives. Basurto stated that staff would further research items of interest.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if staff were tracking all bills. Basurto stated that there were over 1,000 bills that had been filed and that bills of interest were tracked associated with greatest impact to the City. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that there were still many bills anticipated to be submitted by the March 10, 2023 deadline and that staff worked closely with the Texas Municipal League and lobbyists to address bills that had impact to the City. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if there were bills that were anticipated to have filed injunctions. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that injunctions had been filed in the past but that at this time he did not anticipate any injunctions to be filed associated with constitutionality and legality.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if cities used Federal funds to lobby at the Federal level. Basurto confirmed that those funds were used for lobbying.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for clarification on tax property restriction bills. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that the bill was still being reviewed by the Finance Department and he would provide an update to the Committee once analyzed. He noted that HB 2 had the greatest chance to advance for passing into legislation. Councilmember Rocha Garcia stressed the importance of continued communications on bill statuses.

Chair Pelaez noted that residents didn't truly understand the City Council's efforts in addressing legislation that could negatively impact its residents. He stressed that it was important to educate residents on legislative issues and communicating to their State legislators of concerns and impacts. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that high priority issues as they moved in the process would be communicated to advocates and stakeholders in order to gain support and stress impacts.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Briefing on the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's 2023 SA to DC advocacy trip. [Jeff Coyle, Assistance City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Chair Pelaez introduced Councilmember Castro to the Committee and announced that Mayor Nirenberg would be joining the Committee

Governmental Relations Director Sally Basurto introduced the Item and Cacie Madrid, Vice President of Public Policy with the Greater Chamber of Commerce, who provided an overview of the SA to DC upcoming meetings and agenda. She noted that the meetings would take place from March 27 through March 30, 2023. She noted that meetings would be held with key legislators to address advocacy and collaboration with the City of San Antonio.

Councilmember Castro stated that she would not be attending the meetings but that she supported efforts and opportunities for collaboration.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stated that she looked forward to the meetings.

Councilmember Castillo stated that she also looked forward to the meetings and that she recently met with the Carpenters Union that offered their assistance in grant applications.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that she looked forward to the meetings and that she was pleased that the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department staff was included in the trip. She stressed that access to medical care was needed and that she was wanted to support meetings associated with the issue.

Chair Pelaez stated that it was crucial to include Councilmembers on key issue meetings and stressed their desire to provide support on those issues.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Approved

Councilmember Manny Pelaez, Chairman

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk