



**Work Session Meeting Minutes  
City Council**

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Tuesday, March 3, 2026

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers

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I. Call To Order

**With a quorum present, the work session of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson on Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 3:00 pm. The meeting was held both in-person and online.**

II. Roll Call

**Council Member Gonzales arrived at 3:03 PM.**

**Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Garza joined online at 3:35 PM.**

**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

**Maxfield Baker emphasized the value of the three-minute citizen comment period and noted that it can be intimidating for many residents. He announced that the Civics Club will hold a “Speak Up” event on April 4 at Eddie Durham Park to encourage greater public participation in Council and board meetings and invited the community to attend.**

**PRESENTATION**

1. Receive a staff presentation regarding the current status of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and provide direction to the City Manager.

**City Manager Stephanie Reyes explained that American Rescue Plan Act funds had to be obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully spent by December 31, 2026. As several projects have been completed, some excess funds are now available for reallocation to existing contracted obligations. She stated that the purpose of the presentation was to gather Council feedback before bringing a reallocation resolution to a future meeting. City Manager Reyes also recognized Director of Administrative Services Hayden Migl for his effective management of the ARPA funding stream despite limited federal guidance**

when the program began.

Director of Administrative Services Hayden Migl reported that City Council allocated ARPA funding to 78 projects and that all funds were obligated before the federal deadline. He noted that nearly 95 percent of the City's \$18 million allocation has been spent or encumbered, and staff will continue working with Booth Management Consulting to ensure everything is in order by December 31, 2026. He added that Coronavirus Relief Funds used for staffing freed \$2.6 million in general fund dollars, with 85 percent now expended. Director Migl identified \$320,000 available for reallocation from unspent housing rehabilitation funds, a vacant cybersecurity position, and remaining caregiver support dollars. He recommended directing \$100,000 each to Operation Triage and Mission Able and \$120,000 to extend the Booth Management Consulting contract, noting Mission Able's 81 households served and Operation Triage's 31 households served with significant in-kind contributions.

Mayor Hughson raised the possibility of allocating \$5,000 to support the pet food drive organized by PALS, noting the City could use either eligible funding source since it already contracts with PALS.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Garza questioned why only the recommended organizations were included from all past ARPA grant recipients and requested detailed information on geographic distribution, socioeconomic demographics, selection processes, deliverables, and overall impact to ensure equitable decisions.

Council Member Rodriguez agreed additional information was needed, stating she had only received a presentation from Mission Able at a homelessness committee meeting and not from Operation Triage, and said she supported the reallocations but wanted more background.

Council Member Gonzalez questioned the additional \$120,000 for Booth Management Consulting, asking whether the funding would have been necessary without savings from other projects, and suggested that groups such as the food bank or BR3T might assist more residents at lower cost than home-repair programs.

Ms. Reyes explained the consulting cost was required regardless of available excess funds and that Booth Management Consulting provides specialized ARPA compliance expertise not available within City staff.

**Director of Administrative Services Mr. Migl clarified that consulting services cost approximately \$110,000 per year and that the City originally planned for multiple years of support, using Coronavirus Relief Funds for the third year.**

**Council Member Rodriguez expressed strong support for home rehabilitation, stating such work preserves generational wealth and prevents displacement and that participants in the City's housing rehabilitation program described the assistance as life-changing.**

**Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Garza cautioned against relying on anecdotal evidence rather than data and emphasized the need for impact comparisons, noting that rental assistance might prevent more immediate homelessness and requesting numbers showing how many people each organization could serve with the proposed funds.**

**Council Member Gonzalez reiterated that, with limited funding, organizations focused on food or rental assistance could serve more residents at lower cost.**

**Council Member Paselk stated he supported the proposal as presented and believed home repairs provide long-term value.**

**Council Member Matthew Mendoza expressed strong support for home rehabilitation, emphasizing its role in preserving family assets and addressing essential needs such as air conditioning, water heaters, and structural repairs.**

**Mayor Hughson concluded by summarizing that Council wished to proceed with staff's recommended reallocations while receiving additional information on mapping, selection processes, barriers, and impact analysis, and that the proposed support for the PALS pet food pantry would be considered based on available funding.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 2. The City Council will convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.086 (Confidential Utility Competitive Matters) of the Texas Government Code to deliberate regarding and consider approval of an amendment to the Wholesale Power Agreement with the Lower Colorado River Authority.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Rodriguez, seconded by Council Member Mendoza to convene in Executive Session at 3:55 PM.**

**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

**Council reconvened from Executive Session at 4:29 PM.**

IV. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public.

**Maxfield Baker asked about efforts to improve the completeness of meeting packets, especially for new council members, and referenced past discussions on this issue. He also asked whether council members knew they could waive executive-session privilege and whether they were willing to confirm if the executive-session item involved data centers, given recent public concern.**

**City Attorney Sam Aguirre clarified that the executive-session item concerned competitive wholesale power purchase agreements with LCRA, the City's primary wholesale provider, and did not involve legal advice or any discussion of data centers. He noted that while Council may waive executive-session privilege in some circumstances, this item involved a third-party provider with confidentiality requirements related to power purchases and rate setting.**

**Mayor Hughson responded to the question about packet completeness and stated that detailed information, including spreadsheets, had been posted on the message board and included in the packet.**

**City Manager Stephanie Reyes acknowledged the need to provide more context in future packets to support new Council members and stated that staff would work toward improving the completeness of materials.**

V. Adjournment.

**With no further business Mayor Hughson adjourned the meeting at 4:36 PM.**

**Elizabeth Trevino, City Clerk**

**Jane Hughson, Mayor**