

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2020-R-10
LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
June 15, 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.

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	Asst. City Manager & Acting City Attorney
Riazul Mia	Assistant City Manager

Cm. Vielma joined at 5:25 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of June 1, 2020

Motion to approve the June 1, 2020, minutes.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

Citizen comments

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

Kelly Fitzgerald voiced her support of Cm. Vielma's request to remove Confederate symbols, flags, and insignia from City buildings, property, and letterhead. While it cannot be ignored that Laredo supported the Confederacy, citizens are not obligated to honor it or glorify it. She noted her offense as a descendant of many Union soldiers, one of whom was a prisoner of war held in Andersonville, to see the country's flag on the floor of the airport along with the flags of traitors as though they were equals. She suggested that there is a better way to depict Laredo's history at the airport and encouraged Council to do so.

Bateman "Boake" Lacaey noted that a statue or other icon constructed for present and future generations should be something respectable rather than deplorable. He noted his distaste for the prolonged depiction of the Confederate flag in the City's logos, encouraged the City to admit how terribly the African American community has been treated in this country and agreed with Cm. Vielma's item to remove these symbols. Laredo is a sympathetic and caring city and is no longer a part of what these symbols represent.

Viky Garcia, a former Laredo Crime Stoppers board member who was not speaking on their behalf, stated that Laredo's only community policing grassroots effort noted that she was one of the last members to of the "citizen's police academy" that allowed the public to meaningfully ask questions and try to understand what happens behind the walls of law enforcement institutions. She noted her opinion that 10 years ago, law enforcement's transparency was murky but the culture of treating the average citizen has changed. Citizen-lead organizations have been stymied by law enforcement, with even the Laredo Police Department opening their own tip line rather than relying upon the Laredo Crime Stoppers' efforts. Ms. Garcia asked why the Laredo Crime Stoppers, as the only neighborhood watch of its size, has the lowest funding; she also asked why the community is asking for even more funds to further militarize the police force. The City and community talk about providing better access to health care services, but the Police Department's budgets and funding applications all go towards bullet-proof vests and patrol units; she asked where the effort is being made to shift the culture.

Dana Crabtree asked Council to examine all local law enforcement policies to determine human rights compliance as a start. The policy changes known as "8 Can't Wait" are an essential beginning, though she noted that there is still more work to be done. She asked Council to give more of the budget to other community programs such as physical and mental health, housing, nutrition, and education; many of the Police Department's responses to community needs should be handled by other social services.

Roberto Lara, Jr., Vice Commander for the American Legion 59, asked that the

Veterans Affairs Committee be reestablished with representation that is recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs and by Congress.

Al Villarreal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9194 supported the reestablishment of the Veterans Affairs Committee and asked that the organizations be recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs and by Congress.

Rogelio Nevarez of the Laredo Police Officers Association stated that the association supports the modernization of the Department's policy and procedures to ensure the protection of the community's citizens and its members. He voiced his gratitude that the Department is reflective of the community that they keep safe. The Laredo Police Department participates in many events throughout the City and are willing to show the humanity behind the uniform by working with management and Council as well as supporting all walks of life throughout the community.

Remy Salinas voiced opposition to the agenda item proposing to rebuild or refurbish the Plaza Theater, noting that now is not the time to spend any monies on non-necessary items. The pandemic will continue to affect the City's finances into the future and all expenditures should be carefully deliberated. Regarding the flooding that occurred on Old Patch Road, he suggested that City engineers review all permits and planning meetings that took place with regard to that development. He noted his surprise that such a new development was threatened by an inconsequential rainstorm, adding that the City bears responsibility for the mishap as they are tasked with protecting the public from "bad engineering" by developers.

Dr. Victor Soliz of Laredo College noted that the college has a legacy in education excellence in the community. He voiced his support of the agenda item to allocate a portion of the City's COVID-19 funding to provide \$2,000 for students towards the college's truck drivers' training program. He noted his understanding that the remaining costs would be covered by Texas Workforce Solutions, adding that funding this program will help ensure a bright future for Laredo's workforce.

J. J. Centeno of Peua Consulting, LLC, voiced his support of Public Hearings #3, 8, and 9.

Mayor Saenz remarked upon the retirement of Olivia Varela of the Laredo Economic Development Corporation after seven years of service; a video of her recognition event from earlier in the day was played with Council and City staff remarks upon her career and professionalism. Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that as the economic climate of Laredo changed over the years, Mrs. Varela adapted to it to ensure success for the region.

Cm. Altgelt stated that Mrs. Varela advocated for economic development in Laredo long before it was on the Council's radar and never gave up.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

None

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to appropriate funds in the amount of \$9,988,345 awarded by FTA FY20 CARES ACT Grant TX-2020-100-00 by increasing revenues and expenditures for the FY 2020 Transit Budget. Funding is provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed by President Donald J. Trump on March 27, 2020. Funding will be dispensed at a 100 percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be available to support capital, operating, and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximate 5.9558 acres out of Porcion 35, Jose M. Diaz, Abstract 546, located at North of Bianka Lane, and West of Loop 20, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-41-2020 District I

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 21, 22, 23 and 24, Block 1, E.G. Business Park, Phase 2, located at 334, 338, 340 and 344 Veterans Blvd., from B-3 (Community Business District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-42-2020 District II

Cm. Rodriguez asked that Council introduce this as a B-4 rather than M-1.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, reminded Council that a B-4 was first suggested but M-1 would be a better fit for this property given what is in the vicinity.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce as a B-4 zone.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

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 6, Riverside Subdivision, located at 317 Masterson Rd., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-38-2020 District III

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for Signs Manufacturing at Lot 1, Block 6, Riverside Masterson Rd.

Subdivision, located at 317 Masterson Rd; providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the conditional use permit and staff supports the application. ZC-39-2020 District III

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1, 2, & 3, Block 208 Eastern Division, located at 1602 South Meadow Avenue, from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-34-2020 District III

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by repealing Ordinance 2012-O-084 and rezoning Lot 4, Block 666, Eastern Division, located at 1219 East Bustamante St., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-43-2020 District IV

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. Motion to open public hearing #8.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 20, Block 1, The Loop Subdivision Phase 4, located at 6001 Vero Dr., from B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to R-1 (Single Family Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-36-2020 District V

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9. Motion to open public hearing #9.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

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, The Loop Subdivision Phase I, located at 6002 Alek Dr., from B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to R-1A Single Family Reduced Area Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-37-2020 District V

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. Motion to open public hearing #10.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 51, Block 1, North Point Hills Subdivision, located at 249 North Point Dr., from R-O (Residential/Office District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-35-2020 District V

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

None

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2020-O-067, 2020-O-068, 2020-O-069, and 2020-O-070.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. 2020-O-067 Authorizing the City Manager to accept additional funding from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in the amount of \$561,200.00 for grant year 2019 and \$296,668.00 for grant year 2020 and amending the FY 2020 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$857,868.00 for a total amount of the contract between FY 2017-2021 of \$1,379,168.00 for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Women's Health Preventive Health Services and Family Planning Program.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-067.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. 2020-O-068 Amending the City of Laredo Waterworks Construction Fund FY

2020 Annual Budget by appropriating revenues and expenses in the amount of \$2,200,000.00. Expenses will be appropriated for repairs to El Pico Water Treatment Plant. Revenues are available from proceeds of a lawsuit settlement for El Pico Water Treatment Plant.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-068.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

13. 2020-O-069 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, establishing a policy that the name of a candidate for an elected city office shall be printed on the ballot with the given name or initials first, then by a nickname in quotations, if any, to be followed by the surname, in accordance with Texas Election Code Section 52.031; providing a severability clause, and an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-069.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

14. 2020-O-070 Establishing the rental rates and tenant policies for the Martha C. Narvaez City Hall Apartments an elderly affordable rental housing project located at 820 Convent Avenue; providing for rents to be in compliance and charged at home rent limits; occupancy to be limited to persons aged 62 years or older with incomes at or below 60% of the area median income as set annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and leasing of the units on a first-come, first-served basis.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-070.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

X. CONSENT AGENDA

AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE JEFFREY J. MILLER, AIRPORT DIRECTOR

15. Consideration to award contract FY20-020 Parking Management and Parking Equipment for Laredo International Airport to top ranking company SP Plus Corporation, Cleveland, OH for a total amount of \$355,710.50; of which \$44,805.00 is for annual management services, a new Parking Access, and Revenue Control System (PARCS) for approximately \$221,295.50 that will feature automated payment processing and new contact-less technology to replace out of warranty equipment. The term of this contract shall be for a three (3) year term, and may be extended for two (2) additional one (1) year terms

upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding of this contract is available in the Airport Operations Funds; expenses are eligible for reimbursement from FAA CARES Act Grant No. 91.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, clarified that this item should be approved subject to approval for reimbursement from FAA.

Motion to approve subject to approval for reimbursement from FAA.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

16. Consideration to authorize and approve payment in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 to the Laredo Outlet Shoppes for the first quarterly installment payment pursuant to the Economic Development Performance and Program Grant Agreement between the City of Laredo and El Portal Center, LLC.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

17. Consideration for approval of the CDBG Fernando A. Salinas Elderly Rental Apartments Located at 1803 Juarez Avenue as complete, approval of change order no. 1 a decrease of \$6,370.00 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$43,080.00 to Romo Contractors, LLC, Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$353,130.00. Funding is available in the 2018 Home Grant, 2018 Program Income Elderly Rental and Municipal Housing Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 an increase of \$9,400.00 to the construction contract time with Mage 4 Group, Ltd., Laredo, Texas, for the CDBG De Llano Park Improvements. This change order no. 1 is to provide power and new light poles for area lights and to add fourteen (14) calendar days to the construction contract time. Current construction contract amount with this change order is \$378,400.00. Current completion date with this change order is for June 28, 2020. Funding is available in the 2019 CO Bond District 5 Priority Funds– Project Number D51812.

Motion to approve.

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

19. Consideration for approval of award for a professional services contract to RS&H, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$567,739.00 for the Laredo International Airport Terminal Improvements Program. The Terminal Improvements Program generally includes an addition to the north of the existing building to include new security checkpoint, consolidated secure exit, and the associated infrastructure impacts incurred by expanding the building. At the existing building, the program includes upgraded public address system, renovated restrooms, and an evaluation of programmatic adjacencies. Funding for this contract is available in the Airport Operations Funds; expenses are eligible for reimbursement from FAA CARES Act Grant.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, clarified that this item should be approved subject to approval for reimbursement from FAA.

Motion to approve subject to approval for reimbursement from FAA.

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

20. Consideration for approval of the selection of the top ranked consultant for the City of Laredo Sports Complex Venue RFQ FY20-ENG-001; and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. A total of five (5) firms responded to the request for qualifications and the top three (3) firms made presentations via teleconference before the evaluation committee on Monday, June 8, 2020. The committee recommends the selection of JHS Architect, Inc. Laredo, Texas. There is no financial impact at this time.

Motion to approve.

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

21. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 an increase of \$26,370.00 to the construction contract with ALC Construction Co., Inc., Laredo, Texas, for the CDBG Sidewalks Project District IV (14 City-Blocks). This change order no. 1 is to add reinforced concrete header curb not included in the original contract and to add thirty (30) working days to the construction contract time. Current construction contract with this change order is \$134,604.00. Estimated completion date for the project is scheduled for September 2020. Funding is available in the CDBG 2019 Grant Year – Project No. D41813.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 22. Consideration for approval to rescind the construction contract with ABBA Construction, LLC., Laredo, Texas, for the Fasken Community Center Pool & Amenities and approval to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible responsive bidder Celso Gonzalez Construction, Mission, Texas, in the amount of \$463,108.60 (base bid minus alternate no. 2) with a construction contract time of two hundred seventy (270) calendar days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. After a notice to proceed is issued, estimated completion date for the project is scheduled for March 2021. Funding is available in the 2017 CO Bond and the 2019 CO Bond – District 7 Priority Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

ENVIRONMENTAL: STAFF SOURCE JOHN PORTER, ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

- 23. Authorizing the City Manager to sign and submit a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) application to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to sign-up for the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS). IPAWS is a free system developed by FEMA that allows local governments to send "Amber Alert" style cell phone messages to the public for police, fire, flooding, traffic, health, and weather related emergencies. Alerts may be city-wide or may be targeted to cellular phones present in a specific area. This program is free to the City of Laredo; compatible with the City's existing WebEOC software.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

- 24. Consideration to award contract FY20-064 - Citywide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Supplies, by sections, to the following vendors:

<p>Section II - Masks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aliron International Inc., South Plainfield NJ 2. Hamilton Trophies, Laredo, Texas 3. VIX Medical Equipment, Laredo, Texas; 	<p>Section III - Gloves</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Office Supply, Laredo, Texas 2. Patria Office Supply, Laredo, Texas 3. VIX Medical Equipment, Laredo, Texas
--	--

<p>4. San Antonio Extended Medical Care, Inc. (MED Mart), San Antonio, Texas</p> <p>5. World of Promotions, Evanston, IL</p> <p>6. Promo Solutions, Frisco, Texas</p> <p>7. Catalyst PR INC, Conroe, Texas</p> <p>8. Ecoimprint LL, Aledo, Texas</p> <p>9. Executive Office Supply, Laredo, Texas</p> <p>10. Gulf Coast Paper, Corpus Christi, Texas</p>	<p>4. Catalyst PR INC, Conroe, Texas</p> <p>5. Ecoimprint LLC, Aledo, Texas</p> <p>6. Gulf Coast Paper, Corpus Christi, Texas</p> <p>7. World of Promotions, Evanston, IL</p> <p>8. Performance Safety Group I, LPL, St. Louis, MO</p> <p>9. Aliron International, Inc, South PlainField, NJ</p> <p>10. San Antonio Extended Medical Care, Inc. (MED MART), San Antonio, Texas</p>
<p>Section IV - Gowns and Coveralls</p> <p>1. Catalyst PR INC, Conroe, Texas</p> <p>2. Promo Solutions, Frisco, Texas</p> <p>3. San Antonio Extended Medical Care, Inc. (MED Mart), San Antonio, Texas</p> <p>4. Performance Safety Group I LP, St. Louis, MO</p> <p>5. World of Promotions, Evanston, IL</p> <p>6. Aliron International, Inc, South PlainField, NJ</p> <p>7. VIX Medical Equipment, Laredo, Texas</p> <p>8. Ecoimprint LL, Aledo, Texas</p>	<p>Section V - Safety Eye Wear</p> <p>1. Gulf Coast Paper Corpus Christi, Texas</p> <p>2. Catalyst PR INC, Conroe, Texas</p> <p>3. World of Promotions, Evanston, IL</p> <p>4. Hamilton Trophies, Laredo, Texas</p> <p>5. Promo Solutions, Frisco, Texas</p> <p>6. Ecoimprint LLC, Aledo, Texas</p> <p>7. Aliron International Inc, South PlainField, NJ</p> <p>8. San Antonio Extended Medical Care, Inc. (MED MART), San Antonio, Texas</p>
<p>Section VIII - Disinfectant and Sanitizers</p> <p>1. Patria Office Supplies, Laredo, Texas</p> <p>2. Catalyst PR INC, Conroe, Texas</p> <p>3. Pyramid School Products, Tampa, Florida</p> <p>4. Executive Office Supply, Laredo, Texas</p> <p>5. World of Promotions, Evanston, IL</p> <p>6. Hamilton Trophies, Laredo, Texas</p> <p>7. Gulf Coast Paper, Corpus Christi, Texas</p> <p>8. VIX Medical Equipment, Laredo, Texas</p> <p>9. Aliron International Inc, South PlainField, NJ</p> <p>10. AA Product Inc., Laredo, Texas</p>	<p>Section IX - Miscellaneous</p> <p>1. Patria Office Supplies, Laredo, Texas</p> <p>2. Gulf Coast Paper Corpus Christi, Texas</p> <p>3. Pyramid School Products, Tampa, Florida</p> <p>4. World of Promotions, Evanston, IL</p> <p>5. San Antonio Extended Medical Care, Inc. (MED MART), San Antonio, Texas</p> <p>6. Promo Solutions, Frisco, Texas</p> <p>7. Bio-Medical International, Irvine, CA</p>

This contract is for the purchases of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) supplies and expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic period. This contract is for an amount up to \$750,000.00 and contract establishes pricing for those PPE safety supplies urgently needed and most commonly utilized by our city's first responders as well as all city departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of six (6) months, beginning as of the date of execution and can be extended for 3 additional six (6) month periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. This contract is subject to future appropriations and all items will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in General Fund COVID-19 Emergency Fund and in the user departments' budgets.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, clarified that the contract amount should be amended to an amount up to \$1.5 million.

Motion to approve as amended to include the contract amount up to \$1.5 million.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

FIRE: STAFF SOURCE RAMIRO R. ELIZONDO, JR., INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

25. Consideration to ratify the issuance of an emergency purchase order by City Manager in the amount not to exceed \$242,029.00 to Siddons Martin Emergency Group, Denton, TX for the purchase of a Type I Ambulance for the City of Laredo Fire Department. This purchase was done utilizing Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative contract HGAC AM10-18. This unit is being used solely for immediate response to Covid-19 related calls. Funding of this contract is available through General Fund; expenses are eligible for reimbursement from FAA CARES Act.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, clarified that the item should not include "FAA," just CARES Act.

Motion to approve as amended with the removal of "FAA" from the agenda item.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

26. Consideration to award annual contract FY20-058 to the low bidders:

1. Andy's Auto Air & Supplies, Inc. (DBA: Andy's Auto & Bus Air, Inc.), Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$70,000.00;and
2. Rotex Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$70,000.00;

for air conditioning system repairs for the medium and heavy duty trucks, and construction equipment for the Fleet Division. The term of the contract shall be for period of one (1) year with an opportunity to renew for three (3) additional one

(1) year periods and is subject to future appropriations. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE RICHARD A. CHAMBERLAIN, INTERIM HEALTH DIRECTOR

27. 2020-R-088 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$590,159.00 with a 10% match of \$59,016.00 to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program for the term period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-088.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. 2020-R-089 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in the estimated amount of \$22,047.00 for Title V Prenatal Services and in the estimated amount of \$168,036.00 for Title V Child Health for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) prenatal and dental patient care and prevention services for the term period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-089.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. 2020-R-090 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Healthy Texas Women program for the term period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. The amount of the award will be determined by HHSC.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-090.

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

30. 2020-R-091 Authorizing the City Manager to accept additional funds in the amount of \$55,323.00 from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) for the City of Laredo Health Department's Ryan White Program for COVID-19 under Part B COVID for the term period of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-091.

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

31. 2020-R-092 Authorizing the City Manager to accept additional funds in the amount of \$20,000.00 from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) for the City of Laredo Health Department's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Project (HOPWA) for COVID-19 under HOPWACARES for the term period of March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-092.

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

32. 2020-R-093 Ratifying the submission of a continuation grant application in the estimated amount of \$132,743.00 to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) to continue the City of Laredo Health Department's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Project (HOPWA) for the term period from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-093.

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

33. 2020-R-094 Authorizing the City Manager to accept funds in the amount of \$128,854.32 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund provided for in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This funding will be used to support healthcare-

related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 and to ensure uninsured Americans can get testing and treatment for COVID-19.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-094.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. 2020-R-097 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a continuation grant application to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the estimated amount of \$112,533.00 with a 20% match of \$22,506.60 to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Tuberculosis Prevention & Control/Federal Program, and in the estimated amount of \$66,188.00 with a 20% match of \$13,237.60 to continue the CLHD Tuberculosis Prevention & Control/Federal Program - Binational Project for the term period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-097.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a continuation contract with Dental Odyssey for dental services for the City of Laredo Health Department HIV Ryan White Program in the amount of \$35,000.00 per year for a total cumulative amount of \$70,000.00 for the term of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022, and may be renewed for another two (2) years, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a continuation lease agreement between the City of Laredo and GARCO to allow the City of Laredo to continue to operate on the property located on 125 East Miller Street in Falfurrias, Texas 78355 for the City of Laredo Health Department Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition, supplemental and health promotion programs. The term of the agreement shall be for \$2,160.00 per month for four (4) years for a total of \$103,680.00 beginning June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2024, and may be renewed for an additional two (2) years, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department WIC Budget.

Motion to approve.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES: STAFF SOURCE MELINA BERMUDEZ, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

37. Discussion with possible action to amend the service agreement between Urgent Care on Del Mar, LLC. and the City of Laredo by increasing the total sum paid to the amount of \$99,999.00; an increase of \$50,000.00. Services provided include occupational health, COVID-19 testing, and medical assessments of City of Laredo employees. The \$50,000.00 is available from a Wellness Program funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) and is restricted for the continued operation of the City's Wellness Program.

Motion to approve.

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

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

38. 2020-R-077 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$53,130.00 to the U.S. Department of Justice Programs for the purpose of funding the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant for FY2021. The funds will be utilized to replace 70 vests that have exceeded the recommended life expectancy. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program will require a 50% match. Funding will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-077.

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

39. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) unmarked police unit from Lake Country Chevrolet, Jasper, TX in the amount of \$32,317.00. The purchase of this vehicle shall be made utilizing the Goodbuy Contract Pricing Program. Funding is available in the HIDTA Task Force budget.

Motion to approve.

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

40. Consideration to authorize the purchase of two (2) unmarked police units from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, TX in the amount of \$60,750.25 The purchase of these vehicles shall be made utilizing the Goodbuy Contract Pricing Program. Funding

is available in the HIDTA Task Force budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to authorize the purchase of two (2) patrol units from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, Texas in the amount of \$84,796.00. The purchase of these vehicles shall be made utilizing the Goodbuy Contract Pricing Program. Funding is available in the 2019 Operation Stonegarden Grant-Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

PUBLIC WORKS: STAFF SOURCE JOHN ORFILA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

42. Consideration to award contract to Musco Sports Lighting, LLC. Muscatine, I.A. in the total amount of \$192,000.00 for the United Day Tennis Complex, sports lighting improvements. Contract improvements include: electrical system upgrades, guaranteed lighting performance, control systems and services as well as operation and warranties; guaranteed light levels. The purchase of these improvements /services shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program, Buy Board Contract No 592-19. Funding is available in the 2018 CO Bond and the 2019 CO Bond District 6 Priority Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

SOLID WASTE: STAFF SOURCE STEPHEN GEISS, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

43. Consideration to renew annual service contract FY18-040 with Austin Wood Recycling, Cedar Park, Texas in an amount up to \$100,000.00 for the grinding of wood waste material (brush, branches, pallets, etc.) at the City Landfill. Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of material will be disposed on an annual basis. This is the last renewal for this contract. 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. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Services Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

TAX: STAFF SOURCE DORA MALDONADO, TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

- 44. Requesting authorization to waive penalty and interest in the amount of \$257.11 on tax account # 970-14005-130 in accordance with Section 33.011(k) of the Property Tax Code. An act or omission of the mortgage resulted in the taxpayer's failure to pay the tax before delinquency. Property owner, Oscar Fernandez is requesting the waiver.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 45. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts adjusted for the month of May 2020 represent an increase of \$33,586.21. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE MICHAEL F. RODGERS, INTERIM UTILITIES DIRECTOR

- 46. Authorizing the City Manager to award to the lowest responsive bidder Precision Pump Systems in the amount of \$122,678.75 for the Sierra Vista Pump Improvements pre-purchase procurement of a third horizontal split case pump/motor package. The project engineer Garver Engineering submitted a recommendation of award letter recommending Precision Pump Systems after bid proposal was checked for accuracy and for compliance with contract documents. Three bids were received for this project at the City Secretary's Office at 10:00 AM on February 20, 2020. Funding available in the Utilities Department 2019 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 47. Consideration to approve the issuance of a purchase order by the City Manager in the amount of \$138,000.00 to Graybar Electric Company, San Antonio, Texas utilizing Buy Board US Communities Contract #EV2370 for the Sierra Vista Pump Improvements pre-purchase procurement of a third horizontal split case pump/motor combo and (2) two variable frequency controllers (VFC). The project engineer Garver Engineering submitted a recommendation of award letter recommending Graybar Electric Company after proposal was checked for accuracy and for compliance with contract documents. Funding available in the

Utilities Department 2019 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XI. STAFF REPORTS

48. 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.

Veronica Baeza, Internal Auditor, confirmed that staff is working on the Council directive to update the Office's ordinance; it is expected to come back to Council at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting in July.

Motion to accept the Internal Auditor's report.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

49. Discussion with possible action to create an Ad-Hoc Committee for Health and Benefits comprised of four (4) Council members, and city staff in order to review Health Insurance options on the current plan for City employees.

Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director, explained that with the yearly increases to healthcare costs and in light of COVID-19, staff recommends an ad-hoc committee for health and benefits to discuss the City's healthcare plan moving forward in order to remain solvent. There are many options available.

Robert Eads, City Manager, asked Council to approve the creation of this committee and to identify the four Council Members who will serve on it. Cm. Balli, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, Cm. Vielma, and Cm. Altgelt volunteered to serve on the committee.

Motion to create the Health and Benefits Ad-Hoc Committee as presented.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

50. Discussion with possible action of city finances and operations due to COVID-19; and any other matters incident thereto.

Gilberto Sanchez, Budget Director, reported that the budgeted revenue for the fiscal year totals \$206.7 million; however, the re-estimated actual numbers

following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic leads staff to believe that the City will actually collect \$180.1 to \$191.6 million, causing a revenue budget shortfall of \$15.1 million (-7% in a best-case scenario) and \$26.6 million (-13% at worst). He estimated that the City currently stands at a \$21 million shortfall. There is currently a \$6 million deficit in the Bridge Fund. Mr. Sanchez clarified that these numbers reflect the current COVID-19 situation; if a second wave were to hit or the current situation worsen, then staff will have to reevaluate the City's standing. Typically, at the end of the fiscal year, the Bridge Fund has a savings that the City can utilize; however, the Bridge Fund seems as if it will survive and continue its own enterprise but will likely not have much savings for the rest of the organization to utilize.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, informed Council that the City can adopt the previous year's budget or develop a new one. However, if revenues and expenses change in any way, staff can bring it back for amendment. Dr. Marte Martinez asked staff and Council to begin considering the adoption of a budget and then performing quarterly or semi-annual amendments as the economy changes post-COVID. He commended staff for the budgetary gymnastics that they have performed to-date that has kept the City from suffering worse than it could have. While staff has committed to operating as fiscally conservative as possible, he emphasized the need to revisit the budget throughout the fiscal year to make adjustments as necessary.

Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that staff are meeting with Police and Fire; those commitments constitute 63% of the City's monies annually. Of the 37% left over, the City needs to plan accordingly. Staff cannot approach this problem for a short-term solution, and he conceded that Council's direction to-date has been to look long and deeply at this problem for an appropriate solution.

Cm. Altgelt reminded Council that most of the City's contracts have a *force majeure* clause, meaning that "acts of God" may protect parties from their obligations that go unfulfilled, which would include a global pandemic. While staff has noted repeatedly that the collective bargaining agreements with the Police and Fire Departments are set in stone and must be met, he voiced his opinion that this is an unfair response to the other Departments and the citizens who have a rightful place in the budget. All of the other Departments are being asked to do more with less except for Police and Fire. If the City cannot make some concession with these unions, then the City may not be able to move the budget in the direction that it needs to take. The budget is fluid and officials do not know if the community will bounce back from the virus or succumb to another wave, and pursuing more flexibility in the collective bargaining agreements might prepare the City to recover from the situation.

Mayor Saenz asked if the City has an evergreen provision; Cm. Altgelt explained that such a provision means that if the City or the other party does not renegotiate new terms, the current contract provisions will carry over into the new year. Mr. Eads noted that evergreen provisions may be more costly than renegotiations; staff has already met with the Fire union, who are not due for renegotiations for another two years. However, they are willing to meet with officials for conversations about allowances and amended terms in light of the pandemic.

Cm. Vielma asked staff to review and prepare budget plans for Council earlier this year.

Mr. Sanchez reported that the estimated revenue budget shortfall for the Bridge Fund will be between \$13.5 million (19%) and \$18.5 million (26%). The Airport Fund has an expected budget shortfall of \$2.5 million (26%) to \$4.1 million (42%); Mr. Sanchez clarified that the Airport Fund is a separate fund and will only have an impact on itself. The Airport received a grant of \$18.5 million through the CARES Act, administered by the Department of Transportation-Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). CARES Act funding will be used for operating costs like payroll and repairs and is eligible for capital development projects. The Airport plans to use the Fund Balance for revenue shortfalls in FY2021 and FY2022, as needed. The Water Fund has an expected revenue budget shortfall of \$500,000 (1%) to \$1.9 million (4%).

Riazul Mia, Assistant City Manager, explained that the shortfall is a result of the City not collecting the impact fees and late fees. Since the Department is not disconnecting any accounts for nonpayment, they are also not collecting reconnection fees. Council waived those fees completely, so they will not be collected at a later time. He noted that the Department will start disconnecting beginning July 6, 2020, and will notify the public beforehand. At that time, the fee will be collected if customers want to have their accounts reconnected.

Mr. Sanchez reported the estimated Wastewater Fund revenue budget shortfall at \$1.2 million (3%) to \$1.9 million (5%). The Solid Waste Fund revenue budget shortfall is expected to be between \$1.0 million (3.9%) and \$1.3 million (5.1%). The year-to-date hotel occupancy is down 20.4% from last year.

Mr. Eads noted staff's hopefulness that the Heroes Act will help the City recuperate some of these lost hotel occupancy tax for the Convention & Visitors Bureau; part of the City's mitigation plan is to accommodate victims of rain and flooding in these hotels, as well. If the Heroes Act passes and is implemented as management expects, the City stands to gain almost \$200 million.

Mr. Sanchez reiterated that Departments are implementing adjustments to accommodate their revenue budget shortfalls to help offset the significant impact.

No action taken.

51. Discussion with possible action on prioritizing how the CARES Act funds will be utilized; and any other matters incident thereto.

Tecló Garcia, Economic Development Director, explained that the first 20% of the CARES Act funds (\$2.9 million) has already been allocated to the City and divided further for COVID-19 expenses (75%, or about \$2.2 million) and economic assistance (25%, or about \$737,000). The remaining 80% of the funding constitutes about \$11.8 million, which will again be split for COVID-19 expenses (75%, or about \$8.8 million) and economic assistance (25%, or about \$2.9 million).

Mr. Garcia reported the expected reimbursement from the CARES Act in the following amounts and categories:

Fiscal Recovery	\$2 million
Public Health	\$4.35 million
Public Safety	\$2.5 million
Small Business Support	\$1.5 million
Workforce Development	\$900,000
Digital Inclusion & Communications	\$550,000

The City is following the rules and guidelines of the US Department of the Treasury. Mr. Garcia reminded Council that these figures match what is to be spent by the City, so any changes to them would need to come from some other source. The assistance funds are solely to be used for community members who were displaced by COVID-19; if someone was already unemployed before the pandemic hit, then they would not be eligible for the workforce development monies.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, noted that monies have been allocated to assist the homeless community through wash stations. Robert Eads, City Manager, noted staff's priorities for the City's use of these monies as health, public safety, and small business/economic recovery.

Cm. Vielma noted that the McAllen Chamber of Commerce is offering a loan program that operates as a reimbursement program which pays directly to the vendor that performed the necessary service. Mr. Garcia clarified that the Chamber performs the actual screening and lending in that situation. Staff can develop the data and specifications of their lending/reimbursement program for the company LiftFund to utilize. LiftFund takes 10% of what is to be disbursed for their administrative and interest costs.

Tina Martinez, Community Development Director, explained that the Department will have about \$2.2 million from CDBG Cares allocated to the City. Staff is considering possible mortgage assistance, health projects in partnership with the Health Department, and a quarantine hotel/motel voucher program. Staff released a survey to citizens to assess community needs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cm. Vielma voiced her understanding that there are several organizations and CDBG funds are already performing homeless assistance work. Mrs. Cabello countered that \$500,000 are for showers and bathrooms from now to December 2020; this is very different than the homeless assistance funding.

Ms. Martinez reported that the Department will also receive \$1.1 million in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) that will be used for rapid rehousing and homeless prevention programs like rental assistance. She noted that the Department will receive an additional \$2 million in ESG funds, as well, ensuring that there will be money available for rental assistance services in the community. Homeless prevention assistance will help participants avoid eviction and stabilize themselves for the next few months. Rapid rehousing is applied when staff has identified someone who is already homeless and assists them with finding housing and provides a few months of rental assistance to stabilize themselves.

MPT Torres noted that for the past three months, people have not been evicted for nonpayment of rent through Council directive; therefore, rental assistance to avoid eviction may not be the best use of these funds, and he encouraged staff and Council to find a new way to provide housing stability.

Cm. Altgelt recalled at the previous Council meeting that Council directed Mr. Garcia to bring a comprehensive, global approach plan to Council for economic incentives and recovery strategies. He also noted the need, now more than ever, to diversify Laredo's economy. The plan needs to be thoroughly vetted by the stakeholder community and staff before being brought to Council for an educated decision.

Cm. Balli informed Council that as time has progressed, Bethany House has had to become more selective of their clientele given social distancing and other protective measures. Consequentially, homeless individuals who would have otherwise utilized Bethany House services are having to shelter in the doorways of abandoned buildings or in Bruni and Jarvis Plazas. It is creating a safety concern for residents and workers in the area. He encouraged Council and staff to get creative in how to allocate these monies to assist the homeless population without relying too heavily upon third parties that, due to COVID, may not be able to take on any more individuals.

Mayor Saenz asked for an update at every Council meeting moving forward, to which Mr. Eads agreed.

Motion to approve the CARES Act proposal as presented by staff to incorporate requests as made by Council to be submitted.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

52. Status report by Judge Jesus "Chuy" Dominguez regarding ongoing virtual Municipal Court proceedings.

Jesus "Chuy" Dominguez, Municipal Court Judge, reported that since the Court began virtual proceedings on April 6, 2020, a little over 100 sessions have been completed virtually with over 2,200 participants. The Court has operated with full staff throughout the pandemic to accommodate these proceedings. In-person proceedings are tentatively scheduled for July 27, 2020, but he assured the public that the Municipal Court is open for business.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez commended Judge Dominguez for the work being done at the Municipal Court, noting that he has personally received high compliments from the public regarding the Court's virtual operations.

No action taken.

53. Discussion with possible action to obtain City Council direction on an amount for a master plan and an amount per district, on the 2% arts fund; and any other matters incident thereto. Total funding is \$336,000.00 from the 2019 Certificates of Obligation Bond.

Robert Eads, City Manager, requested clarification on the direction moving forward with this money; there are needs throughout the City. He asked if Council intended staff to divide this money evenly among all eight Districts or a different approach. He clarified that staff may have limited to no funds next year.

Cm. Rodriguez agreed with the idea to distribute the funding equally between all eight districts and initiated a motion to that effect.

MPT Torres noted his understanding that if a project was approved under that specific bond, 2% would be put aside for public art for that specific project. Mr. Eads explained that the 2% for art was for that specific bonded project itself.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, clarified that management still needs direction on whether the City will perform public art initiatives City-wide as part of the desired Master Plan if staff equally divides this money between all districts.

Dr. Marte Martinez reminded Council that the point of this item was to have a meaningful plan so that the entire community could see this public art. He noted his opinion that the problem with splitting the money across the board is that it limits the scope of projects that can be done in each individual district. Every other city that has implemented this public art project has had a Master Plan to ensure that they are getting the best benefit for the dollar.

Cm. Rodriguez countered that while he understood Dr. Martinez, districts that want to plan a larger public art project can simply save their money to invest in that project. Art has not reached South Laredo; each Council Member will be the best decider for the public art that should go in their communities.

Dr. Martinez reiterated that a Master Plan will help each Council Member determine the best art projects as well as the best areas for those projects. He assured Cm. Rodriguez that each Council Member would have significant input for the Master Plan to make sure that their community is strongly represented to provide direction for these projects.

Cm. Altgelt noted that a local rapper makes music videos in which he rides a motorcycle by all of the City's murals and public art. He agreed with Dr. Martinez that while each current and future Council Member could piecemeal public art themselves, a comprehensive Master Plan would provide the same degree of public involvement and bring artists to the table in a way that better serves the City in the long-term.

MPT Torres asked about the cost of a Master Plan as well as why the Master Plan was not executed if that was Council's original direction. Maria Soliz, Public Library Director, explained that the money from the ordinance was not to be applied to a Master Plan. She explained her understanding that the ordinance is worded so that the monies can only be used for brick and mortar. The original proposal for the public art Master Plan was \$80,000; she noted that an apparent new proposal of \$40,000 could likely result in a completed Master Plan.

Dr. Martinez noted his willingness to use some District Priority Funds to complete the Master Plan as it is of the utmost importance; he voiced his opinion that

anyone who does not value a Master Plan does not value the importance of public art in their district when the next representatives take office. Cm. Rodriguez voiced his exception to Dr. Martinez's comments, noting that there have not been any public art projects in South Laredo for at least the last five years.

Cm. Vielma noted that she seconded Cm. Rodriguez's motion because some districts have been allocated more monies for public art and cultural projects at the neglect of others. She asked that the funding be equal among districts so that everyone can plan projects, though she noted her support for the Master Plan.

MPT Torres recalled Council direction at the last Council meeting for a match for a grant of \$10,000 with Tricia Cortez for an art project as well as a Downtown art project that Cm. Balli had placed on the agenda. He asked if the \$336,000 on this item reflects that draw that Council already voted upon. If those motions were not taken into consideration, then the agenda item is inaccurate. He clarified that those Council directives were not using District Priority Funds.

Cm. Balli explained that the El Abrazo project came from District Priority Funds; he reminded Council that any Council Member can use their District Priority Funds for a public art project. If one District is complaining that they do not have as many park trails as another District, then that Council Member should just make them using their funds. While he noted his understanding of the importance of a Master Plan, he countered that it is a large investment that could otherwise be used for actual projects. The Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan proposes small art projects rather than large community-wide ones; a Master Plan will likely favor some districts over others, and murals are easy to fund in the \$10,000-\$30,000 range in all districts.

Cm. Altgelt noted that a representative from CultivArte has been working with the Fine Arts & Culture Commission; at one of their most recent meetings, they determined that about \$50,000 would provide for an adequate Master Plan and consultant. Cm. Balli voiced his opinion that the Commission rejected the El Abrazo mural and instead gave the money to an artist who only placed block letters on the mural with no background or detail. He noted his trust in Council more than the Commission after such a decision.

MPT Torres clarified that at the last Council meeting, Council directed staff to go out for RFQs on the Public Art Master Plan and to provide the \$10,000 match to Risk for federal and state grant applications for art within the City and to allow the public to apply to the Fine Arts & Culture Commission to provide free public art after approval and to direct staff to research an Art and Culture Division of the Convention & Visitors Bureau; this motion was passed unanimously. He suggested that Council take into consideration the \$40,000 already voted upon plus the \$10,000 match. Whatever is left can be divided equally among all of the districts, and whatever district wants to follow the Master Plan can do so.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that Council did not vote on \$40,000, asking why Council is setting the price tag for an RFQ since vendors will now automatically bid their proposals at \$40,000. MPT Torres noted that \$40,000 has been the figure used since the last Council meeting, so the point is moot.

Mr. Eads noted that the Master Plan and art projects in each District are not mutually exclusive; the Master Plan will be inclusive and comprehensive. However, individual District art projects such as mural can still happen at any time; there is nothing stopping a public art project in any particular district.

Motion to rescind the Public Art Master Plan and accept the \$10,000 that was already allocated for a grant match and to distribute the funding equally between the eight Districts, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 2 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Rodriguez Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

MPT Torres

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Balli

Cm. Altgelt clarified that the Fine Arts & Culture Commission was not the group that rejected the artist for the El Abrazo mural; that was the Historic District/Landmark Board. He initiated a motion to use District VI and VII's split of the funds for a Public Arts Master Plan.

Motion to use District VI and VII's portion of the equally-distributed funding to fund a Public Arts Master Plan and to direct staff to go out for RFPs.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

54. Discussion with possible action to change the regular scheduled City Council meeting of July 20, 2020 to July 27, 2020 and submit the Budget and Capital Improvement Plan on said date.

Robert Eads, City Manager, reminded Council that there is only one regularly-scheduled Council meeting in July; it is scheduled on July 20, 2020. Staff requests moving it to July 27, 2020. He clarified that special-called Council meetings may still occur beforehand.

Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director, noted that a workshop will be needed before July 27, 2020 for the Health and Benefits Ad-Hoc Committee. Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, added that Council may have to meet in a special-called Council meeting to call the November 2020 election through an ordinance.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

55. Discussion with possible action to schedule Budget Workshop dates in August of 2020; and any other matter incident thereto.

Gilberto Sanchez, Budget Director, reminded Council that staff usually dedicates three days for the Budget Workshop in mid-August. The budget is expected to be submitted to Council on July 27, 2020; he requested that the Budget Workshop be held on the week of August 10, 2020.

Motion to designate August 11, 12, and 13, 2020, as the Budget Workshop dates.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

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

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

56. 2020-RT-08 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and execute the United States Department (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant application No. TX-2020-100-00 in the amount of \$9,988,345.00 FY2020 Section 5307 Urbanized Area Authorized under the new Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT) published L. 116-136 March 27, 2020. Funding will be provided at a 100% federal share. No local match is required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-RT-08.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

57. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for the purchase two (2) Paratransit Vans for the El Lift Department in the amount of \$207,291.62 utilizing the Georgia DOAS Purchase State Contract # 99999 - 001 - SPD0000138 with Alliance Bus Group, Incorporated from Lewisville, Texas. Funding is available in the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant #TX-2020-027. The required 15% local match for the grant will be funded by Transit Sales Tax.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

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

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

58. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Discussion with possible action regarding review of local law enforcement policies, whether in conformity with human rights protections and against racism, if any; and, whether more emphasis should be given to community based programs or activities, to promote a more positive and law abiding lifestyle; and any other matters incident thereto.

Mayor Saenz noted that since the death of George Floyd, there have been protests and riots throughout the country with cries for cities to change their policies in a manner that would reduce the occurrence of police brutality. He noted that Laredo has the opportunity to review its own law enforcement policies and procedures to see if there is a way to shift the culture to a more community-oriented department. Public comments have suggested that some of the Police Department's services and responsibilities be transferred to other Departments or organizations.

Cm. Altgelt reminded Council that Laredo has a minority-operated Police Department which is one of the best-paid and best-trained police departments in the state. He recalled the infamous incident at a local Stripes convenience store where an assailant killed several police officers before Officer Mike Amaya intervened and neutralized the threat. However, the Police Department immediately made Officer Mike the subject of their investigation, and Cm. Altgelt noted that it is unheard of for a police department to investigate one of their own, especially without the 72 hour "cool down" period. An outside entity should have conducted this investigation. He encouraged Council to consider a policy in which any incident involving police use of force would have any criminal investigation be conducted by an outside entity rather than the Department itself. After that, LPD can perform their own administrative investigation with an internal affairs officer or team.

Claudio Treviño, Police Chief, confirmed that 65% of LPD's patrol officers are equipped with body cameras. Cm. Altgelt voiced his intention to have a multi-disciplinary, citizen-driven committee review policies and incidents involving police use of force. The City should also enter into a Memorandum

of Understanding with Border Region for mental health and crisis de-escalation services. He read a special order into the record that was signed by Chief Treviño earlier today:

“Effective immediately, the Laredo Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual Section 300 Use of Force, specifically 300.4.5 “Choke hold/Carotid Control Holds, is modified to the following:

“300.4.5 – The following acts associated with the use of force are prohibited:

- a. Application of a choke hold or carotid holds, except when a subject is actively resisting and the officer reasonably believes that the applications of such technique is the only means of protecting himself/herself or another person from imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death in a situation where the use of force would be justified.

“Failure to comply with the contents of this policy may result in disciplinary action.”

Chief Treviño explained that the Police Department’s mission statement involves contact and cooperation with the community. He agreed that there is room for improvement within the Department, which is why he signed Special Order 20-002 earlier today amending choke hold/carotid control hold policy. In 2017, he was appointed as the Laredo Police Chief and immediately saw the need to improve policy development. The Department partnered with LEXIPOL, a policy development company that provides fully developed, state-specific policies researched and written by subject matter experts and vetted by attorneys. They are based on nationwide standards and best practices while also incorporating state and federal laws and regulations where appropriate. The Department received specific input on development from the City Attorney, District Attorney, and County Attorney. LPD is leading towards agency accreditation from the Texas Police Chiefs Association. The current language of LPD Policy 300: Use of Force states: “The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties. The Laredo Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.” The section includes de-escalation, duty to intercede, pain compliance techniques, deadly force, medical considerations, reporting, and training. Chief Treviño noted that the death of George Floyd in Minnesota cause him great concern and made him ask what the Laredo Police Department is doing to make sure that such an incident does not happen in this community. The first thing he did was review that portion of the Department’s policy to see if the language held a potential for abuse of use of force. He reported to Council that the policy section is robust to prevent abuse, but it lacked a ban on the use of choke holds, which prompted him to sign the special order after some discussions with various entities and staff. Within the Department’s policy, there is language regarding de-escalation to ensure that use of force is implemented after

other techniques have been exhausted. He iterated nobody wanted to be told to make de-escalation training mandatory; as a former hostage and crisis negotiator, he saw the value of training all police officers in these tactics to improve crisis responses.

Dr. Marte Martinez asked what the Department's policies are when selecting police officers to serve. Chief Treviño explained that the process to become an officer is rigorous and time-consuming. During the last testing cycle, the Department started with 800 applicants that took the written exam. After the written exam, the Department conducts a detailed background investigation to ensure that the applicants meet high standards of character and lawfulness. Included in the background check is a polygraph examination that might bring forward any withholding of information or outright lying. All applicants also undergo a psychological evaluation before moving on to rigorous training at the Police Academy while on probation for up to 18 months in case the Department identifies any issues that might develop during that training.

Chief Treviño cited multiple programs and partnerships with youth groups to encourage future careers with the Police Department. Other programs, such as Coffee with a Cop, allow officers to connect with the community.

Cm. Altgelt reminded Council of an officer in the Department who received one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a law enforcement officer for his use of discretion in de-escalating an armed, hostile situation without the use of force or threat. Chief Treviño added that this honor was bestowed upon a team of six SWAT members that were making entry into a house who were faced with an armed individual and adjusted their approach through their training to slow down the situation and disarm the suspect.

Chief Treviño continued that the Department amended its policy in Section 307: Vehicle Pursuits in order to further address officers' responsibilities, restrictions/termination, supervisor control and responsibilities, reporting requirements, and training. He clarified that an officer does not necessarily have to obtain permission to engage in vehicular pursuit, but if they engage, they are later evaluated to confirm or negate whether the conditions merited such a pursuit.

Dr. Martinez initiated a motion to direct the Police Department to continue to review and improve its Policies and Procedures Manual and to bring suggestions back to Council within two months.

Chief Treviño reported that the 65% of uniformed officers (216) utilizing body cameras equates to an investment of over \$2 million for transparency and safety. The Department aims to equip 100% of its uniformed officers with body cameras. Since 2016, the number of excessive force complaints against an LPD officer has decreased; in 2020 to-date, there have only been four complaints filed. Complaints such as these are internally investigated.

Cm. Vielma asked that the motion be amended to allow the public safety subcommittee also review the Department's Policy & Procedures Manual, to which Dr. Martinez agreed.

Chief Treviño confirmed that all police vehicles are equipped with dashboard cameras, as well. The dashboard and body cameras integrate into the same system. The dashboard cameras are activated automatically when the vehicle speeds over 80 miles per hour, in the event of a crash or impact, and other events.

Cm. Balli voiced his wishes to see more body cameras on uniformed officers as well as the cameras being used more often or even constantly. He asked when an officer is required to use their body cameras and if there are any consequences for their failure to use their cameras. Chief Treviño explained that the policy guides this requirement; as it currently states, any contact with the public that has any potential to escalate requires the use of camera recording. Because of privacy issues if the officer is discussing a medical condition with the individual, those discussions require that the camera be turned off during that disclosure. The reason that the cameras are not recording constantly is the issue of storage; storage is one of the most expensive components of the camera system. The retention of these recordings is five years.

Motion to direct the Police Department to continue to review and improve its Policy and Procedures Manual and to bring suggestions back to Council within two months and to direct the Public Safety Subcommittee to perform a review of the manual as well, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion in response to Cm. Balli's comments that Texas DPS officers are typically on their best behavior because they are all equipped with body and dashboard cameras that are recording. The motion was to direct staff to amend the Police Department's Policy and Procedures Manual regarding dashboard and body cameras so that the Department's policies and procedures mirror that of the Texas Department of Public Safety. He noted that while the results of this directive may be expensive, they may prove to be cost-effective when officers are compelled to behave more appropriately with their vehicles and in their interactions with the public.

Cm. Gonzalez countered that the Police Chief and his Assistant Chief know best how to manage their Department. Mayor Saenz suggested that Cm. Altgelt allow the public safety subcommittee to review that recommendation, noting that if Council is not happy with the recommendation of the subcommittee, Cm. Altgelt could always reserve his motions until after he has heard from them.

Cm. Vielma reminded Council that some of the information regarding when the cameras are recording or not need to remain confidential or discussed in private among the subcommittee members. She suggested that Cm. Altgelt bring forth all of the amendments that he wishes to propose and let the subcommittee work with the Department to bring back advisory proposals.

Cm. Altgelt countered that his motion is simply to have the Police Department's policy mirror that of DPS with cameras, which is that the cameras are always on and recording. This protects the officer as well as the public. He amended his motion to include funding as the budget allows.

Chief Treviño reiterated that there are privacy issues involved when cameras are always recording, and the policy needs to reflect the appropriate instances in which the cameras can be turned off. He questioned whether the policy at DPS requires cameras to be on and recording at all times. Cm. Vielma cautioned Council from discussing all of the instances in which a camera can be turned off at this time because the discussion will essentially advise a perpetrator of how to manipulate their interaction with the officer so that the cameras are not recording.

Cm. Altgelt countered that the policy is subject to discovery; the camera footage would be subject to redaction if it contains any privacy issues. He agreed that the sentiment that DPS cameras are always on was an exaggeration, as there are certain conditions in which an officer can or must turn their cameras off.

Chief Treviño agreed with Cm. Vielma's suggestion to allow the subcommittee to review Cm. Altgelt's motions with the Department regarding policy changes. Cm. Altgelt amended his motion to direct the Police Chief to meet with the Public Safety Subcommittee regarding a dashboard and body camera policy that captures the majority of the officers' shifts with the exception of private moments as necessary.

Motion to direct the Police Chief to meet with the Public Safety Subcommittee regarding a dashboard and body camera policy that captures the majority of the officers' shifts with the exception of private moments as necessary, with funding as the budget allows and to bring recommendations back to Council within two months, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to direct the Police Chief to meet with the Public Safety Subcommittee regarding a civilian complaint review board to review any excessive force or civil rights violation complaints and to bring recommendations back to Council within two months.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: None

Motion dies for lack of a second.

Motion to direct the Police Chief to meet with the Public Safety Subcommittee to create a Memorandum of Understanding with Border Region MHMR.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion to direct the Police Chief to meet with the Public Safety Subcommittee regarding a policy amendment that, in the event of any critical incident or use of deadly force, an outside law enforcement entity conduct the investigation as it relates to any criminal activity.

Chief Treviño explained that any officer-involved incident in which force is used is investigated by the Department's Criminal Investigation Division. The Department works with the District Attorney's Officer and communicates with the Texas Rangers to review the initial incident; if they see the need, they may step in and assist with the continued investigation. He noted the difficulty in mandating another entity to perform the Police Department's investigations; he voiced his confidence that staff could work with the entity or department to do that job, but requiring them to perform the function will be problematic. He emphasized that LPD has the best team of investigators performing those reviews.

Cm. Altgelt explained that the problem to the public is the appearance that the Police Department is investigating one of its own members. Chief Treviño countered that the District Attorney's Office handles a significant portion of the investigation, and he has not been aware of any issues with the current procedure. Cm. Altgelt noted that in other cities, investigations of this type are always conducted by outside entities.

Chief Treviño informed Council that other cities, like San Antonio and Houston, investigate their own officer-involved shootings and incidents internally. If any issues arise during that investigation, an outside agency like the Texas Rangers or the FBI can be brought in to assist or take over that investigation. This arrangement is such because it is within the Police Department's jurisdiction, not necessarily formalized in its policy.

Cm. Balli reminded Council that evidence preservation on a crime scene is crucial, even in an officer-involved incident. Turning over a crime scene to another entity is not as easy as simply stepping back because the officers have to secure the scene. There would have to be a policy as well as a technical procedure for how to turn over a crime scene in order to preserve the integrity of the entire investigation.

Motion to direct the Police Chief to meet with the Public Safety Subcommittee regarding a policy amendment that, in the event of any critical incident or use of deadly force, an outside law enforcement entity conduct the investigation as it relates to any criminal activity.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Motion to direct the Public Safety Subcommittee to decide whether to create a joint intake center/hotline to receive use of force complaints.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Vielma, and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion to direct the Public Safety Subcommittee to discuss any and all matters relevant to fitness for duty and a possible mandatory retirement age of 57 consistent with other policies within the law enforcement communities.

Chief Treviño noted that he would have to consult with the City Attorney's Office to determine if there are any violations to the Police Department's collective bargaining agreement with regard to that matter. Other states have had issues with specific, similar components of this motion.

Motion to direct the Public Safety Subcommittee to discuss any and all matters relevant to fitness for duty and a possible mandatory retirement age of 57 consistent with other policies within the federal law enforcement community.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: MPT Torres (for discussion purposes only)
For: 3 Against: 4 Abstain: 0
 Cm. Rodriguez Cm. Gonzalez
 Dr. Marte Martinez Cm. Mercurio Martinez
 Cm. Altgelt MPT Torres
 Cm. Balli

Cm. Vielma was not present.
Motion fails.

2. Discussion with possible action on the status of Port Laredo Master Plan and World Trade Bridge fast lane and other ongoing plans for bridge mobility efficiencies; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: MPT Torres
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action on the status of the Detox Center, participation by various community partners, and to clarify its purpose to the community; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: MPT Torres
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

B. Request by Council Member Roberto Balli

1. Discussion with possible action to renovate and/or redesign a plan for Bruni Plaza and Bruni Library; and any other matters incident thereto.

This item was discussed in conjunction with 58. B. 2, where Council action can be found.

2. Discussion with possible action to utilize the funding from the Civic Center sale for Bruni Plaza and Plaza Theatre; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Balli noted that the economy is hurting, and jobs are needed. This project, as well as the sale of the Civic Center sale, is upcoming and has been a consistent problem. He voiced his intention to turn the Bruni Library into a children's library with other interactive amenities like an outdoor play area completely enclosed. Only adults with children would be able to enter to keep the children safe. Parking is available from when the Building Department moved out. Cm. Balli also noted his intention to build a multi-purpose theater at the Plaza Theatre for different events. He initiated a motion to allocate all of the Civic Center funds to a Downtown children's library at the Bruni Library location and to renovate the Plaza Theatre as a multi-purpose theater and any additional parking facilities needed for these two projects. He clarified that the multi-purpose theatre will largely be used for performative art.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez commended both proposals but noted his concern over the use of proceeds from the sale of the Civic Center to be used for something other than a civic center, conference center, or similar facility. Mayor Saenz agreed despite his respect for Cm. Balli's proposals.

Dr. Marte Martinez reminded Council that this money needs to stay in the Downtown area; the Plaza Theatre proposal will serve many purposes as a combination theatre that improves the vibrancy of Downtown.

Motion to allocate all of the Civic Center funds to a Downtown children's library at the Bruni Library location and to renovate the Plaza Theatre as a multi-purpose theater and any additional parking facilities needed for these two projects with a preference for local contractors and architects.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

Mayor Saenz

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Altgelt

MPT Torres

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Balli

C. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action authorizing the City Manager to negotiate a contract with the developer of Oil Patch road to resolve flooding issues; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

1. Discussion with possible action to assist the South Texas Food Bank with the COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution at the Sames Auto Arena tentatively on Thursday, July 2nd, 2020; and any other matters incident thereto.

MPT Torres stated that this is the last food distribution event planned, and they are asking for approval to use the Sames Auto Arena as they have in the past.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to adopt a resolution addressing the construction of medians by TxDOT requesting that the State agency accommodate and take into account affected businesses with adequate accessibility to not affect business activity; and any other matters incident thereto.

MPT Torres noted that a business that sits on the district boundary line between Districts IV and V where a median is planned for construction. He asked Council to adopt a resolution to be sent to TxDOT and to State of Texas Representatives and Senator to ensure that they take into consideration accommodations and accessibility to preexisting businesses as well as the impacts that medians would have on these types of businesses. He initiated a motion to this effect.

Cm. Vielma agreed, noting that the least intrusive option should be selected when making these plans. Cm. Altgelt recalled that medians were fought severely along FM 1472, but as the medians were in TxDOT's right-of-way, they were built anyway. The crash data proved, however, that the roadway conditions improved significantly.

Cm. Balli conceded to Cm. Altgelt's point but countered that the FM 1472 problems do not exist at this proposed location. The traffic flow is very

different in terms of speed and density. He questioned whether the conditions of FM 1472 apply in this area and voiced his agreement with Cm. Vielma and MPT Torres.

David Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer, explained that the last time Texas had a day of zero roadway fatalities was November 2000. TxDOT participated across the state for about \$18 million for traffic safety programs to achieve Vision Zero. The area in question on Saunders had over 60 incidents in the past three years, including a fatality. TxDOT does not choose these areas for traffic medians out of nowhere; the selections are supported with traffic and crash data.

MPT Torres clarified that he and Cm. Vielma are not opposing the construction of these medians, simply asking for TxDOT to take into account the surrounding businesses and the impacts that traffic obstructions will have on them. Business owners and residents often come to Council Members after they feel that TxDOT is not listening to their concerns or needs. Mr. Salazar noted that usually, TxDOT holds public hearings for businesses and residents but was unable to do so in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the response from stakeholders on this project, he confirmed that TxDOT will be sure to hold public hearings in the future. However, he stated that this project is viable and confirmed that TxDOT accepts comments and take them seriously. Studies performed by the Texas Transportation Institute show that

Cm. Vielma requested more engagement with stakeholders on these matters. Danny Magee, Traffic Director, reported meeting with TxDOT a few weeks ago regarding their plans and noted some opportunities for median openings. He voiced his support of the project as medians are needed in the area.

Motion to adopt a resolution to be sent to TxDOT, State Representatives, and the State Senator to compel entities to take into consideration accommodations and accessibility to preexisting businesses when planning medians and to also consider the negative impacts that these medians would have on surrounding businesses.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. 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 ~\$2,500.00.

- 2400 E. Tilden Ave between E. Reynolds St. and E. O'Kane St.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

E. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action requesting the City Manager to direct the removal of the confederate flag insignia from all city buildings and logos henceforth; and any other matters incident thereto.

No discussion or action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action on entering into a partnership with Workforce Solutions of South Texas and Laredo College in regards to leveraging CARES Act Funds for work retraining in conjunction with their respective Skills Development Fund grant applications; and any other matters incident thereto.

No discussion or action taken.

3. Discussion with possible action regarding relief for property taxpayers including, but not limited to; homestead, over 65, and disability exemptions on or before July 1st, 2020 and; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pete Saenz)

Dora Maldonado, Tax Assessor-Collector, explained that a local homestead exemption for disabled persons is available if adopted before July 1, 2020. The City of Laredo has 1,060 disabled taxpayers that qualify for this exemption, resulting in a financial impact to the City of \$20,161 if the City adopted the firsts tiered exemption amount of \$3,000. The exemption tiers and their financial impact on the taxpayer and to the City were reported as follows:

<u>Exemption Amount</u>	<u>Ex. Amount to Taxpayer</u>	<u>Impact Amount</u>
\$3,000	\$19.02	\$20,161
\$10,000	\$63.40	\$67,204
\$15,000	\$95.10	\$100,806
\$20,000	\$126.80	\$134,408
\$30,000	\$190.20	\$201,612

Mrs. Maldonado noted that this is the same exemption amount as the Over-65 Exemption; most municipalities have the same exemption amounts between these two exemptions, as well. The exemption amount cannot be less than \$3,000.

Cm. Vielma initiated a motion to approve the exemption for disabled persons in the amount of \$30,000 for a financial impact to the City of \$201,612. Mrs.

Maldonado clarified that this exemption would apply to Tax Year 2020, and she noted that it would apply to all 1,060 disabled persons on the tax roll regardless of their ability to pay. The qualification for disability is based upon the Tax Code: "A disabled person must meet the definition of disabled for the purpose of receiving disability insurance benefits under the Federal Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance Act." She explained that if this exemption is approved, the qualifying individuals will have to apply for the exemption with the Webb County Appraisal District.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez reminded Council that the 1,060 disabled persons on the tax roll have already applied as disabled with the Appraisal District as one of the many exemption categories available to the taxpayer. He noted that more than just the 1,060 already-registered disabled taxpayers can claim this exemption if they apply at the Appraisal District with proof of their disability.

Mrs. Maldonado noted that while the City does not currently offer the disabled persons exemption, they still have information on how many disabled persons are on the tax roll. She agreed with Cm. Martinez's statement that additional taxpayers may qualify for the exemption in the future or upon their application to the Appraisal District.

Mayor Saenz noted that when the City is looking for relief, they should be looking to relieve the most vulnerable groups, including the disabled community. With other costs steadily rising, the citizens of Laredo are struggling, especially those on fixed incomes or with higher medical bills due to their disability.

MPT Torres noted that if someone is struggling to make ends meet, they are more likely renting their home than paying a mortgage and property tax. If the City really wants to help the struggling people of Laredo, the renters are truly struggling in greater numbers. He clarified that he fully supports this motion but noted that it only helps 1,000 people, which is closer to 0% than 1% of the population. He encouraged Council to open up this discussion for the hard-working middle class as well as landlords that let out their properties so that they do not have to raise their rental rates every year.

Mayor Saenz countered that many property owners worked and saved their whole lives to purchase their home and are struggling to make those payments. Plenty of homeowners are also struggling with housing stability.

Robert Eads, City Manager, agreed with both sides of this argument and reminded Council that they are making long-term decisions without having the full picture of what is coming. If the full blow of the economic shortfall occurs and the City has already pre-committed so many resources, the budget may be so tight that it ties the City's hands in many ways.

Mrs. Maldonado reminded Council that homestead exemptions only apply to property owners who live at that property; it does not apply to businesses or to the homeowners' rental properties. Mr. Eads noted that without a snapshot of the City's proposed budget, staff is not equipped to make a recommendation at this time as there are too many variables at play. Mrs.

Maldonado cited other cities that offer homestead, disabled persons, and over-65 exemptions in varying amounts or percentages.

MPT Torres reminded Council that the taxation among these different cities is very different and hard to compare with Laredo and Webb County. Mr. Eads reiterated that staff is not comfortable with approving those larger amounts or percentages at this time until the budgetary factors are all presented to Council for the next year. If Council overcommits, then the City may have to close facilities or reduce services or staff to meet those commitments. Every year, operational costs increase but Departments are asked to cut 5% or 10% from their budgets; these Departments are stretched highly thin as it is and cannot find any more savings in their departmental budgets anymore. If a second powerful wave of COVID-19 hits the community in the fall and the City has committed significant resources to other matters, then staff will have to make some drastic decisions that would significantly impact the City's services to the public.

Dr. Marte Martinez agreed with Mr. Eads' warning, noting that without a fuller picture in front of them, Council is not ready to make this large of a commitment yet. He voiced his opinion that making a decision like this at this time is irresponsible and may lead to service disruption by the City.

Mayor Saenz noted that Council has talked about providing a tax break to the community for the last three years, but every year there is some excuse made as to why that break cannot be applied.

Motion to approve the exemption for disabled persons in the amount of \$30,000 for a financial impact to the City of \$201,612.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

1. Discussion with possible action regarding the recent increase in new cases of COVID-19 and proper preparations; and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the uptick of cases in Laredo have been a cause for concern and surveillance.

Richard Chamberlain, Interim Health Director, reported that the City had its peak of COVID-19 cases in April. He reported the case count for the past four weeks as follows:

<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Case Numbers</u>	<u>Prevalence</u>	<u>Incidence</u>
May 17 to May 23	+34 cases	13.90%	0.1295%
May 24 to May 30	+37 cases	12.78%	0.1409%
May 31 to June 06	+60 cases	13.38%	0.2285%
June 07 to June 13	+97 cases	13.80%	0.3695%

Mr. Chamberlain proposed a color-coded advisory system for the public to let them know what level the City is at, as follows:

Level 1 – Severe

250+ active positive cases, RED, the public would be warned to stay home as much as possible.

Level 2 – Significant

151-250 active positive cases, ORANGE, the public would be warned to minimize all contacts.

Level 3 – Moderate

51-150 active positive cases, YELLOW, the public would be warned to stay vigilant.

Level 4 – Minimal

<50 active positive cases, GREEN, the public may resume normal activity.

Mr. Chamberlain noted that in all levels, the public would be warned to use face masks. Increases in cases require the continued use of face masks, social distancing, proper handwashing and hygiene, and staying home if an individual is feeling sick or caring for a sick member of their household. The action plan would include consistent public communications through traditional and non-traditional means, such as City resources, press releases, advisories, transcripts, statements, video resources, and media briefings. Staff will implement a walk-up testing booth at the Health Department, to be completed within the next 10 business days. Staff is also working on expanding laboratory testing, stockpiling personal protective equipment (PPE), and epidemiology techniques to better surveil the community.

Mr. Chamberlain emphasized the Department's urgency to start a vaccination campaign to prevent co-infection as well as begin Bridge health screenings, develop a readiness plan with support, add to mental health resources, and work on a hospital preparedness plan with Laredo Medical Center. He noted that there has been a slight increase in hospital admissions for COVID-19, but the majority of the public are still recovering well from the virus or are asymptomatic.

Dr. Victor Treviño, health authority for the City of Laredo, reminded Council that officials want to increase involvement at the Bridge System with a tent and questionnaire for crossers to answer along with hand sanitizing stations and masks on offer for individuals who do not already have one. He noted that the lowest risk for young athletes is to practice at home by themselves. The second-lowest risk is to practice with their own team without playing against another team. Moderate risk includes playing against other teams, and the highest risk involves playing against other teams from other schools. He cautioned Council that these risks do not include any coaches or volunteers who are over the age of 65, which will increase the risk factor of these activities.

Cm. Rodriguez initiated a motion to hold a special Council meeting before the end of June to discuss COVID items. Dr. Treviño continued that the City

has to abide by the Governor's orders but can add mitigation efforts to them. Mayor Saenz clarified that the Governor provided some allowances for municipalities to use their discretion in ensuring the safety of their communities; Dr. Treviño agreed, noting that the allowance stipulates that the orders work with the local and health authority.

Cm. Balli noted that the Health Department reported only 10 hospitalizations for COVID-19, which is the lowest since April 9. He asked Cm. Rodriguez's to include all pending items to the special-called Council meeting agenda, to which Cm. Rodriguez agreed.

Motion to hold a special Council meeting before the end of June to discuss COVID-19 and any item not covered at this meeting, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Dr. Marte Martinez voiced his opinion that children should be allowed to practice on sports fields and desire for clarification on this matter. He initiated a motion to this effect pending protocols from the health authority for allowing such practice.

Motion to allow athletes to practice on low-risk sports fields pending protocols from the health authority allowing for such practice activities.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

G. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Laredo Police Department's continued evolution to protect and serve the public, specifically, what policies and producers have been modernized regarding minor offenses, officer involved shootings, crisis intervention for the mentally ill, and pursuits, etc. Additionally, the procurement of body cameras to protect both the public and the officers and the facilitating of both the First Amendment to peacefully protest and the Second Amendment to protect one's self and others, the Departments position on deescalating and intervening regarding any violent protest/looting/rioting and the Department's obligation to protect the people and businesses that make Laredo's economy work; and any other matters incident thereto.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item XIV. 58. A1, where Council action can be found.

2. Discussion and possible action to amend/modify/rescind any and all city ordinances that compel entities and citizens to pay for wastewater and trash collection services that they are not using, especially those properties that are grandfathered in; and any matters incident thereto.

No discussion or action taken.

3. Discussion with possible action to define what is considered a local company verses a non local company in relation to a contract being awarded; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table until the special-called Council meeting.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XV. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0