

Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
City Hall, Media Briefing Room
1:30 PM

Members Present: Councilmember Sheila McNeil, *Chair, District 2*
Councilmember Diane Cibrian, *District 8*
Councilmember Louis Rowe, *District 9*

Members Absent: Councilmember Philip Cortez, *District 4*

Staff Present: Jelynn Burley, *Deputy City Manager*; Michael Bernard, *City Attorney*; Andrew Smith, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Martha Sepeda, *1st Assistant City Attorney*; Matthew Polanco, *Intergovernmental Relations Manager*; Christine Wright, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Trey Jacobson, *Mayor's Office*, Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; Gabriel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Lisa Biediger, *City Attorney's Office*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Jim Campbell, *CPS*; Priscilla Ingle, *VIA*; Bill Mattox, *Public Utilities*; William Pedie, *SAWS*; Greg Flores, *SAWS*; Stephanie Bocanegra, *SAWS*; Chuck Saxer, *NNOD*

I. Call to Order

Chairperson McNeil called the Meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes for the Wednesday, February 13, 2008 Meeting

Councilmember Cortez moved to approve the Minutes of the February 13, 2008 Meeting. Councilmember Cibrian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Issues to be Considered

a) Federal Legislative Update

1. CPS-Energy

Jim Campbell provided information regarding the City Public Service (CPS) Legislative Agenda. He addressed the continued regulation of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), Rail Transportation Reform – Coal Availability, Renewables and Energy Efficiency Incentives, and Climate Change. Councilmember Cibrian stated that she would like a regular interface in exchange of ideas to better coordinate the legislative agendas. Councilmember Rowe concurred and noted his support of collaborating legislative priorities. Chairperson McNeil stressed the importance of coordinating activities.

2. VIA

Priscilla Ingle informed the Committee that VIA legislative priorities were to seek appropriations earmarked for \$7 million for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project and approximately \$8 million for the Modernization of VIA's Bus Fleet and Bus Facility. She provided a brief overview of the BRT Project and reported that VIA

would begin plans to identify additional corridors for the project. Andrew Smith reported that VIA and the City of San Antonio reached an agreement that would allow City Employees to ride the bus free of charge.

3. SAWS

Greg Flores informed the Committee that the SAWS Legislative Agenda included appropriations requests, finance policy, and policy issues for water utilities. Councilmember Rowe asked about funding for the \$2 billion construction project and the effect on the average water bill. Mr. Fuentes responded that funding would come from customer rates. He noted that the actual effect on the average bill would vary and that he could provide that information at a later date. He added that SAWS rates were the second lowest in the state. Councilmember Cibrian stated that it would be very important for SAWS to create a plan for rate increases and prepare the community.

Andrew Smith reported to the Committee that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could possibly lower the Clean Air Standard for Ozone. Councilmember Cibrian requested a report on the EPA Plan. Mr. Smith provided notification of a possible Earmark Reform that would place a moratorium on Appropriations Earmrks for one year. He noted that he would keep the Committee informed on the status of the issue.

Chairperson McNeil stated that the City's Regional Transportation Policy Board was not allowed to have legal representation and directed staff to explore opportunities for legal representation. Mr. Smith stated that staff would review regulations so that the Board would have legal representation.

b) State Legislative Update

Mr. Smith reported that staff recommended offering former State Representative Robert Puente a contract to become a part of the City's State Lobbyist Team. The contract would begin ten days after execution through September 2009

Councilmember Rowe moved to forward said recommendation to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Cibrian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

c) Grants Update

Mr. Smith informed the Committee that Item 14 on the March 13, 2008 City Council Agenda was a Resolution to submit and ultimately collect grant funds in the amount of \$1 million from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the Voelker Park Project.

IV. Consideration of scheduling of items for future meetings

a. Federal Legislative Updates

Staff will confer with the IGR Chairperson.

b. State Legislative Update

Staff will confer with the IGR Chairperson.

c. Grants Update

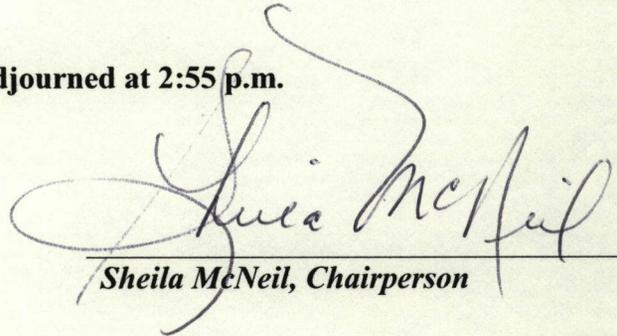
Staff will confer with the IGR Chairperson.

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

There were no Executive Session items.

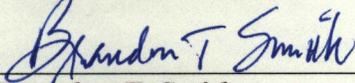
VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



Sheila McNeil, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk