

City Council Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the City Council Governance Committee was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2005 at 2:00 pm 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; Frances Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager; Jelynne LeBlanc Burley, Assistant City Manager; Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk; Pat Major, City Auditor; Erik Walsh, Assistant to the City Manager; Milo Nitschke, Finance Director; Tom Wendorf, Public Works Director; Peter Zaroni, Management & Budget Director; Ramiro Cavazos, Economic Development Director; Daniel Cardenas, Environmental Services Director; Bernadette McKay, Deputy City Attorney; Veronica Zertuche, Deputy City Attorney; Trey Jacobson, Assistant to the Mayor; Larry Zinn, Assistant to the Mayor; Troy Elliot, ERM/ITSD Director; Mike Sawaya, Convention Facilities Director; Lena Ellis, Assistant Finance Director; Helen Valkavich, Assistant City Attorney; Bill Wood, Assistant City Attorney; Monica Hernandez, Assistant City Attorney; L O'Connor, Assistant City Attorney; John Danner, Assistant City Attorney; Pam Oglesby, Assistant City Attorney; Becky Bromley, City Attorney's Office; Bob Noroehaus, Assistant City Attorney; Leticia M. Callanen, City Manager Office; Lisa Todd, Finance; Jay Blackwell, Finance; Elizabeth Drouillard, Finance; Jean Chen, Assistant City Auditor; Barry Archer, Development Services Assistant Director; Manny Longoria, Economic Development Assistant Director; David Newman, Environmental Services; Liza Meyer, Environmental Services; Maria Villagomez, Public Works; Walter Ague, City Manager's Office; Linda Beal, Convention Facilities; Harold Dougherty, Convention Facilities; Kevin Burton, Convention Facilities; Phil Harris, Finance; Sam Sanchez, Health Department

Others Present: John Saenz, CPS; Julia Jones, CPS; Milton Randle, CPS; Bill Kaufman, Kaufman & Associates;

CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Hall called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of minutes from the October 26, 2005 meeting

Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the minutes of October 26, 2005. Councilmember Wolff seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

II. Agenda Planning Related Items

- a. Discussion and consideration of a request to extend the moratorium on the task of picking up owned and unwanted animals from their homes for an indefinite period, as requested by Council Member Art A. Hall, District 8; Elena Guajardo, District 7; Patti Radle, District 5; [Presented by Sam Sanchez, Animal Care Administrator, Health Department; Francis A. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager]**

Sam Sanchez referenced a Power Point presentation entitled "Animal Care Services Moratorium" and noted staff recommendation to continue the moratorium on Animal Care Services indefinitely subject to review each year during budget deliberations.

In an effort to curtail the euthanasia rate, Mayor Hardberger urged consideration for a Pet Adoption Center in each section of the City.

Councilmember Herrera asked how cats were euthanized. Mr. Sanchez responded cats, the same as dogs, are sedated and administered a lethal injection.

Councilmember Hall moved to forward said item to the next City Council A Session. Councilmember Herrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Discussion and consideration of a request to direct staff to work with CPS on developing and implementing an energy efficiency strategic plan, as requested by Council Members Art A. Hall, District 8; Elena Guajardo, District 7; Patti Radle, District 5. [Presented by Dan Cardenas, Director, Environmental Services Department; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager]**

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Hall directed staff and CPS to continue working on the development and implementation of an energy efficient strategic plan. He requested periodic updates to the Quality of Life Committee and that said item be sent to B session for further review.

III. Staff Briefing Items

- a. Update and recommendation for course of action related to Accounts Receivable Reconciliation. [Presented by Milo Nitschke, Director, Finance; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager]**

Milo Nitschke recommended initiating the use of standard billing and collection policies and procedures in all departments. He also recommended and the conduct of

a feasibility study with key stakeholders on opportunities for customer deposits/prepayments.

Councilmember Hall recommended the utilization of a collection agency to pursue collection of outstanding debt owed to the City of San Antonio. Mr. Nitschke stated that the RFP for collection agencies can be expedited.

Councilmember Wolff concurred with Councilmember Hall.

Mr. Nitschke noted that 90% of collection items are EMS cases. He noted the difficulty of securing accurate information for collection in the state of emergency. Mr. Nitschke also mentioned a secondary difficulty regarding restrictions on the release of information from health care facilities. In this case, he noted that skip tracing is the next best effort.

Councilmember Perez asked for clarification of "Off Duty Police Officer customers" noted in the PowerPoint.

Mr. Nitschke responded that off duty police officer customers are promoters of events ranging from weddings to conventions. He stated that off duty police officers work those events and the customers cited in the presentation have not reimbursed the City.

Councilmember Perez suggested revising policy on the use of off duty police officers.

No formal action was taken.

b. Presentation on Proposed Debarment Policy. [Presented by Mark Webb, Director, Contract Services; Erik J. Walsh, Assistant to the City Manager]

Said item was not addressed.

c. Catering and Concessions Contract for the Convention Center. [Presented by Michael Sawaya, Director, Convention Center; Roland A. Lozano, Assistant to the City Manger]

Said item was not addressed.

IV. Executive Session:

a. Discuss legal issues related to the contract with Deloitte Consulting, L.P., pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Hardberger recessed the meeting into Executive Session to discuss said item at 2:53 p.m. Mayor Hardberger reconvened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. and announced that no action would be taken.

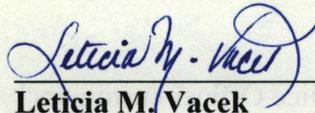
V. Consideration of scheduling of items for future meetings

There were no items scheduled.

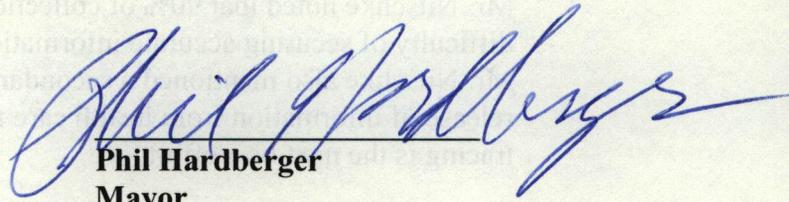
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm.

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

ATTEST:



Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk



Phil Hardberger
Mayor