

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2021-R-02
LIVE WEB LINK:
<http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>
CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
February 1, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

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, remembering Fire Captain Erik Segura.

IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Mercurio "Merc" 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
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Robert Eads	City Manager
Rosario Cabello	Deputy City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	Assistant City Manager
Riazul Mia	Assistant City Manager
Rene Benavides	City Attorney

Cm. Perez joined at 5:48 p.m.

Motion to excuse the absence of MPT Gonzalez.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Perez was not present.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of January 19, 2021 and January 25, 2021.

Motion to approve the January 19, 2021, and January 25, 2021, Council minutes.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Perez was not present.

Citizen comments

Michelle Winterroth voiced her opposition to the idea of a city-wide closing as it will not be sufficient to stop the spread of COVID-19; she suggested day and night shifts for Code Enforcement staff to enforce the rules and requirements. Fernando Baldazo also voiced his opposition to a city-wide shutdown, as did Art Lopez

Juan Avila voiced his agreement with the idea of a city-wide shutdown as a preventive measure rather than a reactionary one.

Cynthia Medina noted that some elderly citizens who were able to get a vaccine outside of Laredo wanted to give their Laredo vaccine appointments to family members and were not able to do so, asking why her high-risk family members were not able to get their vaccinations.

Orlando Navarro spoke in favor of the zone change proposed in public hearing #4.

VI. RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing 16 teachers from Harmony Public Schools in Laredo for their accomplishments and achievements. They were honored by TEA, the Texas Education Agency for their excellent teaching experience.

Mayor Saenz presented certificates of recognition for these 16 teachers, with commendations from several Council Members:

Harmony School of Innovation Elementary School
Anissa Aguilar – Master
Lyanne Alfaro – Exemplary
Angelica Benavides – Recognized

Celina Bernal – Exemplary
Vanessa Gallardo – Exemplary
Leah Gomez – Exemplary
Sandra Lara – Exemplary
Linda Leal – Recognized
Jazmin Moreno – Recognized
Melinda Rocha – Exemplary
Serena Silva – Recognized

Harmony Science Academy Middle School

Carmen Flores – Recognized
Jose Flores – Recognized
Laura Gonzalez – Exemplary

Harmony School of Excellence High School

Itzel Delgado – Master
Alejandra Ovando - Exemplary

2. Recognizing the “Laredo Lights” by the Rodriguez Family, for making National news last December and putting Laredo on the map. During this time of despair they have provided a glimmer of happiness to our City.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that the video of Laredo Lights’ tribute to Selena was shared over a million times across the country and received national media attention. He thanked the Rodriguez family for their creativity.

3. Recognizing Medline for their generous contribution of 10,000 masks and 800 hygiene kits in efforts to help curb and stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Mayor Saenz clarified that Medline has actually contributed 14,000 masks and 3,500 hygiene kits to the community. Cm. Perez noted that many community partners are trying to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Laredo; several Council Members added their commendations and gratitude for Medline’s contribution.

4. Recognizing in way of proclamation the National Catholic School Week. Celebrated throughout the United States the Diocese of Laredo has 4 Catholic Schools in Laredo: Blessed Sacrament, Mary Help of Christians, and St. Augustine Elementary-Middle School as well as the only Catholic High School in the City, St. Augustine High School.

Bishop James Tamayo thanked Council for the recognition and noted the schools’ commitment to community service.

VII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Vanessa Perez to the

Veterans Affairs Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Vanessa Perez to the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

2. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Vanessa Perez to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Motion to approve the nomination of Vanessa Perez to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

3. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Ruben Gutierrez to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Motion to approve the nomination of Ruben Gutierrez to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

4. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Ruben Gutierrez to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Ruben Gutierrez to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) Board.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

5. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Robert A. Eads, Laredo City Manager to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Robert A. Eads to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) Board.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

6. Appointment by Council Member Ruben Gutierrez Jr. of Robbie Luna to the Animal Care Services Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Robbie Luna to the Animal Care Services Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

7. Appointment by Council Member Ruben Gutierrez Jr. of Joey Tellez to the Board of Adjustment Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Joey Tellez to the Board of Adjustment.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

8. Appointment by Council Member Ruben Gutierrez Jr. of Omar Minhas to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Omar Minhas to the Convention & Visitors' Bureau Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

9. Appointment by Council Member Ruben Gutierrez Jr. of Wayne Nance to the Historic District/ Landmark Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Wayne Nance to the Historic District/Landmark Board.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

10. Appointment by Council Member Ruben Gutierrez Jr. of Ricardo Contreras to the Max A. Mandel Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Ricardo Contreras to the Max A. Mandel Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

11. Appointment by Council Member Ruben Gutierrez Jr. of Valentin Escamilla Para Transit Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Valentin Escamilla to the Para Transit Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

12. Appointment by Council Member Ruben Gutierrez Jr. of Angie Tellez Third Party Funding Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Angie Tellez to the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

13. Appointment by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez of Gayle Rodriguez to the Fine Arts & Culture Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Gayle Rodriguez to the Fine Arts & Culture Commission.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

14. Appointment by Council Member Vanessa Perez of Robert Ortiz to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Robert Ortiz to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

15. Appointment by Council Member Vanessa Perez of Daniela Sada Paz to the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Daniela Sada Paz to the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

16. Appointment by Council Member Vanessa Perez of Uriel Druker to the Ethics Commission.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

17. Appointment by Council Member Vanessa Perez of George Altgelt to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of George Altgelt to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

18. Appointment by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa of Arturo Dominguez to the Regional Mobility Authority Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Arturo Dominguez to the Regional Mobility Authority Board.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing on the adoption of the Laredo & Webb County Active Transportation Plan as Appendix A of the City of Laredo's Comprehensive Plan.

The plan can be viewed at: www.laredompo.org/active-transportation-plan/

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, noted that the City has tried historically to build more roads to keep up with traffic congestion, but it will continue to be a problem and that the future of transportation lies in alternatives to traditional motor vehicle travel as per Governor Greg Abbott. Active transportation includes walking and biking in ways that get automobiles off the road and improving healthy lifestyles. Staff secured public engagement through a planning night with existing plans, surveys, and resident profiles for the public to add input; the Active Transportation plan builds on the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan and short- to long-term plans from the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The public survey received 1,925 responses and found that residents would ride more often with safe bike infrastructure such as protected bike lanes. Many residents do not own a bike, meaning that a bike share program would be beneficial; they also are not aware of all of the City's services, meaning that staff needs to do more advertising of facilities and resources available to the public. Recommendations include improving the bicycle network connectivity, perform a gap analysis of sidewalks, create a policy requiring development to reserve space for bus stops and loading bays, establish a bike share program, create signage along the network for user awareness, and launch a Bicycle 101 safety education campaign.

Dr. Marte Martinez agreed that adding interconnected active transportation is economically advantageous to the city as a whole. Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that while there is no funding for this endeavor at this time, it will be

embedded into the conversation during the budget workshop.

Cm. Perez advocated for active transportation in District VII given the significant traffic congestion in that area, to which Cm. Cigarroa agreed.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Dr. Martinez noted that this item would not come before Council again for a final reading; Mr. Snideman clarified that it is not an ordinance and does not require a first or second reading.

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Community Development Department's budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$7,931,456.00 in order to appropriate U.S. Department of the Treasury funds available for Emergency Rental Assistance Program to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) to assist eligible families/individuals with income at or below the 80 percent of the area median. Additionally, amending the FY2020-2021 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding four (4) Clerk III, R27 positions for the City of Laredo Community Development Department - U.S. Treasury Program.

Cm. Torres recused himself from this public hearing.

Tina Martinez, Community Development Director, explained that the grant would fund these positions for a year. The positions will be posted with notice that they are grant-funded and that the longevity of the positions is subject to that funding availability.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6 Against: Recusal: 1

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Torres

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Gutierrez
Dr. Marte Martinez
Cm. Perez
Cm. Cigarroa

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the City of Laredo Waterworks Construction Fund FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating revenues and expenses in the amount of \$5,240,613.00. Expenses will be appropriated for repairs to El Pico Water Treatment Plant \$4.6M in revenues are available from proceeds of a lawsuit settlement for El Pico Water Treatment Plant and the remaining \$640,613.00 is the balance from the original settlement of \$2.2M.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres was not present.

4. Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning a tract of land containing approximately 91.64 acres, more or less, out of and part of Porcion 38, Abstract 472, Tadco Sanchez, Original Grantee, as conveyed to J.E. Moore, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District), B-1 (Limited Business District), B-3 (Community Business District) to R1-MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District).

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff does not support the application. ZC-003-2021 District I

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

5. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 4, Airport, Article I, In

General of the Code of Ordinances providing that attendance requirements for members of the Airport Advisory Board be changed to adopt the uniform policies of Chapter 2, Administration, Article V, Boards, Commissions, Councils, etc. of the Code of Ordinances; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a savings clause; and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

6. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents for the purchase of the “surface only” of a tract of land containing 9,815.80 square feet, more or less, situated in Porcion 26, Agustin Sanchez, Original Grantee, Abstract 282, Webb County, Texas, said 9,815.80 square feet, more or less being out of a called 10.256 acre tract of land conveyed to Arlene Rash Properties, Ltd., as recorded in Volume 2255, Page 858, Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas, as described and depicted in Exhibit A, from Arlene Rash Properties, LTD. and AMF Development Group, LTD, as part of a Condemnation Settlement Agreement, in the negotiated amount of One Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$152,500.00). This acquisition is necessary for the purpose of developing a right-turn lane off Calle del Norte in an effort to alleviate traffic congestion and improve public safety at the intersection of Calle Del Norte and Springfield Avenue. Funding is available in the 2015 CO Bond.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, authorizing the City Manager to sell the “surface only” of a partial section of 1100 Buena Vista Avenue at its appraised fair market value of \$21,500.00 to Uriel Razo. It is described as a 3,043.67 square foot tract of land more or less, being out of Buena Vista Avenue R.O.W., situated in the Eastern Division of the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The City of Laredo reserves any and all visible and apparent easements recorded or not recorded, being generally described in attached Exhibit “A”, and approving the Post Closure Property Improvement Plan as described in Exhibit “B”, which is in compliance with Section 10 of the Street and Closing/Sales Policy Handbook, and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, authorizing the City Manager to sell the “Surface Only” of a partial section of 1100 Buena Vista Avenue at its appraised fair market value of \$21,500.00 to Eduardo Estrada Herrera. It is described as a 3,043.67 square foot tract of land more or less, being out of Buena Vista Avenue R.O.W., situated in the Eastern Division of the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The City of Laredo reserves any and all visible and apparent easements recorded or not recorded, being generally described in attached Exhibit “A”, and approving the Post Closure Property Improvement Plan as described in Exhibit “B”, which is in compliance with Section 10 of the Street and Closing/Sales Policy Handbook, and

providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

9. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a first amendment to the Ground Lease between the City of Laredo (“Licensor”) and American Towers LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“Licensee”), for ground space at 8010 Killam Industrial Road, Laredo, Webb County, Texas, for the continued maintenance and operation of a 180 ft. high monopole and related ground facilities for use in its communications business. Term of the amendment is one (1) initial term of five (5) years commencing October 25, 2024 and ending October 25, 2029, with four (4) additional five (5) year renewal options. The annual fee will increase from \$13,100.00 to \$45,000.00 with a three percent (3%) annual escalator. The city will also receive a \$25,000.00 one-time payment within 30 days of Licensee’s receipt of this amendment executed by licensor.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

10. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a second amendment to the ground lease between the City of Laredo (“Licensor”) and American Towers LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“Licensee”), as Successor in Interest to Omniamerica Development Corporation, for ground space at 1120 Calton Road, Laredo, Webb County, Texas, for the continued maintenance and operation of a 150 ft. high monopole and related ground facilities for use in their communications business. Term of the amendment is one (1) initial term of five (5) years commencing June 21, 2024 and ending June 20, 2029, with four (4) additional five (5) year renewal options. The annual fee will increase from \$18,108.00 to \$45,000.00 with a three percent (3%) annual escalator. The city will also receive a \$25,000.00 one-time payment within 30 days of licensee’s receipt of this amendment executed by licensor.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

11. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a second amendment to the ground lease between the City of Laredo (“Licensor”) and American Towers LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“Licensee”), as Successor in Interest to Omniamerica Development Corporation, for ground space at 2701 Seymour Street, Laredo, Webb County, Texas, for the continued maintenance and operation of a 180 ft. high monopole and related ground facilities. Term of the amendment is one (1) initial term of five (5) years commencing October 20, 2023 and ending October 19, 2028, with four (4) additional five (5) year renewal options. The annual fee will increase from \$12,267.00 to \$45,000.00 with a three percent (3%) annual escalator. The city will also receive a \$25,000.00 one-time payment within 30 days of licensee’s receipt of this amendment executed by licensor.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2021-O-019, 2021-O-020, 2021-O-021, 2021-O-022, 2021-O-023, 2021-O-024, 2021-O-025, 2021-O-026, 2021-O-031, 2021-O-032, 2021-O-033, 2021-O-034, 2021-O-035, 2021-O-036, 2021-O-037, 2021-O-038, 2021-O-039, 2021-O-040, 2021-O-041, 2021-O-042, 2021-O-043, and 2021-O-044.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. 2021-O-019 Authorizing the City Manager to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Community Development Department's budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$787,469.05 in order to appropriate the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) - Coronavirus (TDHCA-CV2) funds available for the Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (TERAP) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) second round allocation to assist eligible families/individuals under low-to-moderate income impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, amending the FY2020-2021 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Administrative Assistant I, R32 position and one (1) Clerk II, R25 position for the City of Laredo Community Development Department Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (TERAP).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-019.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. 2021-O-020 Accepting a grant of \$3,000.00 from the HEB Green Bag Grant Program and amending the City of Laredo FY 2021 Environmental Services/Keep Laredo Beautiful Division budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$3,000.00 from Keep Texas Beautiful/H-E-B Green Bag Grant. The funds from said grant will be used to beautify an area in between the McKendrick Ochoa Salinas Library, 1920 Palo Blanco, and the Freddy Benavides Sports Complex by creating a butterfly garden and outdoor learning space.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-020.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

14. 2021-O-021 Amending the City of Laredo's FY2021 Sports and Community Venue Fund Budget by appropriating a draw down from fund balance in the amount of \$8,535,458.00. Amending the Debt Service Fund to appropriate revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$8,535,458.00 to account for the defeasance of the Sports Venue Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2014.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-021.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

15. 2021-O-022 Amending the City of Laredo's FY 2021 General Fund budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$1,200,000.00. Revenues are in the form of a transfer in from the COVID-19 Economic Assistance Fund. The restricted reserve in General Fund will increase by the same amount. The restricted reserve will be used to cover additional expenses due to the current COVID-19 health crisis. Funding is available in the COVID-19 Economic Assistance Fund.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-022.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

16. 2021-O-023 Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo FY 2021 General Fund - Police Department Annual Budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$18,382.00. 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. Funding is available in the General Fund.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-023.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

17. 2021-O-024 Amending the City of Laredo Land Development Code Section

24.1.3.1 to adjust the rules governing the organization of the Zoning Board of Adjustment related to the number of members: providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing for a severability clause; providing for a publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-024.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 18. 2021-O-025 Amending the City of Laredo Land Development Code Section 24.77.1 to adjust the setback requirements in residential zones; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-025.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 19. 2021-O-026 Amending the City of Laredo Land Development Code Section 24.70.2 to eliminate minimum size requirements for the PUD Zone; amending the City of Laredo Land Development Code Section 24.70.4, 24.70.5, and 24.70.6 to allow more flexibility in the creation of PUD Zones; amending the City of Laredo Land Development Code Section 24.63 to eliminate confusion and remove Special Use Permits as an option for townhouses on the permitted uses chart; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing for a severability clause; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-026.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 20. 2021-O-027 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning a 3.9628 acre tract out of 15.196 acres of land, more or less, situated in Porcion 35, Abstract 546, Jose Miguel Diaz original Grantee, as conveyed to HFK Development, LLC., located west of Ejido Ave., north of Dolly Richter/Bianka Lane. From R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District). ZC-011-2021 District I

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

21. 2021-O-028 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 11.233 acres out of a 15.196 acre tract of land more or less, situated in Porcion 35, Abstract 546, Jose Miguel Diaz original Grantee, as conveyed to HFK Development, LLC., located west of Ejido Ave., south of Dolly Richter/Bianka Lane. From R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District). ZC-012-2021 District I

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

22. 2021-O-029 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 35, Block 1, Cuatro Vientos Sur, Phase V located west of Ejido Ave., south of Dolly Richter/Bianka Lane. From R-1MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District). ZC-013-2021 District I

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

23. 2021-O-030 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 9.87 acres, more or less, situated in Porcion 35, Abstract 546, Jose M. Dias original Grantee as conveyed to ALS Laredo Holdings, LLC c/o Alejandro E. Villarreal III. From R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) to R-1B (Single Family High Density District). ZC-015-2021 District I

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

24. 2021-O-031 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 4, D-5 Acres Subdivision, located at 7071 Hwy 359, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District). ZC-005-2021 District II

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-031.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. 2021-O-032 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximate 10.04 acres out of 42.98 acres of land conveyed to AFW Investments, LTD., located west of U.S. Highway 83, south of the Lomas Del Sur Blvd., from B-3 (Community Business District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area Residential District). ZC-004-2021 District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-032.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. 2021-O-033 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit (S.U.P.) for a restaurant serving alcohol on Lots 10, 11 & 12, Block 891, Eastern Division, located at 1618 and 1620 Chihuahua St. Lot 12, and West 1/2 of Lot 11, Block 925 Eastern Division located at 1702 Chihuahua St. to be used for additional parking only. ZC-007-2021 District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-033.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. 2021-O-034 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 4, Block 1, Lafon Subdivision, Phase II. Located at 3620 S. US Highway 83. From B-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District). ZC-010-2021 District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-034.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

28. 2021-O-035 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 8 & Lot 9, Block 470, Eastern Division, located at 316 & 318 E. Bustamante St., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District). ZC-006-2021 District IV

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-035.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

29. 2021-O-036 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1 & 3, Block 7, Del Mar Village, located at 6826 & 6930 Springfield Ave., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District). ZC-008-2021 District V

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-036.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

30. 2021-O-037 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 5, Del Mar Village, located at 120 W. Village Blvd., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District). ZC-009-2021 District V

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-037.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

31. 2021-O-038 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning a 2.50 acre tract of land, out of the west side of Tract 11-H, and more or less, situated in Porcion No. 10, Tomas Sanchez Abstract 280, Webb County, Texas conveyed to Marquez Express, LLC. From AG (Agricultural) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District). ZC-016-2021 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-038.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

32. 2021-O-039 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 7, Block 1, Hilltop Subdivision, Phase I, located at 406 Hilltop Road, from B-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District). ZC-002-2021 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-039.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

33. 2021-O-040 Ratification of the City Manager's execution of all necessary documents granting an easement and right-of-way to AEP Texas Central Company to install and construct certain electric distribution facilities at the Laredo International Airport. Said easement being a ten (10) foot wide easement lying wholly within a portion of 34.45 acres of land, more or less, being out of the south part of block 1, Laredo Airport Subdivision, Webb County, Texas; said tract of land conveyed to grantor, on deed recorded in volume 478, page 471, deed records of Webb County, Texas; providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-040.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

34. 2021-O-041 Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to nine (9) lease agreements between the City of Laredo and Aero Center, Inc., Laredo Aero Center, Inc. and Laredo Aero Center, Inc. dba Signature Flight Support, as lessees, to change the name to Signature Flight Support LLC for 95-O-156, 95-O-157, 95-O-158, 2006-O-133, 95-O-159, 2008-O-032, 2008-O-241, 2013-O-023, 2012-O-166, 2019-O-152. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in effect.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-041.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

35. 2021-O-042 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with St. Patrick's Church for a parcel of land consisting of approximately 3,455 square feet and being out of the right-of-way at Del Mar Blvd. and

Fenwick Dr. North of lot 721, block 44, section 2-A, Area "C", Del Mar Hills Subdivision, in the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The new lease terms include a five (5) year initial term with a five (5) year renewal option at a lease rate of \$1.00 dollar per year as amended.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-042.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. 2021-O-043 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, authorizing the City Manager to renew a lease agreement by and between Laredo Transit Management, Inc., (Lessor) and the City of Laredo Department of Community Development, (Lessee). This is for the leased building space at the Laredo Transit Center, located at 1301 Farragut Street, of 6,628 square feet, second and third floors (East). The term will be for one (1) year, exercising the last renewal option as per the original lease agreement, commencing on December 1, 2020. The monthly sum is \$4,586.58 (\$.6920 per square foot). The prorated shared cost of 20% of the electric and water bills will remain the same.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-043.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. 2021-O-044 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, authorizing the City Manager to renew a lease agreement by and between Laredo Transit Management, Inc., (Lessor) and The City of Laredo Police Department (Lessee) for the lease of 2,681.61 square feet, located in the second (2nd) floor, west wing of the Laredo Transit Center, 1301 Farragut St. The rate per square foot is \$.6920, for a total monthly sum of \$1,855.67, commencing on December 1, 2020. The term will be on a month-to-month basis. The prorated share cost of 25% of the electric bill, 25% of the water bill and the rental fee of \$30.00 per vehicle per month for Parking fees will remain the same.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-044.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

CITY ATTORNEY: STAFF SOURCE RENE C. BENAVIDES, CITY ATTORNEY

38. Motion to hire the law firm of Lloyd Gosselink to conduct an initial review to determine if there are any legal issues affecting the City that needs to be addressed, related to an Application filed by AEP Texas Inc. ("AEP") for final reconciliation of its advanced metering costs with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC"), wherein AEP asserts that it is seeking approval of a regulatory asset for approximately \$13,807,740.00 for under-recovery of Advanced Metering Costs.

Rene Benavides, City Attorney, explained that this item has no financial impact on the taxpayers. AEP underestimated their initial costs by more than \$13 million, which could significantly affect the rates that the end user would have to pay. The law firm of Lloyd Gosselink has already intervened on behalf of the City of McAllen to challenge the amount reported by AEP. If the PUC determines that the estimated amount was not determined correctly, they will reduce that amount and save the taxpayers' money. The law office has already initiated their intervention and has asked the City of Laredo if they wish to participate, as it is completely voluntary.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TINA MARTINEZ, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

39. Consideration to renew contract FY19-014 for Professional Services with Porras Residential Appraisals and Frank Leal Real Estate for appraisal assignment in support of the City of Laredo International Airport Noise Compatibility Program for an annual amount of \$25,000.00. The term of this contract is a (2) two year term with an option to renew for one additional (2) two year term and is subject to future appropriations. Funding is available under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Projects (AIP), Grant No. 81, 86 and 88; and subject to funding availability.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

40. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to JHS Architect, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$431,544.00 which includes geotechnical services, traffic impact analysis, and park master plan for the City of Laredo Sports Complex Venue to include master planning and other amenities. Funding is available in the Sports Venue Tax Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Consideration for approval of award of construction contract to the lowest bidder Summit Building & Design, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$6,978,011.00 for the WTB FAST Lanes Relocation Project CBI 2B20(258) – CSJ# 0922-33-178 with a construction contract time of four hundred fifty-six (456) calendar days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Completion date for the project is scheduled for May 2022. We received a letter of approval from TxDot on January 22, 2021, to proceed with the award of contract. Funding is available in the Bridge Construction Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

42. Consideration to award annual contract FY21-025 for the purchase of tractor and heavy equipment tires Sections I and II to Southern Tire Mart, Columbia, MS, in an amount up to \$45,000.00. All tires 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. This contract can be renewed three (3) additional one year extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Consideration to award annual contracts FY21-026 for the purchase of police and passenger car tires to the following bidders:

1. Section I: Hesselbein Tire Southwest, San Antonio, Texas, in an amount up to \$130,000.00 (Primary Vendor); and
2. Section I: American Tire Distributors, Fort Worth, Texas in an amount up to \$30,000.00 (Secondary Vendor); and
3. Section I: The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio in an amount up to \$30,000.00 (Secondary Vendor); and
4. Section I: Southern Tire Mart, Columbia, Missouri in an amount up to \$30,000.00 (Secondary Vendor); and
5. Section II: Southern Tire Mart, Columbia, Missouri in an amount up to \$90,000.00 (Primary Vendor); and
6. Section II: American Tire Distributors, Fort Worth, Texas in an amount up to \$30,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

All tires 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. This contract may be extended three (3) additional one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE RICHARD A. CHAMBERLAIN, HEALTH DIRECTOR

44. 2021-R-032 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a continuation grant application to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the estimated amount of \$674,790.00 with no match for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Ryan White Program to continue to provide health care, diagnostic and specialty care and medical case management for persons with HIV/AIDS for the term period of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-032.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

45. 2021-R-033 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a continuation grant application to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the estimated amount of \$165,000.00 with no match for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) IDCU/SUR - Texas Epidemiology Capacity Expansion Grant Program for infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology activities for the term period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-033.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

46. 2021-R-034 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) and Serving Children and Adults in Need, Inc. (SCAN) for the purpose of implementing the SAMHSA MAI Healthy Border Initiative Project Program for the term period of January 14, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-034.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. 2021-R-035 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Laredo Health Department (CLDH) and Serving Children and Adults in Need, Inc. (SCAN) for the purpose of implementing the Familias Unidas Program for the term period upon execution through December 31, 2022.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-035.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

48. 2021-R-036 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) for the purpose of providing neurological evaluations and

Alzheimer and Neurodegenerative Disorder clinical trials to citizens of Laredo for the term period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2023 and may be extended for an additional two (2) year term by mutual written agreement of the parties.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-036.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

49. 2021-R-037 Ratifying the submission of a continuation grant application to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the estimated amount of \$117,500.00 with no match to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies (HTMB) Program for the term period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-037.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

50. 2021-R-042 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a continuation grant application to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the estimated amount of \$125,000.00 with no match to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Diabetes Prevention and Control Program for the term period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-042.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

HUMAN RESOURCES: STAFF SOURCE MELINA BERMUDEZ, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

51. Motion to accept, establish and to implement the Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP) and Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plan rates for employees

who retire after February 1, 2021; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Cm. Torres noted his intention to compare the CDHP and PPO plans; since PPO plans are not included on this agenda item, he suggested that this item be tabled for now.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**MUNICIPAL COURT: STAFF SOURCE ANA CABALLERO-RODRIGUEZ,
MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK**

52. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Public Safety Office to fund a Juvenile Case Manager for Municipal Court. The grant cycle is for twelve months from the grant start date that is being proposed to begin September 1, 2021. This grant will cover all salary and fringe benefits and there is no match requirement. This will be a one hundred percent (100%) grant-funded position and there will be no impact to the general fund.

Municipal Court Judge Jesus Dominguez reported that he started a juvenile docket (Teen Court) and is asking the Governor's Office for grant funds to provide the salary of a Juvenile Case Manager. Many juvenile cases were repeat offenders, and the intention of a Juvenile Case Manager is to help reduce recidivism in teen court. If the grant is approved, the position can begin September 2021.

Motion to approve and add a motion of support through a resolution.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

53. Motion to authorize the Laredo Municipal Court to initiate a Warrant Round-Up to be conducted by the Laredo Police Department from Monday, February 1, 2021, through Monday, March 1, 2021, designed to aggressively target the arrest of persons remaining on the Municipal Court warrant list, and any other matter incident thereto.

Municipal Court Judge Jesus Dominguez clarified that these warrant round-up cases are COVID-related cases.

Cm. Rodriguez voiced his concern of arresting people on COVID-19 charges since

warrant round-ups are attempts to reconcile citations/offences and make peace with citizens especially since many are having a hard time making a living in the COVID crisis.

Cm. Torres noted that the Municipal Court Judge has the discretion to take this action, asking why Council is being asked to authorize a warrant round-up that appears to cherry-pick what warrants are being pursued.

Judge Dominguez stated that when people are reminded of their warrants by police officers, they often show up to reconcile the charges; he reminded Council that he considers every individual's ability to pay in his deliberations. People can also look up their own violations in the privacy of their home using the search feature at www.municipalonlinepayments.com. The warrant officers are pursuing all warrants

Motion to authorize the City Manager to proceed accordingly with any resources the Laredo Municipal Court may need to conduct a warrant round-up as it pertains to operational matters.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

54. Consideration to award annual supply/service contract FY21-027 to the low bidder Dr. Ike's Home Center, Laredo, TX, in an amount up to \$60,000.00 for the purchase and repair of handheld landscaping equipment. This contract establishes pricing and a discount percentage on handheld landscaping equipment and repair services most commonly utilized by City Departments. 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 may be extended three (3) additional one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. All parts and services will be secured on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the user department budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

55. 2021-R-024 Authorizing the 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 (CJD), to fund the 2022 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program for the period of October 01, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This funding will provide overtime for the Juvenile and Gang Enforcement Team (JAGET) 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.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-024.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

56. 2021-R-025 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$70,000.00 to the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the FY 2022 General Victim Assistance Program Grant under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This grant will fund the Crime Victims Service Coordinator position and supplies affiliated with the grant program. The City of Laredo will be responsible for a required match of 20% of total project funds. Funding will be available in Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-025.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

57. 2021-R-026 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$130,000.00 to the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program grant for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This grant will fund one Investigator position for the Special Investigations Unit. 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.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-026.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

58. 2021-R-027 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the funding of FY 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Safe Streets Initiative for the period of October 01, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This funding will provide overtime salaries for the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) to fortify the capacity of prevention, detection, investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of criminals leading to more convictions of violent offenders in the Laredo and Webb County area. This program does not require local match. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-027.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

59. 2021-R-028 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$50,000.00 to the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the FY2022 First Responder Mental Health Program, Peer Support. The City of Laredo will utilize this funding to obtain a professional service contract for Clinical Advisory for Trauma and Work Related Counseling for the period of October 01, 2021 through September 30, 2022. The City of Laredo is responsible for a required 20% match of total project funds. Funding will be available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-028.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

60. 2021-R-029 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$30,000.00 to the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Department (CJD) for the funding of FY 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) LPD Technology Enhancement Project for the period of October 01, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This funding will be utilized to acquire innovative technology designed to promote a healthy setting to resume emergency operations center activities, in person roll call briefings, continuing education classes and facilitate remote distance learning. This program does not require local match. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-029.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

61. 2021-R-030 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$48,125.00 to the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)-Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) Grant. This funding will be utilized to purchase night vision goggles to give SWAT operators the ability to see their surroundings clearly during low light operations. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-030.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

62. 2021-R-031 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$500,000.00 to the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2022 Local Border Security Program (LBSP). This grant does not require matching funds. Funding will be used to pay for overtime to increase patrol security along the Texas-Mexican border. Grant is accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-031.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

63. Consideration to authorize the purchase of SWAT body armor for the Police Department in the amount of \$52,913.18 from GT Distributors, Inc. through the Buyboard Cooperative Purchasing Program's Contract No. 603-20. Funding has been awarded by the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division and is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

64. Consideration to authorize the purchase of police badges for the Laredo Police Department directly from Smith & Warren manufacturer, White Plains, NY, in the amount of \$59,550.00. The police department has upgraded and redesigned the old badge for all ranks and with this purchase a new badge will be provided to all sworn personnel. Funding is available in the Police Trust Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

PUBLIC WORKS: STAFF SOURCE JOHN ORFILA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

65. Consideration to award contract FY21-023 to Anderson Columbia; Weslaco, Texas, for an annual amount up to \$400,000.00 as a Secondary Vendor for the purchase of Public Works materials (Asphalt Cold Laid - LRA Premix Type D) for various departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract may be extended three (3) additional one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in General Fund-Public Works Construction budget.

1. LRA Premix Type D \$73.50/ton

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

66. Consideration to ratify supplier purchase costs from Century Asphalt, Bayton, Tx. in the amount of \$70,213.74 due to urgent use of secondary supplier for Asphalt Hot Mix; these materials are used for street paving, street construction, general repairs and related projects for all city departments. Asphalt hot mix material prices are governed by an index made up of the composite posted prices in the Laredo area of those companies published in the daily publication of Oil Price Information Service (OPIS). All materials are purchased on an as-needed basis utilizing the construction project budget. Funding is available in General Fund Public Works construction project budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

67. Consideration to award Contract FY21-006 for the supply of Onyx Frictional Surface Treatment and Holding Tank, used for street paving projects; this contract will be awarded by sections to the following bidders:

Section I - Onyx Frictional Surface Treatment:

1. Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc.; Jackson, MS - Primary vendor in an amount up to \$600,000.00 annually.
2. Clark Construction of Texas, Inc. San Antonio, TX - Secondary vendor in an amount up to \$300,000.00 annually.

Section II - Asphalt Seal Tank:

1. D & H Equipment Ltd. Blanco TX for the purchase of an Asphalt Seal Tank for the holding/storage of the Onyx material, in the amount of \$58,608.00.

All materials are purchased on an as needed basis utilizing the construction project budgets. This is a two year contract, subject to future appropriations and may be extended for three (3) additional two (2) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in General Fund - Public Works Operations Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

68. 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 (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) 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 first 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 Sewer System Fund - Waste Water Treatment Division.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

69. Authorizing the City Manager to approve and execute Change Order #1 for \$2,650.00 for a final contract value amount of \$109,824.00, final acceptance of the project, approval of the final payment in the amount of \$5,649.64, and release of retainage for \$5,208.72 to ABBA Construction of Laredo, Texas for the SLWWTP Installation of Mud Valve for Chlorine Contact Basins project. The project was completed on January 13, 2021. Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Bonds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

70. Consideration to extend annual contract FY17-014 with ROMO Contractors, Laredo, Texas with an increase of \$40,000.00 for a new amount of \$275,000.00 for concrete repairs of sidewalks, driveways, and curbs as a result of water line break repairs made by the Utilities Department. The extension term of this contract shall be for an additional three (3) months. This will allow time for the new contract service being bid. All work will be performed on an as needed basis required due to utility repairs. There was no unit price increase during the last extension period. This will be the final extension period for this contract. A new bid/contract is being solicited. Funding is available in the Utilities Water and Wastewater Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XII. STAFF REPORTS

71. 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.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

72. 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 Treviño, health authority, reported a downward trajectory of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. However, more public health mitigation is needed, particularly given the oncoming surge as a result of the upcoming Super Bowl, the existence of more contagious variants throughout the country and likely in the community. He signed a public health order to extend the City's curfew for the next two weeks starting on Friday, February 5, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.; while now is a hard time for people to receive citations, he noted that the general public are still ignoring safety precautions and furthering the spread of the virus.

Kristina L. Hale, Assistant City Manager, noted that in addition to the curfew, the public health order also adds customer log requirements of restaurants after certain hours to assist with contact tracing. Big box stores are exempt from a 50% occupancy requirement.

Cm. Rodriguez initiated a motion to send a resolution to big box stores asking them to limit their customers to only one member of a household at a time; he allowed Cm. Perez's suggestion to also request that these stores keep a log of customers for contact tracing purposes.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that keep a log would be a big burden for big box store employees to keep but would also be a big burden for City employees to review and cross-reference during their contact tracing. A positive patient that went to a grocery store would result in a City employee contact hundreds or even thousands of individuals that might not have been exposed. He voiced his concern that this level of record keeping will not result in any meaningful action.

Robert Eads, City Manager, agreed and reminded Council that management has already reassigned many employees to assist with contact tracing and other COVID duties. There are not the resources available to handle the overwhelming amount of data that would be available with big box store logs and contact tracing. Staff is already stretched very thin to provide essential services to the citizenry.

Richard Chamberlain, Health Director, stated that contact tracing would be used for individuals at risk of exposure if they have close, intimate contact with another person for 15 minutes or more; this is not likely to occur in a big box store. However, having logs would help the situation in the community if it discourages people from going into public indoor spaces.

Mayor Saenz cautioned Council to make data-driven decisions regarding COVID-19 measures and businesses so that the community is impacted in a meaningful and helpful way. Dr. Martinez agreed that the transmission of the virus is lower in large stores and outdoor spaces because there is a lack of that close, intimate

exposure to one another.

Motion to send a resolution to large chain “big box” stores to limit their customers to only one member of a household at a time and to keep a log of customers that enter the stores for contact tracing purposes voluntarily or to reduce their customer occupancy to 50%, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to ratify the recommendations of the health authority in his emergency orders that have been implemented such as the curfew from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. limiting home gatherings and restaurant contact tracing log requirements for the next two weekends.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

73. Status report on the purpose and composition of the Emergency Management Operation Plan.

Robert Eads, City Manager, reported that staff meets to discuss the formation of the Emergency Management Operation Plan; they also conduct several simulations throughout the year. Staff would have typically already had a scheduled presentation with local, state, and federal representatives, but due to COVID-19, they were not able to do that in-person. As issues come up in the community, the EMOP is enacted with every member understanding their part in the plan.

Guillermo Heard, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, noted that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Plan offer control of any disasters or emergencies that arise in the community; currently the City is in a public health emergency and using the appropriate plan in its response. He reviewed the staff structure in the EOC and triggers to activate an emergency response. Chief Heard emphasized his commitment to fighting this pandemic and protecting his community.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that the City still does not allow children to use baseball fields while skate parks and walking trails are open. Dr. Treviño agreed that people can safely use baseball fields as long as they social distance.

Motion to allow three individuals on a baseball field or a soccer field at a time on a first come, first served basis.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

74. Status update on the City's Finances, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

75. Discussion with possible action for City Council to name an Interim Internal Auditor upon Veronica Urbano-Baeza retirement; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

76. Status update and presentation on the Public Input Survey for the FY 21-22 Budget, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

77. Presentation by the City Manager in re-purposing a portion of the Utilities COVID Relief Funds to assist future burial expenses for families.

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

No action taken.

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

No action taken.

78. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Discussion with possible action to direct City Manager to investigate and create, if necessary, a needs assessment and feasibility plan for digital connectivity across the entire City, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on a status and progress on the Hospital District Committee, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

B. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action on the negative impact to customer service to the citizens of Laredo due to staff reduction to 25%, in particular to areas such as: Building Department, Planning Department, Police Department, City Hall Annex, and any other matters incident thereto.

Robert Eads, City Manager, confirmed that customer service has been affected by employees teleworking; he asked for the public's patience as staff works around the Council directive to have at least 75% of employees working from home.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if the directive could be change so that Departments could send as many employees home to telework without compromising the level or quality of customer service; many businesses trying to obtain their permits are having costly delays. Mr. Eads noted that to let any members of the public back into City buildings, the local ordinance would need to be amended. Council will also have to amend their directive to staff to send 75% of the workforce home to telework.

Mayor Saenz and Cm. Mercurio Martinez agreed that management should be allowed to decide the best course of action on this matter.

Cm. Rodriguez initiated a motion to direct management to develop an operational plan for the Building Department in particular so as not to delay local business operations.

To the issue raised that the COVID hotline seems to be unstaffed, Richard Chamberlain, Health Director, explained that four staff members manage the hotline regularly. During the administration of 5,000 vaccinations, 30 staff members were used to oversee the hotline. However, given the surge of calls coming in during that time, the hotline was saturated and some calls were not answered.

Dr. Victor Treviño, health authority, reminded Council that large infections have not been seen in governmental offices but rather throughout in-home transmissions. Cm. Perez also noted that the staff being sent home are being sent home to continue working; therefore, arguments equating teleworking to cutting staff is incorrect.

Motion to direct management to develop and present a plan to make sure that the Building Department can provide proper customer service to the public and to maintain a 75% teleworking staff structure until the next Council meeting, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 3

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Gutierrez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez, Cm. Torres, and Cm. Cigarroa were not present.

Motion to allow management the latitude in key areas to increase the number of employees in each Department as needed to provide the necessary services to the constituents in Laredo.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5 Against: 2 Abstain: 0

Mayor Saenz

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Cigarroa

Cm. Gutierrez

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Torres was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to direct the City Manager to enter into a donation agreement with Webb County for a building located at the 1600 Orquidia Rio Bravo, Texas; and any other matters incident thereto.

Kristina L. Hale, Assistant City Manager, noted that the City just finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Webb County and will bring it back to the next Council meeting.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action on establishing a temporary moratorium pursuant to Chapter 212 of the Texas Local Government Code for the issuance of new business permits for bars and nightclubs for a period of 120 days, or until such time as the hospitalization rate in the City has fallen below the 15% capacity threshold for seven 7 consecutive days, and any other matters incident thereto.

Arturo Garcia, Building Director, confirmed that permits are not currently being processed for bars or nightclubs as it is.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Discussion with possible action to focus on COVID-19 vaccine efforts on 65 years of age and/or older but to ensure healthcare workers, volunteers, and

people with underlying health conditions still have access to acquire the COVID-19 Vaccine via each week's allocation, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres reminded Council that this is another example of Council giving contradictory direction to staff within two weeks; this leads to major communication problems, especially when the public is involved.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that trial and error is an inevitable aspect of this pandemic. He received a phone call from an upset constituent who had an appointment but was turned away because they were only 64 and not quite 65.

Richard Chamberlain, Health Director, noted that the City is authorized to provide vaccinations to any U.S. resident, not just Laredo citizens. They request a U.S. address to schedule an appointment and place that information into the tracking system. Addresses are not verified against the individual's identification since some people, like the homeless population in Laredo, may not have a government-issued ID or a residential address. He reminded Council that the Health Department cannot *require* identification or proof of residency from someone receiving a vaccination as per the Department of State Health Services. Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, confirmed that of the individuals vaccinated in Laredo, only 75 people had residential ZIP codes outside of the municipality.

Dr. Victor Treviño reiterated that DSHS has prohibited requiring proof of citizenship or residency; this is especially true in a pandemic given the need to administer healthcare. Health officials must follow state orders for the administration of the vaccine.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action regarding the status of the COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force, what number of businesses were visited and how many were cited, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Ruben Gutierrez, Jr.)

Claudio Treviño, Police Chief, reported citation and restraining orders issued at bars and nightclubs. Some violations were forwarded to TABC for possible license revocations. Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that the Building Department is leading non-police Code Enforcement; these officers need to be deputized/certified and trained before they are able to enforce safety measures. Repurposing employees to code enforcement takes them away from the permitting and inspection duties that are also considered essential services.

No action taken.

D. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action on extending the payment deadline for 2020 property taxes due to the pandemic, and any other matters incident thereto.

Dora Maldonado, Tax Assessor-Collector, reported that deadlines are governed by the State of Texas through the Property Tax Code; the City must comply with the Code. Taxes are considered delinquent if not paid before February 1 of the year following the year in which it was imposed. If the last day of the performance of an act is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, the performance is the next regular business day. Therefore, property taxes are actually due today rather than Sunday, January 31, 2021. Aside from that, the Department does not have the ability to extend the deadline.

Rene Benavides, City Attorney, noted that while Council cannot extend the deadline, there may be an opportunity to express leniency with tax delinquencies, though the matter would require some research. Mrs. Maldonado stated that if other taxing entities file lawsuits for delinquent taxes and the City does not participate, then the City will lose its opportunity to collect those taxes.

Motion to instruct the City Manager to bring back tax delinquency information to the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps at the following locations under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps instead of speed cushions which is currently required under the policy and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District IV Priority Funds will be used for this project.

- 200 E. Frost
- 300 E. Frost

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

E. Request by Council Member Ruben A. Gutierrez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps at the following locations under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps instead of speed cushions which is currently required under the policy, and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District V Priority Funds will be used for this project.
 - Speed Hump on the 5200 block of South Lake Drive
 - Speed Hump on the 2900 block of Remington Road

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to authorize staff to conduct a traffic study for a right hand turning lane on the corner of Fenwick Drive and McPherson Road, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Rodriguez asked that staff also conduct a traffic study on the right turning lane of Concord Hills and Highway 359 as well as the left turning lane on Highway 83 and Lomas Del Sur with a status update within the next two Council meetings. Cm. Gutierrez accepted this request as an amendment to his motion to approve the item, but City Attorney Rene Benavides cautioned Council that this amendment is too far out of the scope of the agenda item. The amendment was therefore withdrawn.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez and Cm. Torres were not present.

3. Discussion with possible action on the possible termination of the Memorandum of Understanding and use agreement between the City of Laredo and the Housing Authority for the City of Laredo executed on July 23, 2020 pertaining to the outdoor facilities located at 6500 Springfield, Laredo, Texas 78041, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez and Cm. Torres were not present.

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

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install (3) asphalt speeds humps by Divine Mercy as well as (2) speed tables on North Central Park San Isidro area, and any other matters incident thereto. A traffic study has been analyzed. For a total amount of \$20,552.00 Park Land funds will be used for this project.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that if the Park Land funds are insufficient to cover this cost, District VI priority funds will be used to supplement.

Fernando Baldazo voiced opposition to placing speed humps every time a citizen complains; City policy regulates the installation of speed humps, which is regularly ignored by Council. Dr. Martinez countered that a traffic analysis showed that a speed hump was the best way to calm traffic in this area.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to analyze a traffic study to request a safe pedestrian crosswalk on North Central Park Jon Valls area and a speed hump on Havana Dr. due to speeding concerns, and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez confirmed that District VI priority funds will be used.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

G. Request by Council Member Vanessa J. Perez

1. Discussion with possible action on establishing a self-funded, revolving account for demolition of substandard buildings throughout the City, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on adopting a waitlist to manage the high volume of citizens desiring the limited amount of vaccines we have available for distribution at any given time, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa and Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action on the absence of a joint use agreement associated with the construction of a basketball court at the Paseo Del Norte Subdivision in the Los Martinez area, and of the options available to the City for the recovery of all costs associated therewith from the property owner, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

H. Request by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa

1. Discussion with possible action to form a Task Force Committee regarding the comprehensive plan and response to COVID-19. This committee will assist and advise on policies, strategies, and programs that address the city's short-term, mid-term and long-term response to this pandemic, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vanessa Perez and Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Cm. Cigarroa noted that reactionary measures during this pandemic have created a lot of confusion for the public. This proposed task force would not interfere with the Emergency Operations Center but would instead focus on issues that the EOC is not charged to oversee.

Mayor Saenz noted that if the City and County would participate and hire

external counsel for this task force, they could review other cities' models and plans that have proven to be effective to-date.

Cm. Cigarroa clarified that this task force is not only health-related but includes the community's economic distress. Cm. Torres agreed, noting that a similar task force in El Paso also focuses on food scarcity and other pertinent issues that are exacerbated by the pandemic.

Cm. Gutierrez voiced his understanding that staff is already performing this type of planning and research. Robert Eads, City Manager, confirmed that staff is in fact doing this work but is not averse to more input. Cm. Cigarroa explained her intention that the Mayor and County Judge would co-chair this task force; it would be an advisory or ad-hoc committee.

Mayor Saenz reminded Council that the City must meet with the County to ensure their willingness to participate; without County involvement, the task force is not viable as Cm. Cigarroa intended.

Tito Palacios commented that the City needs to think of more solutions instead of more committees. Dr. Victor Treviño, health authority, cautioned Council against any duplicate efforts that might cause more confusion for the public or staff. Many of the issues raised in discussion are actually the responsibility of the health authority and City by state statute.

Motion to approve the creation of a task force committee comprised of the City, County, and private sector; stipulating that the task force be chaired by Mayor Saenz and County Judge Tano Tijerina; and to direct staff to meet with Webb County to see if they want to participate and to hire a third party to facilitate the committee and to further direct staff to bring to the second February 2021 Council meeting a structure and purpose for this committee, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to survey street lighting needs of all streets in District 8 not already included in the AEP major corridor lighting project, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to amend downtown parking ticketing practices in order to promote downtown business commerce, and to revert the parking cutoff time back to 6 p.m., to implement a “boot” or towing initiative for overnight parking after 3 a.m., and to create a downtown parking advisory committee, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to postpone until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

I. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to discuss a possible City Wide Closure due to an increase in the spread of COVID-19, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps at the following locations under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps instead of speed cushions which is currently required under the policy, and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District I Priority Funds will be used for this project.

- Speed hump on 2400 Alegria
- Speed hump on 2500 Alegria
- Speed hump on St Luke Between St Margaret and S Ejido

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to add stop signs to create a 4 way stop on St. Luke and St. Margaret, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVI. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6 Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.