

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2012
10:00 AM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B**

Members Present: Councilmember Ray Lopez, *Chair, District 6*
Councilmember Diego Bernal, *District 1*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Sally Basurto, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Christine Wright, *Intergovernmental Relations*; John Jacks, *Assistant Director of Development Services*; Monica Hernandez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Scott Price, *Office of Urban Development*; Marc Rodriguez, *Offices of Marc Rodriguez*

Call to order

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Minutes of the August 8 and September 11, 2012 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meetings

Councilmember Soules moved to approve the Minutes of the August 8 and September 11, 2012 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meetings. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

II. Possible Action Items

a. Federal Consultant Contract Extension

Carlos Contreras, Director Intergovernmental Relations

Carlos Contreras provided a briefing on an ordinance authorizing the execution of a Second Amendment and Renewal Agreement for Federal Representation Services with Patton Boggs, LLP for a total monthly amount of \$16,666.00 beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2013.

Mr. Contreras stated that City staff recommends exercising a contract extension for this professional services agreement for Federal Representation Services with Patton Boggs

LLP. If the extension is not approved, the City will not have representation in Washington D.C. to lead efforts on the City's community priority issues.

In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Contreras replied that no changes in conditions and performance standards would take place.

Councilmember Soules asked of the client list of other municipalities. Mr. Contreras replied that Patton Boggs represented a number of top 10 cities such as: San Diego, San Jose, and Various Cities in Florida: He noted that San Antonio is the only large city in Texas. Mr. Contreras added that this is a final extension.

Councilmember C. Medina moved to forward said item to the full City Council. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion.

Councilmember Bernal reiterated that the extension is for one year and asked of the term of the Federal Congressional Session. Mr. Contreras replied that the contract term is aligned with the congressional two-year session which begins on January 1, 2013. He noted that there is a contingency plan in place. He added that staff would return with recommendations and additional items to move forward.

Councilwoman Chan entered the meeting at this time.

The motion to move said item to the full City Council carried unanimously.

b. 83rd State Legislative Program

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Carlos Contreras provided a recap on the previous State Legislative Session. He reported that the 83rd State Legislative Session is scheduled to begin on January 8, 2013 and would include an unprecedented number of new members.

Mr. Contreras presented the Proposed Initiatives:

- Hemisfair Redevelopment
- Land Bank Amendments
- Posting Requirement for Construction Projects
- Illegal Fill Violations
- Graffiti (pending)
- Fire Department Eligibility List
- Replat Without Vacating Preceding Plat

In addition, Mr. Contreras presented on the following: Joint Community Initiatives, Endorsements, Protection of Municipal Interests and Other Departmental Recommendations.

Councilmember Soules referred to the three shaded spaces on the map provided regarding the Hemisfair Redevelopment and asked for specifics. Councilmember Bernal noted that

a dedicated piece of Legislation from Austin is required specifically for Hemisfair. Mr. Contreras added that State Law requires voter's approval to undedicate parkland. In unision, Chairman Lopez stated that the request would be a legislation to allow for flexibility and to ultimately take dedicated parkland from 14.9 to 20.7. In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Contreras replied that Council has flexibility to request to undedicate land as many times as needed. Councilmember Bernal noted that Council only has the ability with confines of Hemisfair Redevelopment.

Land Banks

Councilmember Chan asked of the current agency that provides oversight. Scott Price, Office of Urban Development replied that Land Bank activities were administered through Non Profit San Antonio Affordable Housing and that the current agency is the Urban Renewal Agency - an Independent agency whose members are appointed by the Mayor.

Councilmember Chan asked of the pros and cons with agency versus the City providing this service. Mr. Contreras stated that a City Department is not authorized to act as a Land Bank. Discussion ensued and Mr. Contreras stated that he would provide additional information to the City Council.

In response to Councilmember Soules, Mr. Price replied that the total Land Bank Funding was \$1.5 million and that the Land Bank also solicited grants.

In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Price replied that the Land Bank had the ability to centralize and simplify the identification, acquisition, management, and disposition of real property for San Antonio.

Mr. Contreras noted that said bill would benefit all Public Entities by improving properties.

Councilmember Chan referred to the fourth point on the Land Bank Amendments, asking for clarification on allowing other Governmental Entities the ability to convey property it owns directly to the Land Bank without having to provide prior public notification. Mr. Contreras confirmed that Governmental Entities would contribute land directly to the Land Bank.

Competitive Bidding Method

Mr. Contreras stated that the Capital Improvements Management Systems (CIMS) Department requested said proposal. Councilmember Chan expressed concern and disagreed with said Competitive Bidding Method. A (CIMS) Representative stated that said proposal is only for low bids and that each bidding follows specific law. Councilmember Chan suggested being very specific in the request and the contract.

Graffiti

Mr. Contreras spoke of the proposed amendments to the Local Government Code to add provisions which would enhance penalties associated with graffiti offenses; or legislation to increase penalties for graffiti on public structures; and/or parental responsibility for cleanup.

Councilmember Bernal asked of efforts to restrict access to paint/aerosol. Mr. Contreras and Mark Rodriguez concurred that a number of efforts to restrict access such as adding fees to paint sales and increasing penalties had been made in the past.

Chairman Lopez stated that he believed there was a City Ordinance that included an Abatement Plan.

Fire Department Eligibility List

Mr. Contreras spoke of proposing an increase on the maximum length of time an eligibility list for beginning positions in the Fire Department can remain in effect from 12 months to 24 months.

In response to Chairman Lopez, it was stated that it was very common to have applicants reapply to the Fire Department.

Replat Without Vacating Preceding Plat

Mr. Contreras informed the Committee of proposing legislation to allow property owners to remove a platted restriction (such as an access easement or an abandoned utility easement) without having to request written permission from the property owners within the same platted development.

Councilmember Soules asked of the disadvantages regarding said proposal. Mr. Contreras replied that the individual property owner had the ability to object.

Councilmember Soules provided a scenario and stated that he would like to ensure that there are easements for needed setbacks.

Councilmember Chan expressed concern regarding said proposal and noted that there may be neighborhood opposition. In response to Councilwoman Chan, John Jacks stated that said proposal entails proposing a process as a part of legislation and notifying all in a public hearing.

Councilmember Chan recommended said item be brought for consideration of discussion instead of being at the discretion of the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Soules provided a worse case scenario and stated that he did not want unintended consequences.

Mr. Contreras highlighted the following Joint Community Initiatives:

- Transportation
- Endorsements
- DWI Checkpoints
- Sales Tax Exemptions
- Reduction of Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies
- Economic Development
- Water
- Homeless Program Funding
- Public Education
- Higher Education

In response to Councilmember C. Medina, Mr. Contreras stated that more specific requests would be discussed with regard to Higher Education and Tier 1 status for UTSA.

Mr. Contreras highlighted the following Protection of Municipal Interests:

- Municipal Authority
- Appraisal and Revenue Caps
- Franchise and Municipal Right-of-Way Fees
- Vested Rights
- Pay Day & Auto Title Lending
- Unfunded Mandates

Mr. Contreras highlighted the following Health Related Issues:

- Third Trimester Syphilis Screening
- Access to School-Based Oral Health Services

In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Contreras stated that he was requesting to reconvene and present more information at a Special IGR Meeting on October 31, 2012, prior to presenting at a B Session.

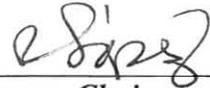
There was no action required for said item.

III. Consideration of items for future meetings
a. Next Meeting Scheduled: November 14, 2012.

Mr. Contreras announced that the next scheduled meeting will be held on November 14, 2012 in the Municipal Plaza C Room and that a tentative Special Meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2012.

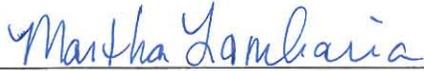
II. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41a.m.



Ray Lopez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Martha Lambaria

Office of the City Clerk