

DRAFT

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING September 23, 2025

A Special Meeting was held by the Schertz City Council of the City of Schertz, Texas, on September 23, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hal Baldwin Municipal Complex Council Chambers, 1400 Schertz Parkway, Building #4, Schertz, Texas. The following members present to-wit:

Present: Mayor Ralph Gutierrez; Mayor Pro Tem Tim Brown; Councilmember Mark Davis; Councilmember Michelle Watson; Councilmember Paul Macaluso; Councilmember Ben Guerrero; Councilmember Robert Westbrook; Councilmember Allison Heyward

Staff present: City Manager Steve Williams; Deputy City Manager Brian James; City Attorney Daniel Santee; Assistant City Manager Sarah Gonzalez; City Secretary Sheila Edmondson; Deputy City Secretary Sheree Courney

Call to Order

Mayor Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Hearing of Residents

This time is set aside for any person who wishes to address the City Council. Each person should fill out the speaker's register prior to the meeting. Presentations should be limited to no more than 3 minutes.

All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body, and not to any individual member thereof. Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks while addressing the Council may be requested to leave the meeting.

All handouts and/or USB devices must be submitted to the City Secretary no later than noon on the Monday preceding the meeting. Handouts will be provided to each Councilmember prior to the start of the meeting by the City Secretary. All USB devices will be vetted by City IT staff to ensure City property is protected from malware.

No residents signed up to be heard.

Discussion and Action Items

1. Discussion on the Schertz Young Leaders Program's application process (Mayor Gutierrez)

Mayor Gutierrez opened the discussion by stating that the Schertz Young Leaders Program is one of the most valuable ways of preparing our next generation of leaders and was not being canceled. The success of this program has been extraordinary. The discussion slated for this meeting was to identify who the program should primarily serve and to ensure it fulfills its primary purpose. This program not only carries our city's name, it reflects our city's values and is designed to give young people the tools and experiences to become tomorrow's leaders. There are a total of 12 seats available for this program. This year there are 24 applications, 9 of which are for students who do not live in Schertz. The question for council is, do we ensure the investment continues to prioritize Schertz students, giving them the opportunity they deserve, or do we open more seats to other communities at their expense? I believe Schertz youth should come first.

After brief discussion, everyone recognized the importance of, and need for, leadership training. Council consensus was not to make any changes to the application and/or selection process for the current year. Changes to the program should be considered prior to opening the application process in future years. Most councilmembers agreed that students residing in Schertz should have priority since the program is funded by Schertz taxpayers.

Councilmember Heyward reminded Council that this program was created as a partnership with SCUCISD, so all students within SCUCISD should have the same consideration. She stated that although the funding comes from Schertz taxpayers, the tax impact to fund the program is only 75 cents per resident.

Councilmember Macaluso clarified that although SCUCISD is a partner, there is not a requirement that students be from an SCUCISD school to participate.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Lauren Shrum, who stated she couldn't speak for the school district, but in 2022, when the program was presented, SCUCISD agreed they would provide curricular excused absences and transportation for students in their schools. That is their contribution to the program.

Ms. Shrum stated that historically, the city of Schertz has had an "open to all" mindset for its programs, citing the Senior Center as one example. She added that students from Davenport High School (Comal ISD) can participate, but they have to work with their principal for curricular excused absences and/or transportation.

Ms. Shrum closed her comments with a suggestion of adding percentage points based on Schertz residency to the Rubik for selection of participants to give them an edge.

Mayor Gutierrez closed the discussion by indicating that staff had been given direction by Council on proceeding as scheduled and bringing it back to council.

Adjournment

Mayor Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Ralph Gutierrez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheila Edmondson, City Secretary