

Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee
Wednesday, April 19, 2006
Municipal Plaza "C" Room
1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Chip Haass, Chair, District 10
Councilmember Roland Gutierrez, District 3
Councilmember Patti Radle, District 5
Councilmember Elena Guajardo, District 7

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Attorney*; *District Fire Chief* Nim Kidd; Jason Crosby, *Assistant Public Works Director*; Bill Mattox, *Assistant Public Utilities Director*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Gabriel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Virginia Cobarrubias, *Health Metro Health*; Trey Jacobson, *Mayor's Office*; Edward Belmares, *Office of Management & Budget*; Joseph Margolis, *Planning*; Jeff Pullin, *Finance*; Christine Gutierrez, *District 10 Staff*; John Pruder, *District 7 Staff*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Penny Farthing, *Patton Boggs*; Roberta Rodriguez, *Bexar County*; Karen Cruz, *SAWS*;

I. Call to Order

Councilmember Radle called the meeting to order and Chairman Haass then entered the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes for March 21, 2006, 2006 Meeting

Councilmember Guajardo moved to approve the Minutes of March 21, 2006. Councilmember Radle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Issues to be Considered

a) Federal Legislative Update – Patton Boggs

Penny Farthing summarized the issues assigned to Patton Boggs in its representation of the City of San Antonio. She noted visits to the Fredericksburg and Zarzamora Projects, and a trip to the Toyota Factory. She also noted that the firm is seeking Federal Grant Funding for the Main Plaza Project.

Chairman Haass asked for feedback on the City of San Antonio trip to D.C. Ms. Farthing recommended returning in the summer. She noted that the City's requests were being formulated and were not completed at the time of the visit. She added that the City should start planning now for next year. Ms. Farthing stated that most Federal Funding requires a local match and to consider that fact in planning for next year.

Matthew Polanco added that the City Council adopted the City's Federal Program on February 27, 2006.

Chairman Haass expressed concerns with the communication between the Lobbyist Firms and the City and asked how City Projects were prioritized. Ms. Farthing responded that the projects are prioritized by City Staff.

Erik Walsh suggested that staff submit project priority recommendations to the IGR Committee for review and revision and from the committee to the entire City Council for approval. Chairman Haass suggested that that Lobbyist Firms review the priority recommendations before presentation to the committee.

Chairman Haass requested a timeline of the most important dates to meet with officials in Washington in order to gain appropriations. Mr. Walsh stated that he would work with the Lobbyist Firms to form a calendar.

Chairman Haass expressed concern with City notification of available grants. He noted the possible consideration for more grant writers for the City. Mr. Walsh noted that he would survey City Departments to assess the need for grant writers.

Chairman Haass gave direction that all grant opportunities forwarded to staff be forwarded to the members of the IGR committee.

At this time, the committee addressed item IIIc.

c) SAWS Critical Period Surcharge Suspension

Bill Maddox briefed the committee on the history of the Critical Period Surcharge. Karen Cruz stated that SAWS has proposed that City Council temporarily suspend enforcement of the surcharge through September 30, 2006. She noted that SAWS would work with citizen advisory groups to produce a recommended course of action by September 2006.

Chairman Haass directed SAWS to brief all City Council members on this issue.

Councilmember Guajardo directed SAWS to include bill inserts in Spanish and to provide bilingual assistance at any public hearings.

At this time, the committee addressed item IIIb.

b) Special Texas Legislative Session Outlook

Mr. Polanco informed the committee that Governor Perry called the 3rd Special Session to address the School Finance Reform Issue that would end May 17, 2006. He noted that 120 Bills have been introduced to date and several of which have addressed appraisal and revenue caps.

Chairman Haass explained that extensive appraisal taxation is levied by the School District, not the City and noted that the public should be educated regarding the issue. Mr. Walsh cited an Appraisal/Revenue Cap Analysis Impact of \$3-4 million. He suggested that Chairman Haass get this information to every Local Delegation member in on his next trip to Austin.

III. Consideration of scheduling of items for future meetings

- a) Special Texas Legislative Session Update – Special Meeting in early May
- b) GIS Interlocal Agreements County and Bexar Metro 911 – May 17th
- c) Special Texas Legislative Wrap-Up and Interim Session Update – June 21st
- d) Federal Legislative Update – Special meeting in early August
- e) Crime Lab Interlocal Agreement – August 16th
- f) Medical Services Interlocal Agreement – August 16th
- g) Federal Representation Contract Renewals – August 16th
- h) 80th Texas Legislative Session Outlook – September 20th
- i) City/County Cooperation Plan
- j) Federal Representation Performance Review
- k) Chairman Haass stated that he would like to see someone from the IGR Staff has built a rapport with the staff of the congress members in the City's Delegation.

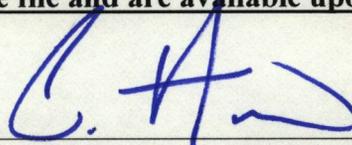
V. Executive Session: consultation concerning attorney-client matters (real estate, litigation, contracts, personnel and security) may be discussed.

There were no Executive Session items addressed.

VI. Adjournment

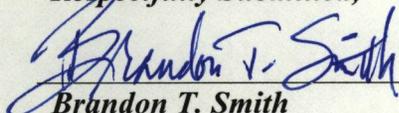
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

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



Christopher Haass, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



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