

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2022-R-02
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
February 7, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of Allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in a moment of silence.

Cm. Alberto Torres, Jr. asked for everyone to keep in their prayers former Cm. and LISD trustee Jose Valdez, Sr. father of our City Secretary, and their entire family in this difficult time.

IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez Jr.	District I
Vidal Rodriguez	MPT
Mercurio Martinez III	District III
Alberto Torres, Jr.	District IV
Ruben Gutierrez, Jr.	District V
Dr. Marte Martinez	District VI
Vanessa Perez	District VII
Alyssa Cigarroa	District VIII
Rosario Cabello	Deputy City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	Assistant City Manager
Sophie Garcia	Assistant City Attorney

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of January 18, 2022 and January 24, 2022.

Motion to approve the January 18, 2022 and January 24, 2022 minutes.

Moved:

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NP: Cm. Perez

Citizen Comments

Vish Viswanath expressed his concern on how previous management and City Council has hired unqualified staff and has granted contracts to specific vendors as favors. He is asking management to hire qualified staff and to not make the same errors that the previous management committed.

Mellie Hereford spoke in favor to restore the City Manager's Power to bring the City up to standards.

George Altgelt spoke in favor of the trail system. He spoke on the importance of having bike trails within the city. He also spoke against the new redistricting boundaries, and asked for council to table the item. He explained that if the item was to be approved there would be concerning loss of bike trails.

Adriana Alaniz for the record on a written comment,

Amanda Armendariz for the record on a written comment,

VI. RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing three (4) outstanding City of Laredo employees to be named as the City's Employees of the Year for 2021, one whose work is mostly conducted indoors, one whose work is mostly conducted outdoors, and one from the Police or Fire Department who is subject to Collective Bargaining in accordance with Ordinance No. 2021-O-014 which establishes the City of Laredo Employee of the Quarter/Year Program.

Mayor Saenz recognized four city of Laredo employees with an award for being the Employee of the year.

Zaida Gonzalez Human Resources Director, recognized four outstanding city of Laredo employees. Cesar O. Baez (Outdoor), Carlos Ramirez (Indoor), Captain David Espinoza

and Ricardo Oliva (Fire Department).

John Porter Solid Waste Director presented the recognition to Cesar o. Baez, he expressed his gratitude towards Mr. Baez for being a great employee.

Zaida Gonzalez presented the recognition to Carlos Ramirez in the absence of the City Secretary, Jose A. Valdez, Jr.

Fire Chief Guillermo Heard presented the recognition to both of his employees, David Espinoza, and Ricardo Oliva.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mayor's welcome and introduction of Interim City Manager Samuel Keith Selman.

Mayor Saenz introduced Interim City Manager Samuel Keith Selman. He also thanked Mr. Selman for taking on the position on a short notice.

Mr. Selman described himself, and gave a brief presentation on who he is as a person and his work ethic.

2. Welcome and introduction of our new Transit Director Robert J. Garza.

Mayor Saenz welcomed and introduced new Transit Director Robert J. Garza.

Transit Director, Robert Garza introduced himself to the Mayor and City Council.

IX. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Re-appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Ruben Gutierrez to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation Board.
2. Re-appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Mercurio Martinez to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation Board.
3. Appointment of Samuel Keith Selman to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation Board.

Motion to approve appointments 1-3.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Motion to open Public Hearing number 1.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

1. **Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance** re-adopting amended guidelines and criteria governing tax abatements by the City of Laredo in accordance with the requirements in Section 312.002 of the Texas Property Tax Code; providing for severability; providing for an effective date of February 22, 2022 through February 21, 2024; and providing for publication.

Cm. Dr. Martinez inquired on the cost increase of the fees from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Dora Maldonado tax office Director, stated that the reason to increase from \$1,000 to \$2,500 was to be in line with the 380 agreement, as well for administrative fees. She mentioned that the increase was optional.

Tecló Garcia Economic Development director spoke on the cost of fees in comparison to other municipalities.

Cm. Perez asked Mr. Garcia to explain the reason for the increase.

Tecló Garcia explained that the reason for the increase was to justify the amount of hours being worked to complete the entire process to complete the project.

Motion to close and introduce as amended to \$1,500.

Moved: Cm.

Second:

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

2. **Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance** amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 61.11 acres situated in Porcion 17, Abstract 52, Jose Christobal Garcia, Original Grantee and Porcion 18, Abstract 21, Jose de Bustamante, Original Grantee out of Shares 2 and 3 described in Partition Deed of La Bota Ranch recorded in Volume 492, pages 732-761 of the Webb County Deed Records and later out of Tract 4 of Partition Deed recorded in Volume 647, pages 36-57 of the Webb County Deed Records, located south of La Bota Parkway and southwest of Cowbird Cove Court, from AG (Agricultural District) and R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-1A (Single Family Area District).

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the proposed zone change and staff supports the application.

ZC-011-2022
District VII

Motion to close and introduce.

Frank Ramos Engineer with Arriva Assisting spoke in favor of the zone change.

Guillermo Castro spoke Against the zone change.

Noraida Negron stated that 30 public comments had been submitted online against the zone change.

Unknown Constituent against the zone change.

Sandra Garza spoke against the zone change.

Lizette Cervantes spoke against the zone change.

Pablo Collazo spoke against the zone change.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second:

For: 2

Against: 5

Abstain: 1

Motion fails.

Cm. Perez stated that since it was her district she didn't understand why the rest of council was pushing to pass the zone change. Cm. Perez stated that she had received threats from the developer stating that he was going to do whatever it was necessary to obtain the votes needed.

Cm. Torres explained that he was not for or against it, he just voted not to table since the item has been tabled twice in the past. He would like to keep listening to the public comments in regards to the zone change.

Cm. Gutierrez spoke on the importance to make a decision, since the developers are losing money while the item keeps getting tabled.

Mr. Selman expressed his concern regarding this item, he requested for council to table the item and bring back in the next city council meeting.

MPT Vidal Rodriguez stated that there was no reason to insult or belittle staff and their recommendation to approve the zone change.

Cm. Dr. Martinez asked Planning Director Orlando Navarro, if any traffic study was implemented before agreeing to recommend the zone change.

Orlando Navarro Planning Director stated that prior to supporting the recommendation of the zone change, Traffic director was asked several questions regarding the traffic issues within the area. According to Mr. Navarro, Traffic director stated that there were none traffic issues in that area.

Victor Linares with Arriva developer, explained the process and steps when doing a zone change.

Cm. Torres requested for the item to be brought back in the following city council meeting with more information.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For:8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

XI. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

3. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a lease agreement renewal with Securitas Security Services USA, Inc., as a sole source as per a Customs and Border Protection approved security contract, for approximately 120 square feet of office space and an exclusive office entry lane for approximately 1,020 square feet at Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge (Bridge II). Lease term will be for one (1) year commencing April 1, 2022, and ending on March 31, 2023. The monthly rent will be \$5,400.00. The lease may be terminated by either party with a thirty (30) day notice.

4. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a land lease agreement between the City of Laredo (“Licensor”) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection as (“Lessee”), for ground space at 202 N. Stone Ave, Laredo, Webb County, Texas, for the continued maintenance and operation of a communications tower site. Site is approximately 20 feet by 20 feet equaling 400 square feet in size and commonly known as the “Slaughter Park RVSS” tower site. Term of the lease is one (1) initial term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022, with one (1) additional four (4) year renewal option and three (3) separate and successive five (5) year renewal options. The annual fee will increase from \$1.00 to \$12,000.00.

5. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all necessary documents to purchase the “surface only” of a 39.123 acre of land, more or less, being all of a 109.609 acre tract recorded in Volume 1210, pages 464-469, official public record of Webb County, Texas, lying within Porciones 23 and 24, Webb County, Texas for the amount of \$1,500,000.00. The City of Laredo will do all the necessary due diligence for this property. Funding is from the 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond.

6. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the renewal of a lease agreement with Webb County for its Head Start Program for the following parcels of land, at their current rate for a one (1) year term, as referenced below:

Jesus Garcia Head Start	2518 Cedar Avenue	\$954.88
Tatangelo Head Start	2200 Zacatecas Street	\$654.12
Villa Alegre Head Start	3501 Eagle Pass	\$948.27
Coordinators Annex	2802 McDonnell Avenue	\$565.93

Leases will be renewed for a one (1) year term with an option to renew for an additional term of one (1) year at a new adjusted rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with the exception of “Jesus Garcia Head Start” properties which shall be a month-to-month lease.

7. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Article II, Division 6 (pay administration), of the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, specifically section 2.87(c)(12)(a), by providing an adjustment to the existing wage schedule to the spread between all grades; providing for a repealing clause; providing for a severability clause; and providing for an effective date. The annual estimated cost for the table schedule is \$1,550,869.00, and the current fiscal year estimated cost is \$954,381.00. Funding will be available in each corresponding City funds.

8. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to extend the lease agreement for the final five (5) year successive option renewal between the City of Laredo and QSR Burgers One, L.P., (Burger King at El Metro). The term of the lease shall be for five (5) years upon the same terms, covenants and conditions, the monthly amount of three thousand five-hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) is the minimum annual guarantee of forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000.00).

XII. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to approve final readings 9 – 22 with the exception of 22 as amended.

Moved: Cm. Martinez III.

Second: Cm. Dr. Martinez.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

9. **2022-O-009** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 8A, Block 1058, Eastern Division, located at 3119 South Buena Vista Avenue, from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Commercial District).

ZC-004-2022

District II

10. **2022-O-010** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 11.65 acres situated in Porcion 33, Jose Dionicio Trevino, Original Grantee, Abstract 3084 and Porcion 34, Jose Antonio Diaz, Original Grantee, Abstract 762, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas; being 11.65 acres out of 18.61 acre tract owned by JMLG Holdings, LTD., as recorded in Volume 4448, pages 721-729, Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas, located west of Isla Mujeres Drive and east of Cautro Vientos Road, from AG (Agricultura District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District).

ZC-012-2022

District II

11. **2022-O-011** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 3.09 acres conveyed to D&J Alexander Investments, Limited Liability Company, recorded in Volume 4284, pages 587-592, Official Public Records of Webb County Texas, also being out of Porcion 26, Abstract 282, Agustin Sanchez, Original Grantee, Webb County Texas located south of North Bartlett Avenue and east of Sidney Sheldon, from R-1 (Single Family Residential

District) to B-3 (Community Business District).

ZC-005-2022

District V

12. **2022-O-012** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit for a commercial mini storage on approximately 3.88 acres conveyed to D&J Alexander Investments, Limited Liability Corporation, recorded in Volume 4284, pages 587-592, Official Public Records of Webb County Texas, also being out of Porcion 26, Abstract 282, Augustin Sanchez, Original Grantee, Webb County Texas located south of North Bartlett Avenue and east of Sidney Sheldon.

ZC-006-2022

District V

13. **2022-O-013** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 3.00 acres conveyed to Palos Construction Group, Limited Liability Corporation, recorded in Volume 5110, pages 391-396, Webb County Public Records, also being out of Porcion 24, Abstract 268, Toribio Rodriguez, Original Grantee, Webb County Texas located north of Lagos Avenue and west of Lindenwood Drive, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District).

ZC-007-2022

District VI

14. **2022-O-014** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 1, LopezAdri Subdivision, Phase 1, located at 22401 FM 1472 Road, from AG (Agricultural District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

ZC-001-2022

District VII

15. **2022-O-015** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 7.74 acres out of a 32.81 acre tract, conveyed to Robert Muller, LTD., recorded in Volume 4774, page 32, Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas, situated in Porcion 18, Abstract 21, Jose de Bustamante, Original Grantee and Porcion 2143, Abstract 591, Abel Morgan, Original Grantee located 0.80 miles west of FM 1472 and 0.22 miles south of the intersection of Enterprise Street and Interamerica Boulevard, from AG (Agricultural District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

ZC-002-2022

District VII

16. **2022-O-016** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 2, 3, 4, and 5, Block 1, Springfield Crossing Subdivision, Unit 1, located at 8422, 8424, 8426, and 8428 Springfield Avenue, from B-1 (Limited Commercial District) to B-3 (Commercial Business District).

ZC-013-2022
District VII

17. **2022-O-017** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to amend the FY21-22 Community Development Department's budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$4,199,095.00 in order to appropriate the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in relief to address the need for homelessness assistance and support services. Additionally, amending the FY21-22 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position listing by adding one (1) Administrative Assistant II, R35 and one (1) Clerk III, R27 positions for the City of Laredo Community Development Department HOME-ARP Program; and providing an effective date.
18. **2022-O-018** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to amend the City of Laredo FY21-22 General Fund - Police Department Annual Budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$23,923.00. The revenues are from forfeiture cases involving abandoned and unclaimed money from the Laredo Police Department Property and Evidence Section. These funds will be used for maintenance, repairs, and improvements to the police department buildings.
19. **2022-O-019** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to amend the FY21-22 Department of Community Development budget by increasing revenues and expenditures by an additional amount of \$200,000.00 in order to appropriate The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) funds available for the Texas Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (TEMAP) to assist low to moderate income eligible families/individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, for a total of \$400,000.00 received in TEMAP funds.
20. **2022-O-020** Amending the City of Laredo Capital Improvements Fund (CIF) and Health Department Fund by appropriating a drawdown of fund balance in the Capital Improvement Fund for the Health Department Fund. The additional appropriation will be used to supplement funding for the Health Department Fund in the amount of \$378,000.00. Transfer to Health Department Fund will be appropriated for personnel expenses other services.
21. **2022-O-021** An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 23,

Article I, Section 23-4, of the Code of Ordinances and Ordinance 2017-O-139 to add North Central Park Fitness Center and recreation center programming fees for instructional programming, a \$60.00 fee for the summer playground program, and recreation center membership fees of \$15.00 per quarter or \$50.00 annually.

22. **2022-O-022** Approving and adopting the Redistricting Plan of the City of Laredo, providing for the redistricting of the eight (8) City Council Districts within the City of Laredo; and providing for publication and effective date. (as amended)

Cm. Torres. Asked for this item to be pulled out because he has some concerns that would impact his district.

Orlando Navarro stated that he made some of the corrections that were requested regarding the concerns Cm. Torres had that would take an impact in his district.

Cm. Torres asked to see the corrections that were made to his district to evaluate if the issue had been solved.

Orlando Navarro stated that if he would bring up the corrections made to district IV, it would only bring up more issues with other districts.

Cm. Torres requested to go over the corrections while using Google maps to obtain a better picture of the changes made.

Orlando Navarro presented the corrections made to district IV, as well as the changes made to all other districts.

Cm. Cigarroa expressed that she felt uncomfortable with all the changes that were made to her district, she stated that according to the City Charter the district should stay as compact as it was prior to the redistricting.

MPT called for public comments.

Esteban Rangel, resident of District II expressed his concern in regards to the new changes that were made to the district. Mr. Rangel stated that 90 percent of district II had been chopped off. Mr. Rangel questioned why district II was the only district being cut off with such a big portion.

Orlando Navarro stated that the changes made to district II were selected and approved by the Redistricting commission.

Motion to adopt

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Motion carries.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve all consent agenda items with the exception of items 31, 32, 33, 37, 41, 54, 57, 68 as amended. Mayor recused himself from item 57.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez.

Second:

For: 8

Against:

Abstain:

AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE GILBERTO SANCHEZ, INTERIM AIRPORT DIRECTOR

23. Consideration to award contract to vendor Convergent Technologies LLC, for airport security systems and related customer support program for the Laredo International Airport for an amount of \$307,952.00. This service will be utilized on an annual basis for preventative maintenance on security systems using Omnia Partners cooperative pricing under contract No. R170502. The term for this contract shall be for a period of five (5) years beginning on the date of its execution and subject to future appropriations. Funding for this contract is available in the Airport Fund.
24. Consideration to award contract to vendor Hubpoint Strategic Advisors, LLC "HUB Point" for the Laredo International Airport for a fixed fee rate of \$80,000.00. Hubpoint has presented a strategic approach on promoting, researching, and developing, initiatives which will encourage and attract more air cargo activity for the Laredo International Airport. The term of the contract shall commence on the date of its execution and end on September 30, 2022. Funding for this contract is available in the Airport Fund.
25. Consideration to amend contract for professional services with RS&H, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, to include a fuel farm development project for an amount not to exceed \$27,000.00 for the Laredo International Airport. Professional services with RS&H Inc. were approved on May 7, 2018 for an amount not to exceed \$116,138.81 for preparation of a design analysis report for the construction of the Department of Homeland Security facilities to include a Border Federal Integrated Training Center and a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Air and Marine Facility located at the Laredo International Airport. The addition of the fuel farm development will not impact the approved amount of \$116,138.81. The amount will remain the same, but \$27,000.00 of the funds will be allocated to the fuel farm development. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund.

26. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to approve a sub-lease between SBA Properties, LLC., as Lessee, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, as Sub-Lessee. The lease between the City of Laredo, as Lessor, and SBA Properties, LLC., as Lessee, was approved by Ordinance No. 2005-O-033 on May 2, 2005. Subleasing is allowed as per Section 36 of the agreement, with the Lessor's written consent; such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in effect.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TINA MARTINEZ,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

27. **2022-R-017** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to accept a donation and enter into an agreement with San Isidro Southwest LTD., for the "surface only" of a tract of land found to contain 1.0226 acres, more or less, situated in Porcion 21, Abstract 49, Leonardo Garcia, Original Grantee within the city limits of Laredo and Webb County, Texas, out and part of the San Isidro Southwest, LTD (245.982) acres tract recorded in Volume 814, pages 614-622, Webb County deed records; the tract being more particularly described by metes and bounds. Property donated has an estimated value of \$265,000.00 and has complied with the City of Laredo donation policy. Property will be used for the Springfield Extension Phase 4 Project.
28. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into multiple contracts and award 2021 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amounts of:
1. \$271,747.00 to Bethany House of Laredo, Inc., for shelter operations, provision of essential services, street outreach services, homelessness prevention assistance, rapid re-housing assistance, and homeless management information system.
 2. \$40,000.00 to Casa de Misericordia (CASA) for the operations of their shelter.

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

29. **2022-R-029** Authorize Interim City Manager to enter into a temporary right-of-entry agreement between the City of Laredo and the Texas Department of Transportation to provide access to conduct survey, right-of-way mapping, and/or geotechnical investigations for a property located 0.12 miles south of East Corridor Road (Airport) to International Blvd., in Webb County, Texas with Property ID No. 207126,

217329, 264234, and P00054544 Parcel(S) 31. The access shall be termed for one (1) year; providing for an effective date. This is part of the US-59 Corridor Project.

30. Consideration to award a construction contract for Fenwick Drive & McPherson Road Eastbound Right Turn Lane and Widening Project - FY22-ENG-07 to the lowest responsible responsive bidder Mage 4Group, Ltd., Laredo, Texas; in the amount not to exceed \$215,850.00; and authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. This project consists of constructing a right turn lane and widening that includes a 2 inch asphalt pavement, 8 inch base, work subgrade, concrete sidewalk, roadway striping, roadway widening, traffic safety devices, and other improvements. Project has a construction time of sixty (60) working days. Funding is available in the 2019 CO Bond - District 5 Priority Funds.
31. Consideration for approval to reject all four (4) bids received for FY22-ENG-08 Shiloh Crossing Park Restroom consisting of one (1) ADA accessible restroom inside the park with split face concrete blocks, metal roof structure, lights and accessible sidewalks located at 11119 Kirby Dr. There is no financial impact.

Motion to accept as a re-bid.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

32. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a State Infrastructure Bank Loan Agreement in the amount of \$4,325,000.00 to fund the City's participation in the Texas Department of Transportation's project to reconstruct US 59 Loop (formerly Loop 20).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

33. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute and approve amendment No.1 to a professional services contract with Overland Partners, Inc., San Antonio, Texas in the amount not to exceed \$139,560.00 for the FY22-ENG-10 Binational River Park Project Services which includes production of architectural renderings, illustrations and other related information necessary for Phase 1 of the Binational River Park

design. This consists of an ecological restoration project that includes, but is not limited to an integrated green belt along the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo River Vega between Laredo, Texas, USA and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico spanning approximately 6.3 river miles (10.1 river kilometers) that will drive economic revitalization including public art, culture, as well as attracting tourism on both sides of the border, and transforming it into a unique international landmark with global reach for this hemisphere. Current total contract amount including this amendment No.1 is \$189,060.00. Funding is available in the 2017 CO Bond.

Cm. Torres stated that this item had already been approved during the previous City Council meeting, he questioned why the project was getting amendments if it had just been two weeks after approval by council.

Deputy city manager Rosario Cabello, stated that the reason that the item was being brought back was to set up an amount that had not been set up during the previous council meeting.

Cm. Torres expressed his concern in regards to the project being handled legally.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second:

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

34. Consideration to renew annual contracts FY19-042, Outside Tire Repair Contract with the following vendors:

- Section I: outside tire repairs for mid-size vehicles: T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$60,000.00 (Primary Vendor), Toro Auto Sales, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$45,000.00 (Secondary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$35,000.00 (Secondary Vendor);
- Section II: outside tire repairs for heavy trucks: T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$55,000.00 (Primary Vendor), Toro Auto Sales, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$45,000.00 (Secondary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas in amount up to \$35,000.00 (Secondary Vendor);
- Section III: outside tire repairs industrial: T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$50,000.00 (Primary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart,

Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$40,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

All outside tire repair services will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the last extension period for this contract. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Fund.

35. Consideration to renew contract FY20-062 to provide car wash services with the following vendors:

1. (Section I: Full Service Car Wash) - Power Car Wash and Detail, Laredo, Texas in an amount of up to \$20,000.00 (Primary Vendor);
2. (Section II: Exterior Car Wash Services) - Dale Shine Xpress Car Wash, Laredo, Texas in an amount of up to \$20,000.00 (Primary Vendor);
3. (Section II: Exterior Car Wash Services) - Royal Laser Wash, Laredo, Texas in an amount of up to \$15,000.00 (Secondary Vendor);
4. (Section II: Exterior Car Wash Services) - Power Car Wash and Detail, Laredo, Texas in an amount of up to \$15,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

The term of the contract shall be for period of one (1) year beginning as of the date its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This contract can be renewed one (1) additional one (1) year extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. There was no price increase during the last extension period. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Fund.

HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE RICHARD A. CHAMBERLAIN, HEALTH DIRECTOR

36. **2022-R-027** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to accept funds in the amount of \$4,568.00 from the Texas Department of State Health Services through the South Texas Development Council for the City of Laredo Health Department's Ryan White Program for COVID-19 under Part B COVID for the term period of July 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. Funding is available in the Health Department Fund.

37. **2022-R-028** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to accept and enter into a contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services in the amount of \$230,491.00 with a projected amount of program income of \$123,832.00 for a total of \$354,323.00 with no match for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department, Immunization Action Plan Program for the term period of September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. No grant match required. Funding is available in the Health Department Fund.

Motion to approve for \$ 230,491.00 with a projected income of \$ 126,524.00 for a total of \$357,015.00 as amended.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

Motion Carries.

38. **2022-R-030** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant application for the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities program to the Environmental Protection Agency in an estimated amount up to \$500,000.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department for the term period from April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match is required.

39. Ratifying the execution of a contract "Software as a Service Agreement" from Tyler Technologies in the amount of \$16,954.00 per year for a total of \$84,770.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department Vital Statistics Division for the term period from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2025. Funds are available in the Health Department Fund.

40. Ratifying the purchase of testing materials and supplies from Life Technologies Corporation in the amount of \$221,933.00 for COVID-19 testing for the City of Laredo Health Department. Funding is available in the IDCU/COVID Lab Expansion Grant. The purchase was made pursuant to Section 252.022(a)(2) of the Texas Local Government Code and is necessary to preserve or protect the public health of residents due to the surge of demand for COVID-19 testing.

HUMAN RESOURCES: STAFF SOURCE ZAIDA J. GONZALEZ, INTERIM HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

41. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to purchase general liability and auto liability coverage for Laredo Transit Management, Inc./ El Metro Transit Operations, with limits of \$5,000,000.00, in compliance with Article 18 of the Transit Management Services Agreement by and between Hendrickson Transportation Group (HTG) and the City of Laredo. Deductibles are not to exceed one-hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars, per occurrence. HTG will name the City of Laredo as an additional insured on a primary and non-contributory basis and provide waiver of subrogation endorsements on both the auto liability and general liability insurance policies. The current premium cost is for an amount not to exceed \$867,454.00 for the first year. The City of Laredo will revisit the liability premium pricing for consideration for year two (2) of the Management Agreement Term and forward. The above-mentioned insurance agreement will coincide with

the HTG Management Agreement term of a period of five (5) years, with one (1) five (5) year option to renew, and with a sixty (60) day cancelation notice. Funding is available in El Metro Operations Fund.

Cm. Dr. Martinez explained that the city was switching liability from ten million to 5 million.

Zaida Gonzalez Human Resources director explained that they were able to secure a 5 million insurance with hopes of obtaining a more competitive and better price next year. Ms. Gonzalez also stated that the reason why the price was a bit high is because there was a high claim in 2017.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

PARKS & RECREATION: STAFF SOURCE JUAN J. GOMEZ, JR., PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

42. Consideration to award an annual supply and service contract FY22-033 to the sole bidder Night Owl Safety, LLC., Laredo, Texas, in an amount of up to \$50,000.00 for the inspection, repair, and replacement of fire extinguishers for various City of Laredo departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for three (3), additional one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding for the additional extensions are subject to future budget appropriations. All repair services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the respective department accounts.
43. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into temporary license agreements with local league associations for the use of playing fields for youth and adult programs. The term of each agreement is for a period from March 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022, pending City Council approval. No fee will be charged by the City to the associations in view of the public benefit of permitting the associations to use the City's facilities for recreational sports programs.

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

44. **2022-R-019** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant in the amount of

\$500,000.00 to the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division for the purpose of funding the 2023 Local Border Security Program. This grant does not require matching funds. Funding will be used to pay for overtime to increase patrol security along the Texas-Mexico border. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

45. **2022-R-021** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division, to fund the FY22-23 Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program for the period of October 01, 2022 through September 30, 2023. This funding will provide overtime for operations which will utilize target enforcement techniques against criminal and transnational organizations responsible for violent criminal activity. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.
46. **2022-R-022** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$70,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division for the FY22-23 General Victim Assistance Program Grant under the Victims of Crime Act for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. This grant will fund the salary of the Crime Victims Service Coordinator position, supplies affiliated with the grant program, and training. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.
47. **2022-R-023** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division for the FY22-23 Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program Grant for the period of October 01, 2022 through September 30, 2023. This grant will provide funding for Crimes Against Women training intended for Laredo Police Department personnel. The City of Laredo will be responsible for a required match of 30% of total project funds. Funding will be available in the Special Police Fund.
48. **2022-R-024** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$25,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division for the FY22-23 First Responder Mental Health Grant, Peer Support Program. The Laredo Police Department will utilize this funding to obtain a professional service contract for clinical advisory for trauma and work-related counseling and training for the sustainment of the LPD Peer Support Program. The grant performance period will be October 01, 2022 through September 30, 2023. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.
49. **2022-R-025** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$100,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Department for the funding of FY22-23 Justice Assistance Grant

Laredo Police Department Mental Health/Crisis Intervention Unit for the period of October 01, 2022 through September 30, 2023. This funding will be utilized for overtime, training, and for the purchase of a police vehicle for the LPD Mental Health/Crisis Intervention Unit. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

50. **2022-R-026** Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$106,268.12 to the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2022 State Homeland Security Program-Competitive National Priority Area Projects (SHSP-NPA) Grant for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. This funding will be used to replace two fully equipped bomb response vehicles that are essential and necessary to combat domestic violence extremism and to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.
51. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$38,078.00, to the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division for the purpose of funding the State Homeland Security Program – Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities Grant. This funding will be utilized to purchase one (1) complete Med Eng EOD 10E bomb suit for the Laredo Police Department (LPD) Bomb Squad Unit. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.
52. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to award a contract and amend the City of Laredo Master Agreement with AT&T Corp., to include a 36-month agreement not to exceed \$88,215.72. This agreement is to provide private fiber and ethernet services to connect the Laredo Police Department headquarters to the new Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) Center. This will allow LPD to be able to run all voice, video, and data applications through a secure connection and connect the TAG Center to LPD and the Real Time Crime Center. The agreement is contingent on grant funding for FY22-23 and FY23-24. The contract includes a non-appropriations of funding clause that cancels this amendment in the event no funding is available for years 2 and 3, at no cost to the city. Funding for this fiscal year is available in the Special Police Fund-Texas Anti-Gang Grant.
53. Consideration to authorize a purchase contract with Insight Public Sector, through DIR contract No. TSO-4343, in the amount of \$71,124.25 for the installation of 125 data drops needed for the connectivity of computers and electronic equipment in the Texas Anti-Gang Center, which will house multi-agency task forces combating gangs and other criminal organizations operating in Laredo and affecting the South Texas border region. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund-Texas Anti-Gang Center Grant.

PUBLIC WORKS: STAFF SOURCE JOHN ORFILA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

54. **2022-R-016** Ratification of a construction contract with R&A Construction in the amount not to exceed \$106,450.00 for emergency repairs at the Uni-Trade Stadium, including foundation investigative work, plumbing drain line inspection, concrete repairs, and other improvements. The contract was made pursuant to Section 252.022 (a)(3) of the Local Government Code and is necessary because of unforeseen damage to public property that is occurring or has occurred which requires immediate action to preserve public property. Funding is available in the Sports Venue Fund.

Cm. Cigarroa explained her concern regarding this item, she believes the investigation was not properly handled.

Cm. Torres asked Mr. Selman if he recommended to take the item to executive session.

Mr. Selman does not recommend to take the item to executive session, he recommends to adopt as presented.

Cm. Martinez inquired if the issue was an emergency or non-emergency fix.

John Orfila presented a PowerPoint on the deplorable conditions of Uni- trade stadium that need emergency repair. Mr. Orfila stated that it is indeed an emergency fix.

Cm. Gutierrez agreed on the importance of the approval of emergency repairs.

Ms. Firth stated that the repairs are with no doubt an emergency due to the recommendation of the structure engineer.

Cm. Torres expressed the importance of all building maintenance issues being repaired and brought up before they become an emergency.

MPT Rodriguez stated that as soon as the issues were brought up to his attention, himself along with other city of Laredo staff went over to inspect the facilities. He expressed that they had no idea the facilities were in those deplorable conditions.

John Orfila stated that the Sames Energy Area is also in need of emergency repairs.

Ms. Firth stated the importance to move on with this item.

Motion to follow with the recommendation of Legal and the city manager in declaring this emergency for the building and to approve the item.

Moved: Cm. Torres.

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion Carries.

SOLID WASTE: STAFF SOURCE JOHN PORTER, INTERIM SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR/
ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

55. Consideration to authorize the Interim City Manager to approve payment for the fees assessed by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality for the solid waste operation. Annual TCEQ fee amount will be approximately \$410,000.00; TCEQ assesses a \$0.94/ton fee for all refuse land filled. This authorization shall renew annually if the assessment fee does not exceed \$0.94/ton. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Fund.

56. Approving and authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute an engineering services contract with Arredondo, Zepeda & Brunz, LLC, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$966,760.00 for the design and engineering of a landfill disposal cell. This contract also includes construction quality assurance and construction phase services. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Fund.

UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE ART GARCIA, P.E., UTILITIES DIRECTOR

57. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to sell the remaining capacity from the oversized water and sewer infrastructure in the form of Living Unit Equivalent (LUEs) to Phoenix Subdivision, Gator Point Subdivision, Bella Subdivision, Las Fincas Subdivision and La Herradura Subdivision (water infrastructure only); up to the capacities of the elevated storage tank at Las Blancas, and up to the capacity of the existing 24-inch sanitary sewer main on a first-come, first-served basis. The funds collected from the sale of the LUEs will be used for any future water and sewer maintenance and repairs to the existing water and sewer infrastructure. Revenues collected will be deposited to the respective Water and Sewer Land Development Fees account.

Mayor Saenz recused himself for this item.

Cm. Martinez made an amendment to reserve 70 LUE's pending litigation and outcome.

Motion to table item with no further discussion, and be brought back in the next city council agenda.

Moved: MPT Rodriguez

Second. Cm. Dr. Martinez

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion carries.

58. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to award amendment No. 2 to Garver USA for a professional engineering services contract in the amount of \$738,005.00 for El Pico Water Treatment Plant. This amendment provides for the survey, geotechnical, preliminary and final design through bidding services for new raw water pumps with structural and piping modifications, as well as for the addition of a fourth high service pump. The amended contract total is \$2,028,390.00. Funding is available in the Waterworks Fund.
59. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to approve purchase order to Graybar using their purchasing agreement, U.S. Coop Communities Contract # EV2370, in the amount of \$153,022.72 for the supply of electrical wire for the Jefferson pump replacement project. This wire is needed for the new pumps that are to be installed. Funding is available in the American Rescue Act Plan.
60. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to terminate the remaining balance of \$162,091.56 with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. for the Utilities Department Asset Management Plan Phase II (implementation). The total revised contract after termination is \$19,125.22. The service provided under this amendment is no longer needed. Funding is available in the Sewer System Fund.
61. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract in the amount not to exceed \$171,472.00 to the owner/developer of Dolly Richter Boulevard, HFK Development, LLC., of Laredo, Texas, to install 678 linear feet of 24-inch water transmission main on Dolly Richter Boulevard. Funding is available in the 2019 Water Revenue Bond Division of the Waterworks System Fund.
62. Consideration to renew an annual supply and service contract FY20-019 with Martin's Heating & Cooling, Laredo, TX in an amount up to \$50,000.00 to provide HVAC repair services for the wastewater treatment plants. This contract establishes an hourly service rate and cost percentage for parts. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This is the second of three extension periods. There was no price increase during the last extension period. All services will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the Waste Water Treatment Division of the Sewer System Fund.
63. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to approve change order No. 1 in the amount of \$62,616.68 for the Unitec Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase I Expansion Project. The new total contract amount with change order is \$3,964,616.68.

Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond Division of the Sewer System Fund.

64. Consideration to award supply contract number FY22-032 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidders:

1) Section III: Core & Main, St. Louis, Missouri, in an amount up to \$284,888.75;

2) Section I & II: Ferguson Waterworks, Mission, Texas in an amount up to \$1,076,353.90;

for the purchase of brass fittings and valves for the Utilities Department. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This contract can be extended three (3) additional one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement. Funding is available in the Waterworks and Sewer System Funds.

65. Consideration to renew and amend contract FY20-074 by 25% with Gutierrez Machine Shop, Laredo, Texas for an amount increase of \$100,000.00 and an amended contract total amount of \$500,000.00 for professional welding services for the Utilities Department. The services requested include site repairs to various water and wastewater treatment plants, lift stations, and other municipal utility facilities. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. The contract amendment is due to an increase in welding repair services and to cover future expenditures at the Jefferson Water Plant. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This contract can be renewed for one (1) additional one (1) year extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Waterworks System and Sewer System Funds.

66. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to approve amendment No. 2 for a professional engineering consultant services contract in the amount of \$30,650.00 to Plummer Associates, Inc. from Austin, Texas for the permit renewal of the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for North Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plants, with Texas Commission on Environment Quality. The existing permit expires in April 2023, and the application for renewal of this permit must be submitted a minimum of 180 days prior to expiration date. The new total contract amount with this amendment is \$175,140.00. Funding is available in the Sewer System Fund.

67. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to award purchase order to Precision Pump using Buy Board Contract # 589-19 in the amount of \$1,375,380.00 for improvements to two traveling water screens at the Jefferson Water Treatment Plant's south raw water pump station. Funding is available in the American Rescue Plan Act.

68. Consideration to renew supply contract number FY21-097 with Aguaworks Pipe & Supply, Brownsville, Texas in the amount of \$350,000.00 for the purchase of PVC pipe. The term of this contract shall be for a period of six (6) months beginning as of the date of its execution. There was no price increase during the last extension period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of six (6) months beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This contract can be renewed five (5) additional six (6) month periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. These materials are purchased on an as-needed basis for construction and repair projects. Funding is available in the 2020A Water Revenue Bond Division of the Waterworks System Fund.

Miguel Pescador Purchasing director stated that formal bids go out every six months.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

69. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to ratify blanket purchase order No. 333750 in the amount of \$24,464.70 to Core & Main, LP, San Antonio, Texas for the purchase of meters, meter kits (register/endpoint/antenna), associated individual components, and unitized measuring elements. The revised total contract is \$1,236,335.09. Funding is available in the Utilities Billing Division of the Waterworks Fund.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIV. STAFF REPORTS

70. Discussion with possible action on ongoing audits and/or irregularities identified by the Internal Auditor including the potential assignment of other and/or additional auditing duties; and any other matters incident thereto.

Tina Rodriguez Internal Auditor stated that there was nothing to report.

MPT. Rodriguez inquired on the previous request to audit all youth leagues to

be in compliance.

Ms. Rodriguez explained that she has been working in conjunction with Coach J.J. Gomez and will be bringing back all findings when finished.

MPT is requesting to cross –reference the previous season as well with this season to verify that all leagues are in full compliance.

No action required.

71. Status update on current COVID-19 information as presented by Local Health Authority, Health Director and Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC); and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Victor Trevino health authority of the City of Laredo stated that he would like to focus on Hospital vaccinations. He expressed the importance on having available resources for upcoming surges. He also spoke on the importance of pediatric vaccination.

Richard Chamberlain Health director gave a Covid- 19 date and response update.

No action required.

72. Appointment by the Interim City Manager of the Interim City Attorney in accordance with §4.02 of the Laredo City Charter, with possible action.

Motion to approve the appointment of Sylvia Firth as the Interim City Attorney.

Mr. Selman clarified that he appointed Sylvia Firth as the Interim City Attorney.

Sylvia Borunda Firth briefly introduced herself to the Mayor and City Council.

Cm. Torres stated that he had some concerns with the appointment of Ms. Firth as the Interim City Attorney. He also inquired on the salary that was offered to Ms. Firth. Cm. Torres expressed his concern since he is aware that Ms. Firth had some complaints with her previous employment with the City of El Paso that involved conflict of interest.

Ms. Firth addressed the Mayor and City Council regarding the allegations that Cm. Torres brought up. She denied all allegations brought up against her in regards with the City of El Paso. She stated that she was never involved in nothing unethical.

Cm. Torres questioned Mr. Selman on how her pay was going to be funded, he also inquired on how the City will be handling litigation since Ms. Firth does not practice litigation.

Cm. Gutierrez questioned if Ms. Firth had any ethics violations.

Ms. Firth responded that she did not have any ethics violations in the course of her career.

MPT Vidal Rodriguez questioned Mr. Selman if he believed that the city had the ability to pay Ms. Firth Salary.

Motion to approve the appointment of Sylvia Borunda Firth as the interim City Attorney.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 4

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

73. Notice of Grievance filed by Kristina K. Laurel Hale on January 28, 2022 and subsequent amendment (Special Counsel Attorney Sylvia Borunda Firth - 551.071)

Motion to go into executive session at 9: 15 p.m.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

No action taken during executive Session.

XVI. RECESS AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

Motion to recess as the Laredo city council and convene as the Laredo mass transit board.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: MPT Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carries.

Motion to approve items 74, 75, 76.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carries.

74. Consideration to authorize and ratify the executed Management Contract (FY22-015 -Transit Management Services) with Hendrickson Transportation Group (HTG), of Waco, Texas, for the management of the City's transit system for a term of five (5) years effective February 1, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$3,246,065.52; this five-year contract is subject to future budget appropriations and includes one option to renew for an additional five (5) years, in accordance with the terms of the negotiated contract. Funding for this contract is available in the El Metro Operations Fund.
75. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laredo, Texas, authorizing the Interim City Manager to grant signature authority to the General Manager of Laredo Transit Management, Inc. for all necessary and applicable matters relating to LTMI / El Metro Transit.
76. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to purchase general liability and auto liability coverage for Laredo Transit Management, Inc./ El Metro Transit Operations, with limits of \$5,000,000.00, in compliance with Article 18 of the Transit Management Services Agreement by and between Hendrickson Transportation Group (HTG) and the City of Laredo. Deductibles are not to exceed one-hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars, per occurrence. HTG will name the City of Laredo as an additional insured on a primary and non-contributory basis and provide waiver of subrogation endorsements on both the auto liability and general liability insurance policies. The current premium cost is for an amount not to exceed \$867,454.00 for the first year. The City of Laredo will revisit the liability premium pricing for consideration for year two (2) of the Management Agreement Term and forward. The above-mentioned insurance agreement will coincide with the HTG Management Agreement term of a period of five (5) years, with one (1) five (5) year option to renew, and with a sixty (60) day cancelation notice. Funding is available in El Metro Operations Fund.

XVII.ADJOURN AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD AND RECONVENE AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL

Motion to adjourn as the Laredo mass transit board and reconvene as the Laredo city council.

Moved: Cm. Torres.

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carries.

77. **GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. **Request by Mayor Pete Saenz**

(Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III, Council Member Vanessa Perez, and Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa)

1. Discussion with possible action to repeal, replace, revise, and/or amend by ordinance, City of Laredo Code of Ordinance No. 2019 - O – 051, and /or Section(s) there in, in whole or partially; and /or to repeal, replace and/or amend by ordinance, as necessary, any other ordinance(s), or section (s) there in, found and contained in the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, which specifically, or generally, or in any way prohibits or limits the City Manager, Interim City Manager, or anyone else acting and/or holding the same authority and power of a City Manager, to hire, appoint, suspend, reassign and/or terminate anyone within his or her upper level management team or department, be it a Deputy City Manager, Acting City Manager, Assistant City Manager, or otherwise. Such authority and or powers shall lie and be held solely and strictly by the City Manager, or Interim City Manager, or anyone else holding such powers and authority at the time, at his or her sole discretion. City Council shall not have any power and/or authority whatsoever to interfere with the exercise of such powers and/or authority by the City Manager, or Interim City Manager, or anyone else holding such powers and authority at the time; and any other matters relating or pertinent thereto.

MPT Rodriguez questioned if any charter violation had occurred.

Ms. Firth stated that a violation of the charter was never committed, she did mention that there might be a conflict with the Ordinance.

Motion to amend Ordinance 2019-O- 051, that allows the city manager to not seek council confirmation on the appointment of his team as provided on attachment.

Moved: Mayor Saenz.

Second: Cm. Martinez

Motion to bring up item 77. C.

Moved: Cm. Martinez.

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

2. Discussion with possible action to amend, by ordinance, Chapter 2, Article II, Division 1, Section 2-19(a)(b) so that it will not be in violation of our City Charter, particularly, Section 2.03 Prohibitions, sub-section:

(B) Appointments and Approvals.

Unless it is otherwise specifically provided in this Charter, City Council shall not in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any City administrative officer or employee whom the City Manager or any of his subordinates are empowered to appoint or remove, but the City Council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the City Manager anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

Amended and/or revised Sections:

Sec. 2-19. - Deputy City Manager and Assistant City Manager. eputy City
Manager. There is hereby created the office of Deputy City Manager. The office shall include one (1) Deputy City Manager who shall be appointed and removed at the sole discretion of the City Manager, Interim or Acting City Manager. The office of Deputy City Manager shall be subject to budgetary funding by the City Council as may occur prior to or subsequent to this section. There may be more than one (1) budgeted position of Deputy City Manager as may be necessary to further city business and interests. The position of the Deputy City Manager shall be held by qualified persons, appointed as provided by the Laredo City Charter and personnel policies. Qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the Deputy City Manager shall be subject to the sole approval of the City Manager, Interim or Acting City Manager.

(a) Assistant City Manager. There is hereby created the office of Assistant City Manager. The office shall include at least two (2) Assistant City Managers who shall be appointed and removed at the sole discretion of the City Manager, Interim or Acting City Manager. The position of Assistant City Manager shall be subject to budgetary funding by the City Council as may occur prior to or subsequent to this section. There may be more than two (2) budgeted positions of Assistant City Manager as may be necessary to further city business and interests. The position of the Assistant City Manager shall be held by qualified persons, appointed as provided by the Laredo City Charter and personnel policies. Qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the Assistant City Manager shall be subject to the sole approval of the City Manager, Interim or Acting City Manager.

Below is proposed Ordinance reflecting the above changes and revisions.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING AND REVISING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1, SECTION 2-19(a)(b) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES CONCERNING APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE OFFICES OF DEPUTY CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; PROVIDING A

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo is a Home Rule City acting under its Charter adopted by the electorate pursuant to Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and Chapter 9 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 4.01 of the Laredo City Charter provides the City Council may by ordinance establish City departments, offices or agencies in addition to those created by the Charter and may prescribe the functions of all departments, offices and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to clarify the appointment and removal of the offices of deputy city manager and assistant city manager.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

Section I. The City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2, Section 2-19(a)(b) "Deputy City Manager and Assistant City Manager" be amended and revised to read as follows:

Sec. 2-19. - Deputy City Manager and Assistant City Manager.

(a) Deputy City Manager. There is hereby created the office of Deputy City Manager. The office shall include one (1) Deputy City Manager who shall be appointed and removed at the sole discretion of the City Manager or Interim or Acting City Manager. The office of Deputy City Manager shall be subject to budgetary funding by the city council as may occur prior to or subsequent to this section. There may be more than one (1) budgeted position of deputy city manager as may be necessary to further city business and interests. The position of the Deputy City Manager shall be held by qualified persons, appointed as provided by the Laredo City Charter and personnel policies. Qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the Deputy City Manager shall be subject to the sole approval of the City Manager or Interim or Acting City Manager.

(b) Assistant City Manager. There is hereby created the office of Assistant City Manager. The office shall include at least two (2) Assistant City Manager who shall be appointed and removed at the sole discretion of the City Manager, or Interim or Acting City Manager. The position of Assistant City Manager shall be subject to budgetary funding by the city council as may occur prior to or subsequent to this section. There may be more than two (2) budgeted positions of Assistant City Manager as may be necessary to further city business and interests. The position of the Assistant City Manager shall be held by qualified persons, appointed as provided by the Laredo City Charter and personnel policies. Qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the Assistant City Manager shall be subject to the sole approval of the City Manager or Interim or Acting City Manager.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section 3. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases,

clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Section 4. The publishers of the City Code of Laredo, Texas are authorized to amend said code to reflect the changes adopted herein and to correct typographical errors and to index, format and number paragraphs to conform to the existing code.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON
THIS DAY OF _ 2022.**

PETE SAENZ MAYOR

ATTESTED:

JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR. CITY
SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY: .
CITY ATTORNEY

B. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action purchase additional upgraded stop sign poles for District in various area in District 2 and any other matters incident thereto. Funding is available in District 2 – District Priority Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain:0

NP

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Torres

Cm. Cigarroa

Motion Carries.

2. Discussion with possible action to create an ordinance for large lot subdivisions with low density development, where natural drainage is designed similar to countryside properties and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to adopt.

Moved: MPT. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Dr. Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NP

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Torres
Cm. Cigarroa

Motion carries.

C. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Discussion with possible action to rescind portions of Ordinance 2019-O-051 Section 2-19 that mention “subject to approval of the city council” under Section (a) and Section (b) As it conflicts with City Charter Section 2.03 under Prohibitions paragraph (B) and Section 3.05 under Powers and Duties of the City Manager paragraph (1), and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa)

Cm. Martinez requested to take Ordinance 2019–O-051 back to the city charter commission for modifications.

Cm. Dr. Martinez expressed the importance to bring up some type of protection to back up the city manager.

MPT Rodriguez spoke on the importance to create protection for all at will City of Laredo employees.

Motion to align city Ordinance 2019-O-051 with the City Charter.

Moved: Cm. Martinez

Second: Cm. Dr. Martinez

For: 6

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

NP

CM. Torres

Motion Carries.

Motion to extend.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NP

CM. Torres

Motion carries.

Motion to direct management to come up with a plan to create a form of secondary protection from the city manager, a safety net.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: MPT Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NP

Cm. Torres

Motion carries.

D. Request by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez

1. Discussion with possible action to establish an overlay zone in certain areas of Del Mar Boulevard and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Dr. Martinez expressed his ideas and the importance to establish the overlay zone for zone beautification.

Cm. Perez requested to also include parking modifications to the area.

Cm. Dr. Martinez stated that he did not want extra parking on the area, that his vision was for the zone to be a walkable area as opposed to a cluttered road with a lot of vehicles.

Mr. Selman agreed with Cm. Dr. Martinez.

Motion to approve and establish an overlay zone either in- house or go out for an RFQ, and to gather up with a group of residents from the area to discuss the overlay zone.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NP

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Torres

Motion carries.

2. Discussion with possible action to create a suicide committee and promote a 988 system.

Richard Chamberlain gave a brief presentation on suicide awareness and local rates.

Motion to approve and to create a professional announcement with the assistance of city council.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NP

Cm. Gonzalez.

Cm. Torres

Motion carries.

3. Discussion with possible action for AEP to provide an update on lack of transformers in Laredo which is hurting future development in Laredo.

Building director John Hickle spoke on the importance and lack of underground transformers within the city of Laredo.

Daniel Wyer requested a motion for a slight

No action taken.

E. Request by Council Member Vanessa J. Perez

1. Discussion with possible action to submit a letter of support to the County of Webb for the Rio Grande International Study Center's application for an American Rescue Plan Act grant, in its full amount, to conduct critical initial engineering and economy analysis studies to pilot a waste-to-energy project known as a Community Water and Energy Resource Center (CWERC) in the Laredo region, and any other matters incident thereto. **(Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa and Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III)**

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NP

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Torres

Motion carries.

2. Discussion with possible action on naming the new Farias Dog Park "K9 Kimmie's Corner Dog Park" after a Laredo Police Department hardworking and dedicated K9, and any other matters incident thereto. **(Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III)**

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NPV
Cm. Gonzalez
Cm. Torres

Motion carries.

XVIII.ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 10:53 p.m.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

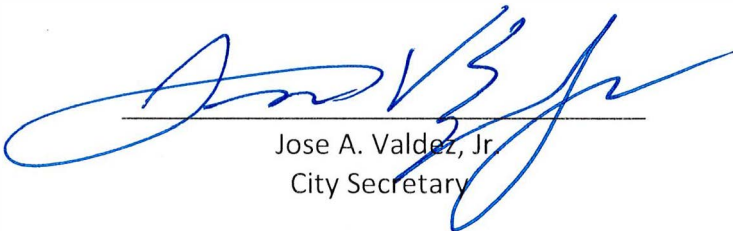
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

NPV
Cm. Gonzalez
Cm. Torres

Motion carries.



Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
City Secretary