

**CITY OF LAREDO  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2022-SC-09  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
December 28, 2022**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Saenz.

**III. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Saenz called for a moment of silence for any particular intention.

**IV. ROLL CALL**

**In attendance:**

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Daisy Campos Rodriguez	District II
Melissa Cigarroa	District III
Alberto Torres Jr.	District IV
Ruben Gutierrez Jr.	District V
Vanessa Perez	District VII
Alyssa Cigarroa	District VIII
Jose A. Valdez Jr.	City Secretary
Rosario Cabello	Interim City Manager
Rosario Cabello	Deputy City Manager
Riazul Mia Assistant	City Manager

**Citizen comments**

Citizen Charles Martens wanted to thank Mayor Saenz for his efforts though some really hard times. He was always there, he's reliable and honest. He was optimistic about the future of the city.

**V. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE**

1. 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 2.87.7 Policy (c) (12) a, b and c by replacing the wage schedule for all city employees, excluding: interns, cooperative education program employees (CO-OPS), everyone classified as director and above, elected officials, temporary contract labor employees, firefighter and police officers,

governed by the terms of a collective bargaining agreement; the pay grades will change from 25 pay grades, R23 to R47, to the new 18 salary pay grades, and the new pay grades are identified as 201-218. Each grade has range spread of 50% from minimum to maximum annual salary. There is a midpoint differential between each grade of 8% to 12%. The new pay grade schedule has a minimum annual salary of \$27,206.40 or \$13.08/hr. and a maximum annual salary of \$206,148.80; providing for a severability clause and effective February 5, 2023.

**City Council to introduce introductory ordinance number one.**

NP: Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Campos Rodriguez, Cm. Dr. Martinez, Cm. Perez

**VI. FINAL READINGS OF ORDINANCE**

2. 2022-0-219 Ordinance to rescind Ordinance 2022-0-080 authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all necessary documents to purchase the "Surface Only" of a 1.0170-acre tract of land, with legal description Villas San Agustin, Block 11, Lot 1, Unit 1 in Webb County, Texas for the amount of \$15,000.00.
3. 2022-0-220 Amending Chapter 2, Article 1, of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas to amend Subsection (E) under Section 2-3 "Fees for City Services" to establish a convenience fee of \$2.75 per transaction for utility payments processed using an online or voice response systems. Repealing the 3% credit card fee for utility payments processed using an online or voice response systems. No fees will be applied to face-to-face payments.

**Motion to approve the final readings of ordinances two and three.**

**Motion passes**

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

NP: Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Campos Rodriguez, Cm. Dr. Martinez, Cm. Perez

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE GILBERTO SANCHEZ, AIRPORT DIRECTOR**

4. Consideration for approval of the Laredo International Airport Cargo Apron Phase 14 Rehabilitation as substantially complete and release of a partial retainage payment of the items that are one hundred percent (100%) completed and accepted in the amount of \$730,646.47 to REIM Construction, Inc., Mission, Texas. Current construction contract amount is \$15,687,684.22.

Motion to approve item number four.

**Motion passes**

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

NP: Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Campos Rodriguez, Cm. Dr. Martinez, Cm. Perez

**CITY SECRETARY: STAFF SOURCE JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR., CITY SECRETARY**

5. 2022-R-212 A Resolution canvassing the returns and declaring election results in the General Runoff Election held in the City of Laredo for the purpose of electing a Mayor, and Council Members for Districts I and VI.

City Secretary Jose A. Valdez, Jr. read for the record the election return sheet of the City General Runoff Election held for the positions of Mayor and City Council Members for Districts I and VI. Said election was held on December 17, 2022.

**Motion to approve the return sheet as certified by the Webb County Elections Administrator and read into the record by our City Secretary.**

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: CM. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

NP: Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Campos Rodriguez, Cm. Dr. Martinez, Cm. Perez

Dr. Victor Treviño spoke and thanked the public for voting in the election. He also encouraged the people to participate and get involved.

**HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE RICHARD A. CHAMBERLAIN, HEALTH DIRECTOR**

6. 2022-R-208 Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute all necessary documents for the donation of "Surface Only" of 10224 Atlanta Drive a 1.0170 acre tract of land, with legal description Villas San Agustin, Block 11, Lot 1, Unit 1, in Webb County, Texas with an appraised value of \$332,000.00.

**Motion to approve.**

**Motion passes.**

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: CM. Gutierrez

For: 5                      Against: 0

NP: Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Campos Rodriguez, Cm. Dr. Martinez, Cm. Perez

**PUBLIC WORKS: STAFF SOURCE JOHN ORFILA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

7. Consideration to authorize a purchase utilizing Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract Pricing Goodbuy, offered by vendor Silsbee Ford, Silsbee Tx. for the heavy-duty equipment listed below in the total amount of \$209,244.50 for the Public Works Department. Funding is available in the 2022 CO Bond.

Vendor	Description	Amount	Coop Contract No.
Silsbee Ford	2023 FORD F-550 BUCKET TRUCK	\$209,244.50	Goodbuy 22-22 8F000
Total		\$209,244.50	

**Motion to approve.**

**Motion passes.**

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: CM. Gutierrez

For: 5                      Against: 0

NP: Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Campos Rodriguez, Cm. Dr. Martinez, Cm. Perez

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

8. Internal Audit presentation on Vehicle Repair Process Audit and its results and any other matters incident thereto with possible action.

**Motion to table.**

**Motion fails.**

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez  
Second: Cm. Torres

For: 4                      Against: 1

Mayor Saenz  
Cm. M. Cigarroa  
Cm. Torres  
Cm. Gutierrez

A. Cigarroa

NP: Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Campos Rodriguez, Cm. Dr. Martinez, Cm. Perez

Cm. Campos Rodriguez arrived after the vote.

Internal Auditor Tina Rodriguez along with Francisco Mata compliance auditor for the audit presented his findings to the City Council. He presented his findings and recommendations. Mr. Mata also presented his observations of additional issues with the department. He then presented the director's written responses and his final recommendations.

Cm. M. Cigarroa asked several questions and expressed several concerns with the functionality of the department. The auditor explained and described what they saw and why they had concerns. Fleet Management Department Director Ron Miller spoke in detail about how the system currently functions and what needs to be updated or improved. Interim City Manager Rosario Cabello stated that there is a written procedure manual that is currently being worked on for the department.

Mayor Saenz stated that he had concerns with what came out in the auditor's report. He mentioned that in the past he had recommended that council hire a outside firm and do a scrub down of every department so there would be no issues but it was voted down.

Cm. A. Cigarroa expressed her concerns with the issues that came out in the auditor's report, especially the safety issues. She also mentioned that every department director should be responsible for the departments and that it should not take and or wait for the auditor to come in and do an audit. She stated that the fault should not be on management but on the directors.

CM. M. Cigarroa asked management what accountability measures are in place to address this egregious failure that occurred. These issues should have identified much earlier and wanted to know where are the checks and balances to identify these issues.

Cm. Torres questioned why Risk Management being in the same building couldn't make surprise visits to these departments, to make sure they complied with safe requirements. He also had question base on the annual budget which Mr. Jose Castillo Finance Director answered. Cm. Torres asked if Mr. Miller had eve asked management for help to address any of the deficiencies that came out in the audit. Mr. Miller stated that he had asked as part of his budget but not as an emergency need.

Cm. M. Cigarroa wanted to know that in the end, who is accountable for creating the safe guards and who do we hold accountable if things fall though the cracks. Mr. Miller stated that he takes

reasonability for the safety of his employees but he would also like the checks and balances system to help them when they see something wrong.

Cm. Gutierrez asked if Mr. Miller was ok handling Fleet at the Annex and at Solid Waste or does someone else need to be hire at Solid Waste to be accountable. Mr. Miller replied that he can handle it no problem, he just needed a super intendent and a clerk at the landfill. He would be asking for those positions during the budget cycle.

Cm. A. Cigarroa commented that yes management need to have some oversight, they should not have to hold the hands of our directors. This is completely disturbing and unacceptable and for every director in the city, management shouldn't have to hold your hand to do the right thing and run an efficient department. Cm. Torres stated that management has a job to do and why did it take anonymous letters for management to interbeing. Management has ACM's that over see these departments, so the ACM's at the end of the day have the duty and responsibility to identify these problems, if not then let's do away with the ACM's at budget time. Ms. Cabello stated that they were told not to respond to anonymous letter by Cm. Torres which stated was their policy.

Cm. M. Cigarroa stated that we do need to hold our directors accountable so she would like to know what timeline there is for evaluation of the departments and directors. She also asked about another audit report having to do with Uni-Trade and it was equally egregious, we also need to have the same accountability with that department. She would like to know when they could see some accountability held to the department overseeing that issue.

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

9. Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551 .072, pending or contemplated litigation, concerning Tony Moreno v. City of Laredo and the City of Laredo Municipal Civil Service Commission.

**Motion to go into executive session for item number 9 pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.072, to include management, legal and anybody else identified and seemed appropriate by our legal department.**

Motion passes

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

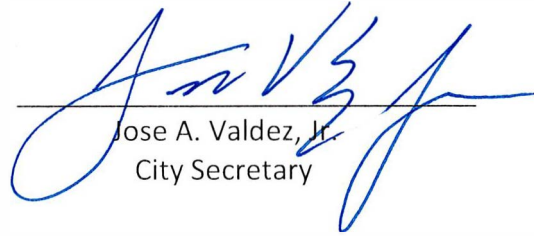
Against:

NP: Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Campos Rodriguez, Cm. Dr. Martinez, Cm. Perez

Council returned from executive session and Mayor Saenz stated that no action was taken.

Mayor Saenz thanked Laredo for electing him as Mayor for the last 8 years and when he started off it was with animo and a viva Laredo, viva Laredo and Viva Laredo!!! Sí Señor. Thank You so much.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**



Jose A. Valdez, Jr.  
City Secretary