

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2019-R-03
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
February 19, 2019
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tempore Roberto Balli called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tempore Roberto Balli led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pro-Tempore Roberto Balli 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 IV
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
Rosario Cabello	Interim Co-City Manager
Robert Eads	Interim Co-City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	City Attorney

Motion to excuse the absence of Mayor Pete Saenz.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of February 1, 2019, February 4, 2019 and February 7, 2019.

Motion to approve the February 1, 2019, February 4, 2019, and February 7, 2019 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Citizen comments

Jesus Ochoa of MOVE Texas informed Council that the group was formed very recently and held a press conference last week on the steps of City Hall. Members signed a petition that calls for all elected officials representing Laredo in any way or any area of the Texas border to strongly oppose any border wall. MOVE Texas has formed a coalition with other groups such as the Laredo Immigrant Alliance and RISK, and the coalition continues to grow. Mr. Ochoa reminded Council that a border wall would potentially be built in almost all City districts; only two districts will not directly be affected. The citizens of Laredo do not want a border wall, and he encouraged Council to support those wishes and prevent oppose a border wall that will hurt local businesses and destroy the natural ecosystem. He distributed the petition. A number of hands were raised in association with the petition and Mr. Ochoa's sentiments.

Cm. Torres noted that Council has already passed a resolution opposing the border wall but asked if any further action could be taken. Kristen L. Hale, City Attorney, informed Council that the City is currently investigating opportunities to join other groups in a lawsuit against the wall. If such an opportunity becomes possible, staff will bring the issue back to Council for consideration and directive.

Mellie Hereford reminded Council that two-thirds of the sitting Council Members are on the FBI list in a probe for public corruption. Therefore, she asked if it is a good idea to allow this Council to consider changes to the Ethics Ordinance or if there is any trust in Council. A Facebook poll has shown that the overwhelming majority of citizens opposes any change to the Code of Ethics, which was created to prevent abuse of the taxpayers. She cautioned Council from changing the Code of Ethics so that they may be lazier and accept more gifts, reminding them that if something sounds too good to be true, then it probably is. She asked that Council vote against the agenda item related to this issue and asked for a roll call vote.

Mrs. Hale confirmed that the Code of Ethics item does not pertain to Council but rather the City as a whole. Any donation would have to benefit the public at large. The donation would be to the City as an entity pursuant to an agreement rather than any individual Council Member.

Gloria Freeman, Cesar Chavez Memorial Alliance Vice President, noted that the organization circulated a petition requesting an honorary name change of a street for Mr. Chavez from Zaragoza Street and Santa Ursula Avenue's intersection to Jefferson Street and San Bernardo Avenue. She stated that the Cesar Chavez Memorial Alliance supports the Laredo Immigration Alliance which sponsors individuals seeking citizenship in the United States; the organization also gives scholarships to needy but academically gifted students. She informed Council that this is the second time that she has made this request to Council and asked for the signing of the resolution that was first sent to Cm. Balli and then sent to every member of Council with no response or action.

Francisco Castillo noted his astonishment during the discussions about selecting a new City Manager. He reminded Council that the City needs public administrators who are well-versed in the role of government and its interaction with the citizenry. The City

Manager needs to promote government over business as per his or her duties. He advised that Council favor the public sector, as that is who the Council Members have been elected to represent. The business and private sector should not be too involved in the search committee, although their input is valuable.

Raquel Barrera, resident on Patio Lane, reported to Council that the residents of this area are still experiencing problems with the establishment Callo de Hacha on Hillside. The music outdoors has continued to be too loud; although the operators have brought their speakers inside, they open the doors so that the music is heard throughout the neighborhood. The last time this issue was brought before Council, Council decided that the establishment would only have music indoors in order to continue to operate. The owner has not complied, despite police responding to residential complaints. She noted that police officers have been very responsive to complaints, but the establishment has only lowered the music until the police leave and then turn it back up. Residents are no longer able to sleep at night. She noted that the Danny's Restaurant up the road keeps their music inside and everyone is happy. Callo de Hacha's ownership is negatively affecting the entire community and ignoring concerns and directions.

Violeta Arispe voiced her agreement with Ms. Barrera's sentiment and asked that Council enforce the agreed-upon requirements on the establishment. She asked that the establishment keep their doors closed when music is playing as it is too loud for neighbors. She reported that neighbors can feel their walls vibrate due to the excessive noise. Cm. Vielma asked staff to assist her in following up with the enforcement of this establishment's requirements.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognizing the United ISD Board for their 2019 Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) School Board of the Year Award. The Board was selected from a pool of 47 applicants on a multitude of merits that included the successful integration of technology in United ISD.

Roberto Santos, United ISD Superintendent, thanked Council for recognizing the UISD Board of Trustees.

Aliza Flores Oliveros, Board President, noted the honor of working alongside such prestigious colleagues. She recognized Judy Garcia for nominating the Board.

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Board Secretary, informed Council that the United ISD Board of Trustees was the first one to be recognized in South Texas by a state agency. Ms. Oliveros added that United ISD is a TEA-recognized "A Plus" school district, which is difficult for school districts to achieve.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Balli presented each Board Member with a certificate of recognition.

2. Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Alliance (TXNGVA), in partnership with Clean Energy Fuels and CenterPoint Energy, to honor the City of Laredo's El Metro with the Lone Star NGV Award.

Susan Shifflett, Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Alliance President, noted that El Metro

was one of 15 recipients of the organization's yearly Lone Start NGB Award.

Claudia San Miguel, Acting Transit General Manager, thanked Ms. Shifflett and the City for allowing the City's Transit System to operate with natural gas.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that his district utilizes the El Metro system heavily, and he is honored to support Transit's improvements of bust stops and service expansion. Cm. Altgelt echoed Cm. Rodriguez's sentiments and stated that El Metro has made great strides in the past couple of years. He commented on the immaculate management and operation of the Department and commended the service to the most vulnerable of the City's population.

3. Presentation by Rene Gonzalez, President of Border Olympics regarding the 87th Border Olympics tournament and events for the year 2018-2019.

Rene Gonzalez, Border Olympics President, reported that the organization is in its 87th year and operates solely with the help of volunteers. He thanked the City for its partnership with Border Olympics over the years and invited Council to attend the second phase of tournaments taking place in the next couple of weeks. Cross-country tournaments have brought 550 athletes so far. He informed Council that four tournaments will take place over the Washington's Birthday Celebration events; boys' baseball will feature 48 teams over 11 fields.

Cm. Rodriguez thanked Mr. Gonzalez and the Border Olympics for giving Laredo youth opportunities to perform in front of scouts and among their peers.

VII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Gerry Schwebel to the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Gerry Schwebel to the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Appointment by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez of Dr. David Garza to the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Dr. David Garza to the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. Appointment by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr. of Jeff Puig to the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Jeff Puig to the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

4. Appointment by Council Member Nelly Vielma of Ivan Rodriguez to the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Ivan Rodriguez to the City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

5. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Mercurio Martinez to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation.

Motion to approve the nomination of Cm. Mercurio Martinez to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

6. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Nelly Vielma to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation.

Motion to approve the nomination of Cm. Nelly Vielma to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

7. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member George Altgelt to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation.

Motion to approve the nomination of Cm. George Altgelt to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

8. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Motion to approve the nomination of Cm. Dr. Marte Martinez to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

9. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Nelly Vielma to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Motion to approve the nomination of Cm. Nelly Vielma to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

10. Re-appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member George Altgelt to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Motion to approve the nomination of Cm. George Altgelt to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Public Hearing amending the 2018 One Year Action Plan to allow for the reprogramming of CDBG funds totaling \$156,847.00. It is proposed that the reprogrammed funds be utilized for the following projects: Supplemental funding for the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (\$136,847.00) and the creation of the “K. Tarver Recreation Center Improvement Projects” (\$20,000.00). It is further proposed that the projects be provided funding as follows:

44th Action Year (Canceled Activity)	
Eastwoods Neighborhood Park Improvements	\$20,000.00
42nd Action Year (Fund Balance)	
Demolition of Substandard Structures	\$111,847.00
37th Action Year (Canceled Activity)	
Downtown Façade Restoration Program	\$25,000.00
TOTAL	\$156,847.00

Armando Cisneros asked what will be done with the Eastwoods Neighborhood Park Improvements. Cm. Torres explained that the \$20,000 earmarked for the improvements was fronted to the project by his district. He added that the City has already made improvements of over \$150,000, so these fund are no longer needed. The K. Tarver Recreation Center Improvement Projects will include a digital board to inform the public of activities and events at the center. He clarified that the recreation center is no longer the K. Tarver center but instead the Margarito Benavides Recreation Center.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to amend the Animal Care Services Department FY2018-19 budget and Full-Time Equivalent Position Listing by creating two (2) Kennel Workers, R27 positions; two (2) Veterinarian Technicians, R30 positions; and one (1) Custodian, R23 position. The total funding required for these positions is \$111,526.00 and will be funded with savings within the Animal Care Services operating budget.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance ratifying the execution of a contract with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 18-19 Budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$120,590.00 and amending the FY18-19 Full Time Equivalent Position Listing by creating one (1) Public Health Technician, R36 position for the City of Laredo Health Department to perform activities that support the Public Health Crisis Response and Recovery by creating a prepared and protected team that is ready to deploy in case of a disaster in particular for post hurricane response and recovery under the Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the term period from January 25, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 Risk Management Fund by appropriating revenues and expenditures of \$50,000.00. The revenues are for Wellness reimbursements from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (B.C.B.S. TX) and are restricted for the continued operation of the City's Wellness Program.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. 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 No. 2013-O-125 and authorizing the issuance of a revised C.U.P. for an amusement redemption machine establishment changing the tenant on Lot 2C, Block 1, Zaftex Phase II, located at 3917 Jaime Zapata Memorial Highway, Suites 1 and 4; providing for publication and effective date.

Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the proposed Conditional Use Permit and staff supports the application. ZC-19-2019 District I

Adolfo Rendon spoke in opposition of the CUP application because he had a very bad experience with a similar establishment in the past. As a resident of the area, he stated that he does not want to live near an amusement redemption machine establishment. He noted that the people there are noisy and dirty.

Vanessa Guerra, Interim Planning Director, noted that het conditions remain the same as when the permit was issued in 2013; the only change is the tenant. No alcohol consumption is allowed on-site at this location.

Manuel Gonzalez, a speaker on behalf of the applicant, spoke in favor of the application, reiterating that this is an existing CUP and is only an amendment. One of the reasons that it is being changed is because the applicant is divorcing and wants to remove her ex-husband from the CUP. To counter Mr. Rendon's claims, he noted that there have never been any complaints regarding the operators of the establishment since they began five years ago.

Cm. Gonzalez reported a complaint submitted to him from Mr. Rendon claiming that people loitered and drank outside the entrance of the establishment. Mr. Rendon claimed that people were urinating around the outside of the building with the prior tenant. Cm. Gonzalez stated that if the new tenant will obey all of the rules and requirements, then he would support the CUP.

Alma Agredano, applicant, confirmed that she would comply with all requirements and regulations of the CUP.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol on Lot 1, Block 1, Jacaman Ranch Subdivision, located at 6402 N. Bartlett Ave., Suite 2; providing for publication and effective date.

Planning and Zoning Commission recommends **approval** of the proposed Special Use Permit. **Staff does not support** the application as it does not comply with the minimum distance separation of three hundred (300) feet a residential structure and residential zoning district. ZC-16-2019 District V

Maribel Garcia, on behalf of the owners, spoke in favor of the Special Use Permit (SUP). As a licensing agent, she works closely with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) for clients. One of the major issues that licensing agents and business owners are having is the time it takes to approve beer and wine license applications. She claimed that it takes about six months to obtain a liquor license.

Vanessa Guerra, Interim Planning Director, stated that staff does not support the application because there is a requirement that restaurants serving alcohol cannot be within 300 feet of a residential zone or use. This location is within 174.6 feet of a residential district, and the nearest residential use is 243.9 feet away. She noted that she was not aware of a previous establishment at this location as this is a brand new application for a restaurant serving alcohol. Otherwise, this location complies with the Comprehensive Plan and established uses; the distance requirement is the only noncompliance. She added that the applicant is requesting late hours of operation from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.; one of the conditions of the permit is no outdoor music.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol on Lot 1, Block 1, Kimberly Plaza, located at 4800 McPherson Rd., Suite B; providing for publication and effective date.

Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the proposed Special Use Permit. Staff does not support the application as it does not comply with the minimum separation distance of three hundred (300) feet a residential zoning district. ZC-20-2019 District V

Vanessa Guerra, Interim Planning Director, reported that staff sent out 12 letters notifying residents of the proposed zone change and received two letters in opposition and none in favor of the change.

Cm. Torres noted that this property borders his district, and there are already parking issues associated with the location. Adding the sale of alcohol may worsen the situation.

Mrs. Guerra noted that the location abuts an apartment complex, and the rest of the block is all commercial. She displayed the letters opposing the zone change. One letter gave the following reason for the opposition: "The parking lot is not large enough to support additional business brought on by a liquor license and would become a hazard." The second letter stated: "I've been at this location for over 30 years and now, with the restaurants as neighbors, the parking lot is saturated. With a liquor permit, parking will be much worse!" Mrs. Guerra stated that staff does not have the calculations of which parking spaces are associated to the various businesses in the location. However, the applicant would have to comply with the parking requirements from the time that their permit is issued.

Cm. Torres noted that the parking lot is so small and crowded that 18-wheeler trucks stop in the turning lane of McPherson to unload for the businesses. He speculated that someone driving under the influence of alcohol out of that parking lot would be concerning. He would not support approving the SUP.

Cm. Vielma noted that she would like to table this item until she has more information on the parking space designation in the lot.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Cm. Mercurio Martinez asked staff to come prepared with square footage and information as to whether the business has sufficient parking spaces. Council should be able to see a satellite view of the parking lot at this establishment. If Cm. Vielma had the pertinent information of the parking lot, then Council could have made a decision on this issue rather than tabling it.

8. Motion to open public hearing #8.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 6, Block 519, Western Division, located at 1902 W. Anna Ave., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Planning and Zoning Commission recommends **approval** of the proposed Zone Change and **staff supports** the application. ZC-17-2019 District VIII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

9. Motion to open public hearing #9.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning the West 10' of 45' of Lot 8, Lot 9 and Lot 10, Block 101, Western Division, located at 515 and 519 Matamoros St., from B-1 (Limited Commercial District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Planning and Zoning Commission recommends **approval** of the proposed Zone Change and **staff supports** the application. ZC-18-2019 District VIII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

10. An ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 24, Article III, Section 24.56.2 of the City of Laredo Land Development Code book by eliminating the

review and approval by the Parks and Recreation Board of: parkland dedication sites, cash payments in lieu of land, and park improvement plans and specifications; and amending Section 24.56.3 by revising the time requirements for park improvements to require completion of construction of park improvements within eighteen (18) months of plat recordation; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

11. An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with South Texas Advancement Resource (STAR), a non-profit entity, for the lease of approximately 2.3 acres of land located at lot 1, block 21 Lowry farm subdivision unit 4, for the purpose of creating a living laboratory to promote best practices for sustainable farming and land management; providing for a lease term of five (5) years at a rate of \$1 per year; providing an option to renew; waiving water utilities; STAR shall be responsible for extending the plumbing water line from existing water meter.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

12. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, authorizing the waiver, reduction or reimbursement of facility use or special event fees for requests that serve a public purpose; are in accordance with the city's policy for special event fee reduction, waiver, or reimbursement; and have been sponsored by three members of the city council; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

13. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Article II, Division 6, Section 2-87.6 of the Code of Ordinances by excepting the City Manager from the city's pay administration policy; providing for a cumulative clause; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

14. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Section 2.03 "Gifts" of the Laredo Code of Ethics by adding an exception to the general prohibitions in order to allow for donations of money, real estate, products, services, and property made by persons or business entities that serve a public purpose and that are in accordance with the city's donation policy; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2019-O-025, 2019-O-026, 2019-O-027, and 2019-O-028.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

15. 2019-O-025 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 15.2840 acres, as further described by Metes & Bounds on Exhibit A, located south of FM 1472 Rd (Mines Road) and north of Vidal Cantu Rd., from M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-08-2019 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-025.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

16. 2019-O-026 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Administration, by adding section 2-1, requiring the City Manager to provide monthly written reports to City Council on the status and expenditures of City Council projects and items in accordance with section 3.05(7) of the Laredo City Charter; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date (AS AMENDED).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-026.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

17. 2019-O-027 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, authorizing the City Manager to waive or reimburse utility late fees and reconnection fees for individuals affected by the federal government shutdown; and directing staff to implement procedures to grant, to federal employees affected by the federal government shutdown, additional time to pay utility bills; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-027.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

18. 2019-O-028 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Administration, by amending Section 2-58, to provide that city

holidays shall be designated annually by the City Council at the recommendation of the City Manager; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date (AS AMENDED).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-028.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

XI (a) RESOLUTIONS

19. 2019-R-17 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Isaura Gutierrez for a proposed project located at 503 Reynolds St, lot 3; block 309; eastern division that consists of rehabilitation, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$113,775.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$848.81 and estimated total fee waivers of \$3,082.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-017.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

20. 2019-R-18 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Margarita Govea & Jose R. Cantu Jr. for a proposed project located at 1602 Victoria St, lot 9; block 168; western division that consists of rehabilitation, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a ten (10) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$249,587.02, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$1,419.12 and estimated total fee waivers of \$5,950.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-018.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

21. 2019-R-19 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Isabel C. Jimenez for a proposed project located at 2714-2716 E Lyon St, lot 8 & 9; block 1660; eastern division that consists of new construction, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the neighborhood empowerment zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a ten (10) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$401,720.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$2,546.90 and estimated total fee waivers of \$4,446.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-019.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

22. 2019-R-20 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Leonor G. Luna for a proposed project located at 2902 E. Montgomery St., W 52' of lot 8; block 1814; eastern division that consists of new construction, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$95,000.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$666.71 and estimated total fee waivers of \$3,054.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-020.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

23. 2019-R-21 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Mario A. Gomez for a proposed project located at 4621 Exodus Dr., lot 14; block 14; El Eden Subdivision Unit II that consists of new construction, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated

capital investment total of \$110,000.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$700.70 and estimated total fee waivers of \$3,265.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-021.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

24. 2019-R-22 Re-adopting guidelines and criteria governing tax abatements by the City of Laredo in accordance with the requirements in Section 312.002 of the Texas Tax Code; providing for severability; providing for an effective date of February 19, 2019 through February 18, 2020; and providing for publication.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-022.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

25. 2019-R-23 Authorizing the submittal of a grant application, on behalf of the City of Laredo and the Webb County/City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC/CL-RMA), to the 2018 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program, intended to request funding for the Upgrade of Loop 20 (Future IH 69W) to Interstate Standards Project, located on Loop 20, from International Boulevard to University Boulevard, which is approximately 4 miles of roadway. The project includes the construction of 3 proposed overpasses, to be located at Shiloh Drive, Del Mar Boulevard, and University Boulevard, and the construction of 3 lanes of frontage road in each direction. The total project cost is \$132,500,000.00. \$79,531,845.00 in State Category 2 funds has already been allocated to the project through the action of the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The grant application will request \$35,500,000.00. The City of Laredo will contribute \$7,500,000.00, and the WC/CL RMA will contribute \$10,000,000.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-023.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

26. 2019-R-24 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laredo adopting a

donation acceptance policy. (Contingent on approval of item no. 14 on A-2019-R-03)

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-024.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

27. 2019-R-25 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laredo, Texas, adopting the City of Laredo policy for special event fee reduction, waiver, and reimbursement; and providing an effective date. (Contingent on approval of item no. 12 on A-2019-R-03)

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-025.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

XI (b) MOTIONS

28. Consideration for approval of the Sidewalk Improvements Phase II Alma Pierce Elementary School Projects (17 Blocks – District IV) as complete, release of retainage, and approval of final payment in the amount of \$34,279.32 to ALC Construction Co., Inc, Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$186,519.40. Funding is available in the 2017 CO and 2018 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

29. Consideration to authorize the purchase of ammunition for the Police Department in the amount of \$75,960.54 from GT Distributors, Inc. through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program's Contract No. 524-17. Funding is available in the Laredo Police Department General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

30. Consideration to authorize the purchase of ammunition for the Police Department in the amount of \$74,000.00 from Precision Delta Corporation, Ruleville, Mississippi through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program's Contract No. 524-17. Funding is available in the Laredo Police Department General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

31. Consideration to amend contracts FY15-041 by 25% with the following vendors:

1. GCR Tire & Services, Nashville, Tennessee in an amount up to \$8,750.00 (25% increase) and;
2. Southern Tire Mart, Columbia, Mississippi in an amount up to \$6,250.00 (25% increase).

Due to increase in usage of tire repair services for the Fleet Department, this contract will fund out before its expiration date. This is the last extension period for this contract. Omnisource United (formerly A to Z Tire) was a vendor for this contract but their local store has closed. Funding is available in the Fleet Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

32. Consideration to renew contracts FY17-048 for the general diesel engine repairs and parts/service for the City's Fleet Division to the following bidders:

1. Cervantes Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$200,000.00;
2. Rotex Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$100,000.00;
3. Andy's Auto & Bus Air, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$75,000.00; and
4. Rush Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$75,000.00.

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; this is the second extension period. All parts and services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

33. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Park Place Recreation Designs, Inc., for the purchase and installation of a playground with a wheel chair swing at the Bartlett Soccer Complex in the amount of \$103,529.00, This purchase is through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program's Contract Pricing, Contract 512-16. Funding is available in the 2017 CO Bond - District V Priority Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

34. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Park Place Recreation Designs, Inc., for the purchase and installation of playground equipment amenities for recreational improvements at Las Misiones Park, in the amount of \$70,648.00. This purchase shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program; Contract 512-16. Funding is available in 2017 CO Bond - District VI Priority Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

35. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY18-026 to the sole bidder Rush Truck Center, Laredo, TX, in an amount up to \$150,000.00 for the purchase of original equipment manufacturer (OEM) truck parts for the City's medium and heavy duty trucks. 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. This is the first of two extension periods. All parts will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

36. Consideration to renew annual contracts FY18-031 for the purchase of police and passenger car tires with the following vendors:

1. Section I: GCR Tire Centers, Nashville, Tennessee in an amount up to \$183,631.00; and
2. Section II: Hesselbein Tire Southwest, San Antonio, Texas in an amount up to \$99,753.34.

All tires will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the first of two extension periods. There was no price increase during the last extension period. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

37. Consideration to renew contract FY15-019 with Texas Land Reclamation, L.L.C., DBA: UTW Tire Collection Services, Laredo, Texas, in an annual amount up to \$86,400.00 for the removal and disposal of used tires for the City's Solid Waste Services Department. Staff estimates that 1,800 tons of used tires will be disposed of in a two (2) year period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the second of three extension periods. There was no price increase during the last extension period. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. The City's obligation for performance of an annual supply contract beyond the current fiscal year is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payments for the contract purchases can be made. If no funds are appropriated and budgeted during the next fiscal year, this contract becomes null and void. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Services Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

38. Consideration to renew annual contracts FY18-030 for the purchase of truck tires with the following vendors:
 1. Southern Tire Southwest, Columbia, Missouri in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00; and
 2. GCR Tire Centers, Nashville, Tennessee in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00.

All tires will be secured on an as needed basis. 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. This is first of two extension

periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

39. Consideration to amend annual parts/service contract FY18-055 by 25% with Mechanical Shop of Laredo, Laredo, Texas in an amount not to exceed \$12,500.00 due to an increase in usage. The term of this contract shall expire on 5/7/2019; new contract total amount will be \$62,500.00. All repairs to the City's lawn maintenance equipment shall be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in Fleet Department Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

40. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY16-022 with AG-Pro Texas, LLC, Weslaco, Texas in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, for the purchase of John Deere original equipment manufacturer (OEM) repair parts for the City's lawn maintenance equipment. All parts will be purchased on an as needed basis. 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. This is third of five extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

41. Consideration to authorize the use of State of Texas, Department of Information Resources (DIR) Cooperative Purchase contracts to purchase, computer hardware, software, telecommunications and other goods and services offered through DIR Cooperative Purchase contracts. The City is a member of the State of Texas - Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS) Cooperative Purchasing Program which allows the City of Laredo to take advantage of approved State contracts. Funding for Cooperative Purchase contracts and services are available in the respective city departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

42. Consideration to award contract FY19-032 to the following low bidders:
1. Silsbee Ford, Silbee, Texas for the purchase of two (2) 2019 Ford Ext. Cab, Long Bed truck, one (1) 2019 Ford Ext. Cab Short Bed truck, one (1) 2019 Ford Crew Cab, Long Bed truck, one (1) 2019 Ford Crew Cab, Long Bed dually truck, one (1) 2019 Ford Ext. Cab, Long Bed Truck, and two (2) 2019 Ford Ext. Cab, w/Dog Cages in the total amount of \$271,459.66; and
 2. Grapevine Dodge LLC, Grapevine, Texas for the purchase of three (3) 2019 RAM Dodge Ext. Cab, Long Bed trucks, two (2) 2019 Dodge Jeeps, one (1) 2019 RAM Promaster Cargo Van, and three (3) 2019 RAM Dodge Crew Cab, Short Bed trucks in the total amount of \$205,011.00.

All replacement vehicles that have reached their useful life-- refer to attachment "Replacement Unit Number's". The Animal Care Facility and Park & Recreation Center vehicles are additional vehicles. The City of Laredo reserves the right to purchase additional units within a ninety (90) day period. Funding is available in the 2018 PFFCO Capital Outlay Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

43. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of January 2019, represent an increase of \$4,855.42. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

44. Consideration on approval of Unitec Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and authorizing change order no. 1, in the credit amount of \$29,425.42 and releasing the final payment in the amount of \$71,703.73 which includes retainage amount of \$65,203.73. to J.S. Haren Company, from Athens, Tennessee. The final contract amount is \$1,310,574.58 and the contract time is three hundred and forty (340) working days. The change order is due to a credit based on actual quantities in place. Funding is available in the 2011 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XII. STAFF REPORTS

45. 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 the Auditor's report as presented.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

46. Discussion with possible action regarding the 2019 Federal Legislative Agenda. The focus of the agenda items center on the Environment, Health, Public Safety, Quality of Life, Transportation, and Policy issues.

Robert Eads, Interim Co-City Manager, stated that the legislative agenda includes priorities covering environment, health, quality of life, public safety, transportation, and general policy matters that staff would like to bring to Washington, D.C. He noted that this list has been distributed to The Normandy Groups, who is preparing schedules for the trip. He asked Council for direction on removing or adding any items, noting that legacy items were included as well as some unique items different from the legislative standing that the City has now.

Cm. Torres asked that staff include lobbying efforts for the noise abatement program under the Transportation subagenda. There is a consultant reevaluating the noise abatement area but funding should be lobbied for projects.

Elsy Borgstedte, Acting Airport Director, explained that the current consultant is conducting the study on noise abatement. His study will inform the City on the current noise situation, particularly at night. The Airport's Capital Improvement Plan has allocated a forecast for the next five years, which has called for additional funds. If the lobbying efforts for noise abatement is added to the legislative agenda at this time, then the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) might not provide the funding for the next five years of the noise abatement program.

Cm. Vielma asked if staff could add workforce development for veterans with any specialized skills like coding.

Rosario Cabello and Robert Eads, Interim Co-City Managers, recommended that Council remove the agenda item related to expansion of the World Trade Bridge as that conversation does not need to happen at this time. It would be more

appropriate as a workshop conversation. Mr. Eads added that staff will bring this agenda to their workshop with the private industry leaders at the Laredo Chamber of Commerce.

Jose Ceballos noted that the Opportunity Zone topic will benefit the Downtown area as well as allowing the City to make the request for a potential administrative process. He asked Council to add this to the agenda but not specific to the Downtown area.

Cm. Altgelt asked staff to prepare for a strategic workshop and include an emergency water source. Mrs. Cabello stated that staff has been preparing for a workshop in April depending on Council available. Staff discussed bringing in a facilitator to guide Council through the City's priorities.

Motion to direct staff to add to the legislative agenda items related to after-school care, cultural arts funding, workforce development for veterans, workforce development for coding and avionics, advocacy for transportation dollars to be distributed based on a formula that also includes commercial vehicles numbers rather than population, opportunity zones in the inner city, an emergency water source, and rehabilitation/reentry as per Senator John Cornyn, and remove the item related to expansion of the World Trade Bridge #4, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. Third Party Funding status report with possible action on the following staff recommended items.

1. Open application process for new non-profit organizations applicants;
2. Digitizing of FY2019-2020 Third Party Funding application process;
3. Implementation of a two (2) year funding cycle for all organizations.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, reported that the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee is full and should begin its review process March 2019. He noted that staff wants Council directive as to open the TPF application process to new applicants in FY2019-2020. He recommended digitizing the application process and implementing a two-year application cycle, which is commonly done across the board. Even with a two-year application cycle, the contracts would come to Council for approval every year during the Budget workshop. Adding an organization during an off-year would need to be decided by Council. The advantage of a two-year cycle is staff manpower and time to process the contracts and applications. Applicants also spend two weeks to a month preparing the documentation every year in order to budget only for the upcoming year. The recommended cycle allows the entities and staff to budget for two years ahead, stabilizing the organizations and allowing them to prioritize their projects while saving staff resources.

Cm. Torres asked if Council could treat organizations to a one-year or two-year application on a case-by-case basis.

Cm. Vielma asked that Council consider priorities for the City's needs, such as

social services. Mr. Garcia confirmed that staff can consider those priorities and bring them to Council as recommendations. He added that Council previously set basic needs as priorities for the City, like health, food, and homelessness.

Motion to approve the implementation of multiple-year funding for third party organizations at the discretion of Council.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

48. Staff Report on the use of police substations, with possible action.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Balli reminded the public that Council gave previous directive to close the police substations and reschedule the employees. Work shifts moved from eight-hour days to ten-hour shifts. The program was well-received by the officers, and there was a savings by removing overtime.

Manuel Maciel, Laredo Police Assistant Chief, reported that Community Oriented Policing was adopted during the early 1990s resulting in the construction of substations in certain parts of the City for officers to be assigned to a permanent beat and report for duty at the substations. They were primarily used as work substations for completion of reports and other administrative functions. Substations were not intended to be manned around the clock by officers. They served as a meeting area for citizens who did not have the means to report or summon officers to their nearby residences. Through time and advances in technology, citizen foot traffic declined and eventually ceased.

Cm. Torres suggested that staff and the Police Chief meet with Council Members individually to see what they want to do with the substations in their district and bring a recommendation back to Council. Cm. Rodriguez suggested giving management the discretion to follow through with Council's wishes, whether it be leasing the property, selling it, or other wishes of Council. The ones that are being utilized can continue to operate as is.

Motion to instruct management and the Police Chief to meet with each Council Member individually who has a police substation in their district to develop a plan of action regarding repurposes or revenue generation for the substation and authorize the Interim Co-City Managers to execute any relevant documentation, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

49. Staff report on Open Data Initiative: Financial Transparency, GIS Open Data Portal, with possible action.

Homero Vazquez, IST Director, informed Council that open data is data that is available to all individuals to use as they wish. It is presented in "machine readable" format for use in a wide variety software and programs. Information may be represented in charts, graphs or maps, but the underlying data is also available in

spreadsheet format, GIS/Mapping formats, or simple documents. Information coming from all City Departments must still be standardized to reach this definition of open data. The process started as a result of the What Works City resources and initiative. Staff started with the financial transparency tool and have started to work with the MileOne incubator to set up events for public interaction. Departments who accept plans may do so digitally.

Ramon Chavez, Engineering Director, noted that the digitizing of plans is one initiative that he was planning on discussing with management. It would be much more convenient for staff and developers or contractors who are trying to bid on projects. Dr. Marte Martinez noted that developers have told him that paying for 20 copies of plans is an antiquated process that other cities are not doing anymore. He voiced his support for updating the City's processes stay up-to-date. Cm. Vielma asked that Utilities contracts be included as well as Building or Engineering Departments.

Mr. Vazquez encouraged Council to refrain from changing the AS/400 system; while the interface may seem antiquated or out-of-date, the system itself is very current. It is also more secure from cyberattacks due to be Linux-based. He noted that the digitizing of documents has begun in the City Secretary's Office through Docuware; the City Secretary's Office has scanned about ten years' worth of minutes, and staff is in the process of putting that into a public portal interface for minute searches. Docuware will serve as a central document depository for all pertinent Departments.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, added that the City Secretary's Office is working on the public portal so that members of the public may conduct their own records searches for minutes, ordinances, and other document types.

Motion to direct staff to direct the relevant City Departments to have an open data portal so that individuals and developers applying for plats or permits can track their projects in real time, continue with the MileOne initiative to obtain priorities from the public, implement the equipment and training necessary for Departments who receive plans are able to do so digitally and require digital submission, and automating the utility account applications through a form online, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Mr. Homero continued that for the last five years, the City has posted its check register online so that the public may search and view every check printed by the City. CM. Torres asked to have the link sent to him to conduct searches.

50. Presentation regarding City of Laredo Contracts: procurement, award and renewal process by Miguel A. Pescador, Purchasing Agent, with possible action.

Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Director, reminded Council that purchases are awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder who provides the best value for the City. The City buys on the basis of competitive bids, definitive specifications,

and quality of products and services. Purchases must be considered in accordance to provisions of Chapters 252 and 271 of the State of Texas Local Government Code and comply with the City of Laredo Ordinances and Procurement Policy. He reported that the City has 124 current contracts that contain renewal options, with breakdowns as follows:

- 24 with 6-year renewal options
- 20 with 5-year renewal options
- 26 with 4-year renewal options
- 13 with 3-year renewal options
- 33 with 2-year renewal options
- 4 with 1-year renewal options

Most of these agreements are operational, material/supplies, or service contracts among most City Departments. Staff has reduced its renewal options, so the number of contracts with longer renewals will be phased out over time. The City is no longer practicing 6-year renewals. Formal bids include clauses that give Council the option to cancel contracts if pertinent information was not disclosed to the City, such as debarment or business disclosures/conflicts of interest.

No action taken.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

No action taken.

XV. RECESS AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO PUBLIC FACILITY CORPORATION

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and convene as the Laredo Public Facility Corporation.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

51. Election of the following Officers to replace vacancies on the Laredo Public Facility Corporation (LPFC) board:

1. President (Vacant);
2. Rosario C. Cabello as Executive Director; and
3. Jose F. Castillo as Treasurer.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, informed Council that normally, a Council Member serves as President of the LPFC Board; the previous President

was former Council Member Alex Perez, Jr.

Motion to elect Rosario Cabello as Executive Director, Jose Castillo as Treasurer, and Vidal Rodriguez as President, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XVI. ADJOURN AS THE LAREDO PUBLIC FACILITY CORPORATION AND RECONVENE AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL

Motion to adjourn as the Laredo Public Facility Corporation and reconvene as the Laredo City Council.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

52. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Discussion with possible action to formally invite Webb County to participate in a City-County Drug and Alcohol Commission and by adding up to 5 additional members. In addition, to negotiate costs associated with the hiring of a consultant by both parties in order to assist with the needs related to conceptual design, architectural building needs, financing, etc.; and any matters thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Nelly Vielma and Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Judge Oscar Hale, Jr. informed Council that he visited with four of the Webb County Commissioners, who support the detox facility. Five years ago, this idea was brought forward with plans, but a division led to the project not progressing. He commended Council for the consensus to move forward at this time. The facility in question is 16,036 square feet with some minor renovations to be made before the building is ready for operation. Because the building was originally a teen detox center, the holding cells are not regulation size for adults, but the secured common area can be used for sleep while the holding cells can be used for storage. He spoke in favor of the project.

Jesus Dominguez, Municipal Court Judge, noted that he has seen many individuals that would be good candidates for referrals to drug programs, but those individuals need to go through detoxification before they can be referred. He spoke in favor of this program to help observe and identify the individuals who need drug rehabilitation services.

Motion to add five additional members to the Drug & Alcohol Commission made

up of the Webb County Commissioners and the Webb County Judge.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Rosario Cabello, Interim Co-City Manager, explained that there is not a funding source identified at this time. Cm. Vielma added that the funding source has been a reason for the project stalling so long. Mrs. Cabello confirmed that staff will bring back information to Council regarding consulting services.

Motion to hire a consultant to be paid by the City of Laredo and Webb County in an even split not to exceed \$50,000 for his/her completion of the duties aforementioned.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action requesting improved communication, protocols and travel release plans from DHS-ICE regarding individuals and family units released at our city to ensure that proper health screening and treatment is provided by the detaining federal agency and coordination of travel and release is done early in the morning to avoid or decrease emergency shelter needs and improve coordination with respective country consulate offices; and any matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez and Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Cm. Vielma reported that several family units have been displaced and sent to Laredo via bus from their family detention centers in the last couple of weeks. While humanitarian efforts have been appreciated, these health screening services have not been anticipated or budgeted. She clarified that her intent is to guarantee better coordination and communication efforts among all entities.

Luis Cerda of the Health Department informed Council that the Department has communication with port authorities and Border Patrol when migrants are brought to Laredo via bus. From there, the Health Department stays in contact with social service organizations, Fire, and Police staff for security. The City does not provide health services to the migrants other than screenings. If there is a need for medical treatment, the Health Department will assist with intervention. He suggested that an official letter or email would serve Cm. Vielma's intended purpose.

Robert Eads, Interim Co-City Manager, stated that there is an established process and procedure that has been followed to-date, but the policy does not coincide with the current situation. Staff has been on the phone with the port authorities to request that they reschedule these transportations in a more manageable way. Staff can formalize that request in a letter to the Port Authority offices in Washington, D.C.

Ben de la Garza of Catholic Charities stated that these migrants are traveling from Eagle Pass, where there is not the same infrastructure or capacity that exists in Laredo. There is a 13,000-member caravan travelling to the United States from Honduras right now.

Cm. Rodriguez stated that he decided to co-sponsor this item because the City needs a long-term project or plan for the refugees that are coming to the United States through South Texas borders.

Rosario Cabello, Interim Co-City Manager, informed Council that Laredo is not the only city receiving migrants; they are being transported to multiple cities by the Port Authority. They are receiving bus or airline tickets to travel to their families. The government is not doing much at this point until the individuals are identified and detained. Mr. Cerda explained that the government does not grant the asylum at the time that they are received into the United States, instead scheduling the individual for court appearances. The time between their release and their court date is a month or two. The City has not seen an increase in the homeless population because of migrant releases; the individuals usually obtain bus or air fare and travel to their families out of the city.

Mike Smith, Holding Institute pastor, reminded Council that the migrants released during the period of the government furlough do not have any court dates. They were instead assigned to specific immigration courts. He reiterated that very few of these individuals stay in Laredo more than a few days or a week. The ones who stay for a month or longer usually stay due to health reasons, like pregnancies or cancer. The migrant groups coming into Laredo are very short-term.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the priority in this situation is to collaborate with all necessary entities, which was his reason for co-sponsoring this item. He voiced his opinion that, for security reasons, officials should do more to gather the information on these individuals regarding their identity, criminal history, and risks.

Motion to direct staff to formalize a letter addressed to Congressman Henry Cuellar and the CBP Commissioner on behalf of the City of Laredo.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez, Cm. Torres, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

Motion to give the City Managers discretion in spending money for assisting in this matter as needed.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez, Cm. Torres, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

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

1. Discussion with possible action to develop Bus Stop Enhancements Program funded by District VI priority fund in the amount of \$50,000.00; and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez explained that this program would create shade structures, and \$50,000 would be the cap of the project. El Metro staff have already begun discussions to determine locations for these structures.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez, Cm. Torres, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action in regards to the Plantation East Road extension to Shiloh Drive, and any other matters incident thereto.

Ramon Chavez, Engineering Director, displayed an aerial view of the proposed Backwoods Drive extension and Plantation East Drive. Some property in the area is being developed currently, and the roadway extension is part of that development agreement. Staff is researching improvements for areas along the proposed extension.

Dr. Marte Martinez explained that there are some funds available for this project, and staff will work within those funds. Mr. Chavez added that the property under development is participating in shared costs with the City for improvements in which the City will design and construct a drainage channel for post-development runoff discharge. Once the City completes the channel project, staff will submit a LOMR application to FEMA to update the 100-year floodplain maps for the area. Concurrently, the City and developer will share the costs of the Backwoods Trail street extension. The roadway's estimated cost is \$380,000 currently, of which \$92,000 will be the City's responsibility. Fifteen homes will be added to the tax base upon completion of the development. The total estimated cost of the drainage channel improvements is about \$900,000, of which the City is fully responsible. The concrete lining of the channel makes up about half of that estimated cost.

Dr. Martinez clarified that the \$900,000 was estimated when the City intended to use a concrete-lined channel. However, since that time, it was determined that concrete lining is not necessary, so an earthen channel will be less expensive.

John Porter, Environmental Services Director, confirmed that staff used other methods and materials for other channel projects. If the engineer redesigns this project with a non-concrete channel, then the estimated total cost of the channel improvements will be about 40% less expensive by a rough estimate.

Robert Eads, Interim Co-City Manager, reminded Council that \$800,000 has

already been identified for this project. Staff needs authorization to proceed.

Motion to direct management to proceed with negotiations for the extension from Plantation East to Shiloh Drive.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

D. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion with possible action to authorize staff to advertise Request for Proposals (RFQ) to design an outdoor swimming pool, tree house, water feature and parking at Barbara Fasken Community Center; and any other incidents thereto. Funding available in District VII Priority Funds.

Robert Eads, Interim Co-City Manager, clarified that the agenda item lists "Request for Proposals" when the City will actually seek Requests for Qualifications.

Motion to approve the advertisement of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the project as presented.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. Discussion with possible action to establish an Advisory Committee for the Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf course.

Cm. Altgelt reported input from citizens and employees that highlighted the value of an advisory committee.

Dennis Gutierrez, Max Mandel Golf Course General Manager, stated that the golf course's management love and welcome the idea of an advisory committee.

Motion to establish the Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course Advisory Committee to be composed of appointees by City Council.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

E. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to direct staff to assess the amount of lights needed along the Independence Park hike and bike trail and provide a proposal; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Gonzalez reported that lighting is an issue at several parks across Laredo. He received concerns from citizens and private entities that the areas do not feel safe, and he confirmed that it is very dark after walking through the area himself.

Graciela Briones, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, reported that the Independence Hills Regional Park and John Revere Pond trail system is approximately 11,700 linear feet with three types of trails. Staff recommends a total of approximately 200 light units, such as solar bollards placed every 55 linear feet. The cost of 200 units would total about \$360,000. These units are similar to the ones in place at North Central Park. She also recommended solar lighting on poles along the trails at a cost estimate of \$440,000 for 200 units every 55 linear feet. Traditional pole lighting for 200 units placed every 55 linear feet would cost \$720,000.

Cm. Gonzalez noted that the lights could be placed in phases to avoid the large upfront cost. Cm. Altgelt asked about the industry standard for a properly-illuminated trail system. Mrs. Briones noted that the recommendations are similar to the lighting in other City parks for a security measure. She added that safety recommendation signage is located on the trails behind Haynes Recreation Center.

Motion to direct staff to prepare a study for light installation in Independence Hills and Regional Park, to be done in phases and to include safety recommendation signage, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez (not present during the vote)

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. Discussion with possible action to direct staff to implement emergency call boxes along District 1 hike and bike trails; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Gonzalez noted that emergency call boxes are on the college campuses but might be helpful in the City's parks for safety purposes in addition to better lighting. The estimated cost of the call box units is \$1,500-\$2,000 each.

Graciela Briones, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, stated that there is no industry standard for placement of emergency call boxes. She recalled a similar item through the Police Department and noted that coordinating with them may help determine the placement of call boxes.

No action taken.

F. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Staff to design and construct sidewalk at 2500 S. New York (east side); and any other matters thereto. Funding available in District II Priority Funds.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that this sidewalk is aligned with the Safe Routes to School Program.

Cm. Torres recognized John Orfila, Public Works Director, for helping the City expedite these projects to make the sidewalks and roadways safer for pedestrians.

Cm. Altgelt asked that staff be instructed to shade the sidewalks with trees if permitted. Cm. Balli noted that trees add a lot of water to the curb and street. Cm. Altgelt countered that different species of trees do not need heavy irrigation. He also asked staff to add an agenda item to the next Council meeting to have entities and individuals warned and cited for overwatering of trees and lawns.

Robert Eads, Interim Co-City Manager, reminded Council that bond money cannot be used to purchase trees.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.