

**CITY OF LAREDO CITY COUNCIL
MEETING A-2020-S-02
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
March 2, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTES

I. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinance 2020-O-017.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

1. 2020-O-017 Amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Improvements Fund by appropriating revenues and expenditures, and authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to implement said budget amendment, for improvements at the Divine Mercy Park in the amount of \$320,662.00 that shall include the construction of a metal structured bathroom building, a reinforced concrete basketball court, and outdoor court tile for multi-sport applications. Funds will be coming from a donation from Robert P. Gutierrez.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-017.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

II. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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

1. Discussion with possible action to offer free bus and van/EI Lift rides on Primary Election Day, March 3, 2020 to encourage voter participation in Laredo; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Roberto Balli)

Cm. Balli reminded Council that tomorrow is Primary Election Day, voicing his intention

to allow local residents to use public transportation for free in order to go vote and to have management find a funding source for this endeavor. This will give people a better opportunity to cast their ballot. He initiated a motion to this effect.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit Manager, confirmed that this is a common practice among transit agencies; the direct impact on the loss of revenues for that given day are estimated to be around \$11,000, not counting operation costs and assuming that every rider is given free transportation.

Cm. Balli clarified that the motion is only providing free fare transportation to riders specifically traveling to the polls to vote. The riders will have to show their voter registration card. Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, stated that management would support this objective to people traveling to vote if they provide their voter registration card.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that most voters do not carry their voter registration cards with them; they only need their identification card. Mrs. Cabello agreed, but clarified that everyone carries their identification on them every day; staff won't know if they are going to vote or not. Carrying their voter registration card would be needed. She stated that next year, staff can better promote this service ahead of time.

MPT Torres asked news media to help the City promote this service for Primary Election Day, and Council can promote the service on Facebook or their social media outlets. Mrs. Cabello confirmed that staff will promote on the City's website.

Motion to direct management to find a funding source in order to offer free bus rides only for riders going to vote at the polls.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, and Cm. Vielma were not present.

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

1. Discussion with possible action on consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible responsive bidder R&A Construction, Laredo, Texas, in the base bid amount of \$261,944.00 for the Re-Bid Divine Mercy Park Improvements with a construction contract time of ninety (90) calendar days; and authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers 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 June 2020. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund contingent upon the approval of Final Reading of Ordinance #2020-O-017. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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