

CITY OF LAREDO
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
A-2021-SC-06
LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
September 13, 2021
5:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Saenz.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Saenz called for a moment of silence.

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
Ana Sophia Garcia	Interim City Attorney

Cm. Dr. Martinez arrived at 5:36 pm.

Cm. Perez arrived at 5:34 pm.

Cm. Cigarroa arrived at 6:10 pm.

V. PUBLIC HEARING AND INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

1. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance for the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.615370 per \$100 value for Tax Year 2021. The tax rate will provide revenue for the general fund and debt service. The rate includes \$0.469421 per \$100 value for Maintenance and Operation and \$0.145949 per \$100 value for Interest and Sinking Fund of the Debt Service and is estimated to generate a tax levy of \$98,893,581. The City Council is scheduled to vote on the tax rate on September 20, 2021, at 5:30 PM at City Council Chambers located at 1110 Houston St., Laredo, Texas.

Mayor Saenz read the agenda item into the record. City Manager Eads gave a brief explained of current condition of the city and how the current and recommended tax rates have and will affect the City of Laredo. Cm. Torres clarified that the tax rate is being decreased and it would be about a \$3 million dollar decrease do to the lower tax rate.

Tax director Dore Maldonado explained the differences in tax rates and based on property values. Cm. Cigarroa stated that looking at other cities tax rates, why didn't management make a bigger effort to lower the tax rate even more, similar to other cities. Management stated that a portion of the sales tax rate goes to the county as an agreement that was made a long time ago. The county receives about 18 million dollars yearly from the city. Budget Director Gilberto Sanchez presented a comparison between sales tax revenues between other cities. Cm. Gutierrez stated that he felt that the by lowering the tax rate as much as management did and be able to continue providing the services that we do was great. He wished that they could lower it more but that it is a start and that they will continue to look at ways to lower it.

It was clarified by several councilmembers that the Webb County Appraisal District controls the valuation of citizen's properties and that they can only control the Tax Rate. Cm. Torres suggested that citizens get involved and ask other taxing authorities to lower their tax rate so that it can add up.

Motion to close and introduce as presented.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Martinez

Cm. Torres

Against: 1

Cm. Cigarroa

Abstain:

Cm. Gutierrez
Cm. Dr. Martinez
Cm. Perez

NP: MPT. Gonzalez

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 5:58 pm.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 7

Against:

Abstain:

NP: MPT. Gonzalez

Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
City Secretary