

**CITY OF LAREDO
RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATION NOTICE CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
February 18, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor will be presenting the following:

1. Recognizing Raine Perez for her hard work, dedication and exceptional athletic ability she was selected as one of only 32 youth athletes from across the nation by the National Football League in the "Next 100" contest.

Dr. Marte Martinez informed the public that Raine was selected out of thousands of applicants as the NFL's Next 100 athletic contests. She ran through the tunnel at the Super Bowl; Dr. Martinez noted that Raine has videos of her athletic prowess online. He congratulated her for her accomplishment.

Raine Perez stated that she attends Trautmann Middle School in sixth grade. Staff played a video compilation of Miss Perez's achievements in football. Mayor Saenz presented her with a certificate of recognition for her accomplishments.

**AMENDED
CITY OF LAREDO CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
M2020-R-03
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
February 18, 2020
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
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Mercurio "Merc" Martinez, III	District III
Alberto Torres, Jr.	District IV, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Norma "Nelly" Vielma	District V
Dr. Marte Martinez	District VI
George J. Altgelt	District VII
Roberto Balli	District VIII,
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Rosario Cabello	Co-Interim City Manager
Robert Eads	Co-Interim City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	City Attorney

Cm. Balli joined at 5:55 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of February 3, 2020

Motion to approve the February 3, 2020 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: MPT Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Balli was not present.

Citizen comments

Juan Avila noted his concern regarding Mayor Saenz's comments on Pro 8 News, noting that during the Mayor's term on Council, the City has paid \$3 million for City Managers; the City is preparing for its fourth City Manager since Mayor Saenz joined Council because these individuals are fired for not being Council's puppet. Department Directors are given strict budgets and operate under strict requirements, but he noted his opinion that Council is able to do whatever they please and fire the City Manager for not following their wishes. He asked when a person has had an honest chance to be the City Manager in Laredo, because the leaders are often run out of town. Mr. Avila stated that Mayor claimed on television that he did not personally want Mr. Eads as the City Manager; he asked why Council has a City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee if the Mayor intends to veto their top-ranked candidate.

Mellie Hereford asked that Council invalidate the entire City Manager selection process due to her opinion that the process was tainted from the beginning, starting with Dr. Marte Martinez's appointee failing to disclose a conflict of interest. She noted that the interview questions were carefully crafted so that only the local applicant knew the answers, questioning the fairness of this process. She reminded Council of Dr. Martinez's conflict of interest, by his own admission, last year which he failed to disclose as required by the Code of Ethics on his financial report. She asked why Council did not address this issue a year ago. Mrs. Hereford noted that now Dr. Martinez has an ethics violation complaint filed against him by three members of Council and high-ranking City officials. She asked that Dr. Martinez forfeit his seat on

Council and that Council forward the minutes of this agenda item and both complaints, along with the Ethics Commission's findings and rulings, to the State Ethics Commission, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State for their opinion of whether state law was violated.

Victor Gomez noted that he was the individual who filed an ethics complaint against Dr. Martinez regarding the River Hills matter, which was found to be frivolous in July 2019. He noted that after his complaint was found frivolous, the City now finds itself with three members of Council and a few high-ranking City officials filing a similar complaint against him, asking if this complaint will be found frivolous as well or if it will be taken seriously because it was not filed by a 'mere citizen.' He stated that Dr. Martinez continued to execute a pattern of bad behavior and misjudgment by appointing Gene Belmares to the City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee, who is a patient of Dr. Martinez's. He reminded Council that strong ethics are expected and demanded of Council by the public.

David Cardwell stated that after the citizens have endured 13 months of the city Manager search process, the public was recently informed by a *Laredo Morning Times* article that the search committee gave Robert Eads its top ranking, according to a source with knowledge of the ranking. He asked why a sample score card was not presented to the public so that they could see how the candidates would be scored among the various categories. He also asked if the completed score cards will be released to the public. Based upon the definition of "qualified," he noted his opinion that all of the candidates were qualified to serve as City Manager, adding that qualifications are only one component to be looked at when selecting the best candidate. He requested Council to consider if the best candidate for this position possesses the following qualities: judgment and decision-making, complex problem solving, critical thinking, management of personnel resources, social perceptiveness, and management of financial resources. Mr. Cardwell reminded Council that the National League of Cities states that Council Members are responsible for and responsive to the citizens that elected them, asking if Council intends to include public input in their decision-making.

VI. RECOGNITION

1. Honoring Veteran of the Month Luis Gerardo Vela as a member of the U.S. Army and recognizing his distinguished service to our country.

Rafael Benavidez, Public Information Officer, stated that Luis Gerardo Vela enlisted in the US Army in 2002 after graduating from Cigarroa High School as an active member of the JROTC program. He served from 2002 to 2007 and currently works for the City of Laredo as a Utilities Maintenance Crew Leader. He played a video presentation featuring Mr. Vela's military career and personal accomplishments. Mr. Vela received a standing ovation.

Mayor Saenz congratulated Mr. Vela for his military service and for his service to the City of Laredo in the Utilities Department. Cm. Rodriguez noted that Mr. Vela is an inspiration to many South Laredoans. Mayor Saenz presented Mr. Vela with a certificate of recognition.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Presentation and report on Driscoll's 6th Annual Back to School Health Fair and recognizing the support of the Honorable Mayor and City Council Members.

Rosemary Santos of Driscoll Health Plan reported that the sixth annual Back to School Health Fair was held on August 3, 2019 at the Sames Auto Arena. The event was a great success thanks in part to Council's support and the use of the new venue; organizers were able to increase attendance to the event by more than double. Constituents came from every Council district with an even distribution between Laredo ISD and United ISD and other schools like Head Start, Laredo College, St. Augustine, and Harmony. Encounters nearly tripled in 2019. Services provided included immunizations, school supplies, sports physicals, dental screenings, backpacks, haircuts, agency tables, hygiene kits, waters, WIC screenings, and adult BMI and blood pressure screenings. She informed Council that Driscoll Health Plan is seeking the arena once again for its 2020 back to school fair.

Cm. Vielma asked staff to place this item on the next Council agenda for approval of the Sames Auto Arena as the Driscoll Back to School Health Fair venue.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of 1 at large citizen to the Board of Directors of the South Texas Development Council.

Motion to approve the nomination of Linda Lucila Villarreal to the Board of Directors of the South Texas Development Council.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

2. Re-appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Henry Sauvignet as Chairman to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number One.

Motion to approve the nomination of Henry Sauvignet as Chairman to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number One.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

3. Appointment by Council Member Roberto Balli of Alex Villarreal, IV to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Alex Villarreal, IV, to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

4. Appointment by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez of Rafael Duenas, Sr. to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Rafael Duenas, Sr., to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

5. Appointment by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez of Juan Carlos Sanchez to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Juan Carlos Sanchez to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

6. Appointment by Council Member Nelly Vielma of Jesus Martinez to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Jesus Martinez to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 813, Eastern Division,

located at 420 North Meadow Ave. from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-15-2020 District III

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. Gonzalez and Cm. Balli were not present.

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximate 7.76 acres in Porcion 21, Abstract 49, located East of I-35 and West of Springfield Ave. from B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to R-1B (Single Family High Density Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-18-2020 **District VI**

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. Gonzalez and Cm. Balli were not present.

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the City of Laredo FY 2020 Airport Operations Fund Budget to accept and appropriate the forfeiture funds in the amount of \$104,664.59 from the Department of Justice Equitable Sharing Program to the Laredo International Airport law enforcement and authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to implement said Budget Amendment. The funds will

be used for law enforcement officer equipment and training.

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. Gonzalez and Cm. Balli were not present.

X. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

4. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute and ratify lease with Mi Segunda Casa Adult Day Care, LLC. for approximately 5,500 square feet of building space located at 1605 E. Hillside at the Laredo International Airport, Block 24, Lot No.1. The initial monthly rent shall be \$5,723.00 and will be adjusted annually according to changes in the consumer price index (CPI). The term shall commence on February 2, 2020 and shall terminate on February 2, 2025, plus three one-year renewal options until February 2, 2026, February 2, 2027 and February 2, 2028; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XI. FIRST AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

5. 2020-O-016 Authorizing the issuance of \$52,000,000.00 City of Laredo, Texas Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, new series 2020 for the purpose of improving and extending the City's combined Waterworks System and Sewer System; making provisions for security thereof; authorizing amendment to the City's Budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; awarding sale of the bonds to the Texas Water Development Board, and ordaining other matters relating to the subject.

Tony Jasso of Estrada-Hinojosa & Co. reported that the City applied for a loan of \$52 million to be annuitized for 50 years. The rates that Estrada-Hinojosa & Co. were able to secure were unlike anything they have previously seen. The borrowing rate is 0.315%, but it is 0.00% for the first 15 years.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, explained that he savings gets compounded into the City's water and wastewater system, which is very important for \$8 million worth of savings to constituents and rate payers because the City was able to secure these rates.

Mr. Jasso noted that, based upon a loan of this size and the City's credit rating, the company figured that the City would be able to secure an interest rate or borrowing cost of 3.265%. The differential of what this would have cost the City on the open

market rather than the Water Development Board is about \$29 million.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-016.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XII. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinance 2020-O-010 and 2020-O-015.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

6. 2020-O-010 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 19 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Article XII (Transit System), Divisions 2 and 5, Sections 19-562(C) and 19-601.12, of the Code of Ordinances to add the Multi-Ride Bus Pass Program, the reduction for elderly and disabled off-peak fare and elimination of transfers; providing this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing for severability; and providing an effective date of February 04, 2020.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-010.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

7. 2020-O-015 Re-adopting guidelines and criteria governing tax abatements by the City of Laredo in accordance with the requirements in Section 312.002 of the Texas Property Tax Code; providing for severability; providing for an effective date of February 19, 2020 through February 18, 2022; and providing for publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-015.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

BRIDGE: STAFF SOURCE YVETTE LIMON, BRIDGE DIRECTOR

- 8. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a Revocable License for Non-Federal use of Real Property (License No. GS-07B-99380) between the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and the City of Laredo to allow the City of Laredo to install improvements accepted by GSA in a fully executed Donation Acceptance Agreement (DAA) between the City of Laredo, Texas and GSA which is to facilitate the initial Phase #0 of Lane #1 FAST Lanes relocation project at the World Trade Bridge Laredo Port of Entry in Laredo, Texas. Executed DAA is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "D".

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

- 9. Consideration to award contract FY19-086 to consultant firm S & B Infrastructure LTD, Laredo, TX for the amount of \$758,236.32 for the City of Laredo International Bridge Master Plan. This master plan scope of services include but are not limited to: current and projected traffic trends, including capacity ratios and wait times, for the four (4) existing and future international bridges of the Laredo Bridge System in order to forecast and prepare the needed infrastructure to efficiently process pedestrian, non-commercial and commercial traffic traveling to and from Mexico and the United States. Funding for this contract is available in the Bridge Construction Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

CITY ATTORNEY: STAFF SOURCE KRISTINA L. HALE, CITY ATTORNEY

- 10. 2020-R-040 A Resolution supporting the designation of an extension of Interstate 27 as a future interstate in Texas.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-040.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TINA MARTINEZ, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

11. 2020-R-041 Declaring the public use and necessity to acquire the surface only a tract of land more accurately described as 9,975 sq. ft., more or less, out of an undivided one-half (1/2) interest in and to the surface estate of the most westerly (10.256) acres of a larger 39.7544 acre tract of land, partitioned to Amanda G. Rash under a Deed dated May 13, 1971 in Volume 406, Pages 573-576 of the Deed Records of Webb County, Texas, and more accurately depicted in the attached Exhibit A-1 and A-2, for the purpose of developing a right turning 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; authorizing staff to negotiate with the owners for the acquisition of said parcel by purchase at its market value established by a State Certified Real Estate Appraiser; and further authorizing the City Attorney to initiate condemnation proceedings to acquire said parcel if staff is unable to acquire due to inability to agree to a purchase price, conflict of ownership, owner refusal to sell, and/or inability to locate a listed owner. Funding available in 2015 CO Bond.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-041.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

12. Consideration for approval of the Skate Park for John Valls Park (at North Central Park) as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$30,180.00 to SPA Skateparks, Austin, Texas, in association with New Line Skateparks, Langley, BC. Final construction amount is \$350,000.00. Funding is available in the 2017 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

FINANCE: STAFF SOURCE JOSE F. CASTILLO, ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR

13. Consideration to award contract FY20-030 to Task Force Security, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$850,000.00 for providing city wide security guard services at various municipal buildings/locations. This vendor is being recommended for a contract award based on a best value evaluation criteria. The

term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years, subject to future appropriations, beginning as of the date of its execution. Contract has option for three renewal extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

14. Consideration to award contract FY20-032 to Toshiba Governmental Copier Lease Program Contract with Toshiba Business Solutions (USA) Inc., San Antonio, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$122,098.56 for a public finance (state and local) government lease - purchase agreement of approximately 135 new copiers to be utilized by different city departments. This contract will be awarded utilizing a best value evaluation criteria based contract that includes: unlimited black & white copies, technical support, equipment, consumable supplies (except paper) and overall equipment maintenance. This lease purchase agreement is through Texas DIR contract and shall be for a 48 month period with an estimated lease contract total of \$488,394.24. This contract is a 48 months (four (4) year) contract and subject to future appropriations, beginning as of the date of its execution. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

15. Consideration to renew contract FY18-025 Safety Footwear for City of Laredo Employees, to the following vendors:

- Mike's Western Wear - Laredo, TX in the estimated annual amount of \$83,000.00
- Gateway Uniforms - Laredo, TX in the estimated annual amount of \$56,000.00

The term of this contract shall be for two (2) years, subject to future appropriations; this contract may be extended two additional one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. This is the first of two extension periods. Funding for this contract is available in the respective City departments' operational budget.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, asked Council to approve the Mike's Western Wear agreement on a month-to-month basis as they will be closing in the near future.

Motion to approve as recommended by staff.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

16. Consideration to renew the six-month (6) supply contract FY18-001 to the low bidder Arguindegui Oil Company, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$80,000.00 for the purchase of lubricants for the Fleet Department. All lubricants will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of six (6) months beginning as of the date of its execution. At the time contract renewal notices were received, there was an average price increase of 4% due to increase in the crude oil market during this extension period; price changes will be 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). This is the fourth of six extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

LIBRARY: STAFF SOURCE MARIA G. SOLIZ, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

17. 2020-R-039 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to enter into an Addendum to the Original Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Laredo and the Housing Authority for the City of Laredo ("LHA") to include all future BiblioTech sites as approved by the City and LHA; giving the City the right to exercise the option to request LHA to develop and provide architectural designs of BiblioTech sites to be located at City facilities at the City's expense, as approved by the City; agreeing that the City will be responsible for its own operational expenses incurred for BiblioTech sites located at City facilities, as approved by the City; and updating notices and contact information for the parties.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-039.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

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

18. Consideration authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to enter into and execute a Professional Collection Services contract between the City of Laredo and Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP for the collection of fines and fees owed to Laredo Municipal Court. Contract is for a one year term, with up to three additional, one year extension periods. Contract effective the date of execution.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

19. 2020-R-012 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the amount of \$75,000.00 to the Office of The Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division (CJD), to fund the 2021 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, LPD Project Safe Streets for the period of October 01, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This funding will provide overtime for the Juvenile and Gang Enforcement (JAGET) Unit 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 2020-R-012.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

20. 2020-R-013 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers 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 General Victim Assistance Program Grant under the 2021 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This grant will fund the Crime Victims Service Coordinator position, travel/training 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 2020-R-013.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

21. 2020-R-014 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$160,000.00 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, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This grant will fund one Investigator position and travel/training 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 2020-R-014.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

22. 2020-R-015 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the amount of \$80,000.00 to the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD), for funding the 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Criminal Justice Program grant for the period of October 01, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This funding will provide overtime for the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) Safe Project Initiative. CID will utilize target enforcement techniques against criminal 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 2020-R-015.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

23. 2020-R-016 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to apply for a grant in the amount of \$1,375,000.00 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) Program. The City of Laredo will utilize this funding to hire eleven (11) new police officers for a period of three (3) years. The 2020 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant provides a maximum federal share of \$125,000.00 per officer position of the approved entry level salaries and fringe benefits of each newly hired and/or rehired full time sworn career law enforcement officer over the three (3) year (36 months) grant period. Funding is available under the Special Police

Fund - COPS Hiring Program.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-016.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

24. 2020-R-017 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers 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 FY2021 First Responder Mental Health Program. The City of Laredo will utilize this funding to obtain a professional service contract for Clinical Advisory for Trauma and Work Related Counseling for a twelve (12) month period. 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 2020-R-017.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

25. 2020-R-018 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers 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 Division (CJD) for the purpose of funding the Rifle Resistant Body Armor Grant Program FY2021. The funds will be used to equip officers at risk of shootings with bullet-resistant personal body armor compliant with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standard for rifle protection. The Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program project period will begin October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This program does not require local match. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-018.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

26. 2020-R-031 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the amount of \$100,540.98 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 for the necessary upgrade of the LPD Bomb Unit Remotec F6A Robot and for the purchase of a portable x-ray machine which will allow bomb technicians the ability to obtain real-time imaging in a variety of applications. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-031.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

27. 2020-R-032 Authorizing Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the amount of \$80,200.00 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 two (2) complete Med Eng EOD 10 bomb suits for the Laredo Police Department (LPD) Bomb Squad Unit. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-032.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

28. 2020-R-033 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the amount of \$1,427,433.00 to the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2019 Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG). This funding will be used for the purchase of two patrol units and for overtime and fringe benefit expenses used for Stonegarden Operations. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-033.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

29. 2020-R-034 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers 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 2021 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 2020-R-034.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

30. 2020-R-037 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$32,000.00 to the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Department (CJD) for funding the 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) LPD Traffic Information Technology Project for the period of October 01, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This funding will be utilized to equip eight (8) members of the LPD Traffic Unit with Panasonic Toughpads to improve efficiency and effectiveness during critical situations. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-037.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

31. Consideration to award a software maintenance contract to the sole source provider, Superior, LLC, a Central Square Company, in the amount of \$353,951.69. This maintenance contract provides customer support and service for the OSSI computer software system utilized by the Police and Fire Department. The term of the contract is for twelve (12) months ending of December 31, 2020. Funding is available in the Police and Fire Departments annual budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

32. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute all pertinent documentation for the donation of one (1) 2010 Ford Crown Victoria to the Laredo Independent School District (LISD). The vehicle because of use and time and incompatibility has no value for the purpose for which it was originally intended and has fully

depreciated. This vehicle will be used for educational purposes by the donee to the extent usable. The City of Laredo Police Department donates the vehicle as is and does not assume any liability associated with its use after it has been transferred. This vehicle was purchased with the 2009 Public Property Finance Contractual Obligation (PPFCO) Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

TAX: STAFF SOURCE DORA MALDONADO, TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

33. Approving a refund for property taxes in the amount of \$666.90 payable to Graciela Zebadua-Ruiz due to an erroneous payment.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

34. Authorization to waive penalties and interest in the amount of \$99.76 on tax account #661-01888-080 in accordance with Section 33.011(a) of the Property Tax Code. An act or omission of the Webb County Appraisal District resulted in the taxpayer's failure to pay the tax before delinquency. Property owner Esmeralda Zuniga is requesting for the waiver.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

35. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts adjusted for the month of January 2020 represent a decrease of \$132,549.48. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE RIAZUL MIA, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

36. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to award to the lowest bidder JS Haren Company in the amount \$1,867,000.00 for the El Pico WTP Reliability Improvements Project. The project engineer Carollo Engineers submitted a letter of recommendation recommending the lowest bidder after the bid proposal was reviewed for completeness and correctness. Two bids for construction were submitted on January 10, 2020 to the City Secretary's Office which are as follows: JS Haren Company and Leyendecker Construction of Texas. Funding is available in the Utilities Department 2016 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

37. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to approve Amendment No. 10 to CDM Smith, in the amount of \$310,500.00 for the professional services for conceptual design to incorporate the production of Type I reclaimed water in South Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant (SLWWTP) expansion project and bidding and construction services for the purchase and installation of two new belt filter presses. The revised contract amount is \$8,332,610.00. Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

38. Consideration to award contract FY20-026 to ABBA Construction, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$107,174.00 for the purchase and installation of contact basins mud valves at the South Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Utilities Department. The estimated time for completion of this project is sixty working days. Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Budget Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

39. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute Amendment #1 to Garver USA for professional services in the amount of \$367,807.00. This scope of work

will provide regulatory coordination with TCEQ, design, bid plans, specifications, and construction phase services for increasing dosage and adding post chloramine disinfection to the Sierra Vista and Milmo Booster Pump Stations. Post-disinfection improvements were recommended by TCEQ and further highlighted in the Bickerstaff Report presented by Joshua Katz. Funding is available in the 2016 Water Revenue Bond. Total Professional Services Contract amount is \$473,250.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

40. Consideration for approval of the selection of engineering consultant AARC Consultant Inc., based on Request For Qualifications (RFQ) received and authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to negotiate a contract for Risk and Resilience Assessment (AWIA) and Emergency Response Plan (WRP) to comply with Section 2013 of Senate Bill 3021, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S.3021). The plan needs to be certified by September 30, 2020 to be in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIV. STAFF REPORTS

41. 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 the Auditor's report.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

42. Discussion with possible action on the status of the current Annexation Cycle Schedule.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that the annexation

schedule was set up before the legislative trip to Washington, D.C., was arranged, requiring a second meeting in March, 2020. Since there will be no second March meeting, he requested direction from staff or Council. He offered three options for keeping to the annexation schedule. The first option is to combine the first and second public hearings on the same day, which would complete the annexation schedule without prolonging the process. He noted that this was done last year, but it was not the preference and Council advised staff to avoid repeating this process. Alternatively, he noted that Council could have a special meeting on March 16, though it is not staff's recommendation. The third option includes extending the schedule by several weeks, which is also not recommended and still requires a special meeting. He recommended combining the first and second public hearings on the same day in the same Council meeting, which is allowed by state law.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, clarified that this is being brought before Council because staff had clear instructions last year not to hold both public hearings on the same day. He noted that staff wants to follow the wishes of Council, which is why this item is being brought before Council. With the legislative trip planned, staff does not want to hinder the development.

Mr. Snideman noted that he would like to have a more in-depth discussion with Council on the issue of annexation and staff initiative at a later date. Cm. Mercurio Martinez asked staff to consider annexation fees and impact fees when this issue is brought back to Council. He voiced his understanding that the City charges both of these fees, but most other cities only assess an impact fee. Mr. Snideman clarified that the City only assesses an annexation fee; the impact fee has not been adopted and therefore is not charged.

Cm. Martinez noted that annexation fees have increased greatly, and those fees are often exponentially charged to the end user. Dr. Marte Martinez clarified that the City is undergoing a water and wastewater master plan, which includes an impact fee and water utilization fee analysis.

Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, agreed that the consultant is going to analyze impact fees. Staff plans to determine the real cost to annexing land because that real costs is not currently known.

Motion to approve staff recommendation of holding the first and second public hearings on the same day at the same Council

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

43. Status update provided on the City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee interview process; and any other matters incident thereto.

MPT Torres suggested that Council hear from the committee and then take this matter into executive session; he initiated a motion to this effect. Mayor Saenz agreed and thanked the Committee for their hard work during this endeavor.

Gerry Schwebel, City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee Chair, explained that this process began in April 2019 in the search for a recruiter to assist the City in finding viable candidates. By September 2019, the Committee brought six candidates to Council ready to begin the interview process. Council opted to accept applications until the end of the year. From September to December, the City lost three of the original six candidates, and an additional two or three were added to the qualified applicant pool. Of that second group, the City lost two candidates with four viable candidates remaining, all of whom met the minimum qualifications. The Committee met almost monthly throughout this process in meetings that were open to the public and recorded for public review. The process was meant to be fully transparent. He reported that the Committee selected 16 topics ranging from ethics to budgeting from which to build their interview questions. All four candidates were interviewed on Saturday, February 15, 2020, and all Committee members participated and were able to ask questions of each candidate. Following interviews and scoring, he presented the Committee's recommendation of the candidates as follows:

Robert Eads
Samuel Keith Selman
Jose R. Madrigal
Corby D. Alexander

Mr. Schwebel thanked Council for the opportunity to be a part of the selection process and noted that, for all intents and purposes, the Committee's work is done. He reported that he will ask one more thing of the Committee, which is to submit to him any recommendations or ideas that they have which may help improve the selection process to be provided to the City to help in the overall process of selecting a City Manager. He thanked staff who assisted the Committee and noted that serving with the Committee Members had been a privilege. Mr. Schwebel reminded Council that the meetings were widely available to the public, and citizens were welcome to come share their opinions with the Committee; some did while most did not. He iterated his belief that the Committee completed its work

Ana Benavides Galo, Committee Member, thanked Council for placing their confidence in the Committee to perform this work. The process could be improved, but she noted that Council selected very strong-minded, independent thinkers to serve on the Committee. The Committee Members did not always agree, but it was a democratic process in which everyone was given ample opportunity to share their thoughts. She commended Mr. Schwebel for his excellent work as Chair.

Rafael Dueñas, Sr., Committee Member, reiterated that the Committee attempted to be as transparent as possible and commended the Committee members for striving to execute an efficient and fair process. The Committee looked only at the qualifications of the applicants at the onset of the process.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, thanked the Committee for their hard work, noting that they were very transparent and open throughout the process. That being said, she reported that the City received notification today

from Jose Madrigal noting his withdrawal from consideration. His reason was that, after careful consideration of the news article released on the processed, he lacked confidence in the confidentiality and openness of the process.

MPT Torres asked the Committee how they developed their interview questions in light of comments that the questions were tailored to favor a particular candidate. Mr. Schwebel stated that the Committee was asked to develop questions based on the 16 topics that would be asked of every candidate. He noted his opinion that no question was tailored for any specific candidate, but the responses of the candidates were very distinguishable among the candidates. It became clear that some candidates were not aware of the City's issues because they had not "done their homework."

MPT Torres asked management if Mr. Eads submitted his application after the Council action to set the deadline for December 31, 2019. Mrs. Cabello clarified that Mr. Eads applied for the position prior to Council's deadline extension.

Mr. Schwebel clarified that prior to Council setting the deadline for applications at December 31, 2019, there was no deadline to close the posting. The process was continual until Council decided to set the deadline. He recalled warning Council that the Committee runs the risk of losing candidates if they were not interviewed soon, and the City ultimately lost three candidates. He noted that the Committee did go into executive session at some time, but no action was taken during executive session. There was ample discussion and healthy discourse among the Committee Members. He reiterated his opinion that this process was fair to all candidates; it was not a perfect process but was as fair and open as possible. Because the process was not perfectly executed, he noted that the Committee wishes to submit recommendations to the City.

Mrs. Galo stated that there were no questions specific to any particular issue in Laredo, such as Mines Road. The questions were on broad topics, such as transportation, bridges, ethics, legislative issues, personnel, budget collective bargaining, sustainability, environmental, education, health, and community relations. While local applicants may have more insight to Laredo's unique issues, the questions were broad and brought to light if an applicant had no experience with transportation or bridge systems.

Mr. Dueñas agreed that the questions were tailored to 16 general topics, but it was clear during the interview which candidates were knowledgeable about Laredo's issues or priorities. While the Committee did not ask specific questions, some candidates were able to distinguish themselves from the others based upon their answers. Some could answer to the important points of traffic and transportation. Some candidates did not listen to the entire questions being asked and instead began answering without waiting for the question to be completed. These candidates ended up not answering the actual question being asked, and this was noted by the Committee Members.

Mrs. Galo noted that she did not share her questions with anyone else on the Committee until the day of the interview when she asked them. She also did not ask any of her colleagues what questions they were going to ask. Mr. Schwebel gave the Committee a copy of his questions the morning of the

interviews. She noted that the Committee was careful not to speak to each other outside of a meeting. If there was time left over with any candidate, the Committee could ask questions specific to that candidate's resume.

Mr. Schwebel reminded Council that all candidates were worthy of consideration. The professional recruiter/search firm is one area that might merit further review. He noted that the search firm who assisted the City was very good, but the small number of firms who responded to the City's RFPs was disappointing. He also stated his opinion that the qualifications of a City Manager as per the City Charter has room for revision. Coordinating the schedules of nine Committee Members and four candidates was challenging.

Mr. Balli thanked the Committee for their dedication, noting Council's gratitude. Cm. Gonzalez agreed, adding that Council had a lot of faith in their appointees in letting the democratic process take place.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez stated that he was impressed with the Committee's work and added that he never contacted his appointee to see how the search was going in an effort to prevent the appearance of influence on the Committee. He recalled that several of his fellow Council Members also stayed out of the Committee's discussions or deliberations. However, he watched recordings of the Committee meetings that were posted online.

Mr. Schwebel reiterated that the qualifications in the City Charter prevented many applicants from further consideration. He suggested that revisiting the City Charter may be one of the recommendations that the Committee brings back to the City.

Cm. Altgelt recalled that Mr. Schwebel recounted a conversation with Mr. Perales when he withdrew himself from consideration after learning of an internal candidate, stating his personal opinion that it is inappropriate and that stronger consideration be given to an internal candidate. Mr. Schwebel had stated that he tried to convince Mr. Perales to reconsider but was firm in his position out of respect for Council and the City. Mr. Schwebel confirmed that originally, Mr. Eads was not in the first pool of applicants given to the Committee but was soon added to the pool. Mrs. Cabello clarified that he was added prior to the addition of other applicants. He submitted his application a couple of days prior to Council's decision to establish the December 31, 2019, deadline.

Cm. Altgelt if Mr. Schwebel believed that Council's imposition of a deadline helped to curtail the number of applications that the City could have seen. Mr. Schwebel noted that there were good, viable candidates in the first batch of applicants, but the City lost them because they were not interviewed in time and accepted other positions. The Committee utilized the applicants' resume and questionnaire prior to the interviews. A score card was also prepared by each individual Committee Member with their evaluations of the candidates.

Mrs. Galo explained that a member of the public addressed the Committee at its January 2020 meeting with a concern that a Committee Member had a conflict of interest. The Committee heard his comments but did not discuss the issue; this was the last Committee meeting before interviews began.

Mr. Dueñas voiced his opinion that the comments made by the citizen did not seem, relevant to the interviews or to the evaluation of the candidates; multiple Committee Members also felt this way, though the Committee Members did not discuss the matter among themselves. The Committee respects the consultation of the City Attorney's Office and did not pursue the matter. He asked that if he were to commit an ethics violation, would it be the duty of the City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the matter? He voiced his doubt that the Committee is the right party to perform that investigation.

Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath informed Council that he addressed the Committee with his concerns of a conflict of interest on the board. Dr. Marte Martinez's appointee, Gene Belmares, whose company does business with the City. Mr. Vish noted that individuals who have a financial interest in City business cannot serve on committees. Mr. Schwebel clarified that when this issue was raised, he consulted with the City Attorney.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, informed Council that Mr. Vish did not give an allegation against any specific Committee Member; he made claims about several members without naming any of them. Therefore, there was nothing to be resolved. Mr. Vish agreed that he did not specify Mr. Belmares but that Mr. Belmares responded to his statements that he had no conflict of interest.

Cm. Altgelt asked what contract Mr. Belmares has with the City; no one on staff could confirm. Mrs. Hale clarified that even if Mr. Belmares has a conflict of interest, which she could not confirm or deny, it would not invalidate his vote on the City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee because any contract he has with the City is not related to the Committee's business. Cm. Altgelt thanked the Committee for the time that they dedicated to this task.

Mr. Schwebel assured Council that any question or concern that came up within the Committee or regarding any Committee Member was brought to the City Attorney's Office for consultation. Mr. Dueñas reiterated that Mr. Vish did not specify any particular Committee Member.

Cm. Vielma asked how the score card was compiled and the timeline for its compilation. Mr. Schwebel explained that the score card was the result of lengthy and robust discussion from the Committee; the final score card contained 16 agreed-upon topics and used to determine whether the candidate's responses were adequate to answer the interview questions asked of them. The Committee Members scored each candidate individually and agreed not to complete the score card until the end of the process. Completing all of the interviews took about 10 hours, and Mr. Schwebel noted that it was important to have some brief discussion after the interviews among the Committee Members.

Mrs. Galo informed Council that the 16 topics or categories were given to all candidates early on by the Committee, who did not have any intention to surprise or trick any candidate. The candidates had ample time to submit resumes based upon the 16 topics and to answer the questionnaire knowing what topics were of high interest to the Committee. They were also given ample time to do research on Laredo or prepare their discussion with those

topics in mind.

Cm. Vielma asked if there was a process in place if any information was missing from a resume or clarification was needed and if the same process was afforded to all applicants. Mrs. Cabello explained that one candidate had a typo on a date of service that took place over 20 years ago. When Mr. Schwebel brought this to her attention, Mrs. Cabello handed the matter over to Human Resources, who contacted the consultant. The consultant reached out to the candidate, who corrected the date. This was the only revision that was made; she confirmed that she would have followed this same process with any other candidate had the issue arisen. She confirmed that Mr. Eads's military service portion of his resume had a discrepancy or a typo. The only revision made was the clarification of the years. The consultant was only evaluating experience and education and therefore did not notice the discrepancy.

Mr. Schwebel noted that the question of whether to allow clarifications or not could be considered by the City in the future. Mrs. Galo added the consultant also made a mistake regarding the location of municipal experience on one of the other candidate's credentials. Mrs. Cabello agreed that the consultant corrected that mistake; City staff only made one point of clarification in the process regarding Mr. Eads's military service.

Mr. Dueñas assured Council that the Committee submits its recommendation of candidates without emotion or investment, trusting that Council will make the final decision.

Cm. Vielma recalled a newspaper article where a member of the Committee was quoted as saying that the applicants under consideration were "weak." She asked for the Committee's opinion on improvements to the process regarding Committee comments to the media, which may deter others from applying. Mr. Schwebel countered that the headline of the article was misleading; the article itself clarified that other members of the Committee respectfully disagreed with the member who made that comment to the media. He clarified that when that comment was made, the Committee had not yet received the applicants' questionnaire, so the member had not been privy to their resumes and questionnaire responses.

Mrs. Galo clarified that some of the Committee members felt that there were not *enough* candidates, not candidates of poor quality. The Committee expected to receive more than 30 applications, but the qualifications in the City Charter may have led to fewer "qualified" applicants. The Committee also quickly learned that the Chairman would speak to the media rather than individual members so that the Committee had a unified voice to avoid a similar sensational headline.

MPT Torres countered claims that the City did not recruit applicants by confirming that recruitment was heavily pursued. Of 18 applicants that came in, 11 were qualified; from those 11, the committee narrowed the list down to six applicants for interviews. Mr. Schwebel continued that of the six chosen for interviews, one accepted another position, and one candidate withdrew himself from the interview and further consideration. Therefore, the Committee interviewed four final candidates.

Mrs. Hale confirmed that the City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee is not the proper committee or commission to investigate conflict of interest complaints. MPT Balli noted that even if there had been a specification of any ethical or conflict of interest violation, the Committee could not have done anything within their power. Mrs. Hale added that the citizen did not even make complaints about one Committee Member but reference “one or more” members. Previously, having any type of contract with the City prohibited someone from serving as a board member. However, that prohibition was amended so that the prohibition applies if the individual has control over that particular contract. There is a specific definition which stipulates what is prohibited.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if any comments made by Council hindered the Committee’s process. Mr. Schwebel noted that he did not feel hindered by any Council comments or suggestions. He noted that while some members were contacted by their Council Members, he opted not to discuss these matters with any Council Member. If any Council Member wanted to provide any feedback about any candidate, he would consider it as a character or work reference, not an opinion. To Cm. Rodriguez’s question about whether some Council Members’ opinion that local candidates do not or should not qualify hindered the number of local applications, Mr. Schwebel could not speculate. He noted that meeting the minimum qualifications was the criteria considered by the Committee.

David Cardwell expressed his gratitude to the City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee for their hard work and time away from their businesses and families. He voiced his opinion that the City is at a crossroads as to the direction it will take on this matter; in the past 13 months that the Committee has dedicated to this endeavor has probably cost the City one or more “rock star” candidates. He stated his opinion, after reading many online comments, that the citizens of Laredo may not be in agreement as to the Committee’s ranking of the City Manager candidates. He suggested that Council stop the process and start over with the following guidelines to be considered:

1. The interview and selection committee to be City Council
2. The recruiting process and administrative work to be done by the City’s Human Resources Department
3. Process timeline to run from three months to a maximum of six months, which is a typical process time that other progressive cities follow
4. During this process, hire an external Interim City Manager and give the two internal Co-Interim City Managers the title of Interim Co-Deputy City Managers and lower their pay accordingly (Mr. Cardwell reminded Council that hiring an external Interim City Manager has been done by many cities and is not a new practice.)
5. Conduct town hall forums in the community to solicit public opinion about what citizens want in their new City Manager.
6. After a short list of solid candidates is determined, immediately prior to conducting the interview process, conduct a meet-and-greet event so that the public can meet the candidates.

Mr. Cardwell noted that stopping the process and starting over allows the City

to receive public input for the best qualified person to lead the City of Laredo, benefitting all citizens.

Mellie Hereford thanked the ad hoc committee for their work and noted her opinion that Mr. Eads has the home turf advantage. She cited a *Laredo Morning Times* article in which Mr. Eads was quoted as saying that Dr. Marte Martinez was not his doctor but a specialist who he has seen before and that this relationship does not taint the selection process or constitute a conflict of interest. She noted that a doctor and patient relationship is a special and personal relationship and that Mr. Eads and Dr. Martinez's relationship constitutes a major conflict of interest. She added that when Council was discussing the selection of either Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and Aetna as the City's insurance provider, Dr. Martinez failed to disclose that he is the only pain management physician that is an in-network provider. Mrs. Hereford asked where Mr. Eads was when Dr. Martinez voted on this matter knowing that he had a direct conflict of interest. The Ethics Code clearly states that a City official or employee should not take any action that he or she knows is likely to affect the economic interest of the official or employee. She voiced her opinion that Mr. Eads will not be able to reestablish public trust which is of utmost importance in the community. She asked that Mr. Eads be placed back into his previously-held position and that his application be withdrawn. She also asked that Mr. Perales, who was the top choice in the community's polls, be contacted and interviewed.

Cm. Altgelt asked Dr. Martinez if he intended to recuse himself from this discussion. MPT Torres countered that the motion was to hear public comments and then go into executive session rather than having Council engage one another in open session.

Armando Cisneros voiced his displeasure at Council "beating around the bush" and lacking integrity, as Mr. Eads likely already has enough Council votes to be selected as the new City Manager. He criticized MPT Torres for publically praising Mr. Eads, which gave the appearance of partiality so early in the recruitment process. He encouraged Council to invalidate Mr. Belmares's Committee score because Council is the deciding body for the new City Manager.

Juan Avila also thanked the ad hoc committee for their attempts to do the right thing. He asked why Council is trying to mar Mr. Eads's character when he was ranked as the Committee's top candidate. He voiced his opinion that the citizens speaking out against Mr. Eads have a personal vendetta because they are still upset that Dr. Martinez beat their candidate in the District VI election. If Council does not make a decision, then they are telling the Committee Members that their hours were worthless.

Victor Gomez clarified that the reason citizens want to exclude the local applicant is fundamental; Laredo has a history of corruption, and Mr. Eads's top ranking does not pass the optic or the smell test. He also asked Council why there would have to be an extension of the deadline if there was no deadline to begin with. MPT Torres clarified that Mrs. Galo already answered that question during her comments to Council; the deadline was set for December 31, 2019 to give the Committee structure and direction.

Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director, confirmed that there was not a deadline to this job posting until Council implemented the December deadline. Mr. Eads had already applied for the position at that time. Slavin emailed Mr. Eads's application to Human Resources on October 18, 2019. Staff does not have the date that he actually submitted to Slavin.

Mr. Gomez countered that the online job posting had a deadline of September 2, 2019. Dr. Martinez voiced his understanding that there was not a deadline. Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, recalled that the deadline was implemented because Mr. Schwebel felt there were already enough applicants to begin interviews. Council decided to allow for more applications until the end of December and to conduct interviews starting in January.

Mr. Gomez reiterated that the process took too long, and the City lost good applicants along the way. He voiced his opinion that this process was carried in such a way to accommodate Mr. Eads.

Mrs. Galo clarified that the Committee did not receive applications directly; they were submitted to Slavin. When Mr. Schwebel addressed Council for guidance, Mr. Slavin already had Mr. Eads's application. There had been a news story prior to this that claimed to list the candidates, and Mr. Eads was not listed there. She reminded Council that they received information in their Friday packets before the Committee Members were informed, as well. Mrs. Cabello added that the day of the Council meeting in which the deadline was established, she had informed Council that there was one new applicant.

Mr. Schwebel agreed with Mrs. Galo's explanation, stating that the process was still open when the Committee addressed Council. The question appears to have been when to stop advertising the position, but the actual question that the Committee posed to Council was whether they wanted to be a part of the interview process or to allow the Committee to conduct the interviews themselves; he had no intentions of stopping the advertisement of the position.

Motion to hear from the City Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee and public comments and then discuss this matter in executive session specific to Sections 551.071 and 551.074, as amended.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

Motion to keep the Co-Interim City Manager arrangement as it is currently and return on March 4, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. to interview the top two candidates and make a decision, if any, at that time.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. Discussion with possible action to consider the adoption of the 2020 Federal Legislative Agenda for the 116th U.S. Congressional Legislative Session.

Luis Arriaga noted that the agenda includes negotiation discussions for the virtual wall and bulkhead. While he is not opposed to a virtual wall, he voiced his concern with entering into negotiations with the federal government as it has not ended well for many cities along the border. He reminded Council that an estimated 1 million acres of land have been taken along the southern borders; yesterday, the federal government waived all federal laws along the border for hiring federal contractors. An issue is that the border wall could change the river's course, which could possibly make the City of Laredo complicit with the environmental damage being done across the state. The federal government is also desecrating a Native American sacred site in Arizona after finding remains of Native Americans and not consulting the tribes in the area. He asked why Council is willing to enter into negotiations with the federal government on a virtual wall when they only want to construct a bulkhead or wall. The wall will split Laredo College in half and land halfway through the Sacred Heart orphanage. He cautioned Council that no good will come from negotiations with the federal government. The company providing steel for the border wall in Arizona has ties to a President Trump-associated political action committee. He voiced his opinion that this item should not be on the legislative agenda.

Melissa Cigarroa, Rio Grande International Study Center Board President, noted that Mexico did not support the weir dam project listed on the legislative agenda after Dannenbaum Engineering did a federally funded study several years ago. The loss of water would be significant due to trans-evaporation that the City of Laredo would be responsible for via its water rights. Trans-evaporation is the loss of water which one of the 10 most endangered rivers in the world cannot support. She asked Council to consider that the quality of water will be impacted on this project. The impacts to the federal endangered species will be immeasurable due to the impounded water. Taxpayers will foot this bill for new "lakefront" property for private landowners. Ms. Cigarroa stated that the discussion of the virtual wall and the bulkhead is of particular concern and asked that Council restore constitutional protections that are afforded to every other US citizen who does not live on the southern border. Even the regulations for the procurement process of the border wall have been waived, which amounts to corruption. She cited numerous laws and acts that have been waived for the construction of this border wall that are of particular concern to the health, safety, and well-being of Laredo's community.

Cm. Altgelt reminded Council that the weir dam is a recurring issue that was conceived by Dannenbaum Engineering several years ago. It was shown to be a complete flop and has no business on the City's legislative agenda. He voiced his opinion that it is a distraction from other real and important business for the City. Damming the flow of water will stagnate it and reduce water quality for citizens. He initiated a motion to remove the river weir issue from the legislative agenda.

Dr. Marte Martinez agreed, noting that the issue has been around for 10 years and has never gone through. Cm. Mercurio Martinez asked if the City is even prepared to present any information on a river weir. If not, it should not be on

the agenda.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, explained that this is why staff brings the legislative agenda to Council as the body that sets it. Staff uses past history to provide agenda proposals or ideas to Council. If Council does not want to move forward with the river weir project, then staff will remove it. The same can be said of the virtual wall and bulkhead discussion, which is an elephant in the room. There are many other projects and issues that can be pursued, such as a transportation bill, environmental issues, and quality of life projects. Staff is committed to making good use of Council and the public's time when in Washington,

Motion to remove the river weir from the legislative agenda.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Mr. Eads reported that staff will have some major policy issues planned for Washington in which Council will try to convince policymakers to put the proposals into effect. The City will meet with specific agencies for target-specific policies.

Cm. Martinez recalled that some meetings last year were crowded or had attendees with nothing to contribute. He voiced his understanding that the City will limit the number of attendees in some meetings to make them more efficient and productive. He reminded staff that some members of the public should be going to certain meetings as experts in their field.

Mr. Eads reminded Council that this trip is not the only time that Washington is open for business. He suggested that everyone make an effective presentation and put the right people in the right meetings. Cm. Martinez suggested that, during the planning stage, staff identify and name the parties who need to be present at these meetings.

Cm. Vielma noted that last year's situation may have been the result of late planning. She asked for a report by the end of the week regarding who is supposed to attend what meetings so that the attendees can appropriately prepare. She reminded staff that if members of the private sector are spending their money to attend this legislative trip, then council does not want to curtail their opportunity to speak at the meetings.

Mr. Eads confirmed that staff is already coordinating the scheduling and will forward the dates, times, and spaces available as soon as they are ready. MPT Torres suggested that the few Council Members going, which will not constitute a quorum, meet ahead of time to accomplish Mr. Eads's and Cm. Vielma's intentions.

Tecló Garcia, Economic Development Director, reminded Council and the public that the public is welcome to schedule meetings in Washington, D.C. at

any time of the year, not just during the March legislative trip. In fact, it would behoove the private sector to schedule their own meetings so that there is not a mixed message between the private sector and the City. He noted that Congressman Henry Cuellar and the area's representatives are available to help schedule meetings.

Motion to approve the legislative agenda as presented.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

45. Presentation by Olivia Varela, Executive Director on the Laredo Economic Development Corporation Bi-Annual Quarterly Report.

Motion to table for the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

46. Discussion with possible action on the Detox Facility/Wet Outdoor Homeless Campus; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Balli recalled that Council took action to try to home this facility with the old Webb County juvenile detention center, voicing his understanding that it could be done without compromising the current application being submitted by the County.

Motion to remove the wet facility out of this project for now and consider it at a later time or other locations.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

47. Discussion with possible action for Council to consider the removal of District II appointee Martha Victoria Valdez from the Municipal Civil Service Commission due to excessive absences.

Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director, requested the removal of Martha Victoria Valdez from the Municipal Civil Service Commission as she has only attended two of eight meetings.

Motion to approve the removal of Martha Victoria Valdez from the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

48. Presentation on the State of the Court by Municipal Court Judge Jesus "Chuy" Dominguez.

Motion to table for the next Council meeting.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session to discuss Item XV. 49 and 50.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Altgelt , and Cm. Balli were not present.

49. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 551.071(1)(A) to consult with attorney on pending litigation involving Case No. 2018CVF001299-D2; City of Laredo, Texas vs. Western Summit Constructors, Inc., McAllen Constructions, Inc., Western Summit Constructors, Inc./McAllen Construction, Inc., A Joint Venture, Dannenbaum Engineering Company,- McAllen, LLC, Dannenbaum Engineering Company- Laredo, LLC, Patterson Pump Company; pending in the 111th District Court, Webb County, Texas; and return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

Motion to accept the mediator's proposal of \$5 million for a partial settlement to grant authority to the Co-Interim City Managers to execute all necessary City documents of the proposed partial settlement.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

50. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071(1)(A) to consult with attorney on potential litigation involving City of Laredo and Texas Migrant Council(TMC) concerning the Lease Agreement

entered into by the City and TMC on August 3, 2015; and return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

Motion to direct staff to proceed accordingly in the best interests of the City of Laredo.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

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

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

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

51. 2020-RT-02 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application, under the Section 5307 Urbanized Area grant program authorized under the new Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, in the amount of \$3,528,686.00 to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operating grant for Fiscal Year 2020. Funding will be used for Operating Assistance and Preventative Maintenance to the El Metro's Bus Operations. The required local match for this grant will be funded with the Transit's Local Sales Tax.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-RT-02.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

52. 2020-RT-03 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to accept and execute the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, Grant Application No. TX-2020-027-00 in the amount of \$403,074.00. Funding will be used for the purchase of 2 replacement vans and equipment hardware for the Laredo Transit El Lift Department, and 1 Replacement Van and Operating Assistance to Ruth B. Cowl Center and Contractual

Transportation Services for the South Texas Development Council. The required local match of \$38,505.00 for the Laredo Transit El Lift is funded with the Transit Sales Tax, and \$9,221.00 from Ruth B. Cowl and \$14,542.00 from South Texas Development Council as their contributing match.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-RT-03.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

53. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a contract for the purchase of One (1) Low-Floor Light Duty Bus for the El Metro Department Neighborhood Circulator route in the amount of \$122,440.96 utilizing the Georgia Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) Purchase State Contract # 99999-001-SPD0000138 with Alliance Bus Group, Incorporated from Lewisville, Texas. Funding is available in 2016 CO Bond and 2017 CO Bond District Priority Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

54. Consideration to authorize the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a contract for the purchase of one (1) low-floor Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus in the amount of \$511,038.00 from Gillig L.L.C. ("Gillig") Livermore, California utilizing the Virginia State contract with Gillig from Livermore, California. Funding is available through the 2019 PPFCO Bond Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

55. Consideration to authorize the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a contract for the purchase of one (1) BAE Diesel-Electric Hybrid bus in the amount of \$668,410.00 from Gillig L.L.C. ("Gillig") Livermore, California utilizing the Virginia State Contract. with Gillig from Livermore, California. Funding is available through the 2019 PPFCO Bond Funds.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

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

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

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

56. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Status report on the street paving project; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

B. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to authorize Co-Interim City Managers to direct staff to purchase a Remote Video Surveillance System, floating fishing pier, and a playground shade structure at Bartlett Park; and any other matters incident thereto. District V Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

C. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion with possible action to reconsider the naming of City Hall in

memory of the late Aldo Tatangelo, and rather naming City Council Chambers in his memory; and any other matters incident thereto.

MPT Torres reminded Council that this direction had been made years ago; therefore, it does not need to go before the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission because Council simply reminded staff to carry out that directive. Since there was division among this Council on naming the entirety of City Hall after former Mayor Tatangelo, Cm. Altgelt has changed the directive to only name City Council Chambers.

Motion to rescind previous action to name City Hall after former mayor Aldo Tatangelo.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Motion to name City Council Chambers after former Mayor Aldo Tatangelo.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

MPT Torres

Cm. Vielma

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Balli

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion and possible action to amend the Ethics Ordinance; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Altgelt noted that he has been in discussion with Cm. Mercurio Martinez, and this item needs more attention. More information will be brought forward at a later time.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

D. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct Co-Interim City Managers to expand the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ) in District II; and any

other matters incidents thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, confirmed that staff will come back to Council with an ordinance and can incorporate any changes as deemed appropriate.

Cm. Balli reminded Council that the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone model is designed to target areas that are impoverished or in need of improvements. He voiced his opinion that he wouldn't want to see NEZs used for brand new development; they should be limited to in-field properties, vacant lots, residential redevelopments.

Arturo Garcia, Building Development Services Acting Director, explained that the proposed NEZ area includes Districts I and II. He confirmed that staff can bring back suggestions for more areas if wished by Council.

Motion to approve as presented and bring back recommendations for identifiable NEZ areas of District VII consistent with City policy, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

E. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct Co-Interim City Managers to waive the recreation membership fee for retired City employees; and any other matters incident thereto.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, reminded Council that senior citizens have free memberships, anyway, so there is no financial affect.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to reconsider not using the Comprehensive Plan when working on other government entity projects; and any other matters incident thereto.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, cautioned Council that staff does not recommend going against the City's own Comprehensive Plan. If there is to be some change going forward, staff would want that to come from Council or the public; staff uses the Comprehensive Plan as a guide.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that not working with Webb County on a particular project may delay the project or its funding at this time. Mr. Eads voiced his understanding that there may be delays as stated by Cm. Rodriguez, but

staff does not get to pick and choose when they use the Comp Plan. However, the last extension to Springfield Avenue was done by waiving the Comprehensive Plan as directed by Council. Cm. Rodriguez initiated a motion to approve this item.

Cm. Vielma asked what is being waived or changing regarding the Comp Plan and this project. James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that on Wormser Road, the extension is identified in the Thoroughfare Plan as a major arterial roadway. The Comprehensive Plan has certain standards regarding major arterial roadways such as bicycle lanes and pedestrian facilities. Webb County is currently proposing only two lanes with a curb and gutter on only one side.

Cm. Rodriguez clarified that any developer in the future would complete the other side of the roadway. Doing the project with the County's proposed facilities will speed up development for that area as was done on Springfield; it is a temporary waiver so that Webb County can build their road and save the City \$4-\$5 million.

Cm. Altgelt asked if the intention of this motion is to delay the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan rather than waive it. Cm. Rodriguez confirmed that this is his intention, and the Co-Interim City Managers also agreed. Mr. Snideman cautioned Council that here is not a trigger that will allow staff to make the implementation happen in the future. If the City does not implement the Comprehensive Plan now, then the City will likely have to pay for it in the future; it is possible that the City and County will pay for it together. The developer will not pay for the completion of the other half of this road. Mr. Eads agreed, noting that it has happened in the past where the City ultimately pays for the other half of the road.

Dr. Marte Martinez asked if sports complex venue money could be used to as part of the larger project as this road will lead to the sports complex and cannot appear shabby. Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, stated that staff will ask the City's bond counsel, but it is not likely that sports venue monies can be used for this purpose. Dr. Martinez asked that staff ask and get a cost estimate, as well.

Mr. Snideman confirmed that staff already asked for a cost estimate from the engineer multiple times, but they have not provided an estimate to-date. Mr. Eads assured Council that the cost estimate is over seven figures. Mr. Snideman said that the buildout without following the Comprehensive Plan would be about \$6 million; to follow the plan would essentially double the cost.

Cm. Rodriguez reminded Council that this portion of Wormser Road is outside of City limits, though it is already annexed. Cm. Altgelt clarified that, eventually, the City will have to annex all of the land.

Motion to approve the delayed implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for the extension of Wormser Road.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Altgelt

MPT Torres

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Balli

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

F. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Status updates with possible action on the Municipal Waterpark; and any other matters incident thereto.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, reported that the RFQ was issued on December 19, 2019, and due February 14, 2020. The anticipated consultant selection date is April 2020 with an anticipated contract award date of May 2020. Nine vendors responded to the RFQ; staff is evaluating those responses. The selection committee include staff and citizens. The committee will likely shortlist the nine vendors to the top three and reach out to them for presentations.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action on incorporating cell phone charging stations at City Recreation Centers; and any other matters incident thereto.

Homero Vazquez-Garcia, IST Director, noted that price will be the biggest factor on this item; table top charging stations cost \$39.99, and they can include advertisements. Users will have to provide their own charging cables. Wall-mounted charging stations cost \$329.99; adding a video display will bring the cost to \$616.99. Staff recommends charging tables for \$519.99 per table, as it incorporates wireless charging in the table itself. It allows for three wireless charging devices and cables for users without wireless charging capabilities.

Cm. Balli stated that these options are good for people who are going to stay close to their phones, but users often want to leave their phones to exercise. MPT Torres asked if staff received quotes on secure cubbies or lockers for charging. Mr. Garcia confirmed that locker stations average about \$1,000 because of the locking mechanisms.

Juan J. Gomez, Parks Director, explained that after reviewing the options, table top charging stations will cost the Parks Department about \$3,633.00.

Motion to approve six locker charging stations with two tables at the Cigarroa Recreation Center and Downtown Senior Center.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

3. Discussion with possible action on authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers and El Metro Administration to negotiate a commitment on land from Laredo College (about 2.5 acres) for the construction of a Transit Hub. The tract of land will be dedicated for public transportation and mobility purposes, specifically for the construction of a transit hub. Land will be used as local match for available Texas Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and any other grant opportunities. Application for funding will be submitted as a joint application by both El Metro (urban public transportation service) and El Aguila (rural provider). The El Metro / Palomino Hub will allow better inter-agency connectivity, improved operational efficiencies and quality of service for Laredo College Students, Rio Bravo residents, El Cenizo residents and for all City of Laredo residents. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr. and Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III)

Motion to authorize the Co-Interim City Managers to move forward on this project with Laredo College.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.