

# CITY OF LAREDO

## SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A-2020-SC-09

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

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1110 HOUSTON STREET

LAREDO, TEXAS 78040

November 12, 2020

12:00 P.M.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

MPT Alberto Torres called the meeting to order

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cm. Ruddy Gonzalez led in the pledge of allegiance.

### III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

MPT Alberto Torres led in a moment of silence.

### IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

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 VI
George Altgelt	District VII
Roberto Balli	District VIII
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Rene Benavides	City Attorney
Robert Eads	City Manager
Rosario Cabello	Deputy City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	Ass. City Manager
Riazul Mia	Assistant City Manager

Mayor Pete Saenz was absent.

### Citizen comments

Betty Flores, Dear Mayor and Members of the Laredo City Council, It is with great pleasure that I write this comment to you as you have your Special Meeting to Canvas the returns of the General and Special Election of the City of Laredo, held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. I would like to offer my congratulations to the entire team of the Webb County Elections Office for their outstanding work. They

should be congratulated for delivering the people of Webb County the results after carefully and diligently working for many hours. My personal poll watcher, Armando Lopez, who stayed for many hours as well had only praise for their work in spite of a very long ballot. This election pointed out too many just how important this work is and how grueling it can be. I hope that we, the residents of Webb County support the latest technology and the best training for all the members of the Elections Office. Again, my congratulations and my sincere thank you for a job well done.

Vanessa Perez, as a candidate in the runoff, I request a two-week runoff early voting period, followed by a Saturday election date. This would alter the proposed dates in the agenda item, however, the additional time is needed. We still do not have all the Election Day voter data from the elections office. Thank you for your consideration.

Alyssa Cigarroa, asked City Council and the Mayor for a fair and reasonable early voting runoff election.

Jesus Mendoza for the record, spoke about suffering from EHS.

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **CITY SECRETARY: STAFF SOURCE JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR., CITY SECRETARY**

1. Canvassing the returns of the General and Special Election of the City of Laredo held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for: the Election of City Officials; a Special Election for proposed propositions (Charter Amendments); approving the results and ordering a runoff election; authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract with the Webb County Elections Administrator for the purpose of conducting a joint election with Laredo College (LC); designating a runoff date; and providing for publication; and any other matters relating thereto.  
City Secretary Jose A Valdez, Jr. introduced Zulema Ortiz Deputy City secretary to read the election results into record.

Zulema Ortiz, Deputy City Secretary read the November 3, 2020 certified election returns into record as follows:

#### District VI:

Council District IV - Alberto Torres, Jr.	3632 votes received, 62.14 %
Esmeralda "Mellie Hereford –	2213 votes received, 37.86%

#### District V:

Nelly Vielma	4694 Votes received, 44.27%
Ruben Gutierrez, Jr.	2740 Votes received, 25.84%

Celestino Marina	851	Votes received, 8.03%
George M. Beckelhymer	2070	Votes received, 19.52%
Write- In	248	Votes received, 2.34%

District VII:

Priscilla Pantoja	875	Votes received, 10.86%
Hector Lee Patino	969	Votes received, 11.91%
J. Carlos Flores	153	Votes received, 1.90%
Benigno G. Cepeda	385	Votes received, 4.78%
Vanessa Perez	1544	Votes received, 19.17%
Maria Antonieta Reyes	402	Votes received, 4.99%
David Montes	425	Votes received, 5.28%
Robert Ortiz	575	Votes received, 7.314%
Jose A. Renteria	510	Votes received, 6.33%
Betty Flores	2111	Votes received, 26.21%
Write- In	116	Votes received, 1.44%

District VIII:

Roberto Balli	1021	Votes received, 20.50%
Sergio "Keko" Martinez	555	Votes received, 11.14%
Enrique "Kike" Pantoja	559	Votes received, 12.05%
Amber Avis-Hinojosa	600	Votes received, 12.05%
Jose Sergio Dorantes	123	Votes received, 2.47%
Write- In	2122	Votes received, 42.61%

Proposition A

For:	45048	Votes received, 76.80%
Against: 1	3610	Votes received, 23.20%

Proposition B

For:	39015	Votes received, 65.71%
Against	20360	Votes received, 34.29%

Proposition C

For:	35089	Votes received, 59.48%
Against:	23906	Votes received, 40.52%

Proposition D

For:	40771	Votes received, 69.08%
Against:	18245	Votes received, 30.92%

Proposition E

For: 36858 Votes received, 64.34%  
Against: 20432 Votes received, 35.66%

Proposition F

For: 43724 Votes received, 74.58%  
Against: 14905 Votes received, 25.42%

Proposition G

For: 36572 Votes received, 63.02%  
Against: 21462 Votes received, 36.98%

Proposition H

For: 44751 Votes received, 74.91%  
Against: 14988 Votes received, 25.09%

City Secretary Jose A. Valdez, Jr. noted that the results have been certified and recommended approval of the results.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

Second: Cm Rudy Gonzalez

For: 7                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Mayor Pete Saenz was not present.

Motion carries.

Webb County Elections Administrator, Jose Tellez noted that Mail in ballots would be sent out on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 if everything goes as planned. He would prefer for Election Day to be on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Motion to start Early voting from Saturday November 28, 2020 through Tuesday December 8, 2020. (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday, Saturday (8:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) Sunday (1:00p.m. to 6:00 pm.) Election day to be on December 12, 2020.

Moved: Cm. Nelly Vielma

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. George Altgelt withdraws his second to the motion, then Cm. Mercurio Martinez seconded the existing motion.

For: 5

Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

Cm. Vidal Rodriguez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez III

Cm. Nelly Vielma

Cm. Roberto Balli

Against:2

Cm. Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. George Altgelt

Abstain:0

Motion Carries.

## **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Vidal Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

For:7

Against:0

Abstain:0

Motion Carries.