

City Council Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the City Council Governance Committee was held on Wednesday, August 10, 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: Martha Sepeda, Acting City Attorney; Chris Brady, Assistant City Manager; Jelynn LeBlanc Burley, Assistant City Manager; Frances Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager; Roland Lozano, Assistant City Manager; Melissa B. Vossmer, Assistant City Manager; Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk; Pat Major, City Auditor; Erik Walsh, Assistant to the City Manager; Larry Zinn, Assistant to Mayor; Trey Jacobson, Assistant to Mayor; Leticia M. Callanen, City Manager Office; Liz Garcia, Acting Code Compliance Director; Dennis Campa, Community Initiatives Director; Milo Nitschke, Finance Director; Sharon De La Garza, Human Services Director; Emil Moncivais, Planning Director; Tom Wendorf, Public Works Director; Nina Nixon Mendez, Planning Manager; Andrew Spurgin, Sr. Planner; Leticia Rivera, City Manager's Office; Lisa Biediger, Assistant City Attorney;

Other's Present: Laura Jesse, Express News; Robert L. Beltran; A.R. Velasquez, San Antonio Craftsman Association; Hilda Bustos, SAWS; Janelle Okorie, SAWS; Scott Halty, SAWS; Frank Burney, Attorney at Law

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hardberger called the meeting to order.

I. Agenda Planning Related Items

- A. Discussion and consideration of a request to create a Gateway Corridor District for the portions of Loop 1604 within the City limits, as requested by former Councilman Enrique M. Barrera, District 6. [Presented by Emil Moncivais, Planning Director; Jelynn LeBlanc Burley, Assistant City Manager]**

Mr. Moncivais referenced a Council Consideration Request (CCR) directing staff to bring forward for Council Consideration an Ordinance creating a Gateway Corridor District for the portions of Loop 1604 that are within the City Limits. The final boundaries of the

District shall be determined prior to consideration by the Zoning Commission and City Council.

It was noted that much of the land adjacent to Loop 1604 is currently vacant, and that the area is quickly developing and a Gateway Corridor District will ensure that the aesthetics of the area are maintained.

Councilmember Perez moved to forward said item to the Urban Affairs Committee for a detailed analysis. Councilmember Wolff seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion and consideration of a request to conduct a B Session for the purpose of hearing a presentation regarding the status of the City's street network, as requested by Councilmember Kevin Wolff, District 9. [Tom Wendorf, P.E., Public Works Director; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager]

Councilmember Wolff respectfully requested concurrence with placing an agenda item on the August 10th Council B Session regarding the City's Street Network and the implications of the current funding level of the Street Maintenance Program. Additionally, Councilmember Wolff requested staff to investigate the benefits of providing Street classifications for funding.

Councilmember Wolff stated that he would like to establish a more aggressive street maintenance schedule that would facilitate maintenance of the City's street network every 6 to 8 years. Currently, the City of San Antonio streets receive maintenance every 13 years. He added that the City of San Antonio must be more proactive in street maintenance.

It was noted that the current funding level of the street maintenance budget is approximately \$17 million; which has been said to be inadequate for a City that maintains 11,666 miles of street. Councilmember Wolff proposed an approach that would add \$5 million per year for 4 fiscal years to the base line street maintenance as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2004-2005, SMP funding \$17 million
- Fiscal Year 2005-2006, SMP funding \$22 million
- Fiscal Year 2006-2007, SMP funding \$27 million
- Fiscal Year 2007-2008, SMP funding \$32 million
- Fiscal Year 2008-2009, SMP funding \$37 million

Upon completion of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the Street Maintenance Program will have a baseline budget of approximately \$40 million. Councilmember Wolff requested information relating to the impacts of such a funding approach as well as provide the City of San Antonio an aggressive program that will yield a quality street network for years to come.

Mr. Wendorf noted his budget presentation is to be held on August 18th or August 24th and will unveil those details at that time. Councilmember Wolff moved to direct staff to

bring forth the information requested on August 18th or August 24th presentation at the City Council Budget B Session. Councilmember Perez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion and consideration of a proposed action to affirm the established delegate agency funding process as requested by Councilmember Richard M. Perez, District 4. [Presented by Dennis Campa, Community Initiatives Director; Frances Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager]

Mr. Campa presented a Power Point entitled Consolidated Funding Process for Human Development Services Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Update and Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Timeline. In 2003, the Economic and Human Development Committee directed staff to implement a consolidated funding process for human development services. The committee recommended that the process should accomplish the following:

- Direct investments toward the purchase of services and outcomes.
- Shift focus away from the funding of agencies and potential duplication of services.
- Ensure integration with the City's direct services

In January 2004, staff presented a ballot system for City Council to vote on service priorities. In February 2004, City Council authorized investment priorities and the consolidated funding process. The City Council also mandated that agencies should demonstrate community support for their efforts by capping the percent of City funding.

- In Fiscal Year 2005, City funding could not exceed more than 65% of an agency's operation budget.

It was the consensus of the Governance Committee to continue with the percentage of 65% / 35% funding levels.

D. Discussion and consideration of a 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. [Presented by Tom Wendorf, P.E., Public Works Director; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager]

The CCR presented from Councilmembers Radle and Flores requested concurrence with the acceleration of the implementation of two comfort stations located in the downtown area. These comfort stations were proposed in the Advanced Transportation District (ATD) Program Management PowerPoint presented at the July 13, 2005 City Council B Session. The comfort stations will provide twenty-four hour restroom facilities, which are desperately needed within the downtown area. The proposed project implementation is October of 2005. The project cost for two comfort stations was reported at \$500,000 and the funds are available through the ATD. The request directs Public Works staff

begin the design, planning and implementation process immediately in order to meet an October 1, 2005 completion deadline.

Councilmember Herrera expressed concern with the cost of the comfort stations. She added that staff needed to draft a summary noting what the City will be getting in return.

Councilmember Hall expressed the same concern and added that \$1 million for restrooms in addition to the \$190,000 will necessitate public education.

Councilmember Perez clarified if the \$190,000 (on item 1E below) is in addition to the \$1 million? It was stated that the total would be \$1.2 million for 2 bathrooms and that included \$190,000.

Ms. Vossmer explained that the 2 comfort stations would sustain themselves, and are self cleaning. Ms. Vossmer also noted that the Visitors Rest Stop at the Riverbend Garage would provide 7-10 public restrooms.

Councilmember Wolff requested mitigating the cost issue concerning the comfort stations and that staff come up with an education process for same.

Councilmember Hall moved to forward said item to the Quality of Life Committee for review. Councilmember Perez seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition.

E. Discussion and consideration of a request to transfer \$190,000 from the Tri-Party General Obligation Fund to the Downtown Visitors Rest Stop Project, as requested by Councilmember Roger O. Flores, District 1. [Tom Wendorf, P.E., Public Works Director; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager]

Councilmember Flores respectfully requested by way of a CCR concurrence in transferring \$190,000 from the Tri-Party General Obligation Fund to the Downtown Visitors Rest Stop Project. The Downtown Rest Stop will be located at the Riverbend Garage at Presa and Commerce Street. The facility will be open 24/7 and will be staffed with an Information Specialist during the day and security at night. Additionally, 7-10 restroom units with 1 unisex unit will be built as public restrooms.

Councilmember Hall moved to forward said item to Quality of Life Committee for review. Councilmember Perez seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition.

F. Discussion and consideration of a request to coordinate a special meeting of Council for the purpose of attending a Water Quality and Resource Protection tour hosted by the San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS), as requested by Councilmember Kevin A. Wolff, District 9 and Art Hall, District 8. [Presented by Scott Halty, Director of Water Resources Protection, San Antonio Water Systems]

Mr. Halty, Director of Resource Protection & Compliance Department with SAWS presented the City Council Tour of the Recharge Zone Fact Sheet. He stated that the tour would provide an overview of issues, regulations, and programs related to the protection of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. The duration of the tour is estimated at 5 hours from departure to return. Councilmembers will meet on September 19, 2005 at the Municipal Plaza B Room beginning at 7:00 am. Arrangements have been made for a 55-passenger bus to transport attendees.

No action was necessary.

G. 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 is applied to recreation vehicles, as requested by Councilmember Chip Haass, District 10. [Presented by Liz C. Garcia, Acting Code Compliance Director]

Councilmember Haass requested an amendment to the City Code regarding parking on front lawns and inside yard setbacks to include boats and non-motorized vehicles via a CCR.

The amendment will include boats and certain non-motorized vehicles such as trailers and will clarify the prohibition as it is applied to recreation vehicles. Proposed amendments include:

- Update for all zoning classifications currently listed in Section 19-194 to reflect the current zoning code.
- Inclusion of the following as a prohibition to front yard and side yard setback parking: Watercraft, non-motorized camper, or any trailer designed to be pulled by a motor vehicle and/or trailer to carry a watercraft, camper or motor vehicle.
- Clarification for the parking provisions of recreation vehicles for trip preparation.

Councilmember Wolff asked if the City implements this amendment what are the implications for staff. Ms. Garcia replied that Code Enforcement Officers would inspect and issue citations when a violation has occurred. The citations would be addressed through Municipal Court.

Councilmember Perez requested a public information campaign to get the word out. A 30-day campaign was said to be sufficient to inform the public so other arrangements can be made to comply.

Mayor Hardberger agreed with the 30 day campaign to address the public through Public Access Television or through a Press Conference.

Councilmember Perez moved to forward said item to the Quality of Life Committee. Councilmember Wolff seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Discussion and consideration of a request to direct staff to bring forth a policy proposal and necessary budget revisions to the August 18th City Council meeting in order to: (1) end gas euthanasia of animals by the City's Animal Care Services division, and (2) reduce the number of unwanted animals by aggressively pursuing spay/neuter programs, as requested by Mayor Phil Hardberger. [Presented by Samuel Sanchez, Animal Care Administrator; Francis A. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager]

Mayor Hardberger stated that he was seeking support to direct staff to bring forth a policy proposal and necessary budget revisions to the August 18th City Council meeting in order to (1) end gas euthanasia of animals by the City's Animal Care Services division and replace it with euthanasia by injection, and (2) reduce the number of unwanted animals by aggressively pursuing spay/neuter programs.

He added that little progress has been made to change this process which results in the euthanasia of approximately 48,000 animals each year. The City Council has responded through its collective concern by ranking animal control services as one of this City's top priorities. This request seeks to accelerate steps to modify facilities, acquire supplies, and train staff to end gas euthanasia of animals by mid-October 2005.

To immediately reduce demand on Animal Care Services, he stated that he was seeking City Council concurrence with a change in operational policy that permits citizens to voluntarily deliver unwanted pets to the City to be terminated. He suggested a policy be pursued that seeks to expand partnerships with local groups to provide adoption opportunities for unwanted puppies and kittens.

Mr. Sanchez cited statistics of the method of euthanasia of animals. One factor for population increase is due to Animal Care Services picking up animals from homes in which the animals are unwanted and have nothing wrong with them. The animals are not strays and pose no threat to the public. They are simply unwanted.

Mayor Hardberger asked for a two month moratorium on picking up animals from their homes while Animal Care Services concentrate on stray animals that pose a threat or potential danger to the public.

Mayor Hardberger thanked Mr. Sanchez for his efforts in such a tough job. He also requested finding Veterinarians to volunteer their services to help spay/neuter animals.

Councilmember Perez noted that his district has the most animals collected by Animal Care Services. He stated injection euthanasia is the most humane as opposed to using gas on the animals. Councilmember Perez asked staff to focus on the proliferation of stray animals. He also requested the incorporation of pet ownership/responsibility be taught to children in schools.

Councilmember Perez moved to move said item to A Session on August 18th. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Discussion and consideration of a request for the City to co-sponsor a monthly Downtown Street Fair, and further request that City Staff, working with other sponsoring organizations, determine the feasibility, location options, and potential municipal costs associated with a street fair, as requested by Mayor Phil Hardberger. [Presented by Roland A. Lozano, Assistant to the City Manager]

Mayor Hardberger sought support for a City co-sponsorship monthly Downtown Street Fair. He requested City staff work with other sponsoring organizations to determine the feasibility, location options, and potential municipal cost of a street fair. It was noted that meetings with the Downtown Alliance and others for this activity have been held and that Houston Street is targeted for the location. The event would be held on Saturday or Sunday.

Councilmember Hall suggested using an area that is close to a park such as Travis Park.

Mayor Hardberger stated that the hour should remain the same in order for the event to become a tradition for the City. He added that the City could set up a pet adoption booth at the fair. He stated that he envisioned food booths, artist's booths, and music to name a few as well as the use of the Amphitheater for a non-denominational church service.

Councilmember Perez suggested using the \$190,000 from the Tri-Party General Obligation Fund in item E above for the fair. Mayor Hardberger also agreed with the use of the \$190,000 for the fair.

Councilmember Hall motioned to provide a report at the City Council Meeting scheduled on September 1st. Councilmember Wolff seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Discussion and consideration of a request to place a Resolution on the August 18th City Council agenda to express the City Council's support for the consideration of the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) and the Housing Authority of Bexar County (HABC), as requested by Councilmember Sheila D. McNeil, District 2. [Presented by Andrew Cameron, Housing and Community Development Director; Jelynne LeBlanc Burley]

Councilmember McNeil requested the City to place a Resolution on the August 18th agenda to express the City Council's support for the consolidation of the San Antonio Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of Bexar County.

Mayor Hardberger stated passing a Resolution would move the process closer to the consolidation of the two entities. It was stated that Bexar County Commissioners took the first step in passing a Resolution supporting the consolidation.

Councilmember Herrera noted there are issues with both agencies. She stated that a plan of action is needed to ensure a productive outcome.

Councilmember Wolff expressed concern of the details of consolidation.

Councilmember Hall moved to place an item on the August 18th Council Agenda to proceed with a Resolution of support of the consolidation and to forward said item to the Urban Affairs Committee for further study. Councilmember Perez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Discussion and consideration of a request to direct staff initiate discussion on a proposed policy to mandate that any newly created Grant Funded positions be staffed only with temporary employees, as requested by Councilmember's Delicia Herrera, District 6 and Kevin A. Wolff, District 9. [Presented by Sharon De La Garza, Human Services Director; Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager]

Councilmembers Wolff and Herrera requested a proposed ordinance that mandates any new Grant Funded positions be staffed only with Temporary Employees. It was noted that this mandate would not affect existing employees currently funded through grants.

A number of services that the City provides are Grant Funded which are acquired from numerous entities usually with a matching amount from the City.

Currently after obtaining Grant Funds, the jobs for these much-needed services are filled with what become permanent City Employees, essentially acquiring long-term employees and paying them with short-term dollars. The City, at present, pays 945 employees solely from grant revenue. This equates to roughly \$30 million a year in expenses paid entirely with Grant Funds which may no longer be available to cover the expense of its grant associated employees.

Ms. De La Garza clarified that Grant Funded employees are not classified and do not have civil service protection nor does the Reduction In Force (RIF) apply to this category. All employees including Grant funded employees are defined in the 1977 Civil Service Rules.

Councilmember Wolff stated that he interpreted the 1977 Charter Grant Funded Employees are by default employees at-will.

Councilmember Herrera asked if Grant Funded Employees sign a statement acknowledging that the position is funded by a grant each time the employee moves to another Grant Funded Position. Ms. De La Garza replied yes, said employees sign an acknowledgement.

Councilmember Perez moved to pull said item from the agenda. Councilmember Herrera seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Discussion and consideration of a request to direct staff to develop a Pilot Program for the FY 2006-06 for the co-location of a modified Community Link Service Center in conjunction with the Multi-Use health Facility and Department of Community Initiatives branch office at 4020 Naco-Perrin as requested by Councilmember Chip Haass. [Presented by Tony

**Bosmans; Customer Service/311 Director; Melissa Byrne Vossmer,
Assistant City Manager]**

Councilmember Haass requested staff to develop a Pilot Program for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 for the co-location of a modified Community Link Service Center in conjunction with the Multi-Use Health Facility and Department of Community Initiatives Branch Office at 4020 Naco Perrin which was previously approved by the City Council for the current Fiscal Year.

Councilmember Haass stated that this program has the added benefit of serving as a model to examine the level of services across the City that may be required depending on the nature of the site. The pilot will be instrumental in reviewing and developing a citywide plan identifying other such opportunities for variations of a Community Link Service Center in the coming Fiscal Year.

A brief discussion ensued with no action taken.

II. Consideration of Scheduling of Items for Future Meetings.

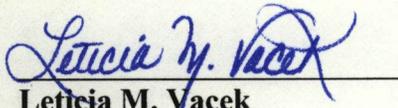
Discussion was held regarding the postponement of the November 17th Regular City Council meeting to permit City Councilmembers to attend the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) meeting, at which the community will present its funding request and plan for future transportation system improvements, as requested by Councilmember Richard Perez, District 4.

With regards to the TTC meeting, it was stated that the Regular Council Meeting of November 17, 2005 could be posted for 1:00 pm, start time to allow the Council to attend the TTC meeting, due to the City Council Meeting. The agenda will be posted accordingly if necessary.

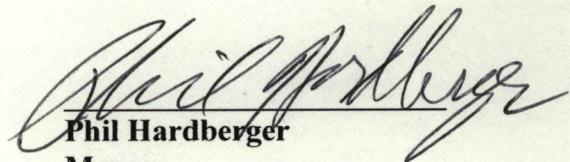
Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

ATTEST:



Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk



Phil Hardberger
Mayor