

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2020-R-08
LIVE WEB LINK:
<http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>
CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
May 18, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in a moment of silence, remembering the citizens who have passed away or are currently suffering from COVID-19.

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
Robert Eads	City Manager
Rosario Cabello	Deputy City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	City Attorney

Cm. Vielma joined at 5:07 p.m.

Cm. Altgelt joined at 5:19 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of May 4, 2020.

Motion to approve the May 4, 2020 minutes.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

Citizen comments

Rafael Benavides, Public Information Officer, read citizen comments into the record.

Melissa Hinojosa asked about the City's curfew now that Governor Greg Abbott has allowed for the reopening of bars.

Steven Sandoval of Club Retro asked that Council lift the City's curfew for businesses that operate during late night hours such as night clubs.

Elizabeth Sames of Siete Banderas also asked for the City curfew to be lifted in light of Governor Abbott's reopening for bars as of Friday. She stated that Siete Banderas's customers will be afraid to patronize the establishment if they think that they will be cited for violating curfew. Laura Nix of Siete Banderas also requested that Council end the City's curfew.

Matthew Gibson of Siete Banderas voiced his opposition to the City's curfew, noting that the financial impact on bars, night clubs, and restaurants warrant the end of the curfew if they operate during late hours.

Jose Flores, Jr., of The Cold Brew Rock Bar also requested the curfew to be removed.

Louis Charles Romano of Siete Banderas asked Council to remove the curfew so that customers will feel comfortable going out at night to his establishment; he asked if the curfew is necessary at this point.

Brenden Dalton of Citizens of Laredo asked Council to end this unconstitutional lockdown.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, clarified that the curfew always allows people to be out of doors for any activity that the Governor has permitted, which at this time includes going to bars and night clubs.

Hank Sames of Siete Banderas noted that it is time to end the curfew and allow small businesses to reopen.

Priscilla Iglesias of Laredo Main Street thanked and commended Council for their actions to maintain the safety of all Laredoans during this pandemic. Laredo Main Street has spoken with several members of the downtown bars who are concerned that their customers will be hindered from coming to their establishments if they think that the curfew will apply to them. These businesses are willing to comply with any health and safety recommendations that the City has for them to reopen and starting seeking profits again while continuing to fight the spread of COVID-19 infection.

Mrs. Hale explained that as of Friday, May 22, bars will be able to reopen at 25% capacity while restaurants will be able to increase their capacity to 50%.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

Public Hearing allowing interested persons to comment on the 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and its 2020-2021 One Year Action Plan which identifies the projects proposed to be funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City anticipates receiving \$3,850,188.00 in 46th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$1,167,858.00 through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and \$327,812.00 through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). An additional \$2,800.00 is anticipated to be received through CDBG program income, \$72,000.00 in Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan funds, and \$260,000.00 in HOME program income. The following projects are proposed to be funded:

46th AY Community Development Block Grant		
1	Community Development Administration	\$762,000
2	Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$317,710
3	Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program	\$600,000
4	Code Enforcement	\$508,107
5	Graffiti Removal Program	\$ 31,511
6	Downtown Senior Recreational Program	\$165,160
7	Rental Rehabilitation Program	\$436,000
8	Park Improvements in District I	\$ 73,750

9	Sidewalks in District I	\$ 73,750
10	Park Improvements in District II	\$ 47,500
11	Park Improvements in District III	\$127,500
12	Sidewalks in District III	\$120,000
13	Park Improvements in District IV	\$100,000
14	Sidewalks in District IV	\$ 47,500
15	De Llano Park Improvements in District V	\$147,500
16	Bike Lanes in District VII	\$147,500
17	Sidewalks in District VIII	\$147,500
	TOTAL	\$3,852,988

	Revolving Loan	
18	Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Administration	\$ 7,027
19	Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program	\$64,973
	TOTAL	\$72,000

	HOME Investment Partnership Grant	
20	HOME Program Administration	\$116,000
21	Down Payment Assistance Program (PI)	\$260,000
22	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$400,000
23	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)	\$200,000
24	Homeowner Reconstruction Program	\$451,858
	TOTAL	\$1,427,858

	Emergency Solutions Grant	
25	ESG Program Administration	\$16,258
26	Emergency Shelter – Shelter Operations	\$106,318
27	Emergency Shelter – Essential Services	\$45,000
28	Street Outreach	\$ 9,884
29	Rapid Re-Housing	\$82,352
30	Homelessness Prevention	\$60,000
31	Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	\$ 8,000
	TOTAL	\$327,812

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: MPT Torres

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

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

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

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo FY 2020 Airport Operation Fund Budget to accept and appropriate the Federal Aviation Administration grant No. 3-48-0136-091-2020 in the amount of \$18,506,692. The purpose of grant is to provide for airport funds which may be lawfully used, as found in the Office of Airports Revenue Use Policy, such as Airport operating expenses to include payroll, airfield safety, airport security, and terminal maintenance which are 100% federal funds; no local match is required. Federal grant funding is available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2020.

Dr. Marte Martinez asked for clarification that project funds are allowable under this item. Jeffrey Miller, Airport Director, confirmed that they are allowable.

Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that this type of grant securement is headline-making news; \$18.5 million is extremely impressive and very important for the community.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning at approximate 15.8502 acres out of Survey 2049, Abstract 594, R. H. Raines, and Porcion 35, Jose M. Diaz, Abstract 546, located at South of Buckeye Dr.

and West of Wolly Dr., from R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District) to R-1MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-24-2020 District III

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 1, Mulchand Plat, Unit 2, located at 9215 FM 1472 Rd., from R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District) and B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-25-2020 District VII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning at approximate 179.04 acres out of Porcion 15, Jose Prudencio Garcia, Abstract 53, located at South of FM 1472 Rd. and West of Wood Duck Dr., from AG

(Agricultural District) and R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-29-2020 District VII

After an initial introduction, this item was brought back before Council. Cm. Altgelt noted that the item needs to be tabled as this zone change puts warehouse directly on top of a residential neighborhood. It needs a buffer, and he noted his need for time to visit with Planning staff. He initiated a motion to table.

Motion to rescind introduction, close public hearing, and table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 2

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Altgelt

Against: 3

Cm. Rodriguez

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Balli

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez and Cm. Vielma were not present. MPT Torres did not cast a vote as Chair.

Motion fails.

Dr. Marte Martinez asked for the details of this zone change request, particularly the applicant's compliance with the Comprehensive Plan or other requirements. He noted that the applicant deserves a hearing.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that there is a requirement to buffer non-residential development that directly abuts residential areas. The applicant intends to buffer the residential area from the industrial area during the planning process. He clarified that this is only the zoning process, not the platting process. Dr. Martinez reminded Council that the legal requirements for a zone change do not include buffering at this stage.

Mr. Snideman clarified that the property is surrounded by industrial areas on all sides but the east, which is residential. The applicant expressed their intent to buffer this abutment with natural entryway using the contour of the land.

Robert Eads, City Manager, voiced his wish to move the process along if possible without stifling any growth or development. Cm. Altgelt stated his opinion that comingling industrial and residential areas have been failed experiments in the past and remain as failures. The buffering will be critical as this area is a main artery straight to the Rio Grande,

requiring mitigation and compliance with the greenspace ordinance. He noted his preference to hear the developer's plans at the front end of this process as this is typically his only chance to see the process and put it through the lens of conservation and amicability among neighbors.

Cm. Balli noted that he didn't support the motion to table because he wanted to hear the discussion. While he agreed that the developer deserves their hearing, he also agreed with Mr. Eads that Council should not stifle development. Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion to table this item for the next Council meeting, but MPT Torres clarified since Cm. Altgelt's previous motion to table failed, someone who voted on the prevailing side would need to initiate such a motion.

Motion to table this item for the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5	Against: 1	Abstain: 0
Cm. Gonzalez	Dr. Marte Martinez	
Cm. Rodriguez		
MPT Torres		
Cm. Altgelt		
Cm. Balli		

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
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Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for Oil and/or Gas Extraction and Production (Plug/Abandonment of a Well) at approximate 0.99 acres out of 14.69 acre tract, Porcion 35 J. M. Diaz, Abstract 546, located at West of Ejido Ave. and South of Lomas Del Sur Blvd; providing for publication and effective date. The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Special Use Permit and staff supports the application. ZC-28-2020 District I

Rafael Benavides, Public Information Officer, stated that Thomas Lamont, representing Rio Grande Exploration, submitted a public comment in favor of this zone change.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
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7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning at approximate 11.63 acres out of Porcion 14, Jose Guajardo, Abstract 56, located at South of FM 1472, and East of El Pico, from AG (Agricultural District) to M-1 (Light Industrial District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-30-2020 District VII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. Motion to open public hearing #8.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol at Lots 4A, Block 1, Vista Hermosa Subdivision Unit III, located at 5507 McPherson Rd; providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Special Use Permit and staff does not support the application. ZC-31-2020 District V

Rafael Benavides, Public Information Officer, read a comment from Adriana C. De Leon into the record on behalf of Vista Hermosa Subdivision residents: "This letter is to inform you that the residents of Vista Hermosa Subdivision oppose the Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol [at this location]. Please be advised that we have proven the reason why we oppose the granting of the Special Use Permit twice before to restaurants in the same sector. The Laredo City Council has denied the permit twice after reviewing all of the evidence

presented. Please note that we are not against any business opening in this area. We, the residents of Vista Hermosa Subdivision, only oppose the Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol. We have taken proof and evidence that serving alcohol in this area has caused many damages as well as endangered the residents of Vista Hermosa Subdivision, Newman Elementary, and the Blas Castañeda Park. It is important for you to be informed that after December 2, 2019, when the Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol was denied to the restaurant Casa Mexico, they took it upon themselves to move the trash cans from their previous location to approximately four feet from the back yards of the Vista Hermosa Subdivision residents whose back yards are behind the already-mentioned businesses. We the residents of Vista Hermosa Subdivision reported the incident to Mr. Maldonado, Sanitation Inspector II and Environmental Health Services badge number 9154 to inform him that this had happened and that it was a health issue. Mr. Maldonado reported back to us that they had to go several times as this was happening often. Attached please find pictures for your review as well as all of the signatures that have been picked up from residents of Vista Hermosa Subdivision who oppose the granting of this Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol. We ask that you please review what has been presented in the other two denied requests for the Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol. The tranquility, safety, and peace of the residents of Vista Hermosa Subdivision, as well as Newman Elementary and Blas Castañeda Park, lies upon your support to our opposition in the above mentioned matter.” Mr. Benavides explained that 65 residents signed the petition opposing this matter.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that staff does not support the application because the property does not comply with the minimum distance requirements of 300 feet to a public park as per Ordinance 2017-O-005. It is 190 feet away from a public park across McPherson Road. The property also does not comply with the minimum off-street parking and loading requirements of the Laredo Land Development Code Chapter 4, Section 24-78.3.

Motion to close public hearing and deny.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9. Motion to open public hearing #9.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximate 13.20 acres out of Porcion 35, Jose M. Diaz, Abstract 546, located at South of Lomas Del Sur Blvd., from R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) to R-1B (Single Family High Density Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-32-2020 District I

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. Motion to open public hearing #10.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for townhouses at Lots 1, 2, & 3, Block 2, Khaledi Heights Subdivision, Unit 2, located at 10002, 10012 Bob Bullock Loop, and 4104 Blue Quail Rd; providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit and staff does not support the application. ZC-12-2020 District VI

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that the applicant does not meet the minimum requirements of the Special Use Permit as per the ordinance. While staff is working towards an improved ordinance, the applicant does not meet the current requirements. The lot width is the main issue of compliance with regard to utilities and street parking, among other factors.

Cm. Altgelt noted that Council approved an item with similar items at the last Council meeting despite staff's recommendation.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. Motion to open public hearing #11.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by repealing Ordinance 2018-O-168 and authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol at Lots 64 & 65, Block 2, North Creek Subdivision, located at 1010 E Hillside Rd. Applicant seeks new permit to change permit holder and to amend the following.

1. Site plan by decreasing square footage from 3,202 SF to 2195 SF, removing the outside dining area.
2. Patio will not be used
3. Removing the remote parking agreement with the property owner from 1020 E Hillside Rd.
4. Changing hours of operation from 2:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
5. Closed on Mondays.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Special Use Permit and staff does not support the application. ZC-20-2020 District V

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that the property does not meet the minimum distance requirements as per Ordinance 2017-O-005; the property is 281.4 feet to the nearest residential district when a minimum of 300 feet is required. Also, the property does not meet the minimum parking requirements of 30 parking spaces; the site plan shows 22, but only 18 can be considered. Therefore, the proposed use is 12 parking spaces short. The applicant previously had an agreement that provided them with the additional parking that they needed, but that agreement is no longer in place. He asked, if Council wishes to move forward with this SUP, that they include the following conditions:

- Outside patio area not to be used (not listed in conditions but proposed by the applicant)
- Hours of operation shall be from Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Outdoor music is prohibited and no speakers are allowed.
- Full list of condition contained in the staff report.

Mr. Snideman confirmed that the location previously had a Special Use

Permit.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce including the recommendations from staff as presented and removing the parking requirements, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

12. Motion to open public hearing #12.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning at approximate 2.91 acres out of tracts 69 and 70, Porcion 10, Tomas Sanchez, Abstract 280, located at South of FM 1472 Rd., and West of Los Minerales Annex Rd. from AG (Agricultural District) to M-1 (Light Industrial District); providing for publication and effective date.

Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-19-2020 District VII

Oscar Castillo, representing Elvira H. Moreno, submitted a public comment in favor of the rezoning.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

13. Motion to open public hearing #13.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$85,000.00 and to amend the FY 2020 Special Fire Grants Fund annual budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures through the Border Zone Fire Department (BZFD) program. The initiatives are funded by the Office of the Governor (OOG) Homeland Security Grants Division. The purpose is to provide grants to professional fire departments along the Texas-

Mexico border region for specialized equipment, maintenance, and medical supplies to support emergency services associated with the execution of border security activities. Funding will be used to purchase extrication equipment. The grant performance period is from March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Fire Grants Fund.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

14. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents for the purchase of a 0.968 acre tract from Manuel E. Perez in the negotiated amount of \$30,000.00; naming of the trail Manuel and Minerva Perez trail and applicable closing costs. Said tract, is a tract of land containing 0.968 acres more or less, out of CALLED 1.5737 acres conveyed to Manuel Perez and wife, Hermina Perez Recorded in Volume 1230, Pages 713-715, Deed Records Webb County, Texas, situated in Porcion 22, Dona M. J. Sanchez Original Grantee, Abstract 277, Webb County, Texas. Acquisition of the proposed property will allow continuity between abutting City of Laredo owned properties for the preservation and beautification of River Vega land and enhance recreational amenities. Additionally, it will allow the expansion of the Father McNaboe hike and bike trail; and providing for an effective date. Funding is available through the Environmental Services Department Fund.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

15. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement between the City of Laredo and the United States Postal Service (USPS) for the rental of 5,708 sq. ft. of first floor of office space, use of general public area, and two (2) parking designations at the Old Federal Courthouse located at 1300 Matamoros. The term of the lease is for five (5) years beginning June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2025 with the annual rental rate set and agreed by both parties at ninety-six thousand dollars (\$96,000.00), payable in equal monthly installments; and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

VIII. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2020-O-034, 2020-O-036, 2020-O-046, 2020-O-047, 2020-O-048, 2020-O-049, 2020-O-050, 2020-O-051, 2020-O-052, 2020-O-053, and 2020-O-054.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. 2020-O-034 An Ordinance amending Chapter 21, Article XII of the Laredo Code of Ordinances regarding Aggressive Solicitation and enacting a new section for pedestrian and traffic safety. Providing for severability and providing for an effective date.

MPT Torres clarified that Council was asked to table this item so that they could meet with stakeholders, a task that they have not yet been able to accomplish.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, reminded Council that their directive to staff was to collect stakeholders' input, which has been done to-date. This is a first amendment for a traffic safety issue. She informed Council that the City already has two ordinances that address this issue (pedestrian and standing ordinances), making Ordinance 2020-O-034 unnecessary.

Motion to table.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. 2020-O-036 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement renewal with Securitas Security Services USA, Inc., as a sole source as per Customs and Border Protection approved Security Contract, for approximately 120 square feet of office space and an exclusive office entry lane for approximately 1,020 square feet at Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge (Bridge II). Lease term will be for one (1) year commencing April 1, 2020 and ending on March 31, 2021. Monthly rent will be \$3,500.00 for approximately 120 square feet of office space and an exclusive office entry lane for approximately 1,020 square feet at Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge (Bridge II). The lease may be terminated by either party with a thirty (30) day written notice.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-036.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

18. 2020-O-046 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and execute a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services through the South Texas Development Council (STDC), amending the FY 2019-2020 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$674,790.00 for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department's Ryan White Program to provide health care, diagnostic and specialty care and medical case management for persons with HIV/AIDS for the term of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-046.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

19. 2020-O-047 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), amending the FY 2019-2020 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$53,750.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part C Early Intervention Services to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) for the term from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-047.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

20. 2020-O-048 Amending the FY 2020 Risk Management Fund by appropriating revenues and expenditures of \$100,000.00. The revenues will be available from a Wellness Program funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) and are restricted for the continued operation of the City's Wellness Program.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-048.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

21. 2020-O-049 Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo FY 2019-2020 Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course Budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$75,000.00. Revenues are from funds generated by the Max Mandel Golf Course charges for the Capital Replacement Project. Funds will be used for the acquisition of equipment necessary for the maintenance of the Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-049.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

22. 2020-O-050 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning at approximate 3.88 acres out of 5-A 121.3715 acre tract, Portion 16, D. Garcia, Abstract 46 and Portion 17, J. P. Garcia, located at West of Free Trade Street, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-1 (Light Industrial District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-23-2020 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-050.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

23. 2020-O-051 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1, 2, & 3, Block 2, Khaledi Heights Subdivision, Unit 2, located at 10002, 10012 Bob Bullock Loop, and 4104 Blue Quail Rd. from B-3 (Community Business District) and B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-11-2020 District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-051.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

24. 2020-O-052 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximate 9.32 acres out of tract conveyed to WW Escondido, LP, in Portion 14, Jose Guajardo Abstract 56, located at North of Peoples Blvd. and East of Port Victoria Dr. from R-1MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-16-2020 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-052.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

25. 2020-O-053 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for townhouses at approximate 9.32 acres out of tract conveyed to WW Escondido, LP, in Porcion 14, Jose Guajardo Abstract 56, located north of Peoples Blvd. and east of Port Victoria Dr; providing for publication and effective date. ZC-17-2020 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-053.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

26. 2020-O-054 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 23, Parks and Recreation Department, Article I, Section 23-4, providing a waiver of membership fees to recreational facilities for retired City of Laredo employees; containing a savings clause; containing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-054.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE JEFFREY J. MILLER, AIRPORT DIRECTOR

27. Authorizing the City Manager to establish guidelines for COVID-19 Economic Relief Program for concession and lease agreements located at the Laredo International Airport. Funding is available in the Airport Operations Fund, contingent upon the approval and acceptance of the FAA-CARES Act grant #3-48-0136-091-2020.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TINA MARTINEZ,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

28. 2020-R-075 Accepting the conveyance of a 15,444.15 square foot tract of land, more or less out of Lot 1E, Block 1, Replat of Lot 1D and 1E, Lago Del Mar Subdivision, Unit 8, recorded in volume 24, Page 40, Map Records, Webb County, Texas, for the purpose of serving as a 15' waterline easement in order to install, construct, replace, repair, and perpetually maintain a water meter, water mains, and the right of free, full, and unimpeded access to grantees equipment; Said Easement is further described by boundary survey and metes and bounds in the attached exhibit; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-075.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Authorizing the City Manager to approve the partial change of use of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) purchased tract of land. The property located at 3712 U.S. Highway 83 South in Laredo, Texas 78046 which was originally purchased with federal funds (CDBG) was acquired as a public facility activity and will now also serve as a public improvement activity. The partial change of use will allow for this road to provide access to a future recreational development but also share this tract of land for use as an entrance and exit for a residential subdivision.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For:

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

30. Consideration for approval of the selection of the top consultant for the City of Laredo Municipal Waterpark RFQ FY19-ENG-001; and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. A total of nine (9) firms responded to the request for qualifications and the top three (3) firms made presentations via teleconference before the Evaluation Committee on Thursday, May 7, 2020. The committee recommends the selection of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Dallas, Texas. There is no financial impact at this time.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

31. Consideration to ratify additional emergency purchases and expenditures, incurred to date, related to the City of Laredo Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency (COVID-19 crisis).

The following list of vendors issued additional emergency Purchase Orders to provide immediate commodities and services:

Thermo Fisher	\$58,208.10	COVID Test Kits, Swab Kits, Test Equipment
ServPro North	\$22,171.20	Disinfecting Services: Laredo Int'l. Airport, Laredo PD, 911 Offices
VIX Medical Equipment	\$19,769.20	KN95 Masks, 3 ply Masks, Coveralls, Janitorial Items, Thermometers, Disinfectants
Total	\$100,148.50	

Previously, on April 6th, 2020, City Council approved the ratification of emergency purchases and expenditures (incurred up to that date) related to the COVID-19 crisis; this may be a re-occurring motion request throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Funding available in General Fund COVID-19 Emergency Fund and in respective department budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

FIRE: STAFF SOURCE STEVE LANDIN, FIRE CHIEF

32. Consideration to renew contract FY17-039 to lowest bidder Southern Tire Mart, Columbia, MS in an amount up to \$150,000.00 per year, for providing tire replacement and tire repair services for the Fire Department. This contract establishes regular and after hour service call rates for tire repair and replacement services along with the purchase of new tires. This is the final renewal term for this contract and shall be for a period of one (1) year. Funding is available in the General Fund - Fire Department's Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

33. Consideration to award annual contract FY20-051 for the purchase of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts/service for the City's Case/John Deere equipment to the following bidders:
- 1) Nueces Power Equipment, Corpus Christi, Texas, in an amount up to \$150,000.00;
 - 2) RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$160,000.00.

All parts and 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. This contract allows for three additional, one year extensions upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

34. 2020-R-061 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$67,500.00 to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), for the funding of FY 2020 Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Policy and Implementation Program for the period of October 01, 2020 through September 30, 2023. This program furthers the department's mission by promoting the safety of law enforcement officers and citizens through the purchase of BWC equipment. The City of Laredo is required to match \$37,500.00. Funding will be available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 200-R-061.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

35. 2020-R-074 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$700,000.00 to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), for the purpose of funding the FY 2020 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative Grant. The grant performance period start date is October 1, 2020 and is for a 36 months duration. The program objective is to provide funding to address illegal firearm-related crime and forensics through the establishment of a Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). Funding will be utilized to fund one (1) officer, one (1) intelligence analyst, one (1) vehicle, equipment and supplies for LPD; and technology and overtime for local prosecutors to investigate and prosecute related cases. No local match is required. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-074.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

PUBLIC WORKS: STAFF SOURCE JOHN ORFILA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

36. Consideration to renew contract FY19-070 to Vulcan Materials Company, San Antonio, TX for an annual amount up to \$400,000.00 for the purchase of Public Works materials (Asphalt Cold Laid - LRA Premix Type DS/LRA Black base Type 1 Grade AA) for various departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date to its execution, this is the first of three extension periods. Funding is available in General Fund-Public Works Construction budget.

SECTION I: LRA Premix Type DS \$63.61/ton

SECTION II: LRA Black base Type 1 Grade AA @ \$62.61/ton

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. Consideration to renew supply Contract FY18-023 with Anderson Columbia Co., Lake City, Florida in an amount up to \$180,000.00 for the purchase of prime emulsified asphalt oil used for street paving projects. All materials are purchased on an as needed basis utilizing the construction project budgets. This is the second of two extension periods. There was no price increase for this second extension. Funding is available in the Public Works Department construction project budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Consideration to renew contract FY18-037 for the purchase of uniforms for various city departments to the following vendors:

- 1) Section IV for Public Works Department: Al & Rob Sales, Laredo, Texas in an annual amount of up to \$25,000.00.

The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the first extension and final extension period of this contract. Funding is available within the Public Works operations budget.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, clarified that the amount should be corrected from \$25,000 to \$27,500 to reflect a 10% increase in materials.

Motion to deny and rebid for this contract.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

MPT Torres

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Vielma

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Balli

39. Consideration to renew contract FY18-068 with CMC Commercial Metals, Laredo, Texas. Related to materials purchased on an as needed basis by Public Works and other city departments for construction and repair projects. Contract is for a one hundred and twenty (120) day supply with the opportunity to extend for ten (10) additional one hundred and twenty day periods; extension four of ten. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

TAX: STAFF SOURCE DORA MALDONADO, TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

40. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts adjusted for the month of April 2020 represent a decrease of \$1,946.58. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE RIAZUL MIA, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

41. Consideration to award annual service contract FY20-049 to provide

electric motor repair services to the following bidders:

- 1) Delta House Electric & Motor, Freer, Texas in an amount up to \$300,000.00 (Primary Vendor);
- 2) RAMSA Electric, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$100,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

Repairs are for motors with horsepower ratings from 1/8 HP to 400 HP that are used in water and wastewater operations. This contract has three extension periods. All services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Water and Sewer Operating Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Consideration to select and negotiate with LNV, LLC of Laredo, Texas for the Zacate Creek WWTP Abandoned Trickling Filter Evaluation and Retro-fit for the City. Three (3) Statements of Qualifications were received from consultants and were reviewed and evaluated by City Staff, LNV, LLC. is being recommended for this project. There is no cost involved during the interview, review and selection of the Request of Qualifications.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

X. STAFF REPORTS

43. 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. Vielma

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session to discuss the pending condemnation lawsuit for City-owned land in La Grulla, Texas.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071 to discuss the pending condemnation lawsuit for city owned land in La Grulla, Texas in Case No. 7:18-CV-375; styled United States of America v. 801.077 Acres of Land, more or less, situated in Starr County, State of Texas, and City of Laredo, et al.; pending in the U.S. Southern District of Texas, McAllen Division.

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

XII. 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: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

45. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2020 Ford Explorer and one (1) 2020 Ford F-150 Extended Pick Up Truck in the total amount of \$56,758.00 from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, Texas through the GoodBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing. The vehicles are replacement vehicles for units #21 and #24 which have already reached their useful life. Funding is available in the 2019 PPFCO Bond Proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. 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. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

II. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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

1. Discussion with possible action on the status of the Economic Development Committee; and any other matters incident thereto.

Teclo Garcia, Economic Development Director, reported that a small business roundtable and economic recovery task force were developed per Council directive; the roundtable has representation from about 17 small businesses throughout the City and has been clear about two wishes in the community: to reopen their business and to make money. The economic recovery task force includes 13 leaders from around the City and has provided helpful guidance for mid-term and long-term recovery efforts. Some main ideas center around clustering, technology, protecting the port of entry, leveraging the port for manufacturing opportunities, and workforce education. Mr. Garcia confirmed that he would provide more information at the next Council meeting.

Motion to bring this item back to the next Council meeting and to end the economic recovery task force upon submission of their recommendations.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Update on the expansion of the airport related to the CARES Act with possible action; and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that staff and management have wanted to expand the airport for some time now, which has not been readily possible until now given the \$18.5 million grant that has just been obtained for the Airport Department.

Jeffrey Miller, Airport Director, noted that the airport terminal is well-built, but after 20 years, the checkpoint (which was designed and built before September 11, 2001) no longer serves the airport. The escalator needs maintenance to prevent breakdowns, slips, and falls; there are also safety concerns in the women's bathrooms. The airport also lacks a sense of place; the CARES Act has afforded the opportunity to put Laredoans back to work by adding employees and

expanding and improving upon the airport. He explained that typical airport funding restricts the municipality to use those funds in areas that do not produce revenue; the CARES Act grant would allow officials to build a conference center and/or lounge on the second floor that could potentially create a revenue stream. This work would not inhibit any activities on the west side of the airfield; it provides specialty labor over two years, which will provide new jobs in the community. He estimated that the airport will see a return to service in the fall, though he could not confirm; if this is not possible, then staff can halt the process and redirect funds towards operation if needed. He encouraged Council to approve a shovel-ready project for the airport as those types of projects are more likely to receive future funding. There is little risk to this project other than halting it if service does not pick up in the fall; however, the benefit gives the City another revenue resource at the airport.

Robert Eads, City Manager, commended Mr. Miller and staff on this project, noting management's support of the item.

Cm. Vielma reminded Council that the City is bound by law to have 100% of the personnel, security, and other requirements for any air travel, as do the airport's tenants. She asked if any of the grant monies could be dedicated to relief for tenants in a way that does not prevent any cargo or commercial air traffic to land in Laredo. She initiated a motion to accept the design process as it pertains to the restroom safety improvements.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that many of the airport's tenants have not been able to conduct their business since the shutdown; he recommended rent abatements for those tenants.

Mr. Miller cautioned Council that the plan presented is better than any other airport's plan at this time; some other airports are doing nothing. Going down the rabbit hole of waiving rents makes the process very difficult to find additional grants or loans. The suffering is not equal among all parties. The airport has not charged any late fees on rents to this day as a concession of the shutdown, but waiving rents completely would need more attention and may jeopardize the plan that staff has designed over the last couple of months. Dr. Martinez agreed and encouraged Council to defer to the subject matter experts on this issue. He asked Cm. Vielma to amend her motion to proceed as staff has presented so that the City does not have to rebuild or redesign any part of the airport later.

Motion to accept the design process as presented, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to accept the recommendations of the Airport Advisory Board and extend rent deferment at the airport as presented.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to install Wi-Fi in the areas that may require Wi-Fi hot spots throughout city facilities as it is related to home-based educational needs; and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that with the COVID-19 situation still uncertain, the school districts are preparing to move to home-based educational programs in the event that students are not able to return to school in the fall. Many households in Laredo fall below the poverty line, making wireless internet (or internet in general) unobtainable. Internet and Wi-Fi may be one of the most critical components of students' education at this time, and he noted his intention to team up with the school districts to cover as much of the city as possible with Wi-Fi hotspots. This has been tried in other municipalities; he warned Council that this is a labor- and cost-intensive process, making it difficult to implement universal Wi-Fi across the entire city. Also, this equipment needs upgrades and replacements regularly. While this is a difficult objective to achieve by one taxing agency, the City has the responsibility to help children meet their educational goals. Therefore, teaming up with the school districts may help ease the burden of achieving Wi-Fi throughout the area by sharing the costs.

Homero Vazquez-Garcia, IST Director, reported that staff met with both of the school districts on this initiative to research the best possible service to the community. A long-term goal, if the City is able to secure the funding, is to create a city-wide "mesh" network to provide internet access throughout the city, working with consultants on the project design and facility phased implementation. In the short term, the city can create various neighborhood access points in strategic locations for rapid implementation of internet services. Eight recreation centers within Laredo ISD can serve as access points, as well as 12 Laredo ISD schools and four library facilities.

Mr. Vazquez continued that United ISD is a larger area in terms of land; three recreation centers, 24 United ISD schools, and three library facilities were identified as potential neighborhood access points. He reported the proposed cost per site as \$2,736 for equipment in addition to numerous monthly recurring costs for the

service and technical support (as the Internet service will need to be outside of the City's network); all components considered, the first year of this service will cost about \$180,000 for 16 City sites. Staff and secondary costs like maintenance and operations will need to be considered, as well.

Judd Gilpin of the United ISD School Board noted that the board wishes to parallel the City's efforts and make their own sites available to expand the network if feasible. The board has reviewed proposals for cost information and intends to follow suit with the City to expand coverage.

Miguel "Mike" Munoa, Laredo IT Director, noted his enthusiasm on behalf of the school district to enact this plan to provide internet services for Laredo ISD's students; pricing and equipment has been confirmed, and staff foresees about six days to have it operational.

Claudia Balli of the Laredo ISD School Board noted that many of the district's students do not have internet access at their home, so it is difficult for them to make use of technology. The school district has committed to providing Chromebooks to students so that they can meet their educational goals via online classes at home due to the pandemic. Having internet access will be a great asset to the students.

Mayor Saenz asked if each entity will cover its own expenses at its facilities. Mr. Vazquez confirmed that this is currently the plan as it allows all entities to use their funding to the greatest capacity. The entities will work with the Economic Development Department for any available grant funding to enhance this service.

Cm. Vielma commended Dr. Martinez and staff for bringing this initiative forward and asked that private schools be included moving forward so that those students are able to secure internet access at home. Mayor Saenz suggested adding the colleges to that effect, as well. Mr. Vazquez confirmed that Laredo College announced on Friday that they have already initiated a similar plan for their students.

Cm. Altgelt noted that broadband internet is the new conduit to social mobility, voicing his support of this item. Tecló Garcia, Economic Development Director, emphasized the importance of internet and technology in school systems for social and economic growth. He confirmed that there are a lot of opportunities for funding and economic development agency funding for a more rigorous network in the future.

Motion to direct staff to collaborate with Laredo ISD, United ISD, and

any other entities wishing to participate to create a Wi-Fi grid for educational purposes in the City of Laredo.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez and MPT Torres were not present.

B. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion and possible action for best practice to assure health and safety of Laredoans as it relates to opening up the economy; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Altgelt noted that Governor Abbott has preempted many of the City's decisions regarding reopening establishments, businesses, and facilities. In this new reality, Council has some leeway to work with sanitarians and code enforcement officers in a way that serves public health as well as the economy. He voiced his opinion that many of these businesses and employees know what is best for themselves and are willing to contribute to and implement best practices. He initiated a motion to direct management to develop best practices for all industries that have close contact with the public.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, agreed with Cm. Altgelt's argument and noted that many of those practices have already been developed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Texas food establishment regulations are also very comprehensive and adopted into the City's ordinance. Staff has the need to go back to these businesses to reeducate them as they prepare to reopen, particularly with regards to sanitation.

Cm. Altgelt stated that one restaurateur he has spoken with has told him of many small practices that have helped with minimizing contact or exposure, such as having the host or hostess open the door for guests entering and exiting the establishment, removing menus and placing one on the wall to avoid multiple handlings of surfaces, and other measures.

Cm. Vielma asked if Health and code enforcement staff could develop a sign to place on business windows that they comply with COVID-19 health and safety measures so that the public can see before they enter that their establishment is engaged in best practices. Cm. Altgelt amended his motion to this effect.

Dr. Gonzalez clarified that regardless of COVID-19, businesses need

to adhere to the high standards of hygiene, sanitation, and contamination prevention. He questioned whether businesses need to place a sign in their windows to this effect as they should be compliant if they are in operation anyway.

Motion to direct management to develop best practices for all industries that have close contact with the public and to develop and display signs in business windows that deal with customers that state a "COVID Compliant" message, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Mayor Saenz

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action to allocate \$100,000.00 from District II Priority Funds for sidewalks on Lomas Del Sur; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

D. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Discussion with possible action to allow doubles to play at the tennis court; and any other matters incident thereto.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, explained that the Governor has already allowed four people to play doubles in tennis so long as there is no contact between the parties. However, the City's facilities have not been operating this way. Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that this means action is required for the City's facilities. He initiated a motion to allow doubles to play tennis at City tennis courts.

Juan J. Gomez, Jr., Parks & Recreation Director, confirmed that City facilities are only allowing single play but are opening every other court to allow for social distancing between groups. The City must set a precedent for all of the local and regional leagues who are preparing to start their seasons because the rules typically differ among leagues.

Mrs. Hale noted that Council can choose to mirror the Governor's order on this matter, but the City is allowed to be stricter with its own facilities. Cm. Rodriguez noted that the City's emergency order

expires at the end of the month; MPT Torres reminded him that Council can always hold a special meeting to address that order or the expiration date before June 1, 2020.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his opposition to the motion, calling it silly given the pandemic.

Motion to allow doubles to play at City tennis courts.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5 Against: 3 Abstain: 0

Mayor Saenz MPT Torres

Cm. Rodriguez Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Mercurio Martinez Cm. Balli

Cm. Vielma

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to utilize District III Priority Funding not to exceed \$35,000.00 for the purchase of a digital plan review software in order to expedite the plan review process and assist in stimulating the economy; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that this software is sorely needed by the Building Department and will allow staff to keep track of all projects throughout the process.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

1. Discussion with possible action to re-establish the Telecommunications Commission and instruct management to work collectively with such Commission to address internet service issues within the City of Laredo; and any other matters incident thereto.

MPT Torres noted that this commission was disbanded years ago. Homero Vazquez-Garcia, IST Director, clarified that under the current Protocol handbook, the commission is called the Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Motion to re-establish the Telecommunications Advisory Committee

as presented and to send concerns regarding internet service issues to the Public Utilities Commission of the state of Texas and to task the committee with marketing and advertising to citizens and Texas, as amended.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Mayor Saenz

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps at the following locations under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump installation Policy and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps instead of speed cushions which is currently required under the policy and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District IV Priority Funds will be used for this project. Total Estimated Project Cost approximately \$2,500.00.

- 3000 East Kearney Street between N. India Ave and N. Canada Ave

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action on an update regarding grant applications, funds awarded/acquired, and status of division performance; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

F. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to direct management to authorize the installation of an irrigation system and landscaping along Springfield walkway; and any other matters incident thereto. District V Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to direct management to discuss with the Brothers of St. John, Diocese of Laredo, or a local hotel the possibility of an alternative quarantine area to decrease the community and cluster spread of COVID-19; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Vielma explained that many people might be self-quarantining but do not have enough space in their house to keep their other family members safe from the risk of exposure. Other cities like Austin are renting hotel rooms for those individuals to safely self-quarantine away from the other members of their households as well as healthcare workers or medical providers who do not want to risk bringing anything home to their families. One of the universities in Austin is providing dormitories for this purpose, as well.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, reiterated that COVID-19 spreads through clusters and close contact as seen in multiple family groups in the community. Officials offered this initiative to the local hospitals as part of the emergency management plan at the onset of this pandemic; they did not need or want those accommodations at the time. Officials requested a mobile unit from the state as an alternative for healthcare professionals, and the option is still available. The City has been very proactive and isolated homeless persons who may have been or were confirmed positive in alternative housing.

Cm. Vielma reminded the public that the number of positive cases is going to increase, but if the City were to be faced with very high numbers, arrangements such as the one she proposed would help the City face that spike. Dr. Gonzalez reiterated that the City has several options available as part of its emergency plan already. He confirmed that most positive COVID-19 patients chose to quarantine in their own homes; immunity plays a large role in the spread of the virus. Officials have implemented a software program that calls or texts the positive patients with reminders to wash their hands, wear their masks, or report their temperatures for the day. This software has served as education to those patients; their contacts are told the same information and guidelines for infection prevention.

Cm. Vielma initiated a motion to discuss staff to explore this opportunity for use during the COVID-19 pandemic in the community or in cases where a household needs to be separated.

MPT Torres noted that he was contacted with the Bishop asking to sit down and discuss this item further due to his concerns about sanitation of any possible location within the diocese. The Bishop

noted that if he saw any risky behavior or decisions on this matter, he would interfere. Dr. Gonzalez reiterated that these arrangements are already in the emergency plan.

Motion to direct staff to explore the possibility of using alternative quarantine areas to decrease the cluster spread of COVID-19 or to separate household members if needed.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma noted her intention to investigate a mental health task force through the Health Department and Public Information Office to assist patients, family members, caregivers, and youth to better cope and understand this crisis. Having weekly trainings or contacts may help remove the local stigma of mental health issues. She initiated a motion to this effect.

Dr. Gonzalez noted that there is already a healthcare task force with SCAN, Border Region, Pillar, and other licensed professionals who counseled multiple community members and connect them with peer support groups. In the next two weeks, this task force will meet again. The schools have also utilized their counselors for community support. He agreed that this effort can be strengthened with an official mental health task force, as well, to counter anxiety or suicide.

Motion to direct staff to explore a mental health task force to assist the community during the COVID-19 crisis for weekly interviews or trainings.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIV. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0