

## Quality of Life Council Committee

### Minutes

Thursday, August 25, 2005

7:30 a.m.

### Media Briefing Room

**Members Present:** Councilmember Art Hall, Chair, District 8  
Councilmember Richard Perez, District 4  
Councilmember Elena Guajardo, District 7

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**Absent:** Councilmember Chip Haass, District 10

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**Staff Present:** Councilmember Roger Flores, District 1; Councilmember Patti Radle, District 5; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager; Jelynn Burley, Assistant City Manager; Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager; Martha Sepeda, City Attorney; Thomas G. Wendorf, Public Works Director; Albert Ortiz, Police Chief; Liz Garcia, Acting Code Compliance Director; Henry Ross, Assistant Community Initiatives Director; Jason Crosby, Assistant Public Works Director; Ben Gorzell, Public Utilities Director

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### Call to Order

Chairman Art Hall called the meeting to order.

#### 1. Approval of Minutes for the May 12, 2005 Quality of Life Meeting – *Action Item*

The committee members present unanimously approved the minutes of the May 12, 2005 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting.

At this time the committee addressed item 2 and 3 concurrently.

#### 2. Discussion and consideration of a Council Consideration Request to accelerate the implementation of two comfort stations located in the downtown area as proposed in the Advanced Transportation District (ATD) presentation given at the July 13, 2005 B Session as requested by Councilmember Patti Radle, District 5 and Councilmember Roger O. Flores, District 1 – Tom Wendorf, Public Works Director – *Action Item*

Mr. Tom Wendorf presented information on the proposed comfort stations located in the downtown area, composed of two major components to include a Downtown Rest Stop and two Comfort Stations. The Downtown Rest Stop proposed location is at the Riverbend Parking Garage on Commerce and would be open 24/7 at a cost of \$700,000 allotted from the Tri-Party General Obligation Fund. The Comfort Stations are 2 Automated Public Toilets (APT) that will be located adjacent to high frequency bus stops at a cost of \$500,000 allotted from Advanced Transportation District funds.

Chairman Hall recognized the need for the stations but expressed concern with the cost of the project. He sought clarification of the project costs and funding.

In support of the project, Councilmember Roger Flores presented background and history on the need for the Downtown Restroom Project and the Tri-Party Obligation Fund. Councilmember Radle also stated her support for the project and noted the support of the Downtown Advisory Board and various downtown entities.

Councilmember Perez requested a video presentation on the stations and that the presentation be distributed the media. He also expressed concern with the affect of coin operation on the homeless. In response, Melissa Vossmer noted the stations will also operate with tokens that could possibly be issued at shelters for the homeless.

Councilmember Guajardo expressed concerns with the cost of the project, access to the homeless and with timers on the doors. Mr. Tom Wendorf responded that the stations would be customized to accommodate general usage in San Antonio.

The committee members present unanimously moved and seconded to move items 2 and 3 forward to City Council.

**3. Discussion and consideration of a request to transfer \$190,000 from the Tri-Party General Obligation Fund to the Downtown (Visitor) Rest Center Project as requested by Councilmember Roger O. Flores, District 1 – Tom Wendorf, Public Works Director – Action Item**

The committee members present unanimously moved and seconded to move items 2 and 3 forward to City Council.

**4. Presentation of Taxicab fuel Surcharge – Albert A. Ortiz, Chief of Police – Action Item**

Chief Albert Ortiz informed the committee of the taxicab fuel surcharge. The proposed surcharge will be calculated on the retail prices of gasoline prices listed for regular unleaded issued by the Oil Price Information Service for the San Antonio Area. Chief Ortiz stated the fuel surcharge would take effect the subsequent calendar quarter and would be programmed on the taxicab meters by the Ground Transportation Unit Staff. If approved, the proposed rate will go into effect October 1, 2005.

Councilmember Richard Perez suggested a tier graduation to take affect immediately opposed to quarterly. Councilmember Elena Guajardo requested a point of personal privilege to allow two citizens to be heard to include Mr. Jerry Sundberg who offered an alternative to the proposed surcharge and Ms. Adrianna Skye who spoke with regard to an urgency to proceed with adequate relief for taxicab drivers due to the significant increase in gas prices.

Chairman Hall suggested tabling the item for one week to review additional information pertinent to a sufficient surcharge.

The committee members present moved and seconded to forward said item to City Council in one week.

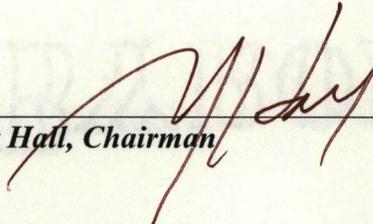
**5. Discussion and consideration of a request to amend the City Code provisions regarding parking on front lawns and inside yard setbacks, which will include boats and certain non-motorized vehicles and will clarify the prohibition as it applied to recreation vehicles, as requested by Councilmember Chip Haass, District 10 – Liz C. Garcia, Acting Code Compliance Director – Action Item**

Ms. Liz C. Garcia acknowledged questions pertaining to the proposed amendments to the City Code regarding parking on front lawns and inside yard setbacks. Councilmember Guajardo requested clarification regarding the proposed changes and gave direction to staff to simplify the language of the amendment.

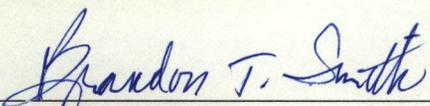
The committee members present unanimously moved and seconded to reschedule said item to a later date.

**There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.**

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

  
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*Art Hall, Chairman*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

  
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**Brandon T. Smith**  
**Administrative Assistant II**  
**Office of the City Clerk**