

**Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee
Special Meeting
Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2011
Municipal Plaza Room C
1:00 PM**

Members Present: Councilmember Justin Rodriguez, *Chair, District 7*
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*
Councilmember Jennifer V. Ramos, *District 3*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Ben Gorzell, *Chief Financial Officer*; Sally Basurto, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Christine Wright, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Stephanie Johns, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Veronica Zertuche, *Deputy City Attorney*; Gabriel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Baltazar Serna, *Patton Boggs, LLP*; Robert Puente, *SAWS*; Allison Greer, *SAWS*; Dan Crowley, *SAWS*; Keith Martin, *SAWS*; Doug Evanson, *SAWS*; Kelley Neumann, *SAWS*; Byron Gipson, *SAWS*; Mike Lopez, *BMWD*

1. Call to order

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order.

2. Issues to be considered

a. State Legislative Update and Possible Action

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

i. Discussion and Consideration of Possible Amendments to 82nd State Legislative Program

Carlos Contreras reported that there were three bills, two of which are companion bills, regarding possible dissolution of BexarMet through an election by BexarMet Rate-Payers. He stated that Senator Carlos Uresti requested that the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) begin plans to incorporate all or a portion of the BexarMet System into the SAWS Service Area. He noted that SAWS had created an internal task force in the event that any of the bills pass, to discuss the dissolution of BexarMet. He detailed several opportunities with the unification of the two entities and added that long and short term efforts are currently under development.

Chairman Rodriguez asked of a timeline regarding said issue. Mr. Puente responded that passage of the bill(s) could take place in the May 2011 time frame and that a conservator would be appointed until the November, 2011 Election. He stated that should judicial clearance occur in a timely manner, the measure would be endorsed at the next election in May, 2012. In

response to Chairman Rodriguez, Mr. Puente stated that a Resolution of Support for the bill(s) would be requested of the City Council.

Councilmember Ramos entered the meeting at this time.

Councilmember Lopez asked if the mandate would be funded. Mr. Puente responded that BexarMet would be operated as a separate entity to allow the entity to pay for itself until an official merger is completed.

Councilmember Ramos asked of a potential rate decrease for BexarMet Ratepayers should BexarMet be dissolved. Mr. Puente responded that BexarMet had projected rate increases over the next five years, just as SAWS has done. He stated that in the event of a merger, SAWS could ensure BexarMet Ratepayers that their service would improve and that projected rate increases would be minimized due to savings and synergies resulting from the merger.

ii. Discussion and consideration of State Consultant Selection

Mr. Contreras reported that Immigration Legislation was being considered in the House today ranging from "Sanctuary City" Type Legislation to "Arizona" Type Legislation. He stated that pursuant to a Resolution of the City Council, a card had been filed in opposition to the "Arizona" Type Legislation.

Mr. Contreras provided the timeline for the solicitation of an additional State Consultant for the City of San Antonio and reported that eleven applicants had responded. He stated that the interview panel had selected the following applicants for consideration: Randall Erben, Erben & Yarbrough; Patricia Shipton, Government Affairs Consultant; and Luis Saenz, Government Relations & Public Affairs. He noted that the interview panel had recommended Patricia Shipton and Randall Erben as additional State Consultants for the City of San Antonio. A.J. Rodriguez indicated that all three applicants were outstanding individuals. He stated that there were some repetitive skills and contacts between Patricia Shipton and Luis Saenz, and that Randall Erben represented a larger firm that could assist Mr. Contreras and staff with research and background.

Chairman Rodriguez expressed concern with staff recommendation and spoke in support of Luis Saenz as part of the consultant team. He noted that he conferred with Marc Rodriguez, the City's State Consultant, and concurred that any combination of the three applicants would be a good selection. A.J. Rodriguez stated that the proposed applicants were subject to negotiation and that one of the consultants could be utilized as an alternate. Chairman Rodriguez stated that budgetary constraints prohibited the City from hiring all three consultants.

Councilmember Ramos moved to recommend Luis Saenz and Randy Erben to the full City Council for approval. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Federal Legislative Update and Possible Action
Carlos Contreras, Intergovernmental Relations Director

i. Review Strategic Plan Provided by Patton Boggs

Mr. Contreras reported that the Senate voted to extend the FY 2011 Budget for two weeks and the Committee would be moving forward with the trip to Washington D.C. He spoke of the Strategic Plan regarding the City's Initiatives in an environment with no earmarks, and stated that staff was working on a Strategic Plan regarding the City's Joint Initiatives.

ii. Update on Washington, DC Trip (March 6-9, 2011)

Mr. Contreras informed the Committee that the agenda meetings for the Washington D.C. were consistent with the implementation of the Strategic Plan to work with the agencies for funding. He stated that the meetings would include discussions with the City's Delegation regarding the impact of Federal Tax Cuts on the City. Sally Basurto reported that several key issues scheduled for discussion with the Congressional Offices include: San Antonio Missions; Perimeter Rule; Southwest Texas Fusion Center; and the Federal Courthouse Relocation.

3. Consideration of items for future meetings

There were no items addressed.

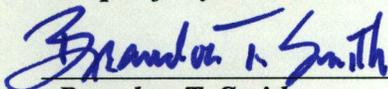
4. Executive Session: consultation concerning attorney-client matters (real estate, litigation, contracts, personnel and security) may be discussed

There was no Executive Session.

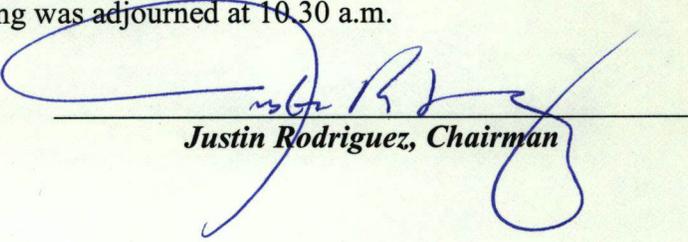
5. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10.30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk



Justin Rodriguez, Chairman