The City Council convened in a Special Called Meeting in the Executive Assembly Hall at the Convention Center, 200 E. Market Street, to consider the following:

Presentation and discussion on the Request for Proposals for Development Opportunity for a Full-Service Convention Center Headquarters Hotel. [Presented by Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager; J. Rolando Bono, Interim City Manager]

Approve an Ordinance authorizing the negotiation and execution of a professional services contract with an executive search firm selected by the City Council to assist in hiring a City Manager. [Presented by Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk]

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by the Presiding Officer, Mayor Edward D. Garza, with the following members present: Flores, Williams, Segovia, Perez, Radle, Barrera, Castro, Hall, Schubert, Haass. ABSENT: None.

Mr. Christopher J. Brady presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed Convention Center Headquarters Hotel Request for Proposals, a copy of which is on file with the Office of the City Clerk. Mr. Brady noted the history of the process, selection of Hotel Operators, and respondents to the RFP – FaulknerUSA, Hines/Centex, and Related/Zachry. Mr. Brady then outlined the sources of funds for the hotel project, preferred financial plan, evaluation criteria, factors affecting the project’s credit profile, and mitigating risk and affecting returns to the City of San Antonio. A summary of the developers’ proposals, schedule, qualifications, alternative building program and financing plan, and overall rating of each developer was also presented. Staff recommended selecting FaulknerUSA as the preferred developer.

Councilmember Flores made a motion to take action on the proposed ordinance at the meeting of January 6, 2005.

Councilmember Haass made an amendment to the motion to have a question and answer session on December 16, 2004 and take action at a special meeting on December 21, 2004. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion.
After consideration, the motion on the amendment prevailed by the following vote:

After consideration, the main motion as amended prevailed by the following vote:

The selected search firms; Arcus, The Mercer Group, and The Par Group, were brought in for an interview by The Mayor and City Council to assist in the hiring a new City Manager. The firms presented a brief narrative of their company and provided information on the process to be utilized in searching for the City Manager position.

Each search firm was posed the following interview questions:

1. How long will it take you to compile a list of strong candidates from the date we issue you a contract?
2. Do you have access to strong executive prospects who have both public and private sector experience?
3. How do you handle the privacy issues concerning an individual who may not wish his/her current employer to know of the possible job change?
4. It is anticipated that the clearing, interviewing, and hiring process will be a subject of intense public interest. How do you suggest we as a public body handle the inevitable question?
5. In that the City has posted the City Manager vacancy on the City’s employment website, how would you propose to handle the applicants who might respond?
6. Fee?
7. How would you sell San Antonio?

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Perez made a motion to place the three firms on the agenda for final selection. Councilmember Castro seconded the motion.

After consideration, the motion prevailed by the following vote: AYES: Flores, Williams, Segovia, Perez, Barrera, Castro, Hall, Schubert, Haass, Garza. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Radle.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 P.M.
APPROVED

EDWARD D. GARZA
MAYOR

Attest: LETICIA M. VACEK
City Clerk

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December 7, 2004
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