

CITY OF LAREDO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A-2020-R-18

LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1110 HOUSTON STREET

LAREDO, TEXAS 78040

November 2, 2020

5:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in a moment of silence.

IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.	District I
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Mercurio "Merc" Martinez III	District III
Alberto Torres, Jr.	District VI, Mayor Pro Tempore
Norma "Nelly Vielma	District V
Dr. Marte Martinez	District I
George 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	Ass. City Manager & Acting City Attorney
Riazul Mia	Assistant City Manager

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of September 8, 2020, September 14, 2020, September 21, 2020, October 5, 2020, and October 19, 2020.

Motion to approve the September 8, 2020, September 14, 2020, September 21, 2020, October 5, 2020, and October 19, 2020.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm Nelly Vielma

For:8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carries.

Citizen comments

Dora Maria Ramirez, on Item 59. G. 2. Dear Mayor and Council Members, as a licensed chemical dependency counselor in Texas and someone who works in the field of drug prevention in Laredo, I am strongly opposed to having the City of Laredo develop and implement an ordinance that would permit Police Officers to only cite and release individuals that are caught being in possession of marijuana. I believe this would send the wrong message to young people and adults alike that using marijuana is not as bad as using other illegal drugs. Also, if implemented, this ordinance might encourage more people of all ages to consume marijuana and more motorists to use marijuana while driving. Therefore, I ask that you please vote "No" to implementing a cite and release ordinance in Laredo that allows people to have any amount of marijuana in their possession. In Texas, marijuana is still an illegal drug for people to possess or consume. Please do the right thing and vote "No" to implementing a cite and release ordinance in Laredo! Sincerely, Dora Maria Ramirez, LCDC License #8965

Dora Maria Ramirez is against the Cite and Release Ordinance.

Dr. Christopher Craddock, on Item 59. G. 2. Dear Mayor and Council Members, as a licensed mental health professional and certified prevention specialist, I take exception to the wording in tonight's agenda item (59. G. 2.) submitted by Council Member Altgelt that uses the term "victimless misdemeanors." This wording intentionally attempts to minimize the harm that consuming marijuana and alcohol can cause to the person using them and the harm that a person under the influence of these drugs could do to others when driving in an impaired state. Although we do not know what specific Class B Misdemeanors will be included in Laredo's proposed ordinance, we do know that both First Offense DWIs and Marijuana Possession of 2 ounces or less are Class B Misdemeanors in Texas. Since it appears the primary focus of this ordinance will be to provide local law enforcement officers with the discretion to cite and release individuals found to be in possession of 2 ounces or less of marijuana, I would like to emphasize that it is illegal for anyone to be in possession of any amount of this drug in Texas. This is because marijuana is an illegal drug in Texas! I am concerned that implementing this type of ordinance will

1) make it easier to add other illegal drugs to the ordinance in the future (e.g., synthetic marijuana), and 2) create potentially unfair situations for individuals depending on how lenient the law enforcement officers are that stop them. Council Member Altgelt has been in office for 4 years, and November 2020 is his last month in office. Surprisingly, he waited until September 2020 to propose this ordinance. I think this ordinance is a terrible idea that will make the work of many dedicated drug prevention professionals working in our schools and social service agencies much more difficult. I also think it could encourage more people to use marijuana – especially young people. Since a new council member from Mr. Altgelt's district will soon be taking his place, I ask that City Council either 1) vote tonight to end any further discussion on this proposed ordinance, or 2) table discussion on this proposed ordinance until after all newly elected council members officially take office. Thank you.

Dr. Christopher Craddock is Against the Cite and Release Ordinance.

Elizabeth Alonzo Villarreal, on Item 59. G. 2. 59 Greetings Mayor and City Council Members: We write to you on behalf of LADD – Laredoans Against Drunk Driving and as citizens of the City of Laredo voicing our concerns to the above-mentioned proposed ordinance. We must oppose because this includes driving while intoxicated or buzzed, and the use or carrying of Marijuana no matter what the possession. Below are some reasons why an ordinance must not include the misdemeanors pertaining to Driving While Intoxicated and Marijuana. MOST IMPORTANT: IT SEND THE WRONG MESSAGE. Driving While Intoxicated, a Class B Misdemeanor

- Driving while intoxicated at .08 BAC is illegal. However, a person is also intoxicated if impaired due to alcohol or other drugs regardless of BAC.
 - It would encourage drivers to drive thinking they are below the .08 BAC.
 - Driving while intoxicated KILLS and INJURES innocent lives.
 - The wrong message would be sent out to the community about driving drunk.
 - Impairment begins with the first drink. Your gender, body weight, the number of drinks you've consumed and the amount of food you've eaten affect your body's ability to handle alcohol.
 - About every 20 minutes in Texas, someone is hurt or killed in a crash involving alcohol.
 - In Webb County alone and only the last 10 years 56 people have been killed by a drunk driver, LET'S NOT ENCOURAGE DRIVING DRUNK.
 - Last 10 years in Webb County 1,524 DWI CRASHES!
 - This Data obtained from TxDOT website
- Marijuana is an illegal drug in Texas:
- Because marijuana is an illegal drug, it is against the law for people to possess or consume any amount of marijuana.
 - Implementing a cite and release ordinance could send a message to young people in Laredo that being in possession of marijuana is not a significant problem.

- Implementing a cite and release ordinance could send a message to young people in Laredo that using an illegal drug like marijuana is not as bad as using other illegal drugs like cocaine, heroin, or methamphetamine.
 - In the U.S. among teenagers, marijuana is the most frequently used illicit drug.
 - In the past year, close to 36% of all 12th graders in the U.S. have reported using marijuana.
 - Significant increases in the daily use of marijuana among students in eighth and tenth grade have been observed.
 - The younger that someone starts using a substance like marijuana, the greater the risk of becoming addicted to it.
 - An ounce of marijuana is not a small amount as it is equivalent to approximately 50 joints.
 - Implementing a cite and release ordinance could encourage more people of all ages to consume marijuana.
 - Implementing a cite and release ordinance could encourage more motorists to consume marijuana while driving, which could make the roads less safe by increasing the number of people driving under the influence.
 - Implementing a cite and release ordinance could significantly interfere with marijuana prevention efforts currently being provided by local school districts, community-based agencies, and healthcare professionals.
 - Because law enforcement officers would have discretion in deciding whether to cite and release individuals or arrest them, significant bias could take place regarding which individuals are cited and released versus those that are arrested.
- Please consider this letter of opposition as you bring this item for city council consideration. When children and adults consume Marijuana, it alters their state of mind and can lead to heavier drugs in the future. We understand that there are more life-threatening situations that our police officers must deal with on a daily basis such as drug busts, however, sending out the wrong message now especially to our youth, will lead to more life-threatening situations in the future as Marijuana was the starting consumption drug even if in small quantities. Thank you.

Elizabeth Alonzo Villarreal stated opposition to the Cite and Release Ordinance.

John David Delgado, on Item 59. G. 2. I represent various pastors in town as well the church I pastor. We are against the ordinance for the following reasons. Marijuana is an illegal drug in Texas. The younger that someone starts using a substance like marijuana, the greater the risk of becoming addicted to it. An ounce of marijuana is not a small amount as it is equivalent to approximately 50 joints. Implementing a cite and release ordinance could send a message to young people in Laredo that being in possession of marijuana is not a significant problem. Implementing a cite and release ordinance could send a message to young people in Laredo that using an illegal drug like marijuana is not as bad as using other illegal drugs like cocaine, heroin, or methamphetamine. Implementing a cite and release ordinance could encourage more people of all ages to consume marijuana. Implementing a cite and release ordinance could encourage more motorists to consume marijuana while driving, which could make the roads less safe by

increasing the number of people driving under the influence. Implementing a cite and release ordinance could significantly interfere with marijuana prevention efforts currently being provided by local school districts, community-based agencies, and healthcare professionals. Because law enforcement officers would have discretion in deciding whether to cite and release individuals or arrest them, significant bias could take place regarding which individuals are cited and released versus those that are arrested.

John David Delgado is Against the Cite and Release Ordinance

Miguel Conchas, on Supplemental Agenda Item 1.A. Dear members of the Laredo City Council, this is to express my support for Mayor Saenz's request (co-sponsored by Council Members Altgelt and Vielma) to pause or change action taken previously to move forward on use of public funds to mobilize on the design of the Bruni Plaza Library and Plaza Theater renovation. Although this effort is certainly well-intentioned, we question whether the use of these public funds at this particular time, is currently the best option for the economic development of the downtown as a whole. A question that comes to mind is whether the business community of the downtown sector has participated in this decision, or, has, in the minimal, been consulted or informed, as to how this will lead to an overall plan for improvement of the area as a whole. Given the current situation, when we are experiencing the impact of COVID-19, it seems advisable that we hold off on decisions of this magnitude. I am not advocating that this is an item not worthy of consideration, but simply stressing that there is no need to make a decision on use of public funds in such a hurried manner. Please reconsider and get additional input from stakeholders, as making improvements on the Plaza Theater will have little to show if its immediate surroundings remain in their current state of deterioration.

Miguel Conchas is in favor Mayor's Pete Saenz Supplemental Agenda Item #A.1.

Armando Cisneros, on Supplemental Agenda Item 1.A. Good Afternoon, For the record, my name is Armando Cisneros I am writing to express my full support of item A1 of today's supplemental agenda. This involves a possible veto of a couple of downtown projects. I believe the Mayor does not take his veto power lightly and the proof is in the fact that he seldom exercises this power. Let us remember that the Mayor is the only member on the city council who is elected by all Laredoans. This means that he was elected by a much greater number of voters than the rest of his colleagues up on the dais. This needs to be respected because his larger constituency is what accounts for the Mayor being the only one vested with the power of the veto. In regard to this specific item, the Mayor should definitely move ahead with his veto of any plans on the Bruni Plaza library. The same goes for any plans concerning the Old Plaza Theater. The Plaza in particular has seen several ill-conceived attempts at resurrecting it over the last 20 years or so and they have all fallen flat. We must learn from past mistakes. Always remember that all funding ultimately comes out of the pockets of our taxpayers - whether it be from the general fund, district priority funds or from CDBG block grants The primary focus of the

Mayor and this council must be to exercise the most judicious spending of our taxpayer dollars. I believe that taking a pause on these two projects allows for that to happen. A veto is the most practical and pragmatic approach to this situation. Given the pandemic, the political season which is full swing and the rampant homeless problem plaguing our downtown, a veto is most practical at this time. For these reasons, I strongly urge Mayor Saenz to act in the better interest of ALL Laredoans and veto any action taken so far on both projects. Our Downtown is ailing, it is in a precarious and ugly stage of its otherwise proud history. This is why, more than ever, we must approach such undertakings in a measured and careful manner. Thank You

Armando Cisneros is in favor of Mayor's Pete Saenz Supplemental Agenda Item #A. 1.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

1. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, Amending Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances to provide a definition for multi-family dwellings, provide requirements for multi-family dwellings regarding garbage accumulation and collection, requiring newly constructed multi-family dwellings to have an enclosure of garbage container, and requiring owners of multi-family dwellings with illegal dumping violations to install security cameras; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council.

2. An ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas amending Chapter 31, Article II, Division 3 Use of Public Sewers of the Code of Ordinances by adding new definitions and abbreviations, deleting old definitions, creating a local limits table, requiring additional wastewater pretreatment measures, requiring additional information on wastewater discharge permit applications, allowing additional information to be included in wastewater discharge permits, requiring additional reporting requirements for measurement of pollutants, revising requirements for publication of users in significant noncompliance, increasing the wastewater discharge permit fee from \$50 to \$150, and authorizing analytical fees based on vendor prices; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council.

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

3. **2020-O-136** Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo FY2021 Airport Construction Budget to accept and appropriate the Federal Aviation Administration Grant No. 3-48-0136-090-2020 in the amount of \$10,485,466.00. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for the rehabilitation of Cargo Apron Phase 14 at the Laredo International Airport. No local match is required; 100% funded by FAA. Total project cost is approximately \$10,485,466.00.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-136.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

4. **2020-O-137** Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo FY2021 Airport Construction Budget to accept and appropriate the Federal Aviation Administration Grant No. 3-48-0136-092-2020 in the amount of \$5,393,884.00. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for the rehabilitation of Cargo Apron Phase 15 at the Laredo International Airport. The city's local match in the amount of \$599,321.00 is available in the Airport Construction Fund. Total project cost is approximately \$5,993,205.00.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-137.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

5. **2020-O-138** Ratifying the execution of a contract from The Meadows Foundation in the amount of \$150,000.00 to be used as a match for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Community Mental Health Grant Program and amending the FY2020-2021 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Medical Office Assistant II, R30 position and one (1) Health Educator I, R29 position for the term period from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-138.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

6. **2020-O-139** Amending the FY2020-2021 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Medical Office Assistant II, R30 position for the City of

Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Women's Health Preventive Health Services and Family Planning Program. Funding is available through the Health Department Budget through grant funds from Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-139.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

7. **2020-O-141** Accepting The Biennium Grant from the Commission on State Emergency Communications for FY2020-2021 and amending the FY2021 9-1-1 Regional Administration Grant budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$583,784.00 to provide surcharge for the next generation 9-1-1 project for Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb and Zapata Counties for the period beginning September 1, 2020 and ending August 31, 2021.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-141.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

8. **2020-O-142** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a supplemental grant and amend the Financial Task Force fund budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$65,000.00. This grant is funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) at no cost to the City. Funding will be used to pay overtime, fringe benefits, and operational expenses from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 for the LPD HIDTA Task Force.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-142.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

9. **2020-O-143** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 11, Block 44, Eastern Division, located at 503 Corpus Christi St. from B-1 (Limited Business District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

ZC-054-2020
District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-143.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

10. **2020-O-144** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 5, Block 2, San Isidro Business Park, located at 317 Crossroads St. from B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District); providing for publication and effective date.

ZC-055-2020
District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-144.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

11. **2020-O-145** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning of approximate 20.09 acres out of 32.8117-acre tract conveyed to Robert Muller, LTD, situated in Porcion 18, Jose de Bustamante Original, Abstract 21, and Porcion 2143, Abel Morgan Original, Abstract 591, located at Southwest of Enterprise St., from AG (Agricultural District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District); providing for publication and effective date.

ZC-056-2020
District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-145.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

12. **2020-O-146** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning at approximate 179.04 acres out of Porcion 15, Jose Prudencio Garcia, Abstract 53, located at South of FM 1472 Rd. and West of Wood Duck Dr., from AG (Agricultural District) and R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District); providing for publication and effective date. The

Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application.

ZC-29-2020
District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-146.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

13. **2020-O-147** Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with the City of Laredo Police Department for building No. 374 consisting of approximately 22,776 square feet located upon a tract of land consisting of approximately 138,359 square feet out of Block 3 located on 712 Maher Ave. The lease agreement shall be for a period of five (5) years commencing on October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2025 with two (2) one (1) year options to extend lease ending on October 1, 2026 and October 1, 2027. Lessor agrees to abate the first 7 months of rent from October 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021 not to exceed \$64,200.00 for basic repairs needed at building No. 374. Monthly rent shall be \$9,400.00 starting May 1, 2021 and will be adjusted annually according to changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Airport will be providing upfront repairs in the total amount of \$54,200.00.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-147.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8 Against:0 Abstain: 0

14. **2020-O-148** Closing and vacating as a public easement, a section of 1200 Buena Vista Avenue Right-of-Way, in District III, South of Boulanger Street and North of Bismark Street, legally described as an undeveloped tract of land containing 18,521 sq. ft. (0.4252 Acre) tract of land, more or less, situated within the limits of the City of Laredo and Webb County, Texas, being out and part of Buena Vista, Right-Of-Way (South of Boulanger St. and North Bismark St. southerly right-of-way line) in the City of Laredo, Eastern Division, as recorded in Volume 7, Page 15 of the Webb County Plat Records. The City of Laredo reserves any and all apparent and visible easements recorded or not recorded; hereof, closed as a public easement and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-148.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8

Against:0

Abstain: 0

15. **2020-O-149** An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances by adding Article VIII to establish a temporary parklet pilot program; providing for procedures and criteria for the granting of a temporary, revocable, parklet permit; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-136.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8

Against:0

Abstain: 0

X. CONSENT AGENDA

AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE JEFFREY J. MILLER, AIRPORT DIRECTOR

16. Consideration to amend contract FY20-020 Parking Management & Equipment System to include operating costs for SP Plus Corporation, Cleveland, OH to manage the parking system, for a three (3) year term, for annual amounts not to exceed: year one (1) \$195,829.00; year two (2) \$259,295.00; year three (3) \$267,074.00 and becoming the merchant of record and manage turnkey of revenues & expenditures for managing everyday operations of the Airport Parking Program. This contract includes a one-time cost of \$17,616.00 for a license plate inventory software system. These operating costs will be reviewed, adjusted and approved yearly / mutually by Airport and SP Plus administration to meet the operational needs. The term of this contract shall be for a three (3) year term, subject to future appropriations and may be extended for two (2) additional one (1) year terms upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding for this contract is available in the Airport Operations Funds; expenses are eligible for reimbursement from FAA CARES Act Grant No. 91.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

BRIDGE: STAFF SOURCE YVETTE LIMON, BRIDGE DIRECTOR

17. **2020-R-173** Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute the Donation Acceptance Agreement between the United States of America, acting by and through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U. S. Customs and Border

Protection ("CBP"), and the U.S. General Services Administration ("GSA"), Public Buildings Service, and the City of Laredo, Texas ("Donor"), to facilitate the proposed donation of infrastructure improvements to real property, personal property and non-personal services at the World Trade Bridge Land Port of Entry.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY ATTORNEY: STAFF SOURCE RENE C. BENAVIDES, CITY ATTORNEY

18. Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Engagement Agreement with Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. for legal services in relation to the City's purchase of the Ponderosa Regional Landfill by authorizing additional legal fees of \$30,000.00 for a total of \$130,000.00. Existing contract authorized amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Funds are available in the Solid Waste Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

19. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for RFQ FY20-ENG-012 CDBG Sisters of Mercy Water Park Splash Pad, Water Features and Other Amenities (Design/Build Project); and authorization to negotiate a contract. A total of three (3) companies responded to the request for qualifications on Friday, September 18, 2020. Staff recommends to select Mage 4 Group, LTD + Slay Architects. There is no financial impact at this time.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Laredo (City), the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA), and the Webb County Drainage District

No. 1 (Drainage District) for the development of a new arterial road, as further identified in attached Exhibit 1 by extending the arterial road from the intersection of Concord Hills Boulevard and future Los Presidents Avenue to its intersection with Brownwood Street (Phase 2A). Funding is available in the Capital Grants Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

21. **2020-R-174** Discuss and approve a resolution approving the defeasance of all of the outstanding City of Laredo, Texas Sports Venue Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2014, in the estimated principal amount of \$9,855,000.00, and approving and authorizing the execution and performance of all documents and procedures related thereto including the approval of an escrow agreement. Funding for the escrow account will be from the Sports and Community Venue Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Nelly Vielma

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carries.

22. Consideration to award annual contract FY21-003 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Trashco, Ltd, Laredo, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.00 to provide trash collection services for large volume containers. These services are required for various city operations to include: Airport, Bridge System, Parks & Rec, Fleet Management, Transit, Municipal Housing, Utilities and Solid Waste Departments. The contract vendor is also required to provide, as needed, additional containers and/or for special events. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for three (3), additional one (1) year periods each upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding for these services are available in various departmental funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

23. Consideration to award contract FY21-002 to the bidder Arguindegui Oil, Laredo, Texas, in an annual amount up to \$4,200,000.00 for the purchase of unleaded and diesel fuel for the City's automotive fleet. Contract unit price will be determined by the daily published Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) index made up of the composite posted prices in the Laredo area. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. The contract may be extended for three (3) more, additional one (1) year periods, each upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Management Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Consideration to award annual service contract FY21-001 to the following low bidders:

1. Gutierrez Machine Shop, Laredo, TX, in an amount up to \$150,000.00 (Primary Vendor);
2. Laredo Mechanical Industrial Services, Laredo, TX, in an amount up to \$130,000.00 (Secondary Vendor) for the purchase of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) truck service for the City's automated side loader trucks. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This contract may be extended for three (3) additional one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY18-046 for the purchase of automotive parts for the Fleet Department with the following vendors:

1. Gonzalez Auto Parts, Laredo, TX, for annual amount up to \$200,000.00 (Primary Vendor); and
2. Fleet Pride Inc., Laredo, TX, for an annual amount up to \$25,000.00 (Secondary Vendor); and
3. O'Reilly Auto Parts, Springfield, MO, for an annual amount up to \$25,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE RICHARD A. CHAMBERLAIN, HEALTH DIRECTOR

26. **2020-R-175** Ratifying the execution of a contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the additional amount of \$48,744.00 for a total of \$236,852.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Tuberculosis Elimination/State Program for the term of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 and in the amount of \$205,501.00 with a match of \$31,351.00 and projected program income of \$9,098.00 for a total of \$245,950.00 for the term of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a contract with Televero Health, Inc. for telemedicine psychiatric services with Televero's telehealth platform for the City of Laredo Health Department in the amount of \$50,000.00 for Primary Care, Women's Health and Chronic Disease Services and in the amount of \$18,000.00 for HIV services for a total cumulative amount of \$68,000.00 for the term of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Funding is available through the Health Department Meadows Foundation and Ryan White Part C Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a contract with provider Winder N. Vasquez, M.D. for physician services for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Tuberculosis Elimination Program in the amount of

\$31,200.00 per year for a total amount of \$62,400.00 for the term of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration to ratify the purchase of Influenza vaccines from Sanofi Pasteur, Inc. in the amount of \$103,006.07 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Immunizations Program. Funding available in the General Fund COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

PARKS & RECREATION: STAFF SOURCE JUAN J. GOMEZ, JR., PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

30. **2020-R-177** Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a donation agreement between the City of Laredo and PATMO Concrete, LLC for the acceptance of approximately 180 yards of concrete, valued at approximately \$18,000.00, which will contribute towards the construction of an 84 x 50 basketball court at Shiloh Crossing Park. Contribution will be accounted for in the Capital Improvements Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Consideration to renew contract FY16-076 with South Texas Waste Systems, Laredo, Texas in an annual amount of \$52,230.00. This contract is subject to future appropriations and will provide portable restroom rental services and portable hand washing stations (and related) to various City of Laredo departments on an as needed basis. There was no price increase and this is the last extension period for this contract. Funding for this contract is available in the respective department budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**PLANNING & ZONING: STAFF SOURCE JAMES KIRBY
SNIDEMAN, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR**

32. Authorize the drafting of Annexation Agreements and Service Plans for the following voluntary annexation requests and refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission and further authorizing the City Manager to enter into Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer Service, and Controlled Development Contracts with the owners of the eligible proposed annexation tracts:

Tract 1: Rodriguez Ranch Tract - 247.70 acres, more or less, located east of International Blvd., north of Juan Escutia Blvd.

Tract 2: Cuevas Stanley Tract - 2.07 acres, more or less, located south of Mines Rd. (FM 1472), west of Copper Mine Rd.

Tract 3: Martinez Tract - 17.57 acres, more or less, located north of State Hwy 359, east of Floral Blvd.

Tract 4: Mario Palos Garza Tract - 2.62 acres, more or less, located northeast of Mines Rd. (FM 1472), southeast of Pinto Valle.

Tract 5: Islitas Farms Tract - 17.29 acres, more or less, located South of Mines RD. (FM 1472), north of Phelps Rd.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

33. **2020-R-163** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$49,999.50 from the Texas Department of Transportation to fund the STEP Impaired Driving Mobilization (IDM) program. The City of Laredo will match \$15,499.85 for a total project amount of \$65,499.35. This grant is to pay overtime salaries to officers in order to increase enforcement to arrest individuals driving while intoxicated (DWI) and driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol by minors. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8 Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. **2020-R-164** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$25,910.64 from the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Justice and Training Program grant for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This grant will partially fund one Investigator position for the Special Investigations Unit. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8 Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. **2020-R-165** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$49,432.74 from the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the General Victim Assistance Program Grant under the 2021 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This grant will fund the salary of the Crime Victims Service Coordinator position, travel/training and supplies affiliated with the grant program. The City of Laredo is responsible for a match of \$12,816.00 for total project budget of \$62,248.74. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 8 Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. **2020-R-166** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$45,000.00 from the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the FY2021 First Responder Mental Health Program. The funding will be utilized to obtain a professional service contract for Clinical Advisory for Trauma and Work Related Counseling for the period of October 01, 2020 to September 30, 2021. The City of Laredo is responsible for a match of \$12,828.75 for a total project budget of \$57,828.75. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Cm. Marte Martinez went into discussion to determine on how the funds were going to be utilized.

Laredo Police Department, Chief Mike Rodriguez stated that the grant was requested specifically for the peer support program.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. **2020-R-167** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$26,232.55 from the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Department (CJD) for the funding of 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Traffic Unit Information Technology (IT) Project for the period of October 01, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This funding will be utilized to equip thirteen (13) members of the LPD Traffic Unit with Unitech Mobile Handheld computers to improve efficiency and effectiveness during critical situations. This program does not require local match. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. **2020-R-168** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$26,232.55 from the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the funding of FY 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Safe Streets Initiative for the period of October 01, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This funding will provide overtime salaries for the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) to target criminal and transnational organizations that pose significant threat and the investigation and apprehension of offenders responsible for violent criminal activity. This program does not require local match. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. **2020-R-169** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$83,267.63 from the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the purpose of funding the Rifle Resistant Body Armor Grant Program FY 2021. The funds will be utilized to equip officers at risk of shootings with bullet-resistant personal body armor compliant with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standard for rifle protection. The Rifle-Resistant Body

Armor Grant Program project period is October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This program does not require local match. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. **2020-R-170** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$147,000.00 from the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2021 Local Border Security Program (LBSP) for the period of September 01, 2020 through August 31, 2021. This grant does not require matching funds. Funding will be used to pay for overtime to increase patrol security along the Texas-Mexican border. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. **2020-R-171** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$154,277.91 from the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the purpose of funding the FY2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program. This grant will augment resources and assist the Laredo Police Department in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the Coronavirus pandemic. Funding will be utilized for computer equipment, personal protection equipment (PPE) and sanitizing equipment, supplies, and services. The grant performance period is from May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021 and does not require a local match. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. **2020-R-172** Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$79,827.91 from the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)-Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) Grant. This funding will be utilized for the necessary upgrade of the LPD Bomb Unit Remotec F6A Robot and for the purchase of a portable x-ray machine which will allow bomb technicians

the ability to obtain real-time imaging in a variety of applications. The grant performance period is from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. No local match is required. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

SOLID WASTE: STAFF SOURCE JOHN PORTER, INTERIM SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

43. Consideration to award a purchase contract to Toter Inc., Statesville, North Carolina for the purchase of Garbage/Refuse carts, lids and accessories in the amount of \$472,443.84 per year. This purchase contract is utilizing the Omnia Cooperative Purchasing Contract (no. 171717). This contract is for one (1) year and may be extended a total of three (3) one (1) year extension periods, upon mutual agreement of parties and is contingent upon availability of funds. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Operations Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE ART GARCIA, P.E., UTILITIES DIRECTOR

44. **2020-R-176** Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement between Laredo BLJ Land, LLC and City of Laredo to upgrade a sanitary sewer force main and lift station for the Las Fincas Subdivision Phase I. The City will accept from Laredo BLJ Land for the upgrade of the 6-in force main and lift station an initial amount of \$50,000.00 in the form of a letter of credit, an additional payment of \$32,870.00 if any lot in Phase I is being issued a building permit for an apartment, prior to issuance of the building. There is no cost to the City.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

45. Consideration to award supply contract number FY20-090 to the following bidders:

1. DPC Industries, Corpus Christi, Texas
2. Altivia Chemicals, Houston, Texas
3. Brenntag Southwest, Lancaster, Texas
4. Chemtrade Chemicals, Parsippany, New Jersey
5. Polydyne, Inc., Riceboro, Georgia

in an annual amount up to \$ 2,500,000.00 for the purchase of water and wastewater treatment chemicals for the Utilities Department. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon availability of appropriated funds. This contract has three (3) one (1) year extension periods. All chemicals will be purchased on as needed basis. Funding is available in the Water and Wastewater Treatment Division's Operating Budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

46. Consideration to ratify purchase order issued to Graybar Electric, San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$33,766.61 to existing contract awarded on July 27, 2020 for the amount of \$535,161.10. This contract is to purchase electrical junction boxes enclosures and accessories for the El Pico Water Treatment Plant to replace undersized junction boxes for corrective action and preventive measures to keep plant operational. The purchase of materials will utilize the U.S. Community Program, a national purchasing cooperative program, pricing Contract #EV2370. The new total contract amount will be \$568,927.71. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Water Construction Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. Authorizing the City Manager to approve a professional materials testing services contract with Castle Engineering & Testing, LLC. of Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$49,180.00 for Eastern Chacon Creek Interceptor & Drainage Improvements. The contract is for the duration of the construction period. Funding is available in the 2019 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

48. Authorizing the City Manager to approve a professional materials testing services contract with Millennium Engineers Group, Inc. of Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$36,600.00 for Lyon Street Booster Station North Ground Storage Tank Demo/Replacement Project. The contract is for the duration of the construction period. Funding is available in the 2019 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

49. Consideration to award contract FY21-007 to the low bidder Aguaworks Pipe & Supply, Brownsville, Texas, in an amount up to \$298,975.90 for the purchase of dry barrel fire hydrants and repair kits for the City of Laredo's Utilities Department. This contract will be for a one-year period and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This contract has three extension periods. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. STAFF REPORTS

50. Discussion with possible action on ongoing audits and/or irregularities identified by the Internal Auditor including the potential assignment of other and/or additional auditing duties; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pete Saenz and Cm. Rudy Gonzalez were not present.

51. Status update on current COVID-19 information as presented by Local Health Authority, Health Director, and Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC); and any other matters incident thereto.

Health Department Director, Richard Chamberlain gave a presentation on COVID -19 status update.

He stated that the State of Texas has been seen an increase on COVID- 19 positive cases.

Dr. Trevino with the Health Department gave a status update on hospital rates, death rates and hospital shortages related to COVID- 19.

Cm. Marte Martinez expressed that he believes it is very important to re-open all heated public pools so people can exercise while keeping and enforcing all guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Motion to allow heated public pools to open within two weeks, while following all guidelines and recommendations.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rudy Gonzalez and MPT Alberto Torres were not present.

Motion to allow yard sales and plate sale fund raisers with a maximum of 15 people helping out.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

Second: Cm. Vidal Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rudy Gonzalez and MPT Alberto Torres were not present.

52. Status report on ReCode Laredo, the proposed Active Transportation Plan, and other future long range plans as presented by the Planning Director/Laredo & Webb County Area MPO Director.

53. Status update on the 2021 State Legislative Agenda for the 87th Texas Legislative Session; and any other matters incident thereto.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session at 6:02 pm.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Vidal Rodriguez.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Back from executive session at 7:44 p.m.

54. Attorney consultation pursuant to Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code, to provide legal advice and counsel in connection with the City's rights, duties, privileges, and obligations under Chapters 143 and 174 of the Texas Local Government Code with respect to the ongoing collective bargaining process with the Laredo Police Officer's Association.

No action was taken.

55. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071 (1)(A) and 551.071 (2) to consult with attorney on potential litigation involving TransCore, LP. and/or on matters in which it is the duty of the attorney under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct as it pertains to the Bridge System Toll Collection System Maintenance Service Contract entered into on April 6, 2020; and return to open session for possible action.

No action was taken.

56. Request for executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) and 551.087 (Economic Development) to discuss the Economic Development Performance and Program Agreement between the City of Laredo and Laredo Outlet Shoppes, LLC and any other matters incident thereto, and return to open session for possible action.

No action was taken.

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

57. Consideration to renew the (FY17-059) engine motor oil and lubricant contract for the Laredo Transit Management, Inc. (El Metro) to two of the original five low bidders. The following vendors had a two-year contract with two additional one year options to extend. The two-year contract expired on October 3, 2019, and the first one-year extension option expired on Oct. 31, 2020. This is the second and last one (1) year option to renew.

1. Arguindegui Oil Co., Laredo, TX, up to \$38,504.00
2. Hollon Oil Company, Weslaco, TX, up to \$33,212.00.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Nelly Vielma.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

58. Consideration to renew the Tire Lease Contract with The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (FY16-053). Previously awarded to the company as a three-year contract with two additional one-year options to extend. The three-year contract expired and the first one-year extension option to extend was exercised last year and expired on Sept. 30, 2020. This is the second and last year option to renew.

Moved: MPT Alberto Torres

Second: Cm. Nelly Vielma.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

59. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Status update regarding the creation of a Health Advisory Committee; and any other matters incident thereto.

B. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action on all possible house demolitions considered a nuisance in District II; and any other matters incident thereto.

C. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Discussion with possible action on collaborating with the Diocese of Laredo for the construction of a new cemetery; and any other matters incident thereto.

Citizen Osvaldo Navarro spoke in favor to construct a new cemetery.

Cm. Rudy Gonzalez expressed that he would like to look into some South Laredo locations that might be good for a new cemetery.

Sigfredo Perez, representing Diocese of Laredo stated that an Ordinance by the City of Laredo is necessary for the construction of the new cemetery within City Limits.

Planning and Zoning Director, Kirby Sniderman explained that an Ordinance is not necessary but a zone change is.

Motion to instruct staff to create an Ordinance that will allow the Catholic Diocese to build a Cemetery with in the City Limits of Laredo.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

Second: Cm. Nelly Vielma.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carries.

2. Discussion with possible action on the creation of "dump" or "depository" stations of bulky items throughout the city. These stations are to receive mattresses, tires, furniture and bulky items for disposal; and any other matters incident thereto.

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

1. Discussion with possible action regarding delinquent utilities bills, and developing a plan of action to assist those families facing possible water shut off through the COVID Relief Fund; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to Utilize COVID-19 relief funds to reconnect all disconnected delinquent utility accounts no later than tomorrow by the end of the day. Also to modify the application and its requirements to be able to qualify for help under the COVID- 19 relief program. Explore ways on how to assist citizens, while using navigators to visit residents to see how they can be helped.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

Second: Cm. Nelly Vielma.

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr. was not present.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez III was not present.

Cm. George Altgelt was not present.

E. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to establish Campaign Reform requirements and thresholds, periods for fundraising and limits in contributions and revise our Ethics, Lobbying and relevant ordinances accordingly; and any other matters incident thereto.

MPT Alberto Torres Jr, expressed concern with limiting campaign financing but agreed that maybe a committee could explore this issue.

CM. Nelly Vielma would like to have the committee look at placing limits so everyone has an even playing field when it comes time to run for office.

Motion to establish a Campaign Finance Committee.

Moved: Cm. Nelly Vielma

Second: MPT Alberto Torres

For: 6
Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
Cm. Mercurio Martinez III
MPT Alberto Torres
Cm. Nelly Vielma
Cm. George Altgelt
Cm. Roberto Balli

Against: 0
Cm. Vidal Rodriguez
Cm. Marte Martinez

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to consider eliminating the merchant fee for credit card payments for senior citizens on utilities/tax payment services; and any other matters incident thereto.

City Manager Robert Eads expressed his concern with eliminating merchant fees.

Motion to eliminate the merchant fee until the Emergency Order is removed. Utilize COVID-19 Relief Funds to cover the merchant fee while the Emergency Order is still active. To also include the reduction in hours as an identifier to qualify people for COVID-19 Relief Funds and not just unemployment and have staff come back with other ideas to use as qualifiers, before the end of the day tomorrow have everyone's water connected and figure out how to help citizens by utilizing navigators to see how to help them. At a minimum, use the COVID-19 Relief Funds over the next two months equally.

Moved: Cm. Nelly Vielma
Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez and Cm. George Altgelt were not present.

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

1. Discussion with possible action on the passage of an ordinance that would prohibit multi-family or commercial customers from potentially violating state and federal laws by charging tenants a monthly storm water utility fee in an amount that exceeds their equitable portion of the actual costs of service charged by the City of Laredo; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to bring back an Ordinance to prohibiting multi-family or commercial customers from charging tenants a monthly storm water utility fee in an amount that exceeds their equitable portion of the actual costs of service charged by the City of Laredo.

Moved: Cm. Marte Martinez

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

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on amending Section 24.56 of the Laredo Land Development Code to allow expenditures from the Parkland Improvement Fund to be used for any purpose reasonably related to the use of the park; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III
For: 8 Against: 0

Abstain: 0

G. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion with possible action regarding an update on the abandoned building ordinance and the xeriscape ordinance; and any other matters incident thereto.
2. Status update on action to direct city staff to draft an ordinance consistent with the Cities of Dallas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio to provide officer discretion to cite and release Citizens for certain non-violent victimless misdemeanors; and any other matters incident thereto.

XVI. ADJOURN