

CITY OF LAREDO
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2020-SC-10
LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
December 22, 2020
12:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in a moment of silence, remembering the victims of COVID-19 as well as the passing of local advocate and active community member Armando Cisneros.

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
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Robert Eads	City Manager
Rosario Cabello	Deputy City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	Assistant City Manager
Riazul Mia	Assistant City Manager
Rene Benavides	City Attorney

Citizen comments

None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Canvassing the returns of the General Runoff Election held on Saturday, December 12, 2020 for: the Election of City Officials, District V, VII and VIII and approving the results; and any other matters relating thereto.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, presented the result of the December 12, 2020, Runoff Election for City Council Districts V, VII, and VIII, as follows:

Total Votes Cast 7,513

<u>Council Member, District V</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Nelly Vielma	1,172	46.56%
Ruben Gutierrez, Jr.	1,345	53.44%

<u>Council Member, District VII</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vanessa Perez	1,349	70.01%
Betty Flores	578	29.99%

<u>Council Member, District VIII</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Roberto Balli	476	15.64%
Alyssa Cigarroa	2,568	84.36%

Mr. Valdez clarified that the returns of the Runoff Election were delivered from and certified by the Webb County Elections Administrator Jose. S. Tellez.

Motion to approve and accept the official returns as presented by City Secretary Valdez.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Saenz congratulated Mr. Gutierrez, Ms. Perez, and Ms. Cigarroa on their victories and thanked them for their willingness to serve their districts. He recognized the outgoing Council Members, thanking them for their service and steadfastness and wishing them in their future endeavors. All Council Members in attendance added their well wishes and commendations, as well. Mayor Saenz presented Cm. Vielma, Cm. Altgelt, and Cm. Balli with certificates of recognition for their accomplishments while on Council.

Cm. Vielma thanked City staff and her colleagues for the opportunity to serve her city through many projects as well as thanking her family for their support and love. She congratulated Mr. Gutierrez on his victory and wished him luck during his time on Council.

Cm. Altgelt echoed similar sentiments, adding that he will continue to be readily available to his colleagues and community members moving forward. He commended Ms. Perez for her integrity and enthusiasm for public service.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to initiate a feasibility assessment to contract the Webb County Tax Collector/Assessor to collect City taxes based on the recent Charter Revisions approved by the voters and develop an attrition plan for the City's Tax Department; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pete Saenz and Council Member George Altgelt)

Robert Eads, City Manager, explained that the City would have to reassign Tax Department employees if this item is approved so as not to lose any City employees.

Several Council Members voiced concerns over approving this item if it is going to adversely affect Tax Department employees, such as forcing them to retrain in another industry or to become furloughed.

MPT Torres reminded Council that they have not even had a discussion with the incoming Tax Assessor/Collector yet on this matter. He noted that this issue should also be decided by the incoming Council Members, who deserve to share their opinions before a vote is taken.

Cm. Altgelt assured Council that there is a way to execute this directive without an impact to the employees that would multiply their good work through other Departments. He clarified that the intention is not to execute this directive at all costs but to do so if it benefits the City after due diligence.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: MPT Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0