

City Council Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the City Council Governance Committee was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 2:07 p.m. in the Media Briefing Room with the following present:

Council Present: Mayor Phil Hardberger
Councilmember Richard Perez, District 4
Councilmember Delicia Herrera, District 6
Councilmember Art Hall, District 8
Councilmember Kevin Wolff, District 9

Staff Present: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Erik J. Walsh, Asst. to the City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Monty McGuffin, Sr. Sanitarian; Chris Hebner, Asst. City Attorney; Patricia Major, City Auditor; Albert Ortiz, Chief of Police; Krystal Strong, Management Asst.; Barry Archer, Development Services Asst. Director; David Simpson, Development Services, Chief Signmaker; Sally Farris, Asst. City Attorney; Charles Pruski; San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Asst. Director; Bob Nordhaus, Asst. City Attorney; Norbert Hart, Acting Deputy City Attorney; Stephanie Bocanegra, District 9 Council Aide; Janice Pokrant; District 8 Council Aide; Chris Headen, District 2 Council Aide; Trey Jacobson, Asst. to the Mayor; Larry Zinn, Mayor's Chief of Staff; Mitsuko Ramos, Special Projects Coordinator; J.J. Saulino, Mayor's Office; Sonny Torres, District 6 Chief of Staff

Also Present: Michael Cary, S.A. Current; Laura Jesse, S.A. Express-News

CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Perez called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of minutes from the December 14, 2005 meeting.

Councilmember Hall moved to approve the minutes of December 14, 2005.
Councilmember Herrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

II. Agenda Planning Related Items

- A. Consideration of a request regarding the designation of Toutant Beauregard and Boerne Stage Road as a Scenic Corridor, as requested by Council Member Art Hall, District 8.

Councilmember Hall stated that the individual(s) requesting the designation recently developed the Parade of Homes site in the vicinity. He added that the City Attorney stated that a scenic corridor is permissible in this area. Mr. Hall noted that the designation allows the City to regulate the size, quantity, colors, illumination, etc. of business signage within the corridor. He further stated that City staff recommended this request be referred to the Urban Affairs Council Committee for review.

Councilmember Hall moved to refer said item to the Urban Affairs Council Committee for review. Councilmember Wolff seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

B. Discussion and approval of proposed audit projects. [Patricia Major, City Auditor]

City Auditor Patricia Major referred to the January 11, 2006 letter distributed to the Committee members recommending a 2006 audit service plan for selected projects. She informed the Committee that she and the City Manager met and agreed on the proposed plan. Ms. Major stated that eight projects are proposed for this quarter.

Councilmember Wolff asked Ms. Sculley her opinion of the proposed audit schedule. Ms. Sculley stated that the proposal reflected her feedback to Ms. Major.

Councilmember Herrera asked Ms. Major if the audits would be performed in-house, to which Ms. Major responded all are performed in-house.

Councilmember Perez related his previous experiences with audit reviews, and stated his pleasure with this proposal as it is the duty of an auditor to provide information to strengthen an organization. He offered congratulatory remarks to Ms. Major and Ms. Sculley in working together. Councilmember Hall concurred with Mr. Perez, but encouraged independence on the part of the Auditor. Mayor Hardberger offered his endorsement to proceed with the proposed audits.

Ms. Major reported that the progress of several 2005 audits was delayed and they yet remain unpublished, but will soon be completed.

Councilmember Perez requested Ms. Major to distribute the aforementioned letter to all City Council members.

C. Discussion regarding the purpose, status, and scheduling of a future staff briefing to City Council regarding site air pollution control in the City's limits, as requested by Councilman Hall, District 8. [Sally Farris, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Michael Bernard, City Attorney]

Councilmember Hall stated that this item is the result of several current development projects which are creating tremendous dust. He said that while air standards on these projects are regulated, project managers and builders use various loopholes or interpretations to conduct business.

Mr. Hall noted that this item allows the City to monitor and regulate dust pollution over building projects in the City. He stated that his goal is to determine the limitations the City has to enforce and regulate air standards in order to strike a fair balance with all parties affected by such projects. He stated that he does not wish for any such policy development to be onerous to any parties.

Assistant City Attorney Sally Farris informed the Committee that air traps have been conducted and recommended that the San Antonio Metropolitan Area Health District (SAMAHD) oversee this item. She stated that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality does not enforce standards locally. She added that SAMAHD may consider "nuisance control," which enables the City to enforce standards in its incorporated area and extend enforcement into measurable distances outside this boundary. She also noted that quarry regulations are already established, but these regulations are separate from City Code.

Councilmember Hall asked Ms. Farris to further explore the City's options on the matter.

SAMAHD Assistant Direct Charles Pruski suggested a review of other municipalities and organizations that deal with air quality issues, to include discussions with code enforcement officers and regulatory success rates.

Councilmember Hall asked Mr. Pruski how much time would be needed for such a review. Mr. Pruski responded that review and analysis would require one month.

Councilmember Hall moved that said item be referred to the Urban Affairs Council Committee for review. Councilmember Wolff seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

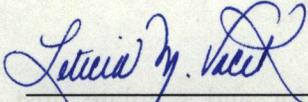
III. Consideration of items for future meetings.

There were no items scheduled.

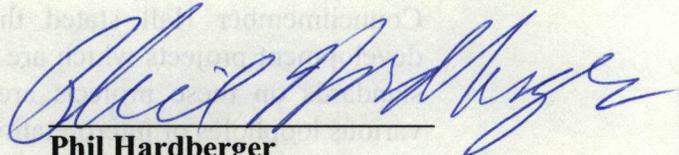
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request

ATTEST:



Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk



Phil Hardberger
Mayor

Assistant City Attorney Sally Farris informed the Commission that an investigation had been conducted and recommended that the San Antonio Metropolitan Area Health District (SAMHD) oversee this item. She stated that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality does not enforce standards locally. She added that SAMHD may consider "nuisance control," which enables the City to enforce standards in its incorporated area and extend enforcement into unincorporated distances outside this boundary. She also noted that quarry regulations are already established, but these regulations are separate from City Code.

Councilmember Hall asked Ms. Farris to further explore the City's options on this matter.

SAMHD Assistant Director Charles Priski suggested a review of other municipalities and organizations that deal with air quality issues to include discussions with code enforcement officers and regulatory success rates.

Councilmember Hall asked Mr. Priski how much time would be needed for such a review. Mr. Priski responded that review and analysis would require one month.

Councilmember Hall moved that said item be referred to the Urban Affairs Council Committee for review. Councilmember Wolff seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

III. Consideration of items for future meetings.

There were no items scheduled.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.