



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers

This meeting was held using conferencing software due to COVID-19 rules.

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 3:02 p.m. Tuesday, September 21, 2021. The meeting was held online and in person.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Council Member Maxfield Baker, Council Member Saul Gonzales, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Shane Scott, Council Member Alyssa Garza and Council Member Mark Gleason

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a Staff presentation and update regarding the Coordinated Transit System implementation for the City of San Marcos and Texas State University, and provide direction to City Manager.

Bert Lumbreras provided an introduction to the presentation related to the transit system in San Marcos. One of Council's strategic initiatives was multimodal transportation and one of his goals is to strengthen the partnership between the City and Texas State University. He explained this project combines those two objectives in order to advance transit and deliver inclusive, multimodal options to our community. He introduced Pete Binion, Transit Manager to lead the presentation. Mr. Lumbreras stated this presentation will include the history of this effort, including direction received from previous Councils and discussions had up to this point. He stated the University has been an outstanding partner to work with towards this common goal. He also noted that Eric Algoe, Nancy Nussbaum, Steven Herrera, and Anna Edmonds are attending this meeting as representatives of Texas State. Topics to discuss will include proposed funding splits between the City and University, how the interlocal agreements will be structured, and next steps. Any agreements will come back to Council for consideration. The goal today is to receive Council's feedback on the drafting of interlocal agreements.

Pete Binion, Transit Manager provided the presentation regarding the coordinated transit system implementation.

Mr. Binion provided the seamless transit system benefits, including the following:

- **The Seamless Transit System is inclusive of all residents**
- **Remove barriers to transit service for every resident**
- **Make it simple - Coordinated marketing and public outreach**
- **Access to more Federal transit funding to enhance system**
- **Provides a bridge of good faith between the City and Texas State to bring the community together.**

Mr. Binion provided the Master Plan Implementation outcomes for the following:

City of San Marcos as a direct recipient:

- **Coordinates with Federal Transit Administration (FTA), TxDOT & Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)**
- **Implements Grant Compliance Policies and Procedures**
- **Maintains Fiduciary Responsibility & Grant Management Duties**

Texas State University as a voluntary reporter:

- **Began Reporting to National Transit Database in 2017**
- **Has Generated \$8.9 Million in Grant Funds for San Marcos**
- **FTA 5307 Small Transit Intensive City Funds “bonus”**
- **C.A.R.E.S Act & American Rescue Plan Funds**

Coordination with Federal Transit Administration (FTA):

- **Meetings to discuss the seamless transit system**
- **FTA determines the University service is “public transportation”**
- **FTA provides guidance and examples of successful partnerships**
- **Direct Recipient - Subrecipient relationship allows sharing of Federal funds**
- **City and Texas State staff negotiate fund split with FTA review**

Mr. Binion stated the reasoning for the ILA funding is to support Council's strategic vision & coordination efforts to date, minimizes “local match” funding requirement and maximizes use of Federal funds by project type. Mr. Binion mentioned the results for the funding is for a new approach that provides a Seamless Transit System, implements recommendations of the Master Plan, provides for future cost savings and increases Federal funding and allows Texas State University to enhance its resources.

Mr. Binion provided the proposed next steps, as follows:

- **Continue coordination with the FTA**
- **Draft Interlocal Agreements with FTA review**
- **Return Interlocal Agreements for Council consideration**
- **Execute transit projects on behalf of the community**
- **Continue to assess future grant fund opportunities**

The staff noted that the Council Direction needed today is – are we ready to move forward with the ILA as staff and Texas State have negotiated?

Mayor Hughson opened the discussion for questions from Council and thanked Staff for their work on this project.

Council Member Baker expressed concern with the split of FTA funds. He expressed concerns with the impact this has on our roads. Mr. Baker would like to see bus lanes instead of more capacity on our roads.

Mayor Hughson asked if the funding received has to be used for buses. Mr. Binion stated yes, these funds must be used for capital, operating or planning assistance.

Council Member Baker asked what the deliverable is we will receive and inquired what Texas State University would use the money for. Mr. Binion mentioned the money will be used for capital planning for bus routes and purchasing buses for this service.

Mayor Hughson inquired about routes and if these would be more intertwined. Mr. Binion said this will take some time but in the future there will be opportunity to add or modify routes. He stated whether the City of University utilizes these funds, it is a benefit to the citizens.

Eric Algoe, stated the bus system is currently running at a deficit with the money collected from the student fee. To avoid a future bus fee increase this revenue will allow for another 5 years without the need of an increase. The University intent is to purchase their physical buses and stop leasing. Once the City and University agree a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire the joint transit system, then at that time the University will be able to bring in 50-60 owned buses which will save a lot of dollars in the future. Once there is a single operator, they will revisit the bus routes.

Council Member Baker inquired about the current bus rate at Texas State? Ms. Nusbaum stated these are \$95. Council Member Baker would like to include language in the agreement that says no student bus fee increase for 5 years. Mr. Algoe stated there is a RFP but we will not know the climate at that time, specifically related to gas. Ms. Nusbaum stated the University can't increase the fee over \$100 unless there is new legislation enacted.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott expressed his appreciation to some former council members and the University that have worked so hard to bring this project to fruition.

Upon completion of discussion, council provided consensus to move forward with the Interlocal Agreement.

Mayor Hughson and Mayor Pro Tem Derrick expressed their appreciation to everyone involved with this project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 2. Executive Session in accordance with the following:**
 - A. Sec. §551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with Attorney: To receive legal counsel regarding state law preemption of city ordinances regulating the sale or use of single-use packages and containers.**
 - B. Sec. §551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with Attorney: To receive advice of legal counsel regarding the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Pursuant Ventures Development, LLC for the San Marcos Sportsplex Project.**
 - C. Sec. §551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with Attorney: to receive legal advice regarding the contract with Together for a Cause.**
 - D. Sec. §551.074 of the Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters: to discuss the City Manager Search Process.**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Derrick, seconded by Council Member Baker, to enter into closed session at 3:42 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Council Member Baker, Council Member Gonzales, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council Member Garza and Council Member Gleason

Against: 0

III. Adjournment.

Mayor Hughson stated Executive Session concluded at 5:36 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Derrick, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott, to adjourn the Work Session meeting of the City Council at

5:50 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

- For:** 5 - Mayor Pro Tem Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Council Member Baker, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Council Member Garza
- Against:** 0
- Absent:** 2 - Council Member Gonzales and Council Member Gleason

Tammy K. Cook, Interim City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor