

CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 7, 2004

3:30 p.m.

City Hall Media Briefing Room

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair, Mayor Ed Garza, with the following members present: Perez, Castro, Hall, Schubert; Absent: None.

Staff members present: Erik Walsh, Martha Sepeda, Yolanda Ledesma, Jelynn Burley, Emil Moncivais

- I. Approval of minutes of the December 3, 4, and 17, 2003 Governance Committee meetings.

Councilman Perez made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Hall seconded the motion. Committee members concurred to approve the minutes.

- II. AGENDA PLANNING RELATED ITEMS

- A. Briefing regarding the policy and guidelines for designating memorials in San Antonio, as requested by Councilman Roger O. Flores; Presented by Emil Moncivais, Director of Planning; Jelynn Burley, Assistant City Manager.

Mr. Emil Moncivais stated there was no procedures or policy in place. It was recommended that the issue be forwarded to Urban Affairs Committee, and allow staff to gather data and develop a procedure.

Councilman Perez made a motion to move forward to Urban Affairs Committee. Councilman Hall seconded the motion. Committee members approved the motion.

- B. Briefing regarding the clarification of the City's Ethics Code regarding gifts presented to City officials for distribution to the community, as requested by Councilman Enrique M. Barrera; Presented by Andrew Martin, City Attorney; Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager.

Mr. Erik Walsh, stated that this item would be rescheduled for a future Governance Committee as required by Council members.

- III. Discussion of proposals to amend the San Antonio City Charter at a May, 2004 election as requested by Mayor Edward D. Garza.

Mayor Garza recommended that this item be postponed, and further noted that Governance Meetings would be held every Wednesday for the month of January to work on Charter and other issues.

IV. Consideration of scheduling of items for future meetings.

Discussion continued on the public hearings to be held to receive input from the community on the proposed Charter amendments. Direction was given to staff to schedule the public hearings for Thursday, February 12, 2004, and Thursday, February 19, 2004 at 6:00 P.M. for both hearings.

Discussion also took place regarding recent changes to the Election Code and the effects on San Antonio, i.e. change in canvass dates that will move the run-off election back and the effective date of new Council members taking office.

Mr. Walsh spoke to a future Governance meeting to be held on a Saturday to address the City Clerk position.

City Manager Terry Brechtel spoke to the possibility of changing the way Council meetings are held, and look at the opportunity of setting up special meeting on first Thursday of month as a Work Session, and move zoning to later in the afternoon at 3 or 4:00 P.M., and also set up the following Thursday as an all-action day.

Mayor Garza recommended that staff bring back some options to the Council for consideration.

Councilman Hall inquired as to why not having the "B" Sessions in the Council Chambers to remove the perception of closed door meetings.

City Manager Brechtel stated that the B Room was more conducive to the meetings.

Councilman Perez expressed concern on citizens not having the opportunity to view all deliberations, even if it means to tape the meeting and show it at a later date.

Discussion continued on the proposed meeting structure, posting requirements and consideration of zoning hearings.

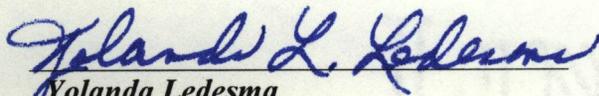
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Councilman Castro concurred to move the B Sessions to the main Chambers, televise the Citizens to be Heard portion, and requested that staff bring back different options for Council Committee to consider.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.



Mayor Edward Garza, Chairman



Yolanda Ledesma
Acting City Clerk