

**CITY OF LAREDO
RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATION NOTICE
M2020-R-04
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
March 2, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor presented the following:

1. Recognizing Juan Mejia and Lucero Garza HEB Top Store Leaders for HEB #586 Zapata Hwy and Regional Manager Douglas Gonzalez for their support of the City of Laredo Health Department Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program of a strong partnership to promote In-Store education, displays, outreach and facilitating excellent customer service to WIC clients.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, reminded Council that the Health Department promotes many of its services through partnerships; HEB is a strong partner in the community, especially for the South Laredo clinic and WIC community health center. Commercial partnerships must be customer-friendly on the user end, and HEB has been a great steward of the City's WIC program.

Guillermo Walls, Nutrition Services Division Chief, stated that the City has enjoyed a partnership with HEB #586 for over a year now, which is the largest HEB in the area to accept WIC benefits and ensuring that residents have access to those benefits.

Lucero Garza of HEB voiced the company's enthusiasm to continue its partnership with the City and provide exceptional customer service to Laredo citizens. Mayor Saenz presented HEB with certificates of recognition in honor of the objectives achieved through this partnership.

2. Recognizing the Trautmann Middle School Robotics, The Thunderbolts, which is a 6th grade team from Trautmann Middle, who placed 1st in the Innovation Project and Top 5 in the Robot Game out of 20 teams. They will be advancing to the South Texas Regional Championship in Harlingen TX on March 7th. There they will be competing with 36 South Texas teams for a chance to advance to the FLL World Championship in April.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the Thunderbolts took it upon themselves to find a public service that needed help, choosing to team up with El Metro for an enclosed bus stop to increase mass transportation. El Metro staff met with the team and helped answer their question to serve their innovation project.

Priscilla Chapa, Thunderbolts Robotics coach, stated that this is the second season of Trautmann Middle School competing in robotics; the Thunderbolts won a qualifier and will compete for the second time in the World Championship.

Isabella Erasmov, Thunderbolts team member, noted that the team contacted El Metro after she

thought of the original idea to improve a bus stop with heating and cooling amenities. Claudia San Miguel, Transit Manager, noted that staff was eager to engage with the students. Miss Erasmus explained that the team added lights, security cameras, eco-friendly solar panels, and seating to their original bus stop improvement idea.

Dr. Martinez congratulated the team on their accomplishment; Mayor Saenz agreed and presented the members with certificates of recognition.

3. Recognizing St. Augustine High School freshman and honor student Ruby Isabella Flores for being nominated for the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, Massachusetts. She will represent Texas during the three-day Congress in June where she will join students from across the country and hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading medical research and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future of medicine and medical technology.

Ruby Isabella Flores stated that she was interested in medicine since she was three years old and plans to attend Baylor University for a degree in Forensic Science in order to become a Forensic Pathologist.

Mr. Mercurio Martinez congratulated Miss Flores and commended her parents for sending her to St. Augustine to develop her holistically. Mayor Saenz presented her with a certificate of recognition for her achievement.

**CITY OF LAREDO CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
M2020-R-04
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
March 2, 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 6:12 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of February 18, 2020

Motion to approve the February 18, 2020 minutes.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Balli was not present.

Citizen comments

Juan Avila displayed three marionette puppets, likening them to Mayor Saenz, Cm. Vielma, and Cm. Altgelt as the three stooges who do not want Mr. Robert Eads to be the next City Manager of Laredo. After establishing a committee and asking for their recommendation for the new City Manager, Mr. Avila voiced his opposition to these three Council Members "blackballing" Mr. Eads because they do not want a local candidate. He reminded Mayor Saenz that citizens are pursuing a recall election to remove him from office for ethics violations. The City already paid too much money to former City Managers because they were released after not doing what Council wanted them to do.

VI. RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing Carla Gonzalez Reality of Wrestling Diamonds Division Champion, RWR Vixens Champion and for being named the youngest Champion in Reality of Wrestling history and earning a spot on WWE's Monday Night Raw leading WWE superstar No Way

Jose's conga line.

Carla Gonzalez noted that she wanted to wrestle since she was a little girl, and her parents always supported her dream; she thanked their family for their encouragement. She joined the Laredo Wrestling Alliance to begin training; she moved to Houston at age 17 to train at the Booker T Wrestling School. Now, at the age of 18, she is the youngest champion.

Mayor Saenz commended Miss Gonzalez and presented her with a certificate of recognition for her accomplishments.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Presentation on the 2020 Census and status report regarding City initiatives for a complete count in Laredo.

Nadia De Leon of the Community Development Department introduced the Laredo-Webb County Complete Count committee for a successful Census season.

Alice Herrera from the Office of Webb County Commissioner Wawi Tijerina reported that that all community centers are involved in meetings and preparations. The message that the committee hopes to convey to the public is that the Census is not something to be afraid of but is very important for participation. One matter of significant importance during the last Census was the undercounting of children aged five and younger. The Head Start offices were contacted to make sure that families are notified to include their small children in the count.

Priscilla Pantoja from the Office of Webb County Commissioner Cindy Liendo reminded Council that the committee created a Facebook page called Laredo Webb Complete Count and encouraged the public to access the page and share it with others.

David Gomez of the US Census Bureau stated that during the last Census, there was a shortage of employees for the Laredo area; employees were imported from Puerto Rico and Oklahoma, which may have added to a sense of mistrust among Laredoans. Currently, the Census Bureau is at 147% of its employee goal for the area, but they are still hiring until March 11, 2020. Competitive wages are offered for Census workers at \$19.50 per hour. He stated that the Census Bureau will be able to report Census counts by ZIP code during the count, which will let the City know what districts or communities are not responding to the Census survey. Census employees will have stations available where they can provide survey response assistance.

Mayor Saenz asked if the Census public service announcements are airing. Mr. Gomez noted that some are airing and others are still being filmed. He commended the committee for their creative work to reach the community for an improved response over 2010. He suggested that Council and City officials promote the Census through word of mouth rather than solely through news outlets; most viewers of Pro8 News and other news

sources are already going to respond to the Census. The committee will strive to engage the community in non-media outlet ways as well, such as setting up booths at health fairs and in places where residents pay their water bill.

Cm. Altgelt recalled his time as a Census worker 20 years ago, asking if employees will walk door-to-door in 2020. Mr. Gomez confirmed that employees will walk door-to-door after March 24; residents will be free to respond on their own to the survey March 12-24, 2020. Census employees will start circulating neighborhoods in mid-April after residents have received their surveys but have delayed their responses. Cm. Altgelt noted that it is difficult to count the homeless population; in the past, the Census had the assistance of the Laredo Police Department.

Mr. Gomez noted that counting the homeless population will be handled by an external team from the Dallas regional office, who partners with homeless shelters and law enforcement to get as accurate of a count of the homeless population as possible. Mrs. Herrera noted that some areas of Laredo tend to be more scared or hesitant to respond to the Census; directors in these areas are working hard to promote the count and have materials and information educating the public.

Rafael Benavides, Public Information Officer, explained that City staff is working diligently with the County, the Census Bureau, and the committee. The City has produced six PSAs to-date for the Census with access to the US Census marketing and media PSAs. Traditional media is still a strong resource for Laredo, but the 2020 Census efforts will also be online. Staff will have booths and locations throughout the City where people can come to fill out the Census.

Cm. Altgelt stated that the City should be targeting the population in Laredo that has does not have legal status to be in the United States to ensure an accurate count. A campaign that removes the stigma of the Census for undocumented residents that would ease their fears and encourage participation is crucial.

Ms. Pantoja informed Council that the Complete Count Committee, with the help of the Economic Development Department, secured a \$50,000 grant that will be used for advertisement, including bus wraps for school districts, Webb County, and El Metro. Efforts are also being directed toward a Census Day Celebration on April 1, 2020, in which committee partners will display how the public's participation will affect the community over the next 10 years. The celebration will include food, games, and activities as well as tablets where participants can fill out the Census survey. The Census will begin March 12 and end on July 31, 2020. Cm. Altgelt voiced his wishes that staff would accommodate the Census efforts during Council events during this time.

Mr. Benavides displayed the Laredo-Webb Census 2020 Complete Count Facebook page. Ms. De Leon reported that the City has a Complete Count internal subcommittee composed of the following Departments: Community Development, Health, Human Resources, IST, Library, Parks & Recreation, Public Information Office and Utilities. The City of Laredo will host an Employees Census Week April 6-10, 2020, in which employees

can fill out the Census during working hours for a chance to win raffle prizes.

Ms. De Leon continued that computers and, in some cases, phones will be available in several City locations, such as the City Hall Annex, public libraries, the Health Department, the Santo Niño WIC Clinic, El Metro Transit Center, Municipal Court, the Police Department, the Community Development Department, recreation centers, and the Fire Administration Building. Census employees will be available at some locations to assist responders fill out their surveys. The Public Information Office will inform the public of the sites, along with maps and times; senior assistance will be available at the Hamilton Apartments and the Downtown Senior Fitness Center. Text messages will be sent to any individuals who are enrolled in Wellness, District News, Reverse 911, or 311 text message notices, and promotional items and flyers are being distributing. Booths, billboards, social media notices, and website information is also being distributed.

2. Invitation by Dr. Jerry Thompson and Dr. Hector Farias to celebrate the 156th Anniversary of the Battle of Laredo by unveiling a historical Rio Grande Civil War Trail marker near Zacate Creek in El Azteca neighborhood with the help of UTRGV.

Dr. Jerry Thompson displayed a map of the Rio Grande area with marked Civil War sites from Laredo to Brownsville. The only appropriate places to put these markers in Laredo would be at Fort McIntosh, San Agustin Plaza, and the intersection of Market Street and Zacate Creek which is the location where local Confederate forces stopped the Union attack on the small community in March 1864. Laredo had about 5,000 bales of cotton stacked in San Agustin Plaza waiting to be taken to Mexico, resulting in an attempted cotton raid from the lower valley. This is one of Laredo's only significant historical sites in Webb County regarding the Civil War. He noted the intention to place a roadside Rio Grande Trail markers; it is designed for tourism and would be an appropriate addition to the city.

Dr. Hector Farias stated that the University of Texas would come to Laredo to perform the installment of the roadside marker. Laredo has quite a storied history, and he noted his opinion that Laredo's children should be told of this history. The marker costs \$1,500 and would be used for tourism purposes because many historians follow the Civil War Trail. Laredo existed several decades before the United States was founded.

Cm. Vielma asked if this marker could be funded out of tourism funds. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, confirmed that if the marker could bring heads in beds and if the specific expenses meet the criteria, then this marker installment could be paid for with tourism funds.

Rafael Benavidez, Public Information Officer, stated that staff is researching the ownership of the proposed property; it may be City-owned, but Community Development will provide final confirmation. Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that if this location is to be approved and used for a roadside marker, the Parks & Recreation staff should beautify the area and make it more welcoming to visitors.

Cm. Balli noted that while he supports historical markers, he has concerns over people in this country celebrating the Confederate army as a winning force. The Confederates actually lost the Civil War and have a negative history. He asked that the marker be true to the historical realities of this conflict and not celebrate the Confederate army. Dr. Thompson clarified that the roadside marker does not have any description of the conflict itself; it only indicates that something happened at that location of significance to the history of the Civil War.

Renee LaPerriere, Webb County Historical Commission Chair, explained that this marker commemorates both sides of the Civil War and are waysigns like the Texas Tropical Trail. They do not include any subject information at this time.

Motion to direct staff to research hotel motel funding for the installment of a roadside marker as presented.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

3. Status update by Chairman Judge Manuel Flores of the Charter Revision Commission with possible actions incident thereto.

Judge Manuel Flores, Charter Revision Commission Chair, explained that the Commission has completed some work but have been asking for community input. Recently, the Commission received a great number of proposals from the public, and he wanted to present Council with a status update on the recommendations the Commission has made to-date for a model City Charter. He thanked the City Attorney's Office and the City Secretary in helping the Commission perform its work. The Charter Revision Commission meets every third Wednesday of the month. One of the recommendations that the Commission will submit to Council is to amend Section 2.07 (C) (Quorum) to remove "four Council Members and the Mayor."

Mayor Saenz noted that the last Charter amendment ballot received criticism because it contained too many proposals. Judge Flores agreed that there should not be many proposals; the City should simply try to improve on what the Charter currently says. He stated that one of those improvements would be adding a definition to the term "moral turpitude." The Commission's recommendation would be to define moral turpitude as follows: "A crime involving moral turpitude is defined as any offense under the Texas Penal Code which is classified as a felony, Class B misdemeanor, or any offense involving any theft or official misconduct under Chapter 39 of the Texas Penal Code."

Judge Flores continued that the Commission will recommend converting the recall provisions back to the original 10% of the votes cast rather than 10% of the registered voters. The Commission will also recommend that, unless otherwise prohibited by law or

governed by another body or individual, a violation of the City Charter shall be considered a violation of the ethics ordinance. The Commission also voted to amend Section 9.01 of the Charter to require that the Planning & Zoning Director have certification by the American Institute of Certified Planners. The Commission will also recommend that the Charter stipulate that the Mayor's veto must be exercised within two regularly-scheduled Council meetings and that a Council vote to override the Mayor's veto must be made at the same meeting as the enacted veto. The Commission voted not to amend the City Charter with a filing fee or alternative mechanism in order to run for an elected municipal position. This was decided because the Commission did not want to limit any person's ability to file and run for public office.

Judge Flores added that the Commission voted to recommend that Section 12.06(A) be amended so that the Mayor and Council may participate in any political activity so long as they do not utilize any City resources. The Commission also voted to require that every ordinance be read aloud upon its introduction. At the Commission's next meeting, they will review the proposals submitted by members of the public and decide which ones to prioritize for consideration. One of the proposals that will be discussed regards discretionary (district priority) funds. He reiterated that the Commission has plenty of work to be done but are open to any communication from Council. The Commission understands that Council has the final decision, with the exception of citizen-led initiatives, what will be placed on the ballot for the voters' approval. He reported that the Commission only had one instance where a quorum was lost due to cold and flu season.

Mayor Saenz asked for the deadline by which the Commission must submit their recommendations to Council. Judge Flores assured Council that the Commission hopes to complete their work by the deadline; if all of the proposals have not been discussed at that time, then the Commission will forward what recommendations have been completed to Council.

Cm. Vielma questioned whether the definition of "moral turpitude" should be finalized as it is a legal term of art and is currently being discussed by the Board of Immigration Appeals. The proposed definition excludes Class A misdemeanors, fraud, depraved or immoral acts, conspiracy attempts, or serving as an accessory to such attempts. Judge Flores stated that the proposed definition is what the Commission agreed upon at the time; they could always bring the matter back up and reconsider or change the definition if necessary.

Judge Flores clarified that the 10% of the votes cast is the previous language of the Charter; some Commission Members felt that it was erroneously changed or approved when it was last brought to the voters in 2016; the 10% figure now in effect would make it very difficult to trigger a recall election. When elected officials misbehave, the Commission believed that the voters should be able to force a recall election. Cm. Mercurio Martinez countered that recalling an elected official should be cumbersome and not easily obtained by a disgruntled citizen who does not agree with a Council Member's vote on an issue. Each elected official was elected with 50% plus 1 of their constituency. Voters who stayed at home and did not cast a ballot can be considered, in and of itself, a vote if they

preferred the status quo. He voiced his opinion that it should be an inconvenience to trigger a recall; otherwise, there would be a recall all of the time.

Judge Flores countered that Cm. Martinez's arguments were brought up during Commission discussions. However, he reminded Council that this language was in place previously and there was not an abuse of the recall provision. There was only one recall election that was triggered by this provision when a Council Member was arrested for drug possession; he reminded Council that historically, recalls have been scarce and are still not easy with 10% of the votes cast. He confirmed that the Commission could still reconsider the matter if wished by Council.

Cm. Altgelt stated his opinion that it should be hard to get elected, but it should not be hard to be unseated if the constituency demands it. There should not be a large amount of distance or effort between the voter and the representative. He reminded Council that gathering the signatures may seem "easy," but recall petitions do not automatically result in an elected official losing their office; a recall petition triggers a recall election. The voters still decide whether to keep or remove the elected official, which is an arduous undertaking. Judge Flores explained that part of the Commission's intention was to sanitize the idea of corruption in local government.

MPT Torres noted that one issue he would like addressed is the Mayor's State of the City Address, stating his understanding that the intention of the State of the City Address was to reach the masses. The people who attend the State of the City Address are City employees and officials, City board members, and people who see the workings of local government on a daily basis anyway. He voiced his idea that the address should reach the masses and be broadcast through media. He suggested that, rather than hosting an event for people to attend, the City use the time and resources in a televised address through 30 minutes of air time on an English network and a Spanish network. The address can be prerecorded and broadcast in a method similar to the presidential State of the Union Address. He asked the Commission to consider this so that the State of the City Address reaches the masses rather than the same circle. Judge Flores confirmed that the Commission will consider any proposal that the Council sends them.

Cm. Balli stated that Council changed the recall provision because the City often has runoff elections, which are decided with about 1,200 voters. Therefore, 120 signatures would be needed to trigger a recall election, which could be done in a day. That recall election is at the cost of tax payers and would come when 120 individuals are undoing what has been decided by the rest of the electorate. A recall election is an extra expense when it is not tied into a regular election but is instead a special election. He reminded Council that the voters just passed the proposal to change this provision of the City Charter, asking why they should be asked to vote on it again.

Cm. Vielma noted that if the recall provision was 10% of the votes cast since 1980, that still means that there was only one recall in 40 years. Therefore, hypothetical arguments that recall elections will be abused has already proven not to be the case; Judge Flores agreed that this point was made during the Commission's discussion.

MPT Torres asked for the timeline of when Council will vote on which proposals move forward onto the ballot. Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, confirmed that the last day to place any propositions on the November 2020 ballot is August 17, 2020. Propositions must be approved via ordinance, which take two Council meetings to be adopted. Therefore, the Commission would need to submit their recommendations to Council no later than the end of June 2020.

Cm. Altgelt asked if the City has performed any public outreach beyond the Commission Members for citizen input. Judge Flores noted that most of the Commission's meetings lacked any audience. A reporter would occasionally attend meetings, but he noted that there were no printed stories the next day. In the last couple of meetings, however, members of the public attended and delivered numerous proposals for the Commission to consider. He stated that he is unsure how the Commission could perform any more outreach than what they have already done.

Mayor Saenz noted that Council could participate in outreach to generate public input. Mr. Valdez explained that the Public Information Officer could assist with outreach, as well, to which Cm. Altgelt agreed and initiated a motion to that effect.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if the Commission will censor any questions or bring every single question or suggestion before Council. He asked who will decide if a suggestion is important or not before bringing them to a referendum. He noted his opinion that someone else selecting what is brought before Council is problematic. He suggested that any public suggestions come to Council for their consideration. Cm. Rodriguez also stated that public comments take place in every district because his constituents are often not able to travel to City Hall for Commission meetings due to transportation issues.

Judge Flores recalled that when he was on the Charter Revision Commission many years ago, there was a public mailout for suggestions, which essentially created a new City Charter. Cm. Vielma suggested that meetings take place at the two Laredo College campuses and TAMIU so that the meetings are more accessible to the public. Cm. Rodriguez countered that these locations are not in his district, stating his preference to have town hall meetings in each individual district.

MPT Torres noted that hosting meetings in community centers or recreation centers in each district would help achieve this objective. Mr. Valdez confirmed that staff would research other meeting locations, but he reminded Council of their directive that as many City committee meetings as possible take place in Council Chambers or at City Hall. If Council wishes for town hall meetings in all districts, he confirmed that staff will meet with PAC to ensure that these meetings can be recorded as required.

Cm. Altgelt amended his motion to include that Charter Revision Commission host meetings in each individual district. MPT Torres reminded Council that there is not enough time to host a meeting in each district before the Commission's deadline to submit their recommendations to Council. He proposed that the Commission hold meetings in

combined districts as a solution. Cm. Rodriguez disagreed as districts are different from one another.

Dr. Marte Martinez voiced his opinion that this endeavor is very noble, but Council cannot change the rules of the process for the Commission with only a few months left in their term. This puts the Commission, the public, and City staff in a conundrum where they are tasked with completing their work quickly with a lot of new assignments. He noted that it might not be feasible to have Charter proposals on the election ballot this year and suggested that, in the interest of time, allow the Commission to complete their work and have public town hall meetings at the beginning of the next Charter Revision Commission's term. Otherwise this process will be too rushed.

Cm. Vielma disagreed, saying that to get public input, the City should go to where the people are at, since many people do not attend City Council or committee meetings. MPT Torres countered that the public has ample opportunity to attend meetings at City Hall, and the newspaper has been doing a thorough job of attending meetings and publishing front-page stories on the activities of the Charter Revision Commission. He did not want to criticize town hall meetings but noted that it seems to be the same people attending these events, which utilize a lot of City resources without enough turnout to justify the expenses. He reiterated that the public is informed and aware of the Commission meetings. Rather than town hall meetings, he suggested that a public mailer may be a more effective means of gathering public input or encouraging their attendance to a Commission meeting at City Hall.

Judge Flores reminded Council that the Charter Revision Commission is subject to the Open Meetings Act, meaning that their agendas are posted for the public's knowledge. Watching this Commission work may be like watching paint dry, which could explain why there is not much public attendance. MPT Torres replied that posting a "suggestion box" at recreation centers or posting a comment form online would help meet this need.

Mr. Valdez agreed, noting that staff will forward all public comments to Council for their consideration. In light of the discussion, Cm. Altgelt withdrew his motion.

Motion to direct staff to reach out to the public to encourage community input for the Charter Revision Commission's recommendations and to include Commission meetings in each individual district, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Vielma
Motion withdrawn.

Cm. Altgelt initiated a new motion consistent with the online outreach for the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan encouraging the public to attend Commission meetings and to submit suggestions for Charter amendments. Mr. Valdez confirmed that staff can place a banner advertisement on the City website for participation in the Charter Revision process with a link to the City Charter, which is already available online. Staff can also add a

comment card for the public to submit their suggestions.

Mayor Saenz requested that staff also post the recommendations that the Commission has already approved so that the public may see what has been done to-date.

Cm. Rodriguez stated that since there are no South Laredo candidates running in November 2020, there will be a small turnout from South Laredo for this ballot. Therefore, a lot of South Laredoans will be excluded from Charter amendment decisions in November. If the City is going to put Charter proposals on the ballot, it should be during a neutral election when nobody is running for a Council position. MPT Torres countered that someone is running for a Council seat every election year as the seats are staggered. Cm. Rodriguez clarified his intention of putting Charter proposals on the ballot during an off-year.

Cm. Altgelt countered that by Cm. Rodriguez's logic, there would be even less participation on an off-year since nobody is running for a Council position in Cm. Rodriguez's scenario. Cm. Altgelt and Cm. Vielma reminded Council that the November 2020 election is a presidential election, so historically there is expected to be a larger turnout of voters regardless of who is running for a Council position. Cm. Rodriguez disagreed.

MPT Torres noted that when the state has referendums without an election, they call a special election. That could be done in this case. Cm. Altgelt amended his motion to that effect.

Motion to direct staff to provide online outreach for the public regarding Charter Revision Commission meetings as well as online resources to provide public suggestions for Charter amendments and to hold Charter amendment proposal referenda in a special-called election in 2021, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: MPT Torres

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

MPT Torres

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Balli

VIII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Council Member George Altgelt of Francis Cullen Averill, Jr. to the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Francis Cullen Averill, Jr., to the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

2. Appointment by Council Member George Altgelt of Victor Gomez to the Charter Revision Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Victor Gomez to the Charter Revision Commission.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximate 9.3453 acres, out of Porcion 19, Joaquin Garcia, Original Grantee, Abstract 47, located at approximate 1,400 LF, South of Aquero Blvd., and East of Bernadette Ln., from AG (Agricultural District) to R-1B (Single Family High Density District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-75-2019 District VII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 0.84 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as annexation Tract 1 (Elvira H. Moreno Tract), located west of Los Minerales-Annex Rd. and south of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) on a tract of land totaling 3.04 acres, more or less, as

described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 2 (Sergio A. Suarez Tract), located west of FM 3338, (Las Tiendas Rd) and south of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 7.29 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 3 (Blanca Estela Rodriguez Tract), located north of FM 1472/Mines Rd. and east of Lampazos Loop, as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus

expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 1.45 acre, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 4 (Gallus Properties Tract), located north of FM 1472/Mines Rd. and east of Copper Mine Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion for the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of AG (Agricultural District) on a tract of land totaling 81.02 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 5 (Cuatro Vientos South LTD Tract), located east of Cuatro Vientos Rd./Loop 20 and north of Wormser Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 100.00 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 6 (FM 1472 Investments # 1 Tract), located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back

to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

8. Motion to open public hearing #8.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 15.63 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 7 (FM 1472 Investments # 2 Tract), located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

9. Motion to open public hearing #9.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 5.2077 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 8 (FM 1472 Investments # 3 Tract), located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

10. Motion to open public hearing #10.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

First Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1

(Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 204.7003 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 9 (Pinnacle Mines Investments Tract), located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this annexation does not require a second public hearing due to recent changes in legislation. When this item comes back to Council for introduction on April 6, 2020, staff will bring an in-depth analysis for Council.

Cm. Vielma asked for information regarding the impact on the utilities system with this annexation as well as any impact fees. Mr. Snideman confirmed that management has already tasked staff with reviewing this. He is working to make this process more robust and develop a holistic policy for annexation. Policy-making is a long process. The analysis that will be brought to Council at the April meeting will include revenues and fees versus expenses.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm Balli were not present.

X. SECOND PUBLIC HEARINGS

11. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 0.84 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as annexation Tract 1 (Elvira H. Moreno Tract), located west of Los Minerales-Annex Rd. and south of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

12. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) on a tract of land totaling 3.04 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 2 (Sergio A. Suarez Tract), located west of FM 3338, (Las Tiendas Rd) and south of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

13. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 7.29 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 3 (Blanca Estela Rodriguez Tract), located north of FM 1472/Mines Rd. and east of Lampazos Loop, as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

14. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 1.45 acre, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 4 (Gallus Properties Tract), located north of FM 1472/Mines Rd. and east of Copper Mine Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

15. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 100.00 acres, more or less, as

described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 6 (FM 1472 Investments # 1 Tract), located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

16. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 15.63 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 7 (FM 1472 Investments # 2 Tract), located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

17. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 5.2077 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 8 (FM 1472 Investments # 3 Tract), located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

18. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion of the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) of a tract of land totaling 204.7003 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 9 (Pinnacle Mines Investments Tract), located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

19. Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Second Public Hearing and discussion for the voluntary annexation and initial zoning of AG (Agricultural District) on a tract of land totaling 81.02 acres, more or less, as described by metes and bounds in the attached Exhibit "A", and known as Annexation Tract 5 (Cuatro Vientos South LTD Tract), located east of Cuatro Vientos Rd./Loop 20 and north of Wormser Rd., as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

XI. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

20. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute an amendment to lease agreement between the City of Laredo, as LESSOR, and Air Trade Laredo, LLC, as LESSEE, approved by Ordinance No. 2011-O-148 dated November 7, 2011, amended by Ordinance No. 2013-O-066 dated May 20, 2013, by amending the lease premises to add approximately 6,796.95 square feet for a total of 91,094.26 square feet. The new monthly rent shall be \$3,210.52 effective May 1, 2020, and will be adjusted annually according to changes of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on the lease anniversary month of November. All other terms and conditions remain the same; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XII. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive final reading of Ordinances 2020-O-018, 2020-O-019, 2020-O-020, and 2020-O-021.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

21. 2020-O-018 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. ZC-15-2020 District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-018.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

22. 2020-O-019 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. ZC-18-2020 District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-019.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

23. 2020-O-020 Amending the City of Laredo FY 2020 Airport Operations Fund Budget to accept and appropriate revenues and expenditures of 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.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-020.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

24. 2020-O-021 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.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-021.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE JEFFREY J. MILLER, AIRPORT DIRECTOR

25. 2020-R-042 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Laredo International Airport and Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration to gain access to the Closed Circuit Television surveillance system to mutually promote the security and safety of passengers, employees, and others who access the Laredo International Airport.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-042.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

BUILDING: STAFF SOURCE ARTURO GARCIA, BUILDING DIRECTOR

26. Designating and creating a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone, Number Four (4) within the City of Laredo, and making the necessary findings of the public benefit and public purpose to support the creation of the new NEZ area in City Council Districts I and II for the purpose of economic development and neighborhood revitalization.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TINA MARTINEZ, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

27. Consideration to approve and amend service contract with Texas Fireguard, Weslaco, TX for fire protection sprinkler system services for the Municipal Housing warehouse. This contract was done in phases due to budget availability and amendment is to allow for Change Order #2 is for \$40,645.00 for additional services for aboveground and inside building pertaining to the installation of the fire sprinkler system for a contract total amount of \$76,000.00. Services include: labor, materials, equipment, sealed engineered plans and required permits. Funding is available in the Municipal Housing budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

28. Consideration for approval of the Upper Zacate Creek Hike and Bike Trail (CSJ: 0922-33-170) as complete, approval of change order no. 1 to add one hundred eighty-eight (188) calendar days to the construction contract time, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$57,303.59 to Martinez Paving Co., Inc., Laredo, Texas. Current construction contract time with this change order is three hundred ninety-eight (398) calendar days. Final construction contract amount is \$1,146,071.76. Funding is available in the Environmental Services Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

29. Consideration for approval of the Bartlett Sports Complex Park Amphitheater Project as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$11,795.00 to ALC Construction Co., Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$117,950.00. Funding is available in the 2018 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

30. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to Crane Engineering, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$71,847.00 for Preliminary Phase/Master Planning, Geotechnical Engineering, T&E Species Habitat Assessment, Waters of the US Delineation and Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment for the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course Master Planning hike/bike/birding trails located at 27700 FM 1472 and adjacent areas. Design work is to be done on a fast track basis. Funding is available in the 2019 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

ENVIRONMENTAL: STAFF SOURCE JOHN PORTER, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

31. Consideration to renew contract FY19-047 Manadas Creek Maintenance to Nick Benavides, Oilton, Texas, in the annual amount of \$125,888.00. This is a service contract to provide mowing and maintenance to the Manadas Creek and quarterly Manadas West excavation. The term of this contract shall be for a one (1) year and has additional options to extend for two (2) additional one year periods, upon mutual agreement and performance approval by the City. Funding is available in the Environmental Service Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

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

32. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY18-029 for the purchase of general electrical supplies to all City departments in an estimated amount up to \$300,000.00 with

3-G Electrical Supply, Laredo, Texas. This contract establishes discount percentage pricing for those electrical supplies most commonly utilized by City departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the last extension period for this contract. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the respective user departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

33. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY17-024 to the following vendors:

- a. Beaver's Source, Laredo, Texas;
- b. Eagle Supply, Laredo, Texas;
- c. Safe-T-Supplies, Laredo, Texas; and
- d. South Texas Specialties, Laredo, Texas

for the purchase of safety supplies in an amount up to \$150,000.00 for all City departments. This contract establishes pricing and discount percentage for those safety supplies most commonly utilized by City departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of execution. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the third of four extension periods. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the user department budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

34. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY16-022 AG-Pro Texas LLC., Weslaco, Texas in an amount up to \$50,000.00, for the purchase of John Deere original equipment manufacturer (OEM) repair parts for the City's lawn maintenance equipment. All parts will be purchased on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the last extension period for this contract. Funding is

available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

35. Consideration to renew contract FY19-023 to Rush Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in an estimated amount of \$78,878.40 for the service of a Global Positioning Tracking System (GPS) for City Fleet, various departments. Services include the tracking of approximately 200 vehicles (40 Solid Waste trucks; 160 city operations "white" trucks) which are currently outfitted with third Telematics Management services for location and operations tracking only. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning the date of its execution (subject to future appropriations) and can be extended for three additional, one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the first of three extension periods. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding for this contract is available in various department funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

36. Consideration to award contract FY20-038 for the purchase of recapped tires for the City's fleet vehicles to the low bidder Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$143,128.00. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract may be extended for three (3) additional one (1) year periods. All recapped tires will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

37. Consideration to renew annual contracts FY19-042 with the following vendors:

- a. Section I: T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$60,000.00 (Primary Vendor), Toro Auto Sales, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$45,000.00 (Secondary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$35,000.00 (Secondary Vendor);
- b. Section II: T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$ 55,000.00 (Primary Vendor), Toro Auto Sales, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$ 45,000.00 (Secondary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas in amount up to \$ 35,000.00 (Secondary Vendor);
- c. Section III: T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$ 50,000.00 (Primary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$ 40,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

All tire repair services will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the first of three extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

- 38. 2020-R-044 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,427,433.00 from 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-044.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

- 39. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one hundred and twelve (112) ballistic vests

for the Police Department in the amount of \$85,008.00 from Galls through the Buyboard Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing. Funding is available in the Police Department General Fund budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

SOLID WASTE: STAFF SOURCE STEPHEN GEISS, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

40. Consideration to amend a purchase contract utilizing Cooperative Purchasing Program pricing Buyboard contract 601-19 to vendor Rush Truck Center, Laredo, TX for the purchase of heavy equipment. This amendment is to authorize a change order increase in the amount of \$30,564.37. Solid Waste Department is replacing (substituting) a Peterbilt 348 Split Body equipment with a Peterbilt 520 GSP automated side loader; new contract total amount will be \$3,190,934.50. These trucks and equipment are to replace units which have already reached their useful life. Some units have to be replaced every 4-5 years to meet performance standards for the collection and transportation of solid waste material. Funding is available in the 2019 PPFCA Bonds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE RIAZUL MIA, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

41. Authorizing the Interim Co-City Managers to award a Professional Engineering Services contract in the amount of \$169,897.00 to AARC Consultants, LLC., Texas for the preparation of Risk and Resilience Assessment (AWIA) and Emergency Response Plan (WRP) to comply with Section 2013 of Senate Bill 3021, American Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S.3021). Funding is available in the 2016 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, MPT Torres, and Cm. Balli were not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIV. STAFF REPORTS

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

Municipal Court Judge Jesus Dominguez reported that his work for the Municipal Court began January 2019 with 214,000 active cases and 107,000 inactive cases on the caseload. Inactive cases are cases with warrants that have been given some type of adjudication and are stagnant in noncompliance. As of December 2019, Judge Dominguez reported that the caseload was reduced to 166,000 active cases and 105,841 inactive cases. Some adjustments were made in how cases were labeled as active or inactive. Some cases were previously given a warrant status because they were sent for collections, which categorized them as inactive. This was inaccurate because some cases were still active in collections even though a warrant status automatically categorizes a case as inactive. By adjusting that this year, those inactive cases were further reduced to 55,000 inactive cases to-date. Staff is trying to dispose of as many cases as possible to administer justice swiftly. Judge Dominguez explained that he requested that the Police Department to file their tickets at a certain time; this has caused an improvement in how quickly individuals are coming to court to take care of their tickets, and fewer people are missing their court dates. He noted that this Municipal Court administration has doubled the work of previous courts.

Judge Dominguez reported that the Municipal Court collected \$6,069,000 by the end of 2018. By December 31, 2019, the Court collected close to \$6,813,000. In 2018, the previous Court disposed of 45,000 cases; last year, his staff disposed 105,000 cases. He reminded Council that he requested more staff in February 2019 and was given four additional staff members. When he joined the Municipal Court, Judge Dominguez noted that the Municipal Court Clerk was the only staff member certified. Today, seven more clerks are certified with the entire staff of 20 employees expected to be certified in 2021.

The two Associate Judges that Judge Dominguez requested were sworn in by the first week of May 2019. One works for four hours in the morning, and the other works four hours in the afternoon; therefore, there are always two judges in Municipal Court at a time. This has enabled the Court to see more people throughout the day and decrease the amount of time that people spend waiting for their cases to be called. Currently, the Court averages 100-120 people in each session; the dockets have also been arranged to handle the same kind of cases at the same time each day. When he joined the Court, there were 72 jury trials pending; as of January 2020, those cases have all been completed and removed from the docket. There are currently 16 jury trials pending for the rest of 2020. With the assistance of two prosecutors from the City Attorney's Office, the Municipal Court is able to process jury trials much more quickly.

Judge Dominguez reported that the Municipal Court has hosted license recovery clinics to ensure that Laredoans can regain their suspended drivers' license or obtain an occupational license so that they can purchase their automobile insurance. With more insured drivers, the City is protecting its citizens. Staff also worked on the remodeling of the Municipal Court, which resulted in three court rooms to handle more cases and different dockets. The renovation is expected to be completed by the beginning of June 2020; all remodeling has been done with Municipal Court revenues at no cost to the taxpayer.

Judge Dominguez recalled the main concern that nobody was answering the phones at Municipal Court when he began his term. To resolve this issue, he dedicated two full time staff members to answer phones at a call center. The City Secretary's Office also assisted with improving the Court's webpage to make it more informative, which helps to reduce the number of phone calls coming into the Municipal Court. As part of staff's community outreach, he enacted a Mobile Court to allow residents to take care of their cases closer to home which proved to be successful by canceling an average of 30 warrants at each location. For the remainder of 2020, Judge Dominguez stated that staff will finalize contract negotiations and execution with a third party for collection services.

MPT Torres commended Judge Dominguez on his improvement in the Municipal Court. Cm. Rodriguez agreed, noting that many South Laredoans were not able to travel to Municipal Court and benefited greatly from the Mobile Court dates.

43. Discussion with possible action on the Process & Guidelines for the City Manager Interviews to be held on March 4,2020; and any other matters incident thereto.

Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director, displayed a preliminary time schedule for Council's approval of the City Manager candidate interviews, as follows:

5:30 – 5:45 p.m.	Meeting begins; preparation for interviews
5:45 – 6:45 p.m.	Interview #1
6:45 – 7:00 p.m.	Debrief and Break
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Interview #2
8:00 p.m. – end	Executive Session – Debrief and Scoring

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, explained that staff is requesting direction because the candidates are asking what they should expect in terms of the interviews, such as a presentation from the candidates or solely questions and answers. Cm. Altgelt voiced his expectation of a question and answer session with each of the candidates as Council has already seen their introductions and closing remarks from their interviews with the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee. He voiced his preference for an hour and a half for each candidate; the Q&A should be in open session so that the questions are public knowledge. Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion to this effect.

Cm. Gonzalez agreed but requested some flexibility in case one or both of the candidates complete their questions before the hour-and-a-half mark. Mrs. Cabello agreed, noting that

Council will have the flexibility to interview for less time but not more than an hour and a half. She stated that the agenda was posted with the candidates listed in alphabetical order, but the candidates can be interviewed in any order. MPT Torres suggested that the candidates draw their order as is done in municipal ballot order drawings.

Mrs. Cabello reminded Council of their directive to use the same scorecards as were used by the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee. She asked if Council still intends to do so. Cm. Balli voiced his opinion that the committee already provided their scores, and using scorecards at this point is not necessary since at the end of the process Council will select the candidate that they want to be the new City Manager. He commended Mrs. Cabello and the Human Resources Department on executed the best City Manager selection process that he has been involved with to-date. He noted his preference to give each Council Member a time limit for their questions, opting for a 10-minute time limit. MPT Torres agreed, adding that no Council Member should be able to yield any of their time to one another.

Mayor Saenz noted that this would be 80-90 minutes of the interview; Cm. Balli clarified that each person does not need to use their full 10 minutes.

Cm. Vielma suggested also putting a time limit on the candidates' responses since they could easily eat up their interview time in a ramble. MPT Torres disagreed, noting that Council can cut off the speaker if they feel that the question was answered or not answered after so long.

Motion to follow staff's timeline as presented with a maximum hour and a half given to each candidate during their interviews in open session before retiring to executive session.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez (not present for vote)

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Cm. Balli initiated a motion to limit each Council Member's time for questions to a maximum of 10 minutes. Cm. Altgelt disagreed, noting that the new City Manager is the most important decision that Council will make. Giving the constituents of each district the opportunity for their collective voices to be heard would need more than 10 minutes. He asked for 15 minutes.

Cm. Balli amended his motion to give each Council Member a maximum of 10 minutes for questioning except for Cm. Altgelt, who can have a maximum of 12 minutes. Cm. Vielma also disagreed with the 10-minute time limit.

MPT Torres countered that time limits are given to Senators in Washington, and it is each Council Member's job to make the best use of their time. The City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee was also limited on their time.

Cm. Altgelt speculated that if someone's mind is made up that they prefer a candidate, they may not need the full 10 minutes. MPT Torres countered that if an individual's mind is made up that they do *not* want a candidate, that individual also would not need their full 10 minutes.

Cm. Balli reminded Council that the candidates are watching the broadcast of this meeting and hear Council's concerns. MPT Torres suggested giving the candidates three minutes to introduce themselves and give a brief presentation. Mayor Saenz disagreed, suggesting instead that Council review the YouTube videos of the candidates' interviews with the Ad Hoc Committee to familiarize themselves with the candidates. MPT Torres countered that the candidates may have learned more about the City and would have polished or new information to present during an introduction.

Cm. Balli amended his motion to give each candidate three minutes to make an introduction and give each Council Member 13 minutes uninterrupted for questioning and the candidates' responses.

Cm. Rodriguez asked how Council will decide the order in which Council Members will get to ask questions, noting that the last few Council Members to ask their questions may be cheated out of time. Cm. Balli assured Council that if one of the Council Members asks a question that he was interested in asking, he won't repeat the question. He also won't reiterate a question that he feels the candidate already answered during his previous responses.

Mayor Saenz suggested alternating the order of Council Members getting to ask their questions.

Motion to limit each Council Member's time for questioning and the candidates' responses to a maximum of 13 minutes interrupted and to stipulate that Council will not make use of a scorecard and randomly draw their order for asking questions, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. 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 Internal Auditor's report.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

45. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) prepared by the City of Laredo's Financial Services Department and audited by the Independent Audit Firm of Canales, Garza, and Baum, P.L.L.C.

Jose Garza of Canales, Garza, and Baum, reported that the City of Laredo has an unqualified clean opinion, which is the highest opinion that can be rendered from an auditing firm to an entity.

Mayor Saenz asked that this opinion be posted on the City's website. Mr. Garza reported the fund balance, which increased over the year by \$1.1 million, giving a final fund balance as of September 30, 2019, of \$47,971,513. He confirmed that the firm had excellent cooperation from staff with ample samples to perform the audit.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, explained that the City had an internal committee, which met to address areas of improvement. The Internal Auditor would later check the areas of minor irregularities to see if the City corrected them.

Veronica Baeza, Internal Auditor, confirmed that the Auditor's Office typically performs follow-up checks after an audit, but there were no significant irregularities found by Canales, Garza, and Baum.

46. Request for City Council to consider a change in council meeting venue for the April 6, 2020 meeting in accordance with the City of Laredo Priority Procedures and subject to posting requirements in the event renovations to Council Chambers are not completed, with possible action.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, noted that in case Council Chambers renovations are not completed by April, staff has some recommendations for alternative venues to have the City Council meeting. She recommended Laredo College and TAMIU.

MPT Torres suggested that staff consider the Laredo ISD board room, which is in close proximity to City Hall before TAMIU. He initiated a motion to this effect.

Cm. Rodriguez countered that keeping TAMIU in the consideration will help expose local government to the young people of Laredo. Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, informed Council that TAMIU has confirmed their availability of meeting space for Council. They have a side room that can likely be used for executive session. MPT Torres withdrew his motion.

Motion to direct staff to consider the Laredo ISD board room and Laredo College for alternative City Council meeting venues on April 6, 2020.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

Motion withdrawn.

Motion to consider TAMIU, Laredo ISD, and Laredo College, in that order, for alternative City Council meeting venues on April 6, 2020.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

47. Discussion with possible action to consider a seventh request for an extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073(b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Jesus A. Garcia Perez. Human Resources and Police Department recommend extension. Total number of days out as of February 8, 2020 pay period: 454 days.

Motion to table.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

48. 2020-RT-04 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the amount of \$500,352.00 to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for FY2020 Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program under the new Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. FTA portion is \$415,500.00 and Local Match required is for \$84,852.00. Funding will be used for the purchase of three (3) Paratransit Vans, two (2) Shop Bus

Lifts, one (1) Sweeper/Scrubber, Bus and Van Security Cameras and Recorders, Audio and Visual Equipment, and Maintenance Equipment. Funds are available in Transit System - Capital Grants Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-RT-04.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Vielma, Cm. Altgelt, and Cm. Balli were 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: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

49. 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.

John Orfila, Public Works Director, reported that staff has spent a little over \$1.1 million on the street paving project to-date, covering 142 blocks over all districts. The Engineering Department provided Public Works with a list of streets in need of repaving; Public Works staff paved about 10-12 blocks in all districts and are circling back to continue projects. Priorities in each district were determined by the streets with the worst conditions. He displayed a list of the street paving projects completed in each district, adding that the use of the street is also considered when setting priorities.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, reminded Council that the City is challenged by the fact that there are millions of dollars' worth of needs for streets in the poorest condition. There is a lot of cross-checking needed with Public Works, Engineering, and Utilities to find the streets with the greatest yields. Much more money is needed in order to for the City to get ahead of the street paving problem.

Mr. Orfila urged Council to continue to fund these projects annually so that the City does not fall behind as has happened in the past. Mr. Eads agreed, noting that this must be a

budget priority every year as street paving is a basic service that the City should be offering every year. Mr. Orfila stated that the City must also protect its “golden goose,” which is the Bridge Department. Industrial parks suffer from a lot of damage every year.

Cm. Vielma asked for a comparison of the Engineering list of priorities and the City's so that Council can see where it converges or disagrees. Mr. Eads confirmed that staff is currently performing this comparison. The worst conditions are the top priority, which means that each district may not have an equal number of projects, but they are fair projects.

Mr. Orfila assured Council that staff is trying to keep the number of streets in each district as balanced as possible. Mr. Eads added that staff is making every attempt to extract any political factors.

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

1. Status update on the direction to have staff explore alternative exit options for the northeast part of the City to include the Unitec Industrial Park and surrounding areas where train crossings result in safety concerns; and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that this area is a dangerous location with limited ingress and egress and crowded parking everywhere that increases the risk of danger. When the train comes through this area, there is no access across the tracks for emergency response services. He emphasized the importance of securing an alternative route or changing the traffic direction or ingress/egress in this area. It seems that Union Pacific is not willing to open the Doctors Road, but there may be options for the City to do so.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, reported that staff met with Union Pacific and were told that the railroad has no interest in exploring alternative options but would forward any requests or interests to their corporate office for a response. He suggested that Council provide directive so that management draft a resolution or memorandum to Union Pacific with a request to open up this area. Having the support of Council may help staff make more progress with the railroad.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, reported that he received an email earlier today from Ivan Jaime, Union Pacific Senior Director of Public Affairs, with information on how to request approvals from UP. Mr. Eads noted that Mr. Jaime has already provided information on how to get a resolution to the corporate office for further action; support and directive from Council is still needed.

John Orfila, Public Works Director, explained that staff met with representatives of Unitec Industrial Park last week; the meeting was beneficial and staff intends to provide updates on their progress.

Mr. Eads clarified that the City is requesting an at-grade crossing. Cm. Altgelt voiced his opposition to this proposal, suggesting instead that the City make use of a copper drive

or building into a Capital Improvement Plan the solution for the 1,500 acres off of Doctors Road.

Mayor Saenz reminded Council that the City needs the blessing of TxDOT, who may have their own future plans for this area or the road. Dr. Martinez explained that TxDOT's long-term plan is to have a flyover. However, that flyover is going to begin in 2021 and completed in 2024. TxDOT has the funding for this; the City is trying to find a quick solution to correct the problem at hand currently while waiting for TxDOT's long-term solution.

Mr. Eads reported that the Uniroyal overpass project was shovel-ready but was shifted to connect at the Hachar-Reuthinger intersection. Once TxDOT made that decision, the City lost the overpass and was forced to wait until the Hachar-Reuthinger project was completed. Any problem-solving solution between now and 2024 is needed. Cm. Altgelt noted that the TxDOT solution is only three years away.

Dr. Martinez asked if traffic could be rerouted to a one-way in or out during certain hours in order to expedite the trans navigation of this area. Danny Magee, Traffic Safety Director, explained that staff has discussed this and will visit the area to determine the feasibility of traffic navigation. He noted that staff has already identified some roads that could be changed into one-way roads, which might help alleviate the problem. He voiced optimism that a short-term solution can be realized.

Motion to direct staff to draft a letter to be sent to Union Pacific Railroad to open Doctors Crossing to help alleviate traffic in the area.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

C. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion and possible action for a proposal wherein we would bond for a city wide active transit network that connects schools, higher education and parks throughout the city; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Altgelt noted that other cities like San Antonio and Austin have taken a bond to their citizens to integrate the city through active transit like scooters, wheelchairs, bicycles, and pedestrians. Those citizens overwhelmingly voted in favor of funding the design and construction of these types of facilities. Those efforts required bonding given the amount of work involved. He initiated a motion to task staff with determining the cost of a city-wide active transit network and extrapolate the increase of taxes necessary to float that bond and bring the report back to Council.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, asked if Council would be willing to wait on this process, because bonding does not create additional funds; they give the City funds now that have to be paid back over time. Bonds are best for a shovel-ready project. Cm. Altgelt countered that Council would need to go to the electorate in November. Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, clarified that August 17, 2020, is the deadline to finalize the ballot.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, noted her concern that this process is not in the City's Capital Improvement Plan. When the City sells bonds, it is usually done through the budget process for CIP projects. She clarified that it might be difficult for staff to turn around in a month to say where funding will come from and how much this endeavor will cost. Mr. Snideman reminded Council that staff is working on a mobility plan; while Council can task staff to determine those costs, the public is largely missing from that process. Planning staff is getting great feedback from the public regarding its mobility and master plan workshops from citizens who use the infrastructure. The plan will develop a prioritization of the routes to be implemented.

Cm. Altgelt stated that the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan has an entire section on mobility with routes already identified. Mr. Snideman countered that those recommendations are cursory. Cm. Altgelt argued that extrapolating a rough cost estimate will let Council discuss among themselves if his proposal is something that they want to undertake. If staff plans to have these workshops completed with a recommendation by summer, then he voiced his opinion that the timing is fortuitous to discuss an active transit network. Cm. Altgelt said that taking this matter to the electorate would let the citizens have the deciding power, as it affects citizens directly. There is a direct correlative between mass transportation to reducing poverty levels.

Homero Vazquez-Garcia, IST Director, recalled that the City had a summer fellow two summers ago who produced various maps for the City's use, such as heat maps showing environmental factors as residents travel throughout the City. These maps are being considered by the Planning Department through their work. The heat is one of the biggest environmental factors that affect pedestrians and commuters, so shade is an important amenity to include in planning.

Dr. Marte Martinez voiced his observation that active transportation planning has already started helping citizens commute to work on their bicycles or recreate outdoors. This has a trickle effect on the whole City in terms of economics and health. These factors and effects are all interconnected, and he emphasized the importance of having active transportation routes highly accessible to citizens, especially with shade, to achieve a healthier society.

Cm. Vielma reminded Council that they just decided to push Charter amendment propositions for a ballot in 2021, asking if this matter could be considered at that time, as well. Mr. Valdez clarified that this item is not a Charter amendment, so it could be included on the November 2020 ballot.

Motion to task staff with determining the cost of a city-wide active transit network and extrapolate the increase of taxes necessary to float the resulting bond and bring the report back to Council.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion and possible action on the proposed amendments to the Ethics Ordinance to be reviewed by the Ethics Commission; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: MPT Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

D. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Status update on the setbacks with possible action; and any other matters incident thereto.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, reported that staff is on track to complete the work according to the timeline first presented to Council, to be completed in about 12 months. Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, confirmed that Planning staff have been diligent in obtaining public involvement.

Cm. Rodriguez asked staff to consider a pilot program, which will allow staff to begin their work through trial and error. Mr. Snideman stated his personal opinion that the City should give its residents more freedom to utilize their own land. The challenge to that preference is that many landowners purchased their home or property based on separation from their neighbors. Staff is working through the details of allowing subdivisions to reduce their setbacks if it works better for that community while preserving the setback requirements for the other parts of the City where larger setbacks and a suburban lifestyle or more desired.

Cm. Rodriguez asked when the pilot program can begin in District II and District VII. He reminded staff that reality does not always align with the theoretical applications of city planning. Mr. Snideman recommended that Council waits until staff completes their process. However, if directed by Council, staff can create a new zone and allow for shorter setbacks. Cm. Rodriguez initiated a motion to that effect.

Mr. Snideman explained that staff could take a smaller zone with smaller lot subdivisions and make it an R-1C as a new zone with decreased setbacks on all sides. Once that zone is created and approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission, staff will bring it to Council for approval. Then staff will have to determine how to apply that zone for Council Members in the pilot program.

Cm. Rodriguez cautioned staff to consider automobiles and parking in these setbacks.

Motion to create a new zone in Districts II and VII with shorter setbacks as a new pilot program.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

E. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Discussion with possible action for the City to initiate negotiations for an agreement with Daniel Wyers to include City property in the Lafon Residential Subdivision Phase 1 (residential development) for use as a local road in that subdivision in exchange for road improvements; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that the location in question has a birding center; the road that leads to it is somewhat paved. There is a vacant piece of land that was purchased by Daniel Wyers, who is preparing to develop the land. His team is proposing that they pave the road to the park, but there are some issues in regards to the Master Plan. He initiated a motion that staff initiate negotiations so that the developer can access that road.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, asked staff to confirm if the City would have to donate that property first so that the developer can plat it. James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that an entity cannot plat land that does not belong to that entity; therefore, the City would have to have an agreement to begin the platting process. If the City were to enter into negotiations with the developer as moved by Cm. Martinez, then the City would essentially have to donate the land because it will be a local road in the subdivision.

Mrs. Cabello informed Council that she had just been given news that the land was purchased with Community Develop Block Grant (CDBG) funds. If that is true, then the City would have to purchase the land from the General Fund to reimburse CDBG funds and then donate it to the developers. This is because there would now be a different use for the property than what was the original intention when purchased with CDBG monies. She confirmed that if the City reimburses the federal government for the CDBG monies, then the City will lose that funding since it won't be reappropriated. MPT Torres

voiced his understanding that the City will then be out-of-pocket for the value of the land since it will not have that CDBG money re-appropriated to other projects. Mrs. Cabello asked for time to research this matter.

Cm. Martinez countered that the developer is only asking for driveway access to the road; in return, they will pave the street, which the City does not currently have the funding to do. The developer needs access to the street in order to pave it.

Mrs. Cabello explained that in order for the developer to plat, the City must donate the land first; this is procedure. Mr. Snideman stated that local roads, as opposed to non-local roads, are the responsibility of the developer. The road in question will be turned into a local road as part of the developer's subdivision. The developer is not offering to pave the road out of sheer generosity; it will allow him to develop more lots as well. Those lots will have driveway access to the road. One concern to address is whether this arrangement presents a fair deal to the City.

MPT Torres voiced his opinion that the bigger concern is the CDBG funding issue that the City is facing. He asked for management's recommendation.

Arturo Garcia, Acting Building Director and former Community Development Director, stated that this project has an access road to the birding house by the river. It was bought with CDBG funds a few years ago and would require public notices and information similar to another property near the river in District VIII that was sold. He agreed that this situation requires the completion of a process rather than a quick agreement. He cautioned Council and management to first ensure a dollar-for-dollar transaction on the market value of the property before a deal is struck. Access to the birding house is also critical.

Daniel Wyers agreed that paving the road as proposed would allow him to develop 10 more lots, but they could have already been built in the time it has taken to try to come to an agreement with the City. He reminded Council that the City's birding house is not currently being utilized. There is currently a sign in the middle of the road, and AEP poles will need to be moved as well, making the road scarcely functional. He is taking on a lot of work with this proposal, which will give the City a functional road.

Mrs. Cabello agreed that there is an undeniable benefit to the City to enter into this agreement; however, she asked for time between now and the next Council meeting for staff to research the ownership and funding of the property as well as the steps that must be taken with CDBG. If staff needs to start taking any steps now, they will. However, she emphasized her hesitancy to jeopardize any future CDBG funding.

Mr. Snideman informed Council that platting must be approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission; to start that process, the City must have an agreement with the developer. A road is considered local when it is primarily going to be used by the development, which will likely be the case when this road is paved. Staff advises against turning this road into a local road since its original intent was for access to the

SOLA Center rather than development.

Mr. Garcia informed Council that since this property and projects were CDBG-funded, there will likely be a 30-60 days' notice requirement associated with moving forward with this agreement. He confirmed that nothing has been done with this road for about 12 years.

Motion to direct staff to meet with and initiate negotiations with the developer for access to the road and to bring this item back to the next Council meeting, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Against: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

F. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action regarding update on City's recycling program; and any matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member George Altgelt)

Cm. Vielma stated that several instances were brought to her attention in which the City was not processing its recycling materials, allowing it to pile up and causing rat infestations and other hazards. She noted her understanding that this occurred both last year and this year, asking for an explanation; she added that she was informed the number of Solid Waste employees were drastically decreased by half.

Ricardo Cuellar of First Recycling explained that over the last couple of years, the prices for recyclable materials drastically decreased, making the materials almost worthless to sell or move. After investigating the market and reviewing materials that were unable to be recycled due to grease or contamination, the plant experienced a pileup of materials that could not be sold or transported.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, noted that she had Finance staff compile a profit and loss statement for the agreement with First Recycling for the City's recyclable materials. It did not make money April through July 2019. Stephen Geiss, Solid Waste Director, confirmed that the City made \$5,000 in 2019 from its agreement with First Recycling. 2017 was the most profitable year at \$78,000. At the end of 2017, China ended taking recycling materials, and the recycling industry suffered worldwide. Recyclable is a commodity, and the supply and demand situation at the end of 2017 caused an industry collapse.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, informed Council that First Recycling takes the greatest loss in the industry collapse as a result of the contract terms. Recycling is not a profitable venture but is instead a service that the City provides to the community. The City continues to collect recyclable materials.

Cm. Vielma asked Mr. Cuellar how many personnel were on staff versus how many are on staff to-date. Mr. Cuellar stated that before June 2019, there were 15 workers and four leaders; currently, there are 12 workers and one plant leader. He confirmed that there was a buildup of materials in the warehouse, which presented a hazard. However, to sell tons of those materials would not even have resulted in a profit of \$1. First Recycling ultimately buried that excess material in the landfill. When asked who gave that directive to bury recyclable materials, Mr. Cuellar noted that the City gave the directive.

Mr. Geiss noted that the burying of the materials occurred over the course of a week from January 7-14, 2020. Mr. Cuellar informed Council that the contract stipulates that First Recycling will receive the recyclables, but there is no process in place for when the materials are unsellable. Mr. Geiss confirmed that the City charges by the ton for third parties dumping at the landfill at \$31.50 per ton. The City does not pay First Recycling for their work; First Recycling pays the expenses and performs the processing, marketing, and sales. The City and First Recycling share profits after expenses or, in the case of no profit, First Recycling takes the losses. The City owns the property and machinery; First Recycling is just managing the plant. The material is also owned by the City.

MPT Torres suggested that Council discuss this matter in executive session under Section 551.071 to consult with the City Attorney the City's contract with First Recycling.

Motion to go into executive session pursuant to Section 551.071 to discuss the City's contract with First Recycling with the City Attorney.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken. Council requested that management proceed as discussed in executive session.

Cm. Altgelt stated his disappointment that Council learned through external sources that this problem existed and that Council was not updated on changes of ownership, health and safety concerns, and the City subsidizing tipping fees. He noted his concern that this direction from management is unacceptable.

MPT Torres countered that Cm. Rodriguez personally discovered that this event was occurring, based on the visit he made to the landfill. He informed MPT Torres, who began making inquiry. Dr. Marte Martinez voiced his understanding that First Recycling had to run the plant and were trying to provide a temporary solution in the hopes that market prices for recyclables increase. He encouraged Council to understand that

issues arise every day, and Council can always discuss what they feel is important, but day-to-day operations should be handled by the management team and Department Directors. Council is meant to manage the City Manager's Office upwards, not the day-to-day operations of departments unless a significant issue is brought to Council's attention for consideration. The recycling issue is a system, worldwide problem as Council has seen, and he urged Council and management to work together to develop a viable solution.

Cm. Rodriguez emphasized that his major concern is not the rat infestation in the brush surrounding the landfill or warehouse but rather the lack of communication and the issue of micromanagement that has risen.

Jorge Alvaro, Plant Administrator, reminded Council that with the drastic reduction of pricing for purchasing recyclables, First Recycling would not be able to recover the expense of transporting materials had they sold them at the current values.

Cm. Balli noted that the City and First Recycling are working together, and the industry conditions caused a difficult problem for the City's recyclables. He voiced his opinion that this matter did not need to become political but expressed his hope that the two can continue their work together with improved communication.

No action taken.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Vielma, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.