

Economic Development & International Affairs Council Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2006

1:30 pm

Media Briefing Room

Members Present: Councilmember Roger Flores, Chair, District 1
Councilmember Sheila McNeil, District 2
Councilmember Delicia Herrera, District 6
Councilmember Kevin Wolff, District 9

Staff Present: Ramiro Cavazos, Economic Development Director; Elizabeth Costello, International Affairs Director; Ed Davis, Economic Development Interim Assistant Director; Larry Zinn, Assistant to the Mayor; David Newman, Environmental Services; Carmelina Davis, Economic Development Department; Yonnie Blanchette, City Manager's Office; Elena Villarreal, International Affairs; Leslie Haby, City Attorney's Office; Chris Headen, District 2 Staff; Santiago Garcia, District 5 Staff; Thomas Marks, District 9 Staff; Marisol Robles, District 4 Staff; Brandon Smith, Office of the City Clerk

Also Present: Susan Sanchez, Free Trade Alliance; Blake Hastings, Free Trade Alliance; R.B. Pablos, TAMACC

Call to Order

Chairman Flores called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

2. Approval of Minutes of the February 21, 2006 Meeting

Councilmember Wolff moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2006.
Councilmember Herrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 15th Congress on Information Technology Austin, Texas May 1-5, 2006 Presented by Elizabeth Costello, Director, International Affairs

Elizabeth Costello briefed the committee on the World Congress on Information Technology – 2006 to be hosted by the City of Austin on May 1-3, 2006. She noted that delegates from over 80 countries will meet to discuss today's most pressing global Information Technology and policy issues. She added that the Economic Development Department, International Affairs Department and the Texas Research & Technology Foundation have partnered together to sponsor the City of San Antonio in making a

presentation at the World Conference. Ms. Costello revealed that the 25 minute presentation will consist of remarks from a City Official and representatives from academia and the private sector.

Chairman Flores cited the significance of this international event and noted that he would like the best representatives from each category to represent the City of San Antonio. He directed staff to include the members of the Economic Development and International Affairs Council Committee in the selection of the City of San Antonio Delegation.

4. Canary Islands Trade mission

Presented by Elizabeth Costello, Director, International Affairs

Ms. Costello informed the committee of a fact finding mission to Spain and the Canary Islands to explore opportunities in sister city relations, business and technology. She noted that the tentative dates were May 12-26, 2006 and detailed a list of the invited delegation.

5. Kumamoto Castle 400th Year Anniversary

Presented by Elizabeth Costello, Director, International Affairs

Ms. Costello outlined the calendar of celebratory events for the 400-Year Anniversary of Kumamoto Castle in 2007. She stated that the City of Kumamoto detailed the first two main events of the year-long celebration to be that of the New Year's Opening; January 1-3, 2007 and the Spring Festival; March 24 – April 8, 2007. She added that the City of Kumamoto suggested that the Spring Festival would be great event for the City of San Antonio Delegation to attend.

6. Foreign Trade Zone Operating Agreement with ProTrans International, Inc. for the activation of FTZ operations at FTZ No. 80, Site Number 4, located in Cornerstone Park

Presented by Ramiro Cavazos, Director, Economic Development

Ramiro Cavazos presented information on the request by ProTrans International, Inc. to activate Foreign Trade Zone No. 80, Site No. 4 located in Cornerstone Park in District 2. He noted that ProTrans would pay a one-time activation fee of \$1,500 to the City and a \$5,000 annual fee for operations once activation is approved by City Council and U.S. Customs. Mr. Cavazos stated that staff recommends approval of this item for City Council consideration.

Councilmember McNeil moved to forward said item to the entire City Council for consideration. Councilmember Herrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Tax Phase-In Application from two Toyota tier-one suppliers, MetoKote and Kautex locating at the Toyota Supplier Park and an amendment to the Tax

Phase-In Agreement with Millennium Steel of Texas and Toyota Tsusho America, Inc., also a Toyota tier-one Supplier

Presented by Ramiro Cavazos, Director, Economic Development Department

Mr. Cavazos presented information on the Toyota Supplier Park Project Tax Phase-In Agreements. A copy of said presentation is on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

Mr. Cavazos stated that the MetaKote Corporation has agreed to pay its employees at least \$9.06/hour which qualifies for a 10-year, 80% abatement. He added that Kautex, Inc. has agreed to pay its employees at least \$11.03/hour which qualifies for a 10 year, 100% abatement.

Mr. Cavazos also cited that Millennium Steel of Texas, L.P. and Toyota Tsusho America Inc., a joint venture, has now agreed to pay its employees at least \$11.03/hour which qualifies for a 10-year, 100% abatement. He noted that this agreement would amend the previously executed Agreement from 80% to a 100% abatement. Mr. Cavazos stated that staff recommends approval to move said item forward to City Council for consideration.

Councilmember Wolff moved to forward said item to City Council for consideration. Councilmember McNeil seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Update on environmental discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency related to the proposed development project by Big Tex San Antonio, L.P. in the 100-400 blocks of Blue Star

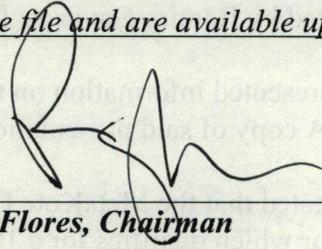
Presented by Ramiro Cavazos, Director, Economic Development

David Newman briefed the committee on a meeting organized by Councilmember Radle's office with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Big Tex San Antonio and staff. He noted that the meeting was called to address concerns with the possible release of asbestos in the soil during construction at the proposed Big Tex Project site.

Mr. Newman stated that the TCEQ is preparing a pre-screening report for the EPA and that both organizations will collaborate to develop a work plan to identify sampling of the ground and air at the site. He added that the sampling results will serve as the basis for the development of an action plan to address mitigation and clean up of any contamination.

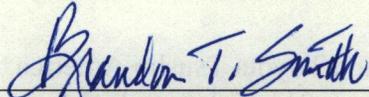
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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



Roger Flores, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



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