

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BEXAR
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**

A BUDGET WORKSESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO WAS HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING B ROOM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2008.

The San Antonio City Council convened in a Work Session at 2:00 pm, Tuesday, **August 19, 2008**, in the Municipal Plaza Building with the following Councilmembers present: Cisneros, McNeil, Ramos, Cortez, Galvan, Herrera, Rodriguez, Cibrian, Rowe, Clamp, and Mayor Hardberger. **ABSENT**: None.

Item 1. CITY STAFF PRESENTATION, AND POSSIBLE COUNCIL ACTION, ON THE FY 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET, FOCUSING ON, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

A. PUBLIC WORKS INCLUDING STREETS, SIDEWALKS, ALLEYS, TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STORMWATER

Mr. Majed Al-Ghafry thanked Management and Budget Staff for their assistance relating to the budget and noted that the following topics would be presented: 1) Public Works Department Overview, 2) Departmental Accomplishments, 3) Reductions & Efficiencies, and 4) FY 2009 Budget Enhancements & FY 2008 Budget Initiatives Update.

Mr. Al-Ghafry provided an overview of the Public Works Programs and presented the previous organizational chart and the current streamlined chart. He reviewed Public Works' accomplishments since his tenure began six months ago and highlighted reductions and efficiencies. The Public Works FY 2009 Highlights included: 1) Establishment of a 3-year Thermoplastic Markings Implementation Plan, 2) Development of ADA Infrastructure Compliance Plan, 3) San Antonio River Water Quality Initiative, and 4) Development of a Low Water Crossing Improvement Plan.

Mr. Al-Ghafry outlined the \$150.1 million Operating Budget and spoke of the Five-Year Rolling Infrastructure Management Plan (IMP) which was adopted in February 2007. The IMP identifies projects and developed schedules in street maintenance, drainage maintenance, sidewalks, traffic signals, and alley maintenance. He stated that Street Maintenance would be completed by December 2009 and that Drainage Maintenance was 86% complete. He added that Sidewalks were 75% complete, Traffic Signals would be completed by September 30, 2008, and Alley Maintenance would be completed by December 2008.

Mr. Al-Ghafry detailed projects in the FY 2009 IMP including: Pavement Condition Indexing Methodology; Thermoplastic Markings; Traffic Signal Installations, Conversions, Upgrades and Modernization; the ADA Infrastructure Compliance Plan; Sidewalks; Alley Maintenance; the San Antonio River Water Quality and Clarity Program; and the Low Water Crossing Remediation Plan. He outlined the Neighborhood Access & Mobility Program (NAMP) and noted that \$300,000 would be available per district with delivery occurring in two rounds. He added that the projects could encompass work related to streets, drainage, or transportation. Lastly, he recapped budget highlights for FY 2009.

The Mayor and Council expressed their thanks to Mr. Al-Ghafry for his efforts and accomplishments.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked the magnitude relative to scale for drainage issues and how they would be addressed through the IMP. Mr. Al-Ghafry stated that the IMP mainly addressed the Salado and Leon Creeks and keeping them clean. Ms. Sculley noted that the \$6 million increase was a one-time recommendation to include some of the 2010 projects in 2009. Councilmember Rodriguez stated that he would prefer having the flexibility of undertaking small individual projects in his district that may not otherwise be addressed.

Councilmember Cibrian stated that the process for placement of traffic signals needed to be re-examined. She noted that if a developer was willing to pay for the signal, they should not be denied that subject to a study and that future traffic impact also is taken into consideration with new development. Councilmember McNeil asked about coordinating the street maintenance and drainage programs with the county. Mr. Al-Ghafry stated that he has been working with Bexar County and San Antonio River Authority on a Master Plan to identify water sheds and projects for collaboration.

Mayor Hardberger cautioned the Council against dividing up monies, noting that earlier Councils had not been able to undertake large projects because no one had enough funds individually. Ms. Sculley noted that the Bond Programs and Street Maintenance Programs had originally been divided equally among the districts but due to lack of funding for large projects, it was decided to utilize the Bond to fund large projects and the IMP for smaller ones.

Councilmember Cortez asked for a breakdown of projects being covered by the ATD fund and if it was the goal of Council to spend all of the monies. Mr. Al-Ghafry stated that there were thirteen categories that needed to be consolidated in the fund. He added that they would like to address the entire city, not just a specific area so the funds would be divided by district. Ms. Sculley noted that the recommendation was to utilize the remaining balance for sidewalks. Councilmember Cortez inquired about the criteria for prioritizing the synchronization of traffic signals. Mr. Al-Ghafry stated that newer streets that had fiber optic were chosen for the first phase of synchronization.

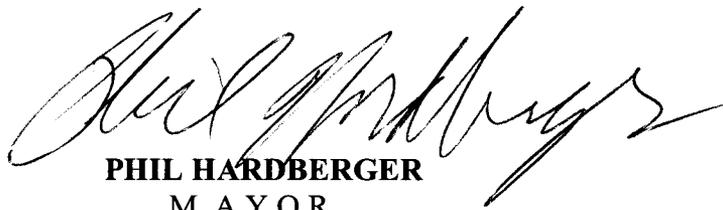
Councilmember Herrera noted that she would like to see alternative uses for the \$6 million one-time fund. She stated that the reason for having a five-year bond was that there were not enough contractors to complete all the projects in one year. She added that in her district, she would like to see some of the fifth-year projects moved up. Councilmember Ramos noted that she had been able to adjust funding to take care of a drainage issue in her district and asked if the Council would retain that flexibility. Mr. Al-Ghafry stated that when the Council approves the IMP, they will have the flexibility to make funding adjustments.

Councilmember Clamp requested a one-page document highlighting FY 2008 through FY 2009 efficiencies and deductions by department and asked how ATD monies were allocated. Mr. Al-Ghafry stated that it was done through a combination of Staff and Council input. Councilmember Clamp stated that CPS revenues should be refunded to ratepayers and that his constituents were not pleased with the current proposal to allocate said funds.

Councilmember Galvan asked how the ADA rules were going to be enforced. Mr. Al-Ghafry stated that it would be a major undertaking and the entire city needed attention. He suggested a pilot program that would target neighborhoods and offer assistance with compliance. He added that the department needed to ensure that they met the requirements they intended to enforce and that a task force had been in place with individuals from various departments to work on compliance. Councilmember Galvan requested a list of project priorities and dollar amounts.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Hardberger adjourned at meeting at 5:02 pm.

A P P R O V E D



PHIL HARDBERGER
MAYOR

ATTEST:



LETICIA M. VACEK
City Clerk