

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

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO WAS HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL PLAZA B ROOM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009.

The San Antonio City Council convened in a Special Meeting at 3:00 pm Wednesday, **January 7, 2009**, Municipal Plaza Building with the following Councilmembers present: Cisneros, McNeil, Ramos, Cortez, Galvan, Herrera, Cibrian, Rowe, Clamp, and Mayor Hardberger. **ABSENT:** Rodriguez.

1. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER THE PROPOSED FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL.

City Manager Sheryl Sculley provided an overview of the proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Bill and the projects that the City of San Antonio is recommending for submission for funding. She stated that funds should focus on job creation and on projects that could begin within 90-100 days. She noted that staff had compiled the project list in late November concentrating on Council priorities. She stated that it had been communicated that the purpose of the Stimulus Bill was to avoid earmarks and would likely be based upon formulas in existing programs. She referenced the Federal Stimulus Comprehensive Project List and noted that it had been updated. She thanked the staff that worked over the holidays in an effort to compile the list.

A.J. Rodriguez reported that staff had identified over 2,300 projects totaling \$1.8 billion in funding. He stated that staff had used the following criteria to identify projects: 1) Ready to go; 2) Jobs Created; 3) Council Priority; and 4) Budget Impact. He noted that specifics were unknown but that much of the funding could go directly to states via funding formulas. He added that existing programs could get funds directly to local government including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, and the Airport Improvement Program.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that a Stimulus Bill could be passed as early as mid-February; therefore, staff sought direction from Council in January. He provided a list of project categories that included Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Public Safety, to name a few. He noted that staff had received project lists from SAWS, VIA, and the Northside and Northeast Independent School Districts. He highlighted various programs in each of the 15 categories. Lastly, he outlined the next steps and noted that a list would be prioritized based on Council Direction. He added that staff would work closely with the San Antonio Congressional Delegation and would coordinate with federal and state agencies.

Councilmember McNeil made a motion to recess into Executive Session at 3:39 pm. Councilmember Clamp seconded the motion.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: **AYES:** Cisneros, McNeil, Ramos, Cortez, Galvan, Herrera, Cibrian, Rowe, Clamp, and Mayor Hardberger. **NAY:** None. **ABSENT:** Rodriguez.

Mayor Hardberger reconvened the Special Meeting at 4:24 pm and stated that no action had been taken.

Ms. Sculley outlined two possible approaches for the submission of projects:

- 1) Global Approach – Prioritization of Top Ten projects for the categories of Economic Development and Quality of Life; or
- 2) Ballot – Rating of various categories on a scale of 1-5

Councilmember Rowe stated that he preferred a two-pronged approach similar to the Budget Process that included a ranking by category, project, and then a work session to finalize priorities. Councilmember Cibrian expressed the need for prioritizing projects that can be implemented quickly and can be realistically funded. She added that the focus should be on projects that create jobs. Councilmember Clamp concurred with Councilmember Rowe on the need to prioritize by category. He noted that Infrastructure should be a top priority since those projects have already been identified. Councilmember Herrera stated that it was important to begin lobbying the Congressional Delegation as soon as possible. Councilmember Cortez expressed support for a work session to be held next Wednesday and stressed the importance of Infrastructure Projects that will provide jobs. Councilmember Galvan expressed support for the ballot process and stressed the importance of Infrastructure and Affordable Housing.

Ms. Sculley confirmed that the Council preferred the Ballot Approach for Policy Direction and asked that any additional projects be submitted by close of business on Friday, January 9, 2009.

Councilmember McNeil asked of the process that other cities have followed. Ms. Sculley stated that others had followed a similar process in prioritizing a list of projects based on the guidelines. Councilmember McNeil expressed the need for a City-wide Strategic Plan in the future and stated she would support a work session next Wednesday. Councilmember Herrera added that staff should determine the definition of Infrastructure for all and asked of the participation of other school districts. Ms. Sculley stated that all school districts had been invited to participate but only two districts submitted projects thus far. Councilmember Clamp requested that projects with leverage opportunities be included and that the term job creation be clarified. Councilmember Cisneros stated that the Stimulus Plan afforded the city great opportunities and noted that Infrastructure should be a priority.

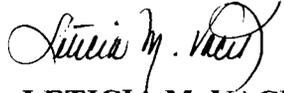
There being no further discussion, Mayor Hardberger adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

A P P R O V E D



PHIL HARDBERGER
MAYOR

Attest:



LETICIA M. VACEK
City Clerk



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