

# Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 2011

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Room B

**Members Present:** Councilmember Philip A. Cortez, *District 4, Chair*  
Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *District 5*  
Councilmember W. Reed Williams, *District 8*  
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*

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**Members Absent:** *None*

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**Staff Present:** T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; David McCary, *Solid Waste Management Director*; Mike Sawaya, *Convention, Sports, & Entertainment Facilities Director*; Shanon Wasielewski, *Historic Preservation Officer*; Jim Mery, *Convention, Sports & Entertainment Facilities Assistant Director*; Jed Maebius, *Office of the Mayor*; Audrey Zamora-Johnson, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** *Bebb Frances, Frances Law Firm*

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## Call to Order

Chairman Cortez called the meeting to order.

### 1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

### 2. Approval of Minutes from the December 14, 2010 Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Williams moved to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2010 Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Briefing on Capital Improvements at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

Mike Sawaya, Director, Convention, Sports, & Entertainment Facilities Department

Mike Sawaya provided an overview of the proposed capital improvement projects at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center that include: Installation of art glass at certain entrances; Renovation of the exterior facade of the oldest portion of the center; and Construction of a new outdoor event space. He reported that with regard to Exterior Phase I; the next step was to provide Guido Bros. Construction Company a notice to proceed with glass manufacturing and installation using the proposed images. With regard to Exterior Phase II, he reported that the next step was to provide SpawGlass Construction a notice to proceed with the upgrades to the exterior and construction of the Outdoor Event Plaza.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Sawaya clarified that presentation of said item was an update and did not require Council Action.

Councilmember Medina entered the meeting at this time.

Councilmember Williams asked of the Outdoor Event Plaza and its operation relative to the City's contract with the RK Group. Mr. Sawaya stated that the RK Group would be retained exclusively for catering in that area and that there have been negotiations with the Grand Hyatt to lease the area and subcontract through the RK Group. Councilmember Williams acknowledged the great work provided by the RK Group but expressed concern with not opening the new outdoor venue for bid to other caterers/event planners. He stated that if the new venue was considered Convention Center property; then it falls under the current contract. If it is not, then it should be opened for bid. Mr. Sawaya stated that he would address the issue.

In response to Chairman Cortez, Mr. Sawaya stated that the Westside Alamo Street improvements would include additional head-in parking.

**4. Update on the City's Evaluation of Waste to Energy Conversion Technologies**  
Presented by David W. McCary, Director, Solid Waste Management Department

David McCary reported that CPS Energy had offered to fund and contract with a consultant to complete a feasibility study on Waste to Energy (WTE) Conversion Projects and provide a recommendation to the City. He stated that a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and CPS Energy had been developed outlining the roles for this project. He noted that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) had been issued and was currently being evaluated by a team of City and CPS Energy Staff. He added that they expect to select a consultant by the end of March 2011 and project that the consultant's report will be available by mid-summer.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. McCary confirmed that CPS Energy had issued and funded the RFQ and had included the City in every aspect of the process.

Councilmember Williams requested that the report include other cities utilizing WTE Conversion technologies.

**5. Briefing and possible action on proposed RIO amendments**

Presented by Shanon Wasielewski, Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation

Shanon Wasielewski provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the Unified Development Code (UDC) Sec 35-670 through Sec 35-681. She reported that the original River Improvement Overlay (RIO) Guidelines were focused on RIO-3. She stated that with new development occurring both north and south of downtown, all other RIO districts should be aligned with RIO-3 and have the same design standards. She noted that the Task Force and staff recommended another task force be created to evaluate the existing Mission Historic District and create a viewshed protection overlay district or districts for the missions. Additionally, the Task Force recommends that a private consultant be hired to create Spanish Missions Viewshed Overlay Design Guidelines.

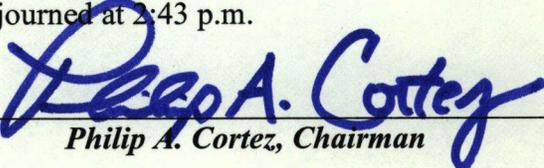
Councilmember Williams moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Consideration for future meetings**

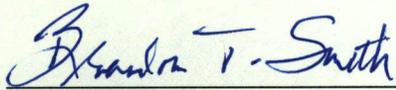
The next meeting date was not yet confirmed.

**7. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

  
Philip A. Cortez, Chairman

*Respectfully Submitted,*



Brandon T. Smith  
Office of the City Clerk