

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2021-R-07
LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
April 19, 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.

IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.	District I, Mayor Pro Tempore
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

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of April 6, 2021

Motion to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Citizen comments

None

VI. RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing 18 year old Jennifer Lozano for her recent win as the 2020 USA National Boxing Championship, 119 Division. Her win secured her a spot on Team USA boxing where she will represent the county on an international level. Jennifer is currently ranked as the #1 boxer in the USA in the 119 weight division and has many national titles under her belt. She is an inspiration to many as she pushed through to follow her dreams and encourages others to do the same.

Jennifer Lozano introduced her family and coach, thanking Council for the recognition and noting how important boxing has been in her life and helped her overcome struggles with her weight and childhood bullying. Several members of Council commended her accomplishments and presented her with a certificate of recognition.

2. Recognizing Miguel A. Conchas, for his retirement announcement as President/CEO of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, for his many years of service, contributions and the positive difference Mr. Conchas has made to our community.

Council and staff thanked Miguel A. Conchas for his many years of service and influence in the community; Mayor Saenz presented him with a certificate of recognition. Mr. Conchas thanked Council for the recognition and noted his happiness working and living in Laredo.

VII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

None

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

appropriate expenditure accounts. The grant would enable a more detailed analysis of the entire Zacate/Manadas creeks with all the recent improvements.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately a 2.002-acre tract in Porcion 33, Jose Dionisio Trevino, Abst. 3084, and Porcion 34, Jose Antonio Diaz, Abst. 762, located east of Ejido Ave and Zacatecas Street, from R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area Residential District) to AG (Agricultural District).

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended **approval** of the proposed zone change and staff **supports** the application. ZC-26-2021 **District I**

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP)

6. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to purchase the "Surface Only" of the following three (3) tracts located in the Cuarto Viento South legally described as an 4.64 acre tract of land being out of Abstract 594, Survey 2149, R.H. Rains Original Grantee, Webb County, Texas, and being a portion of a called 490.78 Acre Tract, Tract 5 of Cuatro Vientos South, LTD.; Recorded in Volume 4225, Page 242, Webb County Official Public Records, Webb County, Texas; 28.80-acre tract of land being out of Abstract 546, Porcion 35, Jose M. Diaz and Abstract 594, Survey 2149, R.H. Rains, Original Grantee, Webb County, Texas, and being a portion of a called 490.78 Acre Tract, Tract 5 of Cuatro Vientos South, Ltd., recorded in Volume 4225, Page 242, Webb County Official Public Records, Webb County, Texas and an 8.00 Acre Tract of land being out of Abstract 594, Survey 2149, R.H. Raines, Original Grantee, and Abstract 473, Porcion 36, Laureano Salinas, Original Grantee, Webb County, Texas, and being a portion of a called 490.78 acre tract, Tract 5 of Cuarto Vientos South, Ltd., recorded in Volume 4225, Page 242, Webb County Official Public Records, Webb County, Texas. Funding will be from the Sports Venue and Utilities Fund.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Article V, (Boards, Commissions, Councils, Etc.) of the Code of Ordinance by adding Division 7, Sections 2-250 through 2-253 for purposes of establishing the Laredo Port of Entry Advisory Committee; defining the duties, powers, meeting requirements, and providing for other rules applicable to said committee.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. Introductory Ordinance repealing Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2-10 (city write-off policy) of the Code of Ordinances in its entirety for purposes of establishing a more comprehensive and efficient procedure for the write-off of debts deemed uncollectible and in order to ensure that the city's financial statements do not overstate the city's assets.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FIRST AND FINAL READING

Motion to waive the reading of Ordinance 2021-O-080.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

9. 2021-O-080 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, pursuant to Section 2.11

of the City Charter, amending Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Ordinance by extending the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster through June 7, 2021; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-080.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

XI. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

None

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

BUDGET: STAFF SOURCE GILBERTO SANCHEZ, BUDGET DIRECTOR

10. Consideration to ratify rental related expenditures in the amount of \$87,000.00 for the Same Auto Arena and to allow for future related expenditures for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for City COVID-19 vaccination events. During the last months, the City of Laredo has accumulated rental expenditures which include: rental of site, tables, chairs, forklift, event labor (manpower) and other misc. items for these public vaccination events. Funding is available in General Fund, COVID-Public Health.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

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

11. 2021-R-102 Authorizing the issuance of a resolution suspending the effective date of the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP) rate adjustments proposed by CenterPoint Energy for the maximum amount of time allowed by Texas Utilities Code section 104.301(a) to permit adequate time to review the proposed increases, analyze all necessary information, and take appropriate action related to the proposed increases.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-102.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

12. 2021-R-107 A resolution authorizing the City of Laredo to participate as a member of the Cities Served by AEP in Public Utilities Commission Docket number 51984, relating to AEP Texas' Application to Amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor seeking to increase electric distribution rates by approximately \$54.56 million. This increase would result in approximately a \$2.60 increase to the average residential customer's bill. This resolution would authorize the law firm of Lloyd Gosselink to represent the City in PUC Docket No. 51984 to attempt to deny the rate increase.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-107.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

13. 2021-R-113 Discussion and possible action by resolution of the City of Laredo City Council to call for the recall of the Council Member on the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors and to cast all of the City of Laredo's 934 votes to recall Council Member Vidal Rodriguez, the appointed member on the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors as per Section 6.033 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-113.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

14. 2021-R-114 Discussion and possible action by resolution of the City of Laredo City Council to nominate a candidate for the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors as a result of the recall of the City Council's Member and to cast all of the City of Laredo's 934 votes for the nominee as City Council's new member to the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the remainder of the 2020-2021 term as per Section 6.033 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-114 and nominate Cm. Vanessa

proceeds for costs associated with the purchase of land for the construction of a Sports Complex Venue project.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, clarified that the obligation is *taxable*, not *tax-exempt*.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-117 with the correction.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

18. Consideration to award a two-year supply contract FY21-048 for the purchase of general electrical supplies to the following vendors:

1. 3-G Electrical Supply, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$300,000.00 (Primary Vendor) and;
2. Consolidated Electric Distribution, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$150,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

This contract establishes discount percentage pricing for those electrical supplies most commonly utilized by City departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning as of the date of its execution and subject to future appropriations. The contract may be extended for three, additional one (1) year periods each upon mutual agreement of the parties. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the respective user departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

19. Consideration to award annual parts/service contract FY21-050 to the sole bidder Bone's Custom Cycles, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$50,000.00 for the purchase of motorcycle Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts/services for the City's Police motorcycles. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. The contract may be extended for three, additional one (1) year periods each upon mutual agreement of the parties. All

parts and services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

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

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

The term of the contract shall be for period of one (1) year beginning as of the date its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This contract can be renewed two (2) additional one (1) year extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. There was no price increase during the last extension period. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE RICHARD A. CHAMBERLAIN, HEALTH DIRECTOR

21. 2021-R-103 Ratifying the execution of a contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in the amount of \$117,500.00, for a total amount of \$490,625.00 with no match for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies (HTMB) Program to promote maternal and child health services and women's health for the term period from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-103.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

22. 2021-R-104 Ratifying the execution of a contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the additional amount of \$31,000.00 for a total amount of \$156,000.00 with no match for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Community and Clinical Health Bridge (CCHB) project for diabetes disease self-management and increased health education on chronic diseases for the term period of September 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 and in the amount of \$144,000.00 with no match for the term period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-104.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

23. 2021-R-105 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and execute a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the amount of \$674,790.00 with no match for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Ryan White Program to provide health care, diagnostic and specialty care and medical case management for persons with HIV/AIDS for the term period from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-105.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

24. Authorizing the City Manager to ratify and accept an increase to the agreement with Laredo Operator, Ltd. for the use of Laredo Nursing Rehab, located at 1701 Tournament Trailer Dr. Laredo, Texas 78041, as an all COVID-19 Facility in the amount of \$50,000.00 for a total amount of \$500,000.00. The original term of the agreement was effective until December 31, 2020 and thereafter allowed for month-to-month renewals until February 28, 2021. Funding is available in General Fund from the CARES Act.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

25. Consideration to ratify purchases from Kimball International dba Kimball Office Inc., Jasper, IN. (G & S Office Supply - local rep.), in the amount of \$84,359.18 and to allow for future supplier purchases for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for office furniture and installation for the Health (WIC) Department and various other City Departments; these purchases are co-op contracts utilizing the Omnia Partners National Agreement # 2019.001896 - Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding is available in the Health Department Fund and respective departments' budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

26. Consideration to award contract FY21-020 to LabWare, Inc., from Wilmington, DE. for the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) software license application and maintenance for the City of Laredo Health Department in an amount up to \$500,141.00 for the first year of installation and a subsequent yearly maintenance amount of approximately \$104,236.00 for the term of period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for three additional one (1) year periods. Funding is available in the Health Department Fund and CDBG CARES Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

HUMAN RESOURCES: STAFF SOURCE MELINA BERMUDEZ, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

27. Authorizing the City Manager to exercise the option to renew the first of two (2) one (1) year options of the Management Agreement between First Transit, Inc. and the City of Laredo to provide automobile liability and general liability

coverages for Laredo Transit Management, Inc., its employees and volunteers; with a combined single limit of no less than \$10,000,000.00 per occurrence, with a zero (\$0) dollar deductible. First Transit will name City of Laredo as an additional insured and provide waiver of subrogation endorsements on both automobile liability and general liability insurance policies. Annual premium cost to be \$615,262.00 for renewal year.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

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

28. 2021-R-098 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a donation agreement between the City of Laredo and Krizia L. Keiser Memorial Foundation for an iron angel artwork and surrounding garden improvements located within the Krizia L. Keiser Memorial Garden at the Jovita Idar's El Progreso Park and entering into an adopt-a-spot agreement with the foundation.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-098.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

29. 2021-R-111 A Resolution by the Council of the City of Laredo, adopting the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan as Appendix "E" of the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-111.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

30. 2021-R-115 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into negotiations and execute a joint use agreement between the City of Laredo and the Catholic Diocese of Laredo to allow the City to use the parking lot situated at Divine Mercy Catholic Church for use of public park parking. The

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

33. 2021-R-106 Authorizing the City Manager to renew one (1) cooperative working agreement between the City of Laredo Police Department (LPD) and Serving Children and Adults in Need, Inc. (SCAN, Inc.) Sexual Assault Services and Information (SASI) Program for the purpose of coordinating services for victims of sexual crimes. The Police Department's participation is part of the community service provided to our citizens and our partner law enforcement agencies with no cost to the City of Laredo.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-106.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

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

34. Authorizing the City Manager to execute and approve a professional services contract with NewGen Strategies & Solutions- Richardson, Texas in the amount of \$348,843.00 to conduct a solid waste rate study and master plan. These services will include a rate study, baseline of operations, composting facility, and twenty-year solid waste master plan. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Services Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

TAX: STAFF SOURCE DORA MALDONADO, TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

35. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts adjusted for the month of March 2021 represent a decrease of \$40,932.98 These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
 Second: Cm. Torres
 For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
 MPT Gonzalez was not present.

36. Approve property tax refunds due to overpayments and payable to Art by God Inc. for \$1,554.78, Resolution Finance, LLC for \$1,000.00, and First National Holdings, LLC for \$849.28.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
 Second: Cm. Torres
 For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
 MPT Gonzalez was not present.

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

37. 2021-R-100 Accepting the conveyance of a variable width Sanitary Sewer and Access Easement, out of Lot 3 and Lot 4, Block 1, Springhill LTD Subdivision as recorded in Volume 10, Page 39, Plat Records of Webb county, Texas; for drainage easement, in the City of Laredo, Texas and being more particularly described by Metes and Bounds in exhibit "B" and depicted on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made part hereof. The easement will serve as a sanitary sewer and access easement for the purpose of construction, replacement, repair, and perpetual maintenance of a sanitary sewer line, and the right of free, full and unimpeded access to grantee's equipment; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-100.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
 Second: Cm. Torres
 For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
 MPT Gonzalez was not present.

38. Consideration to award annual heavy equipment rental contracts FY21-047 with the following vendors:

Section I (Rental of Skid Steer)	Amount	Recommendation
RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas	\$ 80,000.00	Primary Vendor
Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas	\$ 40,000.00	Secondary Vendor

Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada	\$ 30,000.00	Secondary Vendor
United Rentals, Laredo, Texas	\$ 20,000.00	Secondary Vendor
Section II (Rental of Mini-Excavator)		
RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas	\$ 50,000.00	Primary Vendor
Texas First Rentals, Laredo, Texas	\$ 40,000.00	Secondary Vendor
Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas	\$ 30,000.00	Secondary Vendor
Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada	\$ 20,000.00	Secondary Vendor
Section III (Rental of Trench Roller)		
Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada	\$100,000.00	Primary Vendor
Texas First Rentals, Laredo, Texas	\$ 40,000.00	Secondary Vendor
H&E Equipment, Baton Rouge, Louisiana	\$ 30,000.00	Secondary Vendor
United Rentals, Laredo, Texas	\$ 20,000.00	Secondary Vendor
Section IV (Rental of Backhoe)		
RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas	\$ 50,000.00	Primary Vendor
Texas First Rentals, Laredo, Texas	\$ 40,000.00	Secondary Vendor
United Rentals, Laredo, Texas	\$ 30,000.00	Secondary Vendor
Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas	\$ 20,000.00	Secondary Vendor

Section VI (Rental of Water Truck)		
Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada	\$140,000.00	Primary Vendor
United Rentals, Laredo, Texas	\$ 30,000.00	Secondary Vendor
H&E Equipment, Baton Rouge, Louisiana	\$ 20,000.00	Secondary Vendor
Section VII (Rental of Excavator)		
Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada	\$ 50,000.00	Primary Vendor
RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas	\$ 40,000.00	Secondary Vendor
Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas	\$ 20,000.00	Secondary Vendor

All equipment rentals 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 for three (3) additional one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.

Cm. Torres noted that different sections are being given to an out-of-state vendor while local vendors are being given the secondary vendor contracts. Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Director, agreed that there is a local vendor preference ordinance that applies if the bids are within 3% of one another. However, the rental rates were much more preferable from the out-of-state vendors. He noted that if any arrangements will cause a delay or hold on the project, staff will utilize the local, secondary vendors.

Arturo Garcia, Utilities Director, confirmed that the local vendors charged more than 3% in their rental rates. Cm. Torres questioned the reliability of these out-of-state vendors if the City has not worked with them previously, to which Mr. Pescador confirmed that this is the first time the City has put out a bid for rentals of this equipment. He confirmed that staff can re-evaluate the qualifications of all vendors and come back to Council.

Motion to table and direct staff to re-evaluate these qualifications and bring a recommendation back to Council.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

39. Consideration to renew annual contract FY20-040 with MG Landscaping, Laredo, Texas in an amount, not to exceed, \$90,000.00 for lawn and landscaping repairs caused by water line break repairs. 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 two (2) additional one (1) year extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. There was no price increase during the last extension period. All services will be secured on an as-needed basis. Funding is available in the Water Works Fund Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

40. 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 accept the Internal Auditor's report.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

41. 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, Laredo Health Authority, noted that while COVID-19 infections continue throughout the country, local spread appears to be stabilized. The community is still observing deaths due to the virus at over 838 to-date. Data

shows that Hispanics have the highest rates of infection, hospitalization, and deaths due to the virus in the country. Vaccinations continue to be administered and encouraged and will utilize specific outreach to combat misinformation and traditional health inequities.

Guillermo Heard, Laredo Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, noted that staff will soon implement a vaccination drive at high schools to vaccinate individuals aged 16 and over. The National Guard will also vaccinate at businesses in coordination with business owners.

Richard Chamberlain, Health Director, explained that the Buena Vida program has been offered to City employees for years to provide laboratory services; it will be amended to also provide vaccinations as well.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the recent jump is because of the demobilization of hospital staff. Cm. Torres voiced his unease at the hospitalization rate being almost 14%, close to the 15% threshold as established by the State of Texas.

No action taken.

42. Status update on the Public Input Survey, and any other matters incident thereto.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, reported that all City social media has advertised the survey; partners from TAMIU and Laredo College have also assisted the City. As of today, over 800 individuals have responded to the survey. She offered that staff can go to any Council events and administer manual surveys to attendees. City employees have been emailed notifying them of the survey's availability.

Cm. Cigarroa suggested that the survey be sent to the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Clubs; Mayor Saenz added that the school districts can be contacted and encouraged Council to promote the survey to their constituents.

No action taken.

43. Status report with possible action on the hiring of an outside attorney for the collection of delinquent property taxes in accordance with sections 33.07 and 33.11 of the Texas Property Tax Code in light of the impending expiration of the city's existing contract with the firm of Flores, Flores, & Canales, P.L.L.C. on September 30, 2021, and any other matters incident thereto.

MPT Gonzalez initiated a motion to award the new contract to Flores, Flores, & Canales, PLLC, for a period of three years; he amended the motion to add a two-year option to extend at the suggestion of Cm. Torres.

Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that this firm has done satisfactory work for the

City with no major deficiencies, though there are some conditions in the contractual relationship that could be improved with this or any firm. Dora Maldonado, Tax Assessor-Collector, noted that the usual tax collection rate of the City is about 98%; delinquency collection is typically much lower at about 28%, which this firm is maintaining.

Motion to award the new contract to Flores, Flores, & Canales, PLLC, for a period of three years with a two-year option to extend, as amended.

Moved: MPT Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres (not present at the time of the vote)

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez and Cm. Torres were not present.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and convene as the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: Against: 0 Abstain: 0

44. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2021 Ford F150 Super Cab in the total amount of \$27,726.00 from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, Texas through the TIPS USA 200206 Transportation Vehicles Purchasing Program's contract pricing. The new vehicle will be replacing Service Vehicle Ford F-150 2004 CNG Fuel Unit #25 which has already reached its useful life. Funding is available in the Transit's Sales Tax Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm .Rodriguez were not present.

45. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for the purchase of one (1) 35 ft. Gillig L/F CNG bus in the amount of \$513,410.00 from Gillig L.L.C. ("Gillig"), located in Livermore, California, utilizing the Commonwealth of Virginia State Contract #194-193. Funding is available through the Transit

Sales Tax Fund.

Mayor Saenz questioned whether such a large bus is necessary since he has never seen more than three or four passengers on a Transit bus.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit/El Metro Manager, confirmed that the CNG bus is smaller than the one that the City traditionally uses and is a hybrid.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm .Rodriguez were not present.

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

Motion to adjourn as the Laredo Mass Transit Board and reconvene as the Laredo City Council.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

46. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Discussion with possible action on directing the Internal Auditor to conduct an investigation regarding the construction, ownership and public use of the "Los Martinez Basketball Court" in District VII, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vanessa Perez)

Mayor Saenz voiced his understanding that the City has expensed over \$70,000 on this basketball court, which is on private land and has caused the landowner to claim that the basketball court is his property. He asked who authorized this work and for staff opinion on any legal consequences. Rene Benavides, City Attorney, noted that staff is working on a lawsuit which has not yet been filed.

Cm. Perez noted that this court is the only greenspace in the area. Residents who utilize the basketball court assume that the space is a public park and want lighting and improvements to be done; however, the court is on private party despite improvements being made to it from the City. She voiced her understanding of a leasing arrangement in which the City paid the owner for use of the land for this

basketball court. There is no contract on file with the landowner nor any apparent trail of how the City entered into this arrangement.

Mr. Benavides confirmed that the City sent a letter to the property owner for possible resolution, but the individual has not responded. If the City continues to not hear from the property owner, they will file a lawsuit. He noted that staff is also preparing for Council's direction to conduct an audit, which may provide more information. He confirmed that this basketball court was constructed in 1992.

Robert Eads, City Manager, explained that his office and the City Secretary's Office performed a thorough search of the minutes and contracts on file; this basketball court appears in Council minutes in Capital Improvement Plan presentations for funding and project updates. However, nothing has been found in terms of Council direction or an agreement between the City and the property owner(s). The City should have never built this court without owning the property or having an agreement on file with the property owner.

Cm. Cigarroa reported that the City has also spent money on a sculpture for Don Tomas Sanchez, but there is not a contract in place for that work, either. The City has spent more than \$500,000 to-date, which is more than what Council approved. Mr. Eads noted that staff has a purchase order on file for that work but not a contract with the artist.

Cm. Torres noted that about \$300,000 of District IV funds were diverted from his district for this statue; that money could have been better put to use for street and sidewalk repairs and infrastructure.

Motion to instruct the Internal Auditor to work alongside the City Manager's Office and the City Attorney's Office to conduct an audit or investigation with regards to the pending Don Tomas Sanchez statue and the Los Martinez Basketball Court to include the exploration of any applicable contract, purchase orders, funding sources, and the status of work with the vendors, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Cigarroa

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

2. Presentation by Laredo Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainability (LCUAS) on the upcoming Laredo Food Policy Council Kickoff Meeting, with possible action. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mercurio Martinez)

Vanessa Flores, LCUAS board member, reported the food policy council's goal to map the local food system and collaborate with City Council to strengthen the system.

Mayor Saenz

Motion to direct staff to assist the Laredo Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainability in planning the kickoff meeting and to direct staff to create a five-year interlocal agreement with LCUAS consistent with the allocation made in 2018 to perform the functions of the Local Government Code.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez, Cm. Rodriguez, and Cm. Torres were not present.

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

1. Discussion with possible action to direct the City Manager to instruct the Transit General Manager to draft a Micro-Transit Pilot Program that provides residents with enhanced mobility, and to further allow connectivity with current fixed route services, and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the micro-transit system, which is a hybrid of public transit and a service like Uber, is the emerging trend of transportation at this time.

Motion to direct staff to draft a micro-transit pilot program to enhance mobility.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez, Cm. Rodriguez, and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

C. Request by Council Member Vanessa J. Perez

1. Discussion with possible action directing management to assess the competitiveness of our economic development model by evaluating how other cities structure and staff their economic development department, and report on any modifications needed to our current model that would enhance our overall competitiveness including, but not limited to, inclusion of key metrics like efficiency, compliance, workforce training, retail, redevelopment, recruitment, etc., and any other matters incident thereto. Ideally, this assessment would be utilized during the 2021 budgeting process.

Cm. Perez noted that while much of Laredo is closed, District VII has traffic coming and going all day long with no amenities for shopping or spending money. She initiated a motion to direct management to assess the competitiveness of Laredo's economic model.

Dr. Marte Martinez cautioned Council from saddling this large research project on

the Economic Development Director at this time given his workload at this time, to which City Manager Robert Eads agreed and added that Mr. Garcia is a victim of his own success and now has many projects in the works. He noted that management can secure the help of other departments on this project but reminded Council that it will require more staff. The City has an economic plan embedded in its Comprehensive Plan. He confirmed that the Economic Development Department's additional staff members will be prioritized at the next budget meeting.

Teclo Garcia, Economic Development Director, noted that in many municipalities the Economic Development Corporation or Foundation is the leader in terms of job recruitment or other economic areas; they operate through partnerships to recruit corporations from around the world to their area.

Cm. Cigarroa suggested that the Economic Development Recovery Committee be revived and included this assessment.

Motion to direct management to assess the competitiveness of the City's economic development model and to include the Economic Development Recovery Committee, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Cigarroa

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez, Cm. Rodriguez, and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

2. Status update, with possible action, on the feasibility study of Wolfcreek Drive to evaluate the signage necessary to prevent industrial traffic from entering and blocking the ingress and egress to the Wolfcreek Subdivision, with consideration for connectivity to Red Cloud Circle, and any other matters incident thereto.

Danny Magee, Traffic Safety Director, confirmed that the City just received TxDOT approval for this signage and will install it in a coordinated location as soon as that location is confirmed.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, noted that some improvements must be completed in terms of drainage, connectivity, and other matters between the two neighborhoods. Robert Eads, City Manager, added that this project has two technicalities that include design and construction that would require contracting out the service. Connecting two neighborhoods by removing the cul-de-sacs may improve traffic in the area, but he noted that many property owners in cul-de-sacs do not want them to be removed and purchased their homes in the expectation that the cul-de-sacs would remain.

Cm. Perez noted her opposition to connecting the two cul-de-sacs due to resident complaints at this time. Residents want signage noting that these streets do not

have an outlet or thoroughfare.

Motion to direct staff to put up signage as soon as possible.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

3. Status update, with possible action, on the Dellwood apartments, and any other matters incident thereto.

Rene Benavides, City Attorney, confirmed that this matter is currently in litigation after an injunction was filed. It is set for hearing on April 28, 2021. The injunction asks that the owners be forced to bring the property into compliance and to recover any applicable fees.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, reported that burglaries and criminal activity are being closely monitored in the area by a dedicated task force. This data will be provided in Council's Friday packet; he noted that he could attempt to provide a cost in man hours.

No action taken.

D. Request by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa

1. Discussion with possible action on amending Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances to add a new Article III to be entitled Vacant Building Registration to establish guidelines and requirements for property owners in an effort to protect residential and commercial neighborhoods from becoming blighted through the lack of maintenance and security of abandoned properties, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to direct staff to draft an ordinance as described based upon best practices and community stakeholder input.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez, Cm. Rodriguez, and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

2. Status update with possible action from the Transportation & Traffic Safety Advisory Committee on the creation of a Downtown Parking Subcommittee and modification to the downtown citation practices that would promote business commerce in the area, and any other matters incident thereto.

Danny Magee, Traffic Safety Director, reported that three members of the Transportation & Traffic Safety Advisory Committee as well as two members of the general public have been identified for this subcommittee. He confirmed that staff is already working on a contract with a vendor for a mobile parking app. The intent on the subcommittee is to research specific subject or tasks and report back to the main committee.

Cm. Perez reminded Council that they already agreed to a subcommittee previously and questioned whether this subcommittee needs to be approved at this time. Parking meter enforcement was extended because people were parking at parking meters overnight which caused businesses to lose customers.

Robert Eads, City Manager, reminded Council that if a committee is not able to make quorum, subcommittees or recommendations can come straight to the City Manager.

Motion to approve the creation of a subcommittee.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez, Cm. Rodriguez, and Cm. Gutierrez were not present.

3. Status Report with possible action on the creation of the City's Arts Master plan, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Maria Soliz, Library Director, reported that the contract for the Arts Master plan was awarded to UP Art Studio in December 2020 and signed March 2021. The group has already presented to the Fine Arts & Culture Commission and completed their initial meeting with City staff. They are expected to present their final recommendations to Council in November 2021. The group intends to gather community and public input in May and June as a part of their work.

No action taken.

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

1. 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 4500 Alvarado Ln

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

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

1. Discussion with possible action to direct City Manager to instruct Traffic department to conduct a traffic study along Bartlett street, beginning with the intersection of Bartlett and Jacaman ending with Bartlett and Saunders, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Gutierrez noted the high volume of citizen inquiries and requests for a study to determine if Bartlett can have two lanes of traffic northbound and southbound.

Danny Magee, Traffic Safety Director, confirmed that a study will be conducted with data-driven recommendations presented to Council.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on hosting an overnight family movie and camping event at the Jovita Idar Park, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez and Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Cm. Gutierrez explained that this event will be called "Family Night Under the Stars" and will let families watch a movie and camp overnight in the park. Robert Eads, City Manager, assured Council that there are no COVID-19 risks that would lead staff to discourage this type of event. He added that there is currently an ordinance prohibiting overnight camping in parks and stated that staff will have to bring an ordinance amendment before Council for adoption before the event on May 1, 2021.

Kristina L. Hale, Assistant City Manager, noted that there is not enough time to amend this ordinance before the event and that the Mayor can sign an executive order that is good for seven days. Cm. Gutierrez clarified that the funding source will be District VII promotional funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

3. Discussion with possible action to direct the City Manager to replace the old playground equipment at Uni-trade Stadium with batting cages, and any other matters incident thereto. Funding available in the Sports Venue Sales Tax.

Cm. Gutierrez explained that the playground equipment is going to be move to another playground in District II.

Juan J. Gomez, Jr., Parks & Recreation Director,

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.