



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Work Session Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers

630 E. Hopkins St. - Work Session

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the work session of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2026. This meeting was held both in person and online.

II. Roll Call

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Garza arrived at 3:01 p.m. and Council Member Gonzalez arrived at 3:10 p.m.

Present: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Shane Scott, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Alyssa Garza, Council Member Amanda Rodriguez, Mayor Jane Hughson, Council Member Lorenzo Gonzalez, Council Member Matthew Mendoza and Council Member Josh Paselk

III. Citizen Comment Period

Alix Cadell expressed concern about the growing visibility of homelessness in San Marcos and urged the City to prioritize public and affordable housing rather than focusing mainly on off-campus student developments. She referenced federal bill H.R. 4872 as a potential model for local housing solutions.

Davis Jones commended the City Council's water conservation efforts and encouraged additional Land Development Code amendments to support long-term water resilience, including on-site water reuse for large projects, industrial stormwater drainage fees, and tighter limits on potable water use in heavy industry. He noted these measures could also benefit local economic sustainability and offered to share supporting legal research.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a presentation and hold a discussion regarding the results of the 2026 Point In Time count for the population experiencing homelessness in San Marcos.

City Manager Stephanie Reyes introduced the item and explained that it

included results from the January 22, 2026 Point in Time count conducted by the Hays County Homeless Coalition with local partners. She noted this annual HUD-mandated count helps assess homelessness across the county and then turned the presentation over to coalition members Lisa Young and Nancy Heintz.

Nancy Heintz thanked the volunteers who coordinated the count and explained HUD's process, noting the count captures both unsheltered and sheltered populations but represents trends rather than a full picture. This year's count identified 144 individuals countywide, with San Marcos showing the highest concentration due to available services and other factors. She also noted year-to-year variations may be affected by weather, fears related to immigration enforcement, and the ability to engage participants. Ms. Heintz confirmed that detailed notes and raw demographic data are maintained for agencies needing information for grant applications.

The presentation showed most individuals counted were between ages 25–64, with more males than females, and the highest race/ethnicity groups identified as Hispanic and white, though some data was incomplete due to reporting issues.

Lisa Young presented McKinney-Vento data from local school districts, noting 105 students in San Marcos CISD were identified at the start of the school year as homeless or housing-insecure. She emphasized that these numbers reflect entire families not captured in the Point in Time count. Young reported a significant decrease in McKinney-Vento numbers from the prior year, likely due to families' reluctance to share information. She also noted that staffing reductions, including parent liaison roles, may affect reporting.

Ms. Young requested the City reinstate funding for Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) licenses for local service providers and consider applying for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds from the state. Council members noted ongoing discussions on HMIS support. Director of Administrative Services Hayden Migl reported that approximately \$9,600.00 is available to meet the HMIS request and that a simplified application will be presented at the May coalition meeting. City Manager Reyes added that staff is reviewing eligibility for ESG funding based on updated census data and will provide an update once available.

2. Receive an update from Southside Community Center on the implementation of recommendations from the Comprehensive Needs Assessment Study and Recommendations on Homelessness funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, and provide direction to the

City Manager.

City Manager Stephanie Reyes introduced the presentation from Southside Community Center, summarizing results from the 2024–2026 ARPA-funded agreement to implement homelessness-related recommendations. Executive Director Deborah Villapando, Housing Program Manager Naiha Campos-Beierman, and Director of Neighborhood Engagement Jessica Cain presented the final report and sustainability plan.

Ms. Cain outlined the project background and explained that the City’s \$850,000 in ARPA funding supported three goals: stopping the growth of homelessness, improving systems, and expanding service capacity for San Marcos families. Southside developed the Housing Stability Program with three components—Emergency Assistance, Eviction Prevention, and Transitional Housing. Emergency Assistance expanded rent and utility support; Eviction Prevention, launched in July 2025, has prevented 81 evictions with strong retention outcomes; and Transitional Housing replaced the earlier rapid rehousing model, proving more cost-effective and better aligned with local capacity.

The transitional housing cohort model has produced successful results, with most participants completing the program and 71% moving into permanent housing. Southside also strengthened community partnerships, expanded staff capacity, improved HMIS coordination, and completed major shelter renovations to resolve long-standing maintenance issues. Financial summaries showed that rapid rehousing consumed most of Phase 1 resources, while Phase 2 emphasized prevention and transitional housing, serving significantly more families at lower cost.

Ms. Cain concluded that prevention is the most effective and affordable strategy and that local infrastructure is not yet suited for a housing-first approach. She stressed the importance of supporting organizations that can intervene early to keep families housed.

Council Member Josh Paselk asked about job placement partnerships and database coordination; staff described ongoing collaborations and plans for expanding Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Mayor Hughson offered to connect them with Workforce Solutions. Council Member Amanda Rodriguez asked about long-term sustainability; Ms. Cain reported funding is stable through early 2027 and grant applications are underway. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Alyssa Garza praised the program’s strong structure and adaptive design. Mayor Hughson also thanked the team for pivoting when

initial strategies weren't effective. City Manager Reyes added that staff is reviewing potential eligibility for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding with updated census data.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. The San Marcos City Council will convene in executive session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Government Code:

A. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) and Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney): To deliberate and receive legal advice regarding the appointment of a new Municipal Court Judge.

B. Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney): To receive legal advice regarding the arrest of two individuals near Aquarena Springs Drive and Charles Austin Drive on March 14, 2026.

C. Section 551.072 (Real Property) and Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney): To deliberate and receive legal advice regarding the lease of City-owned real property located at 201 South LBJ Drive.

D. Section 551.072 (Real Property): To deliberate regarding a request by the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance to lease city-owned property for location of an office and facilities related to parks maintenance performed by the Alliance.

A motion was made by Council Member Scott, seconded by Council Member Paselk, to enter into Executive Session at 4:30 p.m.

The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Garza, Council Member Rodriguez, Mayor Hughson, Council Member Gonzalez, Council Member Mendoza and Council Member Paselk

Against: 0

IV. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public.

Mayor Hughson stated Executive Session was concluded at 6:07 p.m.

There were no questions from the press or public this afternoon.

V. Adjournment.

Mayor Hughson adjourned the work session of the City Council on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 6:08 p.m.

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