The San Antonio City Council convened in a Work Session at 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 8, 2012, Municipal Plaza Building, with the following Councilmembers present: Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldaña, D. Medina, Lopez, C. Medina, Williams, Chan, Soules, and Mayor Castro. ABSENT: None.

2. AN INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING TO CITY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF THE VOTER APPROVED 2012-2017 BOND PROGRAM AND OTHER MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS.

Mike Frisbie stated that the 2012-2017 Bond Program totaled $596 million and included 140 projects. He outlined the projects that were in the Design Phase by Proposition and noted that the Parks Projects utilized On-Call Design Contracts. He explained that the mass selection process for design was underway and that firms were asked to indicate their desired project size in dollars and rate their level of interest in each project. He noted that the overall program would meet or exceed the 2007 Bond Participation for Small, Minority and Woman-Owned Business Enterprises (SMWBE). He reported that the following submittals were received: 1) 27 for Architectural Services; 2) 18 for Landscape Architectural Services; and 3) 73 for Engineering Services. He provided a Mass Selection Request for Qualification (RFQ) Timeline in which contracts would be approved by the City Council in October.

Mr. Frisbie outlined major Capital Improvement Projects that include the Convention Center Expansion. He stated that the expansion would increase prime contiguous exhibit space from 426,000 square feet to 500,000 square feet and that a new Multipurpose and Ballroom would be added. He noted that there would be new, well-defined entrances to the Center. He indicated that the food service facilities would be improved and that there would be an opportunity to expand HemisFair Park by 12 acres through the Convention Center Expansion. He highlighted the Terminal A Renovations at the San Antonio International Airport that include the replacement of 46 air handler units; six elevators; and 52 pneumatic controls. He presented photos of the new Ticket Counter, Concourse, Restrooms, and Baggage Claim Areas and added that the project would be complete in April 2014. He provided an overview of the Consolidated Rental Car Facility (CONRAC) that would take 3.5 years for design and construction. He spoke of the Public Safety Headquarters that would house 498 employees and be equipped with a nine-story parking garage. He mentioned that the project had been recognized by the San Antonio Business Journal as the Best Municipal Project within the 2012 Best in Commercial Real Estate Category.

Mayor Castro stated that he was pleased with the great work on the Bond Program and asked of the Convention Center Expansion Project. Mr. Frisbie replied that the project was going well and was working closely with HemisFair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation Staff. He stated that they were using the Market Street Realignment as a case study in which SAWS, CPS Energy, and AT&T were working together on design and construction. Mayor Castro asked of the location of the CONRAC. Mr.
Frisbie replied that it would be located directly across from the terminal and that CIMS and Aviation Staff were working with the consultants regarding same. Mayor Castro asked if there were any changes to the Bond Project Timelines. Mr. Frisbie responded that the schedule had not changed and would work to complete the projects sooner if possible. Mayor Castro asked of the percentage of employees that would be moving to the new Police Headquarters. Ms. Sculley replied that approximately 10% of SAPD and SAFD would be housed at the new facility.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the total cost of the renovation of Terminal A. Mr. Frisbie replied that it was $35 million. Councilmember Lopez asked of the location of the International Gate. Frank Miller confirmed that it was located in Terminal A and that the area would be improved once said renovations were complete.

Councilmember C. Medina asked of the length of design for the CONRAC. Mr. Miller replied that 1.5 years was standard and that the first six months would consist of performing a traffic study and identifying the location for fuel operations. Councilmember C. Medina asked when the CONRAC would be open. Mr. Miller stated that it would take 3.5-4 years from the time the contract was awarded.

Councilmember Soules asked of the status of the Bulverde Road Project included in the 2007 Bond Program. Mr. Frisbie replied that they have hit a lot of rock in the area and estimated completion in June 2013. Councilmember Soules asked of Redland Road and if the project could begin sooner. Mr. Frisbie responded that they would review the potential to implement the project in a more timely manner.

1. CONSULTANT STUDY PRESENTATION BY GRA, INCORPORATED ON RESULTS OF THE 2012 ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF THE SAN ANTONIO AIRPORT SYSTEM.

Frank Miller apologized to the City Council for the consultants not being present due to not making a flight connection and stated that he would present on their behalf. He reported that the study methodology utilized for the San Antonio Airport System (SAAS) 2011 Economic Impact Study was based on the US Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis RIMS II Model. He reported that the study results focused on: 1) 2011 Airport Operations and Activity; 2) Regional spending by visitors traveling by air; 3) SAAS CIP Impacts; 4) State and Local Tax Impacts; and 5) 10-Year Projection of SAAS Economic Impacts.

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the approach that included direct, indirect, and induced impacts. He reported that total Employment Impacts were 98,676; Earning Impacts totaled $1.5 billion; and Output Impacts totaled $5 billion. He highlighted the SAAS 2011 Direct Impacts by Sector, as well as the Passenger Breakdown and Visitor Estimation. He stated that air travelers to the San Antonio Region spend 32% on Lodging; 27% on Food; 14% on Transportation; 13% on Entertainment; 11% on Shopping; and 3% on Miscellaneous Items. He provided a comparison of the impacts between the San Antonio International and Stinson Municipal Airports and noted that the total taxes generated from both facilities was $226.8 million.

Mr. Miller stated that in the coming years, SAAS Economic Impacts will be determined by the growth of the SAAS Airport and Aviation Activity. He reported that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) projects slowdowns in commercial and general aviation traffic for San Antonio for 2012. He noted that the airport productivity growth estimate was 0.5% per year. He spoke of the projected future
economic impacts for the SAAS that would increase to $5.6 billion in 2021 due to stronger growth in commercial aviation traffic.

Mayor Castro spoke of the goal to increase the number of business passengers to San Antonio and asked of the 12.4% total departing connections reported on Slide 7. Mr. Miller introduced David Ballard, Consultant who had performed the analysis. Mr. Ballard replied that he would provide more detailed information and that the number would likely increase due to the great increase in international travel. Mayor Castro requested the additional information.

Councilmember Bernal asked of the impact of offering Direct International Flights. Mr. Miller replied that they had seen a great impact and that the airlines were reporting that the Direct International Flights offered were full. Councilmember Bernal referenced Slide 7 and asked of the numbers reported for Departing Visitors and Departing Residents. Mr. Ballard replied that the numbers were estimates. Mr. Miller added that the economic impact study focused on the total costs to produce goods and services but could perform other studies to identify business versus leisure passengers. He noted that they would provide that information to the City Council.

Councilmember Chan asked of the ultimate goal of the study. Mr. Miller replied that it was important for the community to understand the value of the Airport and help put the operational costs into perspective. He added that it would identify how the Airport is contributing to the economics of the city and the jobs created.

Councilmember Soules also referenced Slide 7 and asked if the total Departing Visitors and Departing Residents was a national average. Mr. Ballard replied that it was not a national average and that Domestic Passenger Information was available from the US Department of Transportation but International Passenger Information was not made available.

Mayor Castro thanked staff for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Castro announced that executive session would not be held.

A. DELIBERATE THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AND DISCUSS RELATED LEGAL ISSUES PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 551.072 (REAL PROPERTY) AND 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY).

B. DELIBERATIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSS LEGAL ISSUES PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 551.087 (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) AND 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY).

Mayor Castro noted that the B Session was completed but that Citizens to be Heard would take place at 6 pm. He recessed the meeting at 2:56 pm.
CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Pro Tem Chan reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and called upon the individuals registered to speak.

Karen Seal addressed the City Council and stated that she was an Attorney that represented children with special needs. She noted that she had served as a Teacher and Administrator for children with special needs for over 20 years prior to attending Law School. She commended the City Council for their efforts to address early childhood education and requested that a portion of the funding be allocated for children with special needs.

Columba Wilson stated that her grandson has special needs and spoke of the importance of early intervention for all children with special needs. She showed a video of her grandson and requested that funding be allocated for special needs children.

Curtis Murray, Brent Forke, and Eugene Sekinger representing Bicycle Riders Advertising Company (b-RADS) addressed the City Council. Mr. Murray stated that he was part owner of a small advertising bicycle company and would be addressing City Sign Code Sections 28-161 and 28-162. He mentioned that they utilized renewable energy provided by a special designed battery and were a truly green company. He indicated that their goal was to provide digital information to tourists in San Antonio and spoke of the great amount of research they had conducted prior to opening their business. He stated that he had visited Development Services to purchase a permit and found that his business was illegal since he was operating a portable sign. He noted that his advertising bikes were targeted to pedestrians and did not pose any hazards. He requested that the City Code be revised to allow his business to operate.

Buddy Villejo, Rose Iracheta and Shannon Perez representing SEIU addressed the City Council. Mr. Villejo stated that he has been a city employee for 35 years and serves as an At-Large Representative on the Employee Management Committee. He expressed concern with the Consumer Driven Health Care Plan (CDHP) being presented in the proposed budget due to the high deductible. He stated that adding a plan would be costly to administer and that SEIU would like to work with city staff to improve healthcare. Ms. Iracheta stated that she had worked as a 9-1-1 Operator for 29 years and expressed concern that the Employee Management Committee is not operating as it should be. She noted that city staff had not worked with the Committee in over six months and they were concerned with the new health plan being offered. She requested that the Employee Management Committee report to a City Council Committee.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez stated that he used to be a member of SEIU and referenced the concept of unity as referenced in The Bible. He noted that he lived near Elmendorf Lake for many years but had recently moved. He requested a VIA Bus Pass for retired city employees.

Mark Perez stated that he was an advocate for a clean environment due to the loss of his twin daughters. He expressed concern with the lack of information provided by city employees and asked why companies violating city ordinances were allowed to operate. He reported that DPT Laboratories and NuStar were both operating without the proper permits.

Otis Thompson stated that he was representing the Freedom Foundation who was working to develop Martin Luther King Park as a cultural tourist destination. He requested that a one-mile section of Pecan Valley Drive between Martin Luther King and Rigsby Drive be named in honor of President Barack 2012(09
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Obama. He further requested that the gateway to Fort Sam Houston located at North Walters and IH35 be named in honor of Retired General Colin Powell. Lastly, he suggested that a section of East Commerce Street be renamed to honor A. Phillip Randolph.

Jack M. Finger stated that he wanted to discuss Mayor Castro’s upcoming speech at the Democratic National Convention but would yield his time since Mayor Castro was not in attendance.

Gizelle Luevano stated that she was a Stablewood Homeowner and expressed concern with the quality of her home built by DR Horton. She noted that her home had foundation issues and had caused her family members to experience health problems. She read a letter from State Representative Joaquin Castro noting that he had spoken with State Representative John Garza who represents their community and was working to remedy the situation. She added that they were not satisfied with the way their homes were built and asked the City Council for assistance in getting DR Horton to purchase the homes.

Genevieve Perez stated that she owned a home in the Stablewood Subdivision and spoke of the cracks in her driveway. She noted that she had not been informed that her home was built over a previous sewer plant and requested assistance from the City Council.

Laura Salais stated that she owned a home in the Stablewood Subdivision and spoke of the issues with her home. She requested assistance from the City Council to have DR Horton to buy the homes back.

Felix Perez stated that he and his wife owned a home in the Stablewood Subdivision and spoke of the many issues they had encountered. He noted that he wanted things to be done correctly and added his support for SEIU.

George Alejos asked why the allegations stated by Mr. Mark Perez were not being investigated and why DR Horton was allowed to build homes over a former sewer plant. He asked the City Council to assist the Stablewood Homeowners.

Janet Ahmad thanked the City Council for the opportunity to speak and stated that she appreciated SEIU’s support for the community.

Betty Eckert requested additional funding for food for Seniors. She stated that the City Council would be accepting funding from the Alamo Area Council of Governments to supplement the Senior Nutrition Program. She asked how 76,329 meals would be served by the end of September and noted that senior centers that have been closed would have to be re-opened. She requested that the sites that are currently operating be properly funded noting that there were 240,000 seniors in Bexar County.

Richard Steen stated that he was a city employee and member of SEIU and spoke of the great Work Ethic of city employees. He expressed concern with the limited input of the Employee Management Committee in developing the health benefits plan for city employees and the Cost of Living Adjustment. He requested that a report from the Employee Management Committee be incorporated into the city’s website.

Antonio Diaz requested that October 12th be designated as Indigenous Peoples Day and that the City Council approve a Resolution for same. He noted that there were efforts to recognize the five Missions in San Antonio as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Education Science and Cultural
Organization. He stated that colonization was not pleasant for the Indigenous Peoples and spoke of the importance of human rights and dignity for all people.

Faris Hodge, Jr. submitted written testimony regarding the $30 VIA Monthly Big Pass and highlighted the Good Samaritan Kids Café sponsored by the San Antonio Food Bank. He wrote that blood donors were needed and that drivers should buckle up to save lives. He referenced the Midnight Basketball League held at the Davis-Scott YMCA and the Reach Out to Dropouts Walk that was held in 2009. He expressed concern with the high salary of the City Manager and the smell, graffiti and men’s restrooms at the Downtown Central Library. He requested that the Citizens to be Heard portion of the City Council Meeting be televised and that a study of Kelly Air Force Base be conducted immediately due to the higher rates of liver cancer and birth defects in the area.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Chan adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.

The San Antonio City Council convened in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 9:00 am in the City Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Leticia M. Vacek took the Roll Call and noted a quorum of the Council with the following present: Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldaña, D. Medina, Lopez, C. Medina, Williams, Chan, Soules, and Mayor Castro. ABSENT: None.

**Item 1.** The Invocation was delivered by Reverend John Cannon, Retired, guest of Councilmember Rey Saldaña, District 4.

**Item 2.** Mayor Castro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Item 3. MINUTES**


The motion prevailed by the following vote: **AYES:** Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldaña, D. Medina, Lopez, C. Medina, Williams, Chan, Soules, and Mayor Castro. **NAY:** None. **ABSENT:** None.

**ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

The City Clerk read the caption for Item 4:

**Item 4. PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2012.**
2012-08-09-0599

A. AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE FY 2013 PROPOSED TAX RATE AT 56.569 CENTS PER $100 OF TAXABLE VALUATION.

2012-08-09-0600

B. AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE FY 2013 BUDGET AND TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2012 AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012 AT 6 PM IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

City Manager Sheryl Sculley presented the proposed FY 2013 Budget and noted that no City Property Tax Rate Increase was recommended. She reported that the San Antonio Economy is growing and that Sales Tax Revenues are above projections. She stated that five area budget hearings were conducted prior to budget preparation to provide residents the opportunity to identify service priorities. She indicated that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 General Fund Budget was increased by 3% and totaled $977 million. She mentioned that General Fund Revenues consisted of Property Tax; Sales Tax; CPS Energy Funds; and Other Revenue that includes Fines and a Business Franchise Tax. She provided a 10-Year History of Sales Tax Revenue, noting that the projection for FY 2013 is 11% higher than FY 2012 at $222 million. She added that the projected Property Tax Revenue for FY 2013 was only 1.4% higher than FY 2012 totaling $243 million. She stated that the city would continue its commitment to provide tax relief to Seniors and Disabled Property Owners. She noted that CPS Energy Revenues for FY 2013 were projected at 1.4% lower than FY 2012 and totaled $286 million. She spoke of the volatility of CPS Energy Revenues and provided an overview of the funds from 1990 to present. She indicated that the financial reserves would be maintained at 9% and that they were critical to prudent financial management.

Ms. Sculley highlighted the General Fund Improvements that include the civilianization of five Police Officers from Communications to enhance the Gang Unit. She reported that $260,000 would be added to the Fire Department to create a Technical Services Division and $50,000 would be added to enhance their Diversity Program. She stated that $4.5 million in additional Advanced Transportation District Funds were allocated for streets and sidewalks and $1.1 million would be added to Animal Care Services to continue successful FY 2012 Initiatives. She noted that $500,000 would be added to the Code Enforcement Division to fund seven positions to enhance proactive code enforcement. She mentioned that $1.5 million was included in the Library Department Capital and Operating Budget for maintenance improvements at various branch libraries. She reported that the Operating Budget includes funding and programs that support the goals of SA2020.

Ms. Sculley stated that $8 million in budgeted reductions were achieved through better utilization of city facilities and operational efficiencies. She reported that $500,000 would be saved through the elimination of non-critical cell phones and that three positions would be eliminated in the City Manager’s Office. She noted that a new Community Link Service Center Structure would save $795,000 by transferring services from underutilized leased facilities to Libraries. She indicated that FY 2013 Delegate Agency Funding would be allocated based on the agency proposal, alignment with SA2020, and past performance. She stated that the FY 2013 Budget maintains current funding for the After School Challenge Program and Haven for Hope.

Ms. Sculley provided an overview of the Employee Compensation and Benefits, noting that $9.9 million was allocated toward Civilian Increases to include a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment for employees and retirees. She stated that $15 million was included to fund Police and Fire Collective Bargaining
Contract Increases. She noted that a Consumer Driven Health Care Plan (CDHP) was being introduced as a fourth choice for employee healthcare and that there would be no premium increase to the current Value Plan. She indicated that Employee Wellness Program Initiatives would be continued and new initiatives would be implemented.

Ms. Sculley reported that no rate increase was proposed to the Solid Waste Fund in FY 2013 and that staff recommended the implementation of a three-year expansion of the Organic Recycling Program due to positive pilot results. She stated that staff estimated $55 million in Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Revenues in FY 2013 and that the Aviation Fund Budget totals $88 million. She noted that four new positions would be added to the Development Services Department to meet increased permit activities. She reported that staff recommended an increase in the Residential Storm Water Fee from $4.25 to $4.75 to provide additional mowing of drainage channels and medians.

Ms. Sculley outlined the FY 2013 Capital Budget totaling $636 million, noting that $72.2 million would be utilized for 2012-2017 Bond Program Projects. She stated that the proposed budget includes $18 million from pre-2007 Bond Balances that would be utilized for Infrastructure Improvements in all 10 Council Districts, Educational Excellence Facilities, and Fire Station 32. She reported that five community budget hearings and two city-wide public hearings would be held to provide opportunities for residents to provide input. Lastly, she noted that the FY 2013 Budget would be adopted on Thursday, September 13, 2012.

Mayor Castro thanked city staff for their work on the FY 2013 Budget and stated that he was pleased that San Antonio had fared well financially. He highlighted the AAA Bond Rating and noted that he looked forward to robust community outreach as highlighted in the proposed budget. He called upon the individuals registered to speak on Item 4.

Steve Huerta stated that he was President of LULAC Council 4994 and Subcommittee Chair of Bexar County Criminal Justice on Re-Entry. He requested that the City Council fund the programs recommended by city staff noting the importance of collaboration. He spoke of the need to fund law enforcement programs that will help fight crime in the community.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez stated that he would be turning 70 years old this month and requested that bus passes be provided to retired city employees. He noted his support for the Youth Advocates Boxing Program.

Fidel Castillo stated that he was the Resource Developer for the Youth Advocacy Boxing Program and requested that funding for their program be included in the FY 2013 Budget. He spoke of their work with at-risk youth on the Westside and requested assistance in bringing the Hispanic Medal of Honor Exhibit to San Antonio.

Jack M. Finger expressed concern with the funding provided to various art agencies to include San Pedro Playhouse and noted that controversies regarding their program still existed. He referenced concerns regarding Domestic Partner Benefits and requested that funding for Project Quest be reduced. He further requested that citizens receive a tax cut.

Councilmember D. Medina stated that he was pleased with the increases proposed within Public Safety and specifically; the $50,000 allocated within the Fire Department to enhance their Diversity Program. He noted his support for the $800,000 allocated per Council District to address infrastructure needs. He
asked how the seven new Code Compliance Officers would be assigned. Ms. Sculley replied that they had not identified where they would be assigned but would propose that the resources go to the areas with the greatest need. Councilmember D. Medina requested that staff be cautious and reconsider the proposal to transfer Community Link Center Services to the Libraries due to the many residents that utilize the facilities.

Councilmember Bernal stated that he was pleased with the improvements recommended within Public Safety, Code Compliance, and the Animal Care Services Department. He expressed support for the $800,000 allocated within each Council District to address infrastructure and thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Taylor thanked staff for their work and stated that she was pleased with the different process utilized to develop the budget this year. She encouraged citizens to become more engaged and expressed her appreciation for the recommendation regarding Code Compliance. She spoke of the need to be strategic and plan for the long-term and highlighted the importance of neighborhood revitalization. She requested that the City Council continue to support East Side Initiatives.

Councilmember Lopez stated that he concurred with Councilmember D. Medina regarding taking a good look at the services provided at the Community Link Centers and ensuring public accessibility. He requested that the benefits packages be clearly outlined for city employees.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he was pleased with the work of city staff on the budget and recognized that San Antonio is in a good financial position.

Councilmember Ozuna thanked staff for their presentation and for not increasing the Property Tax Rate. She expressed support for increasing Code Compliance efforts to help maintain property values. She urged all viewers to pay close attention to staffing levels and understand the city’s commitment to maintaining a high level of service.

Councilmember C. Medina thanked staff for their hard work and stated that he looked forward to future budget discussions.

Councilmember Saldaña moved to adopt the proposed Ordinances for Items 4A and 4B. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Items 4A and 4B prevailed by the following vote: **AYES:** Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldaña, Lopez, C. Medina, Williams, Chan, Soules, and Mayor Castro. **NAY:** None. **ABSENT:** D. Medina.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 5-8**

Consent Agenda Item 5 was pulled for Individual Consideration.

Councilmember Lopez moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion.
Mayor Castro commended Former Mayor Howard Peak for his continued service on the Linear Creekway Park Advisory Board (Item 7). He called upon the individuals registered to speak on the Consent Agenda.

Irma Rosas showed a video in which she noted that she was opposed to the privatization of public education. She expressed concern with the amount of money that would be utilized to provide the services and asked why Pre-K Teachers had not been involved in the discussions regarding Pre-K 4 SA.

The motion to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items prevailed by the following vote: **AYES:** Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldana, D. Medina, Lopez, C. Medina, Williams, Chan, Soules, and Mayor Castro. **NAY:** None. **ABSENT:** None.

**2012-08-09-0602**

Item 6. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $381,649.00 AWARDED BY ALAMO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF MEALS TO SENIORS IN THE COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2012.

Item 7. CONSIDERATION OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF HOWARD W. PEAK (MAYORAL) TO THE LINEAR CREEKWAY PARK ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF AN UNEXPIRED TERM OF OFFICE TO EXPIRE MAY 31, 2013, TO BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON THE RECEIPT OF EIGHT AFFIRMATIVE VOTES, OR, IN THE EVENT EIGHT AFFIRMATIVE VOTES ARE NOT RECEIVED, TEN DAYS AFTER APPOINTMENT.

**2012-08-09-0032R**

Item 8. REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF 719 S. PALMETTO.

[CONSENT ITEMS CONCLUDED]

**ITEM PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

The City Clerk read the caption for Item 5:

**2012-08-09-0601**

Item 5. AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $138,527.18, PAYABLE TO JAMAIL & SMITH CONSTRUCTION UTILIZING THE JOB ORDER CONTRACTING DELIVERY METHOD, FOR STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS IN THE DECO DISTRICT ALONG FREDERICKSBURG ROAD FROM HILDEBRAND AVENUE TO WEST KINGS HIGHWAY LOCATED IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 7.

Councilmember C. Medina requested additional information on the project. Assistant City Manager Peter Zanoni replied that the project has been in progress for several years and that paver work and tree planting improvements had been made during that time. He stated that the funds were residual funds from the project and would be utilized for enhanced landscaping and to improve the overall aesthetics of
the corridor. He added that completion was scheduled in the Fall. Councilmember C. Medina stated that he was pleased with the improvements being made in the Deco District and thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Bernal stated that he shared the area with District 7 and was also pleased with the enhancements that had been made along Fredericksburg Road. Mayor Castro stated that he was pleased with the investments made in the Deco District.

Councilmember C. Medina moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: 

**AYES:** Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldaña, D. Medina, Lopez, C. Medina, Williams, Chan, Soules, and Mayor Castro. **NAY:** None. **ABSENT:** None.

**POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Councilmember Chan commended City Manager Sculley and staff for the city’s sound financial management and announced that the City of San Antonio has made the list of Top 50 Most Entrepreneurial Cities for Global Trade according to Trade Magazine. She highlighted the city’s export volume and stated that she was pleased that the City Council had created over 8,000 new jobs in the past three years during the challenging economic conditions. She mentioned the opportunities for citizens and businesses within the International Market and the City Council’s commitment to International Economic Development. Mayor Castro stated that he was pleased with the relationships that have been established with other countries and commended Councilmember Chan for her leadership in these efforts.

**RECESSSED**

Mayor Castro recessed the meeting at 10:50 am and announced that the meeting would resume at 2:00 pm.

**RECONVENEED**

Mayor Castro reconvened the meeting at 2:00 pm and addressed Items 9A, 9B and 9C.

**2:00 PM TIME CERTAIN ITEM**

The City Clerk read the caption for Items 9A, 9B and 9C:

**Item 9. CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED PRE-K 4 SA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS:**

**2012-08-09-0033R**

A. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF THE “SAN ANTONIO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION” TO DEVELOP AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES.
B. AN ORDINANCE CALLING A SPECIAL SALES TAX ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012.

C. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BEXAR COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE FOR THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TO ENTER INTO AN ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT UP TO $630,000.00 FOR THE NOVEMBER 6, 2012 ELECTION.

Peter Zanoni stated that the purpose and goal of Pre-K 4 SA was to improve the quality and quantity of Prekindergarten Education of four-year-olds citywide. He noted that Pre-K 4 SA would be funded utilizing the additional 1/8-cent sales tax capacity which would yield $31 million annually. He indicated that the tax would have an impact of less than $8.00 per year to San Antonio households with median income. He outlined the target population noting that 5,700 four-year-olds are not benefitting from a full-day Pre-K Program. He reported that Pre-K 4 SA would provide high quality Prekindergarten Education through four model centers; two opening in Year One and two additional centers opening in Year Two. He stated that beginning in Year Four, grant awards would be provided to other service providers that would serve 1,700 students annually. He noted that 22,400 students would be served over the eight-year period of the program. He mentioned that extended-day service would be provided at the centers, as well as family support services.

Mr. Zanoni explained that eligibility for Pre-K 4 SA would be consistent with that of State-funded Pre-K being: 1) 185% of Federal Poverty Level; 2) English as a Second Language; 3) Homeless; 4) Child of active duty member of US Armed Forces; 5) Child of injured or killed member of US Armed Forces; and 6) Is or has been in Foster Care. He stated that 10% of enrollment in the Education Excellence Centers would be available for sliding scale tuition based on family income. He spoke of the professional development that would focus on classroom training with a Master Teacher provided with In-Service Training. He indicated that program assessment would include an Independent Program Evaluation, Assessment for Model Center Students, and Annual Bridge Study. He reported that the proposed program would last eight years with full enrollment and program evaluation to occur after five years.

City Attorney Michael Bernard stated that the Resolution for Item 9A would authorize the creation of a Municipal Development Corporation and approve the Articles of Incorporation. He explained that State Law allows the city to create a Municipal Development Corporation to develop an early childhood education program and collect sales tax to fund same. He noted that the Municipal Development Corporation would operate consistent with Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act. He mentioned that the Corporation could accept property donations, monetary donations, and real property. He reported that the Corporation would be governed by an 11-member Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor and City Council. He stated that the Corporation could not take any action until the Board is appointed and that will occur after the election if the measure passes. He noted that Item 9B would call the Special Sales Tax Election on November 6, 2012 to ask voters to consider a 1/8-cent sales tax for the Pre-K 4 SA Early Childhood Education Program. He reported that the ballot language was mandated by State Statute and that the program would only be authorized for eight years.
City Clerk Leticia M. Vacek stated that Item 9B would call a Special Election on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. She noted that voters would have the opportunity to vote on the adoption of a sales and use tax at the rate of one-eighth of one percent for the purpose of financing authorized programs of the San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation for the maximum period of eight years. She reported that Item 9C would authorize the city to enter into an agreement with the Bexar County Elections Office to conduct the November 6, 2012 Special Election; establish Early and Election Day Voting Sites; and provide for the required public notice. She stated that the Special Election was estimated to cost the city approximately $630,000. She outlined the Election Calendar, noting that the last day to register to vote was Tuesday, October 9, 2012 and Election Day was Tuesday, November 6, 2012. She added that the ordinances were coordinated with the City Attorney’s Office and the Bexar County Elections Office.

Mayor Castro recognized the Brainpower Task Force for their work and thanked Charles Butt, Co-Chair who was present. Mayor Castro called upon the individuals registered to speak.

Mayor Emeritus Lila Cockrell, Mayor Henry Cisneros and Mayor Ed Garza addressed the City Council in support of Pre-K 4 SA. Ms. Cockrell spoke of her many years in public office and highlighted the stronger role that San Antonio had taken in economic development during her tenure as Mayor. She noted that times had changed and the city could no longer be complacent about the state of education in San Antonio. Mr. Cisneros read a letter signed by seven Former Mayors in support of Pre-K 4 SA. He stated that improving educational outcomes for young San Antonians was an important challenge that merits immediate attention and investment. He noted that the Pre-K 4 SA Initiative was a significant step toward creating the kind of educated workforce that will fuel San Antonio’s future economic prosperity. Mr. Garza stated that he was proud to be part of the distinguished living mayors in support of the initiative. He commended Mayor Castro for taking the bold step in terms of the city’s role within education. He noted that the school districts needed help in meeting the demands and that all should work together to ensure that the initiative was successful.

Virginia Carrillo, Moon Brand, and Kristen, COPS/Metro Representatives addressed the City Council in support of Pre-K 4 SA. Ms. Carrillo stated that she had worked on the bill that allows a small tax increase to be used for education. She noted that the churches, schools and unions that make-up COPS/Metro were pleased to support the Pre-K 4 SA Initiative. Kristen stated that she was a fifth grade educator for the East Central School District and supportive of Pre-K 4 SA. She asked that the City Council not get distracted with the minor details of the program and to focus on greater educational opportunities for the community. Ms. Brand stated that she works as a Pre-K Teacher in the Northside Independent School District and supports Pre-K 4 SA. She noted that she hoped that it would raise public awareness of the high quality, full-day, early childhood education experience. She highlighted the benefits that include increased employment, reduced crime and reduced dropout rates.

Bartell Zachary stated that he had been active in public education and served as Chairman of the P16 Council in San Antonio. He reported that the P16 Council had unanimously voted to support Pre-K 4 SA and spoke of the great benefits for children. He highlighted the professional development that would be provided to teachers and was pleased that a parent component was included in the program.

Nikki Kuhns, George Alejos, and Henry Rodriguez addressed the City Council. Ms. Kuhns expressed concern with the great amount of students that are failing and stated that it was not acceptable. She referenced a Harvard Peer Review Study that identified fluoride as a neurotoxin and asked that fluoride be removed from the water supply since it diminishes brainpower. Mr. Alejos stated that he was
supportive of Pre-K 4 SA. He noted that fluoride has evidence of developmental toxicity and affects children’s intelligence. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he did not understand how anybody could be opposed to improving the brainpower of children but also did not understand why the Harvard Report regarding the dangers of fluoride was being dismissed. He spoke of various cities and entities that had worked to remove fluoride from the water supply and asked the City Council to listen to their plea.

Bob Martin, President of the Homeowner Taxpayer Association for Bexar County stated that sales taxes hurt those that were least able to afford them. He noted that sales taxes were regressive and expressed concern with the impact they would have on the working poor and senior citizens on fixed incomes.

Richard Perez of the Greater Chamber read a letter from their Chairman of the Board which read that he was out of town with his son on a Boy Scout Adventure. He noted that investing in children should always come first and that early childhood education is important. He requested that the early childhood education initiative establish specific metrics for success, maximize existing resources, and include a strong parental involvement component. He indicated that a tax funded referendum must show a benefit to the entire community and added that they would adopt a formal position on Pre-K 4 SA in late August.

Raul Lomeli, Chairman of the Board of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce stated that the Board unanimously voted to support Pre-K 4 SA. He spoke of the importance of improving educational levels in the city and added that the Hispanic Chamber would help the city in this endeavor.

Rebecca Ramos, Nancy Hard and Marsha Swiker of Family Service Association addressed the City Council in support of Pre-K 4 SA. Ms. Hard commended Mayor Castro for his vision and leadership. She spoke of the Pre-K Services that they provide and noted that many of the parents of the children they serve do not have a high school diploma. Two parents spoke of the great benefits that their children had received by attending full-day Pre-K Programs.

Rosa Rosales, Immediate Past President of LULAC District 15 thanked Mayor Castro for his vision and foresight and stated that they were in support of Pre-K 4 SA. She noted the high dropout rates within the Hispanic Community and added that it was important to reach children at an early age. Elia Mendoza stated that she was representing the District Director in support of Pre-K 4 SA. She spoke of the importance of Pre-K Education and noted that she looked forward to seeing the program succeed.

Larry Anthiss of the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce commended the Brainpower Task Force for their work and stated that he believed something needed to be done to improve education in the city. He noted that the Board would meet later this month to vet the process but believed that the issue should be put to a vote. He added that he looked forward to the program’s success.

Irma Rosas showed a video expressing concerns with the costs related to Pre-K 4 SA. She asked why Pre-K Teachers had not been involved in the process and stated her concern that the best teachers will be taken from the schools. She noted that she was supportive of using sales taxes for education but did not want Pre-K to be privatized.

Ruben Sanchez representing the Walnut Hills Neighborhood Association stated that they supported education but did not support utilizing sales tax to fund it. He noted that they would like funding to address the needs of the neighborhood.
Dr. John Folks, former Northside ISD Superintendent stated that he appreciated what the city was doing in regard to addressing education and providing leadership. He noted that the public schools are doing a great job but partnering with the city will improve education and workforce development.

Fidel Castillo invited all fathers to register for the Texas 2012 Father’s March on the first day of school at over 800 cities throughout the US. He spoke of the importance of a strong family structure to a child’s education.

Dr. Richard Middleton, former NEISD Superintendent spoke in support of Pre-K 4 SA noting that he considered it to be a very important initiative. He stated that the program would provide an opportunity to help underprivileged children and urged the City Council to call the election to fund the program.

Jack M. Finger spoke in opposition to Pre-K 4 SA and noted the challenges with the Head Start Program. He expressed concern that not all four-year-olds would be eligible for the program and that good teachers will be taken from the schools.

Annie Garcia, Eileen Delgado and Kathy Bruck representing AVANCE addressed the City Council in support of Pre-K 4 SA. Ms. Bruck stated that they had been working in partnership with Harlandale ISD to ensure that children enter Kindergarten ready to learn. She spoke of the benefits of Pre-K Programs and commended the City Council on the initiative. Ms. Garcia spoke of the great experiences that her two children have experienced while participating in the program. She stated that she was pleased that the program offered her parenting classes and has learned the importance of reading to her children daily. Ms. Delgado also attends the AVANCE Program and stated that her son had greatly benefitted from attending a Pre-K Program. She expressed her support for Pre-K 4 SA that will allow children to enter school ready to learn.

Madeline Guyer stated that Dr. Victor Rodriguez, retired Superintendent for SAISD had to leave but read a letter of support for Pre-K 4 SA.

Lester Bryant stated that he was in support of Pre-K SA and spoke of the challenges with the current educational system. He stated that it was important to put children first and provide opportunities to be successful in the global economy.

Sylvester Perez, Interim SAISD Superintendent, Patti Radle, SAISD Trustee and former City Councilmember, and Rey Madrigal, Harlandale Interim Superintendent addressed the City Council in support of Pre-K 4 SA. Mr. Perez stated that many children that attend school are not prepared and that schools are having a challenge in meeting the gaps. He spoke of the importance of investing in children at an early age. Ms. Radle stated that the SAISD School Board had voted in support of Pre-K 4 SA and was excited that the School District and City would be working together. She noted that she had been a teacher and had worked with people in poverty for over 43 years. Mr. Madrigal added that the Harlandale Community supports the Pre-K Initiative.

State Representative Mike Villarreal read a letter of support for Pre-K 4 SA signed by Leticia Van de Putte, Carlos Uresti, Judith Zaffirini, Jose Menendez, Ruth Jones McClendon, Trey Martinez Fischer, Joaquin Castro, and Joe Farias. Mr. Villarreal spoke of the research that shows that investing in high quality Pre-K for four-year-olds is proven to improve educational outcomes. He referenced the cuts to funding for education at the State Level and stated that they cannot wait for the State of Texas to act. He thanked the City Council for bringing the item forward.
Steve Hester of Big Brothers Big Sisters spoke in support of Pre-K 4 SA. He stated that improving the educational attainment of children would help them from becoming at-risk and deter them from entering the criminal justice system and dropping out of school.

Dr. Harriett Romo stated that she had served on the Brainpower Task Force and was fully supportive of Pre-K 4 SA. She thanked everyone involved in the process and spoke of the importance of creating learning labs that provide the best teaching practices, curriculum, and training.

Mary Japhet stated that she was the Associate Executive Director of San Antonio Sports and Vice-Chair of the Mayor’s Fitness Council. She noted that healthy children will have healthy, strong minds and spoke of the importance of providing opportunities for children to enter school ready to learn.

Tessa Pollack, Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) President expressed support for Pre-K 4 SA. She highlighted the benefits of early childhood education, noting that many students do not complete college. She added that OLLU strongly believed in the principle of social justice and that Pre-K Education was a social justice issue of major proportion.

Vanessa Hurd, Director of the Children’s Museum stated that she had served on the Brainpower Task Force and expressed support for Pre-K 4 SA. She spoke of the importance of investing in the city’s future added that it was the right thing to do.

Gurpaul Singh stated that he had served as a member of the SA2020 Leadership Steering Committee and expressed support for Pre-K 4 SA. He spoke of the importance of early childhood education and noted his appreciation for the studies conducted regarding same.

Chris Neilson, representing Toyota stated that he had served on the Brainpower Task Force. He noted that there was no more important investment for the community and workforce than Pre-K 4 SA. He spoke of the shortage of skilled maintenance team members and the importance of education in attracting new companies to diversify the economy.

Elaine Mendoza stated that she was privileged to serve on the Brainpower Task Force and that she believed the initiative addresses the biggest gap in educational focus and funding. She noted that Pre-K 4 SA has transparency and specific learning outcomes and will positively influence the educational trajectory of students.

Mark Larson, representing the KIPP Academy spoke in support of Pre-K 4 SA and highlighted the benefits of full-day Pre-K Education. He noted that the KIPP Academy has been successful due to better teaching and more instruction and believed Pre-K 4 SA would provide same.

Ryan Kuhl representing SA 2020 read a statement of support for Pre-K 4 SA on behalf of Darryl Bird. He highlighted the city’s commitment to improving educational levels in the city by 2020.

Mari Cortez stated that Pre-K 4 SA was an important initiative and that research supports the need for early childhood education. She noted that Pre-K Education enhances children’s potential in learning and strengthens families.
Leo Gomez, Vice-President of Spurs Sports and Entertainment stated that Pre-K 4 SA would provide the community an opportunity to grow. He noted that it would be good for businesses and families and believed that the issue should be brought to the voters.

Joe Alderete, Alamo Community Colleges Trustee and Former Councilmember spoke in support of Pre-K 4 SA. He stated that education begins at age four and requires parental involvement. He added that tracking success would be important and expressed his support.

Ben Brewer of the Downtown Alliance addressed the City Council in support of Pre-K 4 SA noting that it was critical to the city’s future. He commended the Brainpower Task Force for their work and urged the City Council to let the voters decide.

Blanca Gebhart and Marty Samsel addressed the City Council in support of Pre-K 4 SA. Ms. Samsel stated that she was a Kindergarten Teacher and could not imagine anyone objecting to investing in the future of the city by providing Pre-K Education. Ms. Gebhart stated that she was also a Kindergarten Teacher excited to hear that the city was considering creating early childhood centers. She noted that it was important for children to enter Kindergarten ready to learn.

Judy Ratlief, Mikel Brightman and Sonia Cardenas representing the SAISD Early Childhood Department addressed the City Council in support of Pre-K 4 SA. Ms. Brightman stated that today’s youth would be the future workforce. Ms. Ratlief spoke of the research that connects early childhood education with success. She referenced the positive experiences of parents whose children had the opportunity to attend Pre-K. Ms. Cardenas spoke of a Pre-K Student that she had worked with and noted his accomplishments.

Denver McClendon, Alamo Community Colleges Trustee spoke of the importance of early childhood education. He noted that many students that attend college must register for remedial courses and are not prepared for college work. He urged the City Council to vote in favor of Pre-K 4 SA.

Jennifer Musick stated that she was a teacher in support of Pre-K 4 SA and spoke of her classroom experiences. She noted the benefits of Pre-K that include children being able to help their families.

Martin Sanchez stated that he was a High School Teacher in the Northeast Area of the city and spoke in support of Pre-K 4 SA. He noted that classrooms become more effective when children have been educated at an early age.

Rose Calderon stated that she was a teacher and had been teaching for 15 years. She noted that Pre-K Education positively impacts teachers and students at all grade levels and that it was the best time for children to learn.

Reverend Price spoke of the importance of early childhood education and stated that it was greatly needed in order to compete in today’s global economy. He commended Mayor Castro for his leadership on said issue.

Mary Ziegler stated that she had been an educator in public schools for 45 years and was in support of the Pre-K 4 SA Initiative. She spoke of the learning gap among students in the classroom and added that the city needed to take a proactive stance on education.
Gabe Farias, Westside Chamber of Commerce President stated that they were in support of the Pre-K 4 SA Initiative. He noted that it would help improve the quality of life and be a great investment in the city’s future.

Dr. Janet Realini stated that she was representing the Health Futures Alliance and they were in full support of Pre-K 4 SA. She noted that quality early childhood education meant more success in school and less risk of participating in sex, drugs and alcohol.

Melinda Rodriguez, President of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce commended Mayor Castro for recognizing the importance of education and the wide ranging impact it has on the city. She noted that they fully endorsed the concept of investing in education and added that an educationally extensive workforce would provide great business opportunities.

Rebecca Garcia stated that she was a Head Start Pre-K Teacher in SAISD and was supportive of Pre-K 4 SA. She spoke of the benefit of children entering school ready to learn and noted that she looked forward to taking advantage of the professional development that would be offered to her.

Catherine Campbell stated that she was a Kindergarten Teacher and had taught children with a variety of backgrounds. She noted that the students that attended a quality, full-day preschool were the most prepared for Kindergarten.

Cara Nichols stated that she was the Director of Community Affairs for Rackspace and was representing Graham Weston. She read a statement on his behalf noting that the current educational situation was not acceptable. She noted that the workforce was the city’s number one asset and commended Mayor Castro for his efforts.

Madeline Guyer stated that the Pre-K 4 SA Initiative had tremendous support and hoped that the City Council would unanimously support placing it on the ballot.

Dr. Yvonne Katz, Chair of the Women’s Chamber of Commerce and Newly Elected Trustee to the Alamo Community College Board of Trustees spoke in support of Pre-K 4 SA. She stated that the Women’s Chamber had unanimously voted to support the initiative and outlined the benefits of Pre-K for all children.

Patrick Shearer introduced his four-year-old son Oliver who has benefitted from a quality, preschool education. He stated that it was important to make an investment today to break the dropout cycle. He asked the City Council to let the voters decide.

Dr. Brian Herman stated that he was representing the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) as Vice-Chair of the Board and introduced Lourdes Castro Ramirez. Dr. Herman expressed support for Pre-K 4 SA and noted that one of their strategic goals was to improve the quality of life of the families they serve. He mentioned that Pre-K Education benefits future educational outcomes and increases high school graduation rates. Alva Alicia Cardenas added that SAHA had provided her son an opportunity to attend Robotics Camp and spoke in support of Pre-K 4 SA.

Nick Mireles stated that had previously been with Parent Child Incorporated (PCI) serving Pre-K Age Students. He noted that the program had since been disassembled but he continued to support education initiatives to help young children.
Catherine Schneider stated that she was a retired educator in support of Pre-K 4 SA. She noted that she had taught children that attended Pre-K and was able to see the benefits.

John Yoggerst spoke in opposition to Pre-K 4 SA noting that there were already 19 school districts that served the target population.

Deborah Parrish stated that she had been a teacher for 32 years and was supportive of Pre-K 4 SA. She noted the need to measure results and requested that an Annual Report of the program be provided.

David Force, Executive Director of San Antonio Youth Literacy spoke in support of Pre-K 4 SA. He spoke of the need for children to enter school ready to learn and to pass Third Grade Standardized Tests.

Alissa Levey Baugh commended Mayor Castro for his leadership on Pre-K 4 SA and spoke of the importance of providing a full-day, quality Pre-K Program to children.

Jon Kaplan stated that he was representing the SA Tea Party and noted that he had heard conflicting research regarding the benefits of Pre-K Education. He requested that the vote on said item be tabled until a Public Forum can be held to further discuss the issue.

Written testimony was received in support of Pre-K 4 SA from Sonia M. Rodriguez, Chair of the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women and Scott McAninch, Executive Director of the San Antonio Nonprofit Council.

Mayor Castro thanked everyone for their work and stated that 60% of the jobs today require more than a high school diploma. He noted that the high dropout rates are unacceptable and that San Antonio must remain economically competitive. He reported that the recommendation of the Brainpower Task Force was to invest in early childhood education because it was better to reach children at an early age. He stated that Pre-K 4 SA was a well-thought out initiative that was worked on by many education experts. He spoke of the many opportunities that had been made available for input and noted that the decision would be placed in the hands of the voters. He added that the increase to the average median household would be $7.81 per year and that the program would be approved for eight years to measure results. He asked about the relationship with the school districts and what would be done to ensure that the program is a success. Ms. Sculley stated that an independent annual audit and assessment would be conducted and that the program budget would be approved annually by the City Council. She noted that it is expected that there will be regular testing at schools and shared governance of teachers and parents. She added that the program would be ramped up thereafter to assess the program. Mayor Castro stated that San Antonio has the ability to control its own destiny and that we needed to do something to improve the lives of children.

Mayor Castro noted that the Council would take a vote on Items 9A, 9B and 9C individually.

Councilmember Lopez stated that the city has a responsibility to provide a certain level of support and that there will be shared responsibility with the school districts. He noted that they had looked at other models and believed the concept of Pre-K 4 SA was the best approach.

Councilmember Williams noted that there is consensus that children need to be kinder ready. He stated that the numbers are important for our city in that there are 20,000 four-year-olds in the city and 16,500
qualify for Pre-K. He reported that 13,900 are receiving some form of Pre-K and that education solutions need to be left to the State. He stated that the city should not establish the Municipal Development Corporation as it would impose another layer of control. He expressed concern regarding the city’s ability to eliminate the program once such a large investment had been made. He added that the school districts will support the initiative because it will provide them with additional funding and training. He further expressed concern with the city taking over the burden of converting half-day centers to full day centers noting that 93% of the half-day slots are at Northside, Northeast and Judson. He stated that he could not vote to establish the corporation but would vote to place the initiative on the ballot in November. He thanked everyone for their work.

Councilmember Chan thanked the Brainpower Committee and staff. She stated that due to her background, education is something that she holds in high regard. She noted that she still has reservations about the program but has heard strong support for placing the item on the ballot. She added that she would support calling the election but was not in favor of creating the corporation.

Councilmember C. Medina thanked everyone for their work and stated that as a Father, education was very important to him. He spoke of the importance of a skilled workforce and the need to take a proactive step regarding education. He added that doing nothing was not an option and would support taking the initiative to the voters. He commended everyone involved in the process.

Councilmember Soules thanked everyone for their work and stated that he firmly believes in supporting education. He noted that many individuals that he respects are in support of Pre-K 4 SA so he will allow the voters to decide but would join Councilmembers Williams and Chan in opposing the creation of the corporation. He expressed concern that the city was taking on the initiative without working with the State on a long-term solution regarding early childhood education. He noted that educational spending on Pre-K through 12th Grade exceeds $4 billion per year in San Antonio and mentioned the 95% increase in educational spending in Texas over the past decade. He spoke of the high cost to operate Pre-K 4 SA over the next eight years and that the funds could be utilized to address other needs such as infrastructure. He stated that he has asked of the current state of Pre-K in San Antonio and has not been informed of where the city is falling short. He noted concerns with shifting funds from the school districts and with having an unelected corporation managing funds. He added that he believed the program had good intentions and would support letting the voters decide in November.

Councilmember Bernal stated that he had worked as a Civil Rights Lawyer on School Finance Issues. He noted that there is something that can be done to improve education and believes that this initiative will be successful. He indicated that Pre-K 4 SA would focus on education as well as economic development and that the business community was recommending the initiative. He stated that there is a legal process and the corporation is the vehicle used to get there. He noted that the voters would have the opportunity to decide and that this was not uncharted territory as the city had funded educational initiatives for a long time. He added that he appreciates the work that has been put into the initiative and is enthusiastic about the election.

Councilmember Taylor stated that she was excited to engage in a dialogue on education and this would be an important investment in education. She spoke of the children that arrive at school unprepared and have a negative impact on other students. She noted that this was an important step toward collaborating with other educational institutions and making an investment in human beings. She referenced comments made by Jeffrey Canada who had visited San Antonio and mentioned the crappy elementary school that he attended in The Bronx in the 1960’s that is still a crappy elementary school. She
indicated that no one else was coming to save the children and the city should jump in and work to achieve better educational outcomes. She read a statement of support by Dr. Adena Loston, President of St. Philip’s College. She stated that she was confident that staff will monitor the program and make adjustments as necessary. She added that San Antonio Voters should be given the opportunity to decide this issue.

Councilmember Ozuna thanked the Brainpower Task Force and stated that it has been a good opportunity for her to engage with business leaders, school administrators, and local leaders. She stated that she supports taking the issue to the voters and believed it was a small increase that would boost the economic potential of youth in the community. She spoke of the State Budget cuts within Education Funding and stated that something must be done. She expressed concern with the high dropout rates and the challenges that businesses have in filling positions due to the lack of a skilled workforce.

Councilmember Saldaña commended the City Council for their work on this process over the past two months. He spoke of his time in Graduate School where everyone talked about options to improve education but nothing would happen. He stated that he was pleased that the city would be taking action and making bold steps. He added that he looked forward to improving education for children in San Antonio and would support placing the initiative on the ballot in November.

Councilmember D. Medina commended Mayor Castro for his leadership on the initiative and thanked everyone involved in the process. He stated that this was an extremely important initiative and spoke of the need to invest in Pre-K Education. He noted that being home schooled until third grade had helped him succeed when entering school. He mentioned the great amount of support that had been received today and believed that this initiative would move the city forward to ensure that there is an educated workforce. He read a letter of support from Bill Greehey and added that he would be supporting the initiative today.

Mayor Castro stated that there was overwhelming support for Pre-K 4 SA and thanked Charles Butt, General Robles, and the entire Brainpower Task Force for their work.

Councilmember Lopez moved to adopt an Ordinance calling a Special Sales Tax Election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 in the City of San Antonio (Item 9B). Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: AYES: Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldaña, D. Medina, Lopez, C. Medina, Williams, Chan, Soules, and Mayor Castro. NAY: None. ABSENT: None.

Councilmember Lopez moved to adopt the Ordinance authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bexar County Elections Office for the City of San Antonio to enter into the Election Services Contract (Item 9C). Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: AYES: Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldaña, D. Medina, Lopez, C. Medina, Williams, Chan, Soules, and Mayor Castro. NAY: None. ABSENT: None.

Councilmember Lopez moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the creation of the San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation to develop authorized programs for early childhood education services (Item 9A). Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion.
The motion prevailed by the following vote: **AYES:** Bernal, Taylor, Ozuna, Saldaña, D. Medina, Lopez, C. Medina, and Mayor Castro. **NAYS:** Williams, Chan, and Soules. **ABSENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Castro adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

APPROVED

[Signature]

JULIÁN CASTRO
MAYOR

Attest:

[Signature]

Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC/MMC
City Clerk