

**CITY OF LAREDO
RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATION NOTICE
M2019-R-08
CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
May 20, 2019
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor presented the following:

1. Recognizing the Texas Interscholastic School Mountain Bike Team which is part of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association for their dedication and accomplishments.

The Texas Interscholastic School Mountain Bike Team noted the group's honor to represent the City of Laredo. Jose Antonio "JJ" Martinez, Jr., team member, stated that he began cycling at the age of nine with his family and has grown in his love of cycling through competitions. He thanked his family for their love and support of his passion for cycling.

Mayor Saenz presented the team members with certificates of recognition for their achievements.

2. Recognizing the Harmony School of Innovations 5th grade Basketball Team for their undefeated & consecutive BC&G Club championship win for the last 5 years, recognizing Harmony's Middle Astra Hawks for winning First Place in the Robot Performance and First Place Champions in Von Army Qualifier out of 24 teams, and recognizing the High School Robotics team known as the 6315 Code Error 404 team for currently participating in the First Robotics Competition, the highest level of FIRST programs.

Fifth grade basketball team Coach Costillo noted that the teamwork displayed by the teammates has amazes him and truly speaks to the boys' character.

Michael Carrasco, Harmony Middle Astra Hawks sponsor, stated that this team was the champion out of 24 teams at their qualifier competition, making them eligible for the next competition where they placed 3rd place out of 63 teams. A student team member thanked his coach, family, and faith for the support he received throughout this robotics season. He shared his dream to use robotics to change the world.

Sandoval Faro, Harmony High School Robotics Team sponsor, voiced his gratitude for the students' recognition for their hard work. The robotics in this competition are about 100 pounds and four feet tall; the team always works their best against teams with more experience and resources. He noted that he is the team's only mentor while other teams have about seven mentors.

A student co-captain noted that the skills developed on the robotics team has prepared its members for jobs designing highway, lighting infrastructure, and other valuable features. The robot they designed for their competition collected balls and deposited them in different cargo bays and also climb inclined planes.

Mayor Saenz congratulated the robotics team and reminded them of the numerous job opportunities available to them with their applied STEM experience.

Cm. Vielma voiced her pride in the accomplishments made by elementary, middle, and high school students at Harmony Schools to put Laredo on the map.

Mayor Saenz presented all teams with certificates of recognition for their accomplishments.

3. Recognizing Alexander High School art students Marcus Venegas, Jasmine Elias, Krissy Valdez, Melanie Dominguez, Kristi Brooks, and Emily Esqueda for winning big at Texas State Visual Arts Scholastic Art Competition in San Marcos, Texas and bringing back two (2) Gold Seal awards and five (5) State Medals.

Erika Puente, Alexander High School art teacher, reported that the Visual Arts Scholastic art completion (VAS) is the most rigorous art competition in Texas high schools. This year was the first year that a Laredo school was represented in VAS out of 3,500 students. Alexander High School sent eight out of 1,500 students to the state competition, and two students received the most elite Gold Seal award along with five state medals. Ms. Puente added that no other student in Laredo has ever earned a gold seal award before Marcus Venegas and Jasmine Elias.

Mayor Saenz presented the students with certificates of recognition for their accomplishments.

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2019-R-08
CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
May 20, 2019
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in moment of silence.

IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.	District I
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Mercurio “Merc” Martinez, III	District III
Alberto Torres, Jr.	District IV
Norma “Nelly” Vielma	District V
Dr. Marte Martinez	District VI
George J. Altgelt	District VII
Roberto Balli	District VIII, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Rosario Cabello	Co-Interim City Manager
Robert Eads	Co-Interim City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	City Attorney

Cm. Gonzalez joined at 5:35 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of May 6, 2019

Motion to approve the May 6, 2019 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Altgelt was not present.

Citizen comments

Victor Gomez noted that four Council Members were not present at the last Council meeting in which he requested an amendment to the water and sewer rate ordinances. He asked them to reconsider his request for modification. He recalled that Utilities Director Riazul Mia reported that \$45 million, or 16%, of the revenue increases would be used for new development; he asked that the \$45 million be returned to the taxpayers, especially those who cannot afford the rate increase. He noted that at the last Council meeting, he and City Attorney Kristina L. Hale had a difference of interpretation of Section 6.05 (C) of the City Charter (Exception to the Capital Program): “The cost of utility expansion must be made by those requesting expansion and the City Council will not obligate any citizen by adjusting the utility rate to defray cost.” He voiced his opinion that the rate increase is a violation of the City Charter, regardless of what the City Attorney and City Council has done in the past. He reminded the Co-Interim City Managers of

their duty to enforce the Charter. He also reminded Council that the Code of Ethics prohibits Council action that gives an advantage to a private entity that is not available to others.

Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath voiced his concern over the city managers’ titles of “Interim City Manager.” There is no mention in the City Charter of an “Interim” City Manager; he suggested that Council’s appointment should have been titled “Acting City Manager.” He asked for clarification.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, clarified that the accurate title is “Interim,” as it has been done in the past and is a term of art. “Interim” clearly connotes a temporary assignment of duties. “Acting” sometimes implies that there is a City Manager currently unavailable and that the “Acting” individual is fulfilling duties in his/her stead. She noted that legally, the City’s precedence matters if ever challenged.

Mr. Vish cautioned Council that continuing to ignore the City Charter will come back to haunt the City and its citizens.

Armando Cisneros reminded Council of Section 6.05 (C) of the City Charter, Exception to the Capital Program. He noted that if any expansion is an exception to the Capital Improvement Program, then taxpayers should not be burdened with the costs. He added that the reason Mr. Vish is particular about the differentiation between “Interim” and “Acting” is because an Acting City Manager does not have the right to demote anybody. The City Charter also does not have any language allowing for Co-City Managers; he asked why Council continues to experiment with administration that is not provided for in the City Charter.

VI. VETERAN RECOGNITION

1. Honoring the American Legion Arturo T. Benavides Memorial Post 59 Military Honor Guard which provides Veteran funeral military honors for local veterans and recognizing their distinguished service to our country.

Tina Martinez of the Community Development Department explained that the American Legion Arturo T. Benavides Memorial Post 59 Military Honor Guard has been assisting Laredo veterans since 2000 and has accepted the task of honoring local heroes by attending more than 50 funerals annually. She played a video presentation highlighting the Honor Guard’s services.

The Honor Guard members and veterans in attendance received a standing ovation. Alfredo Agredano, Honor Guard member, invited City Council and members of the public to the Memorial Day Celebration for veterans at the Veterans’ section of the City Cemetery on Monday, May 27, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

Mayor Saenz presented the Honor Guard with certificates of recognition in gratitude for the service they offer to Laredo’s veterans.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Presentation on the Juan Francisco Farias Veteran's Museum by local veteran's groups.

Mayor Saenz reminded Council that Laredo has a rich history as a military town, as is evident by Laredo College's Fort McIntosh campus and other areas of town. The veterans' museum has been in the works for a long time, and he thanked the Farias family for their commitment of their historical home for this purpose.

Cm. Balli also voiced his gratitude of the Farias family's donation to the City and County for the purposes of a veterans' museum. The home is one of the most historic homes in Laredo and is located Downtown. Laredo, which is predominantly Hispanic, has been overrepresented in almost all wars and conflicts throughout history. He voiced his opinion that the historic Farias home is the perfect location for a veterans' museum as it has been a meeting location for military strategy planning. It is also an important opportunity for Laredo to restore this home.

Dr. Hector Farias, founding Chairman of the Laredo Veterans Coalition, explained that he and his brothers from the American Legion undertook this project 15 years ago and noted his satisfaction to see it come to fruition. He stated that the Gold Star Mothers were unable to attend this Council meeting but introduced them as the mothers of Juan Rodriguez, a Marine, and Roberto Arrizola of the United States Army, both of whom gave their lives in service in Iran. Laredo has never been occupied during wars, a testament to military members' defense of their city and country. He voiced his disappointment that on the 264th anniversary of Laredo, which was the week before, no elected official or school acknowledged the date. He recognized Beto Treviño and Richard Geissler for their work and contributions to this project, noting that most of the original planners of the veterans' museum have since passed away.

A video presentation displayed the rendering of the Farias home and the veterans' museum in Downtown Laredo. Dr. Farias recognized Javier Santos for his donation of the historic Fernando Salinas home, which is next to the Farias home, to accompany the veterans' museum. Additionally, the sidewalk in front of the homes on Iturbide Street from Santa Ursula to San Bernardo will be a veterans' walkway with bricks commemorating veterans and their rank and branch of service.

Mr. Santos noted that the donation was made based on the wishes of the home owner in honor of Fernando Salinas. Dr. Farias added his expectation to have the project ready for the public in a year.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez of Rick Laurel to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Rick Laurel to the Convention & Visitors Bureau

Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2. Appointment by Council Member Nelly Vielma of Joe Garza to the Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Joe Garza to the Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Jeannette G. Vazquez to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Jeannette G. Vazquez to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Balli
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 rezoning Lot 6, Block 38, Las Americas Subdivision, Unit 3, located at 2216 Nautla Dr., from R-1MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended **approval** of the zone change and **staff supports** the application. ZC-32-2019 **District I**

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez
Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for a bar on Lot 6, Block 1, San Isidro Monarch Subdivision, located at 10211 Golondrina Dr. Building (CUP) A (110 SF); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended **approval** of the CUP , and removed condition# 7, regarding compliance with minimum parking requirements as per Section 24.78 of the Laredo LDCB; **staff does not support** the application because the CUP does not meet the minimum parking requirements. ZC-36-2019 **District VI**

Jerry Salinas, Golondrina Food Park owner, explained that he received an SUP for the food truck park a year ago as well as a CUP for the on-site bar. The owners built a second building on the site and have since decided on its use. The second building will serve as a food court or food hall in which small vendors will operate out of different kitchens. The owners then decided to obtain a CUP to build out a small bar inside the food court for the convenience of the customers and add to the environment. The bar will be about 110 square feet, the size of a small walk-in closet. The parking counts were revised based on the negotiated formula from the year before, and he noted that he meets the parking requirements.

Dr. Martinez noted that this identify perfectly coincides with Council's intention to get people to walk and bike through North Central Park and to the food trucks.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol on Lots 7A & 8A, Block 1, San Isidro Monarch Subdivision, Unit 6, located at 2445 San Isidro Parkway; providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended **approval** of the Special Use Permit, and **staff supports** the application. ZC-37-2019 **District VI**

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending Chapter 19, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article XII, Transit System, Division 2, Charter Service, Section 19-562(c) to add the Urban Circulator Pilot Program fare structure at \$1.00; providing this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date of July 19, 2019.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, reported that the Circular Pilot Program will run Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

X. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

5. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a license agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for erecting, repairing, maintaining or removing temporary

barriers, such as concertina wire fencing along the banks of the Rio Grande from Zacate Creek to the International Rail Bridge; the initial term of the agreement is for four (4) months; and providing for an effective date.

Cm. Altgelt confirmed that this area is in the same section as the proposed bulkhead. However, the bulkhead may not come to fruition.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

6. Regarding the revision of the City of Laredo Land Development Code, Section 24-69, Flood Damage Prevention, by adding "Statutory Authorization" and "Finding of Fact" sections, revising Section 24.69.4 - A, Designation of the Floodplain Administrator as the Building Director, including the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Section 24.69.4 - B6, revising the elevation requirements of service equipment in Section 24.69.5 - A4, and revising section numbers; providing for publication and effective date.

Planning and Zoning Commission recommended **approval** and **staff supports** the proposed revision.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. Amending Chapter 19, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article VIII, stopping, standing or parking, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Laredo, specifically adding Subsection 19-364 (28) which establishes a section of River Bank Dr., between World Trade Bridge and Mescalero Dr. approximately 2,700 feet, as a "No Parking/Tow-Away" zone on the east and west side of the road; providing for severability, effective date and publication.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. Amending Chapter 19, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article VIII, stopping, standing or parking, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Laredo, specifically adding Subsection 19-364 (29) which establishes a section of Everton Drive, between Earthaven Dr. and Cielito Lindo Blvd, as a "No Parking/Tow-Away" zone on the north and south side of the street; providing for severability, effective date and publication.

The Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommended **approval** to install "No Parking" signs on Everton Drive, between Earthaven Drive and Cielito Lindo Blvd.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XI. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2019-O-075, 2019-O-076, 2019-O-078, 2019-O-079, 2019-O-080, and 2019-O-081.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

9. 2019-O-075 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to ratify and execute a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 2018-2019 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$467,610.00 and amending the FY 2018-2019 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Health Educator I, R29 position for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Zika Health Women's Health Care Services outreach and case management Program for the term of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-075.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

10. 2019-O-076 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, providing regulations for the City Council community events; limiting the number of community events per fiscal year; requiring requests for community events to be submitted to the City Manager or designee, in writing, no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the event; providing for a cumulative clause; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date (As Amended).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-076.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

11. 2019-O-078 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to convey an Easement and Right of Way to AEP TEXAS INC., for a six (6) foot wide tract of land for an electrical easement containing 736.20 sq. ft., being out of Lot No. 1, Lot 2, and the Western 29 ft. from Lot 3, out of Block 792 Eastern Division, as recorded in Volume 7, Page 15, Webb County, Texas; said 736.20 sq. ft.

tract of land being more particularly described by Metes and Bounds as described by on Exhibit "A", attached hereto and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-078.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

12. 2019-O-079 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a License Agreement between the City of Laredo ("Licensor") and Branch Towers III, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Licensee") for ground space at El Eden Recreation Center located at 4735 Loma Vista Drive, Laredo, Webb County, Texas for the construction of a 120' monopole, installation of an equipment building and related communication facilities. Term of the license is five (5) years, with five (5) successive renewal terms of five (5) years. Annual base rent shall be \$25,000.00, with a three percent (3%) increase on each anniversary of the commencement date; and providing for effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-079.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

13. 2019-O-080 Amending Chapter 19, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article VIII, stopping, standing or parking, of the Code of Ordinances, City Of Laredo, specifically adding Subsection 19-364 (27) which establishes a section of the north and south side of the 1900 block of Frees St; between US. Highway 83 and S. Buena Vista Ave., as a "No Parking/Tow-Away" zone between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; providing for severability, effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-080.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

14. 2019-O-081 Amending the City of Laredo Waterworks Operating Fund FY2019 Annual Budget by drawing down fund balance and increasing the Transfer Out to Water Construction Fund in the amount of \$4,000,000.00 to be used for repairs at El Pico Water Treatment Plant and also amending the City of Laredo's Water Construction Fund FY2019 Annual Budget by increasing revenues and expenses in the amount of \$4,000,000.00.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-081.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

15. **AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE ELSY D. BORGSTEDTE, ACTING AIRPORT DIRECTOR**

- a. 2019-R-73 Ratifying the submission of grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the Noise Abatement Program at the Laredo International Airport and authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute all necessary documents resulting from the award. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for acquisition, soundproofing of residential structures, and for the acquisition of aviation easements. The City's local match in the amount of \$111,112.00 (10%) is available in the airport construction fund budget. Total estimated project cost is \$1,111,112.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-073.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

16. **CITY ATTORNEY - STAFF SOURCE KRISTINA L. HALE, CITY ATTORNEY**

- a. 2019-R-78 A Resolution of the City of Laredo, Texas suspending the June 5, 2019 effective date of AEP Texas Inc.'s requested rate change to permit the City time to study the request and to establish reasonable rates; approving cooperation with the cities served by AEP Texas and authorizing intervention in

AEP Texas Inc.'s requested rate change proceedings before the commission; hiring Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys and Consulting Services to negotiate with the company and direct any necessary litigation and appeals; requiring reimbursement of cities' rate case expenses; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-078.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

17. **CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU - STAFF SOURCE AILEEN RAMOS, CVB DIRECTOR**

- a. Consideration for approval of award of furniture contract FY 19-034 to sole bidder Kimball Office (Division of Kimball International) through authorized dealer G & S Office Supply, Inc. , Laredo, TX, for the purchase, delivery, setup, and installation of office furniture for the new Laredo Convention & Visitors Bureau offices at **EI** Portal. The total amount is not to exceed \$203,000.00. Funding is available in the Hotel Motel Occupancy Tax and Convention & Visitors Bureau Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

18. **ENGINEERING - STAFF SOURCE RAMON CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER**

- a. 2019-R-77 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application to the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program for 2019 authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act in the total amount of \$816,000.00 for shared use path within the right of way along Plum Street, connecting K Tarver Elementary and Nixon High School located in District 4, and along Mier Street & Loring Avenue connecting Lamar Middle School and St. Augustine High School located in District 3; and committing the City of Laredo to providing the required local match of \$163,200.00 and TxDOT may impose an administrative fee

up to 15% of the project cost amounting \$122,400.00 for a total amount of \$285,600.00; acknowledging the availability of fund to pay all up-front costs, since the TA Program is a cost reimbursement program as outlined in the MPO Transportation Alternatives Program Guidance and Application Packet for 2019 authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-077.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- b. Consideration for approval of the Santo Nino Community Center Phase II (Re-Bid) as complete, approval of change order no. 2 a decrease of \$3,215.72 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, release of retainage, and approval of final payment in the amount of \$52,706.71 to Summit Building and Design, Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract is \$1,054,134.28. Funding is available in the 2015 CDBG Grant, Capital Improvements Fund and 2016 and 2017 C.O. Issues.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- c. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for the City of Laredo Surveying Services by Registered Professional Land Surveyor (RPLS) FY19-FY20 and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract for each respective project assigned on a rotation basis.

Eight (8) firms responded to the request for qualifications on Friday, April 26, 2019, at 4:00 **P.M.** as follows:

1. Howland Engineering and Surveying Co., Laredo, Texas
2. Porrás Nance Engineering, Laredo, Texas
3. Blue Top Land Surveying, Laredo, Texas
4. Civil Engineering Consultants, Don Durden, Inc., Laredo, Texas
5. JJ Ruiz Land Surveying, Laredo, Texas
6. S & B Infrastructure, Ltd., Laredo, Texas
7. Premier Civil Engineering LLC, Laredo, Texas
8. Gilpin Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas

Professional Service Agreements will be issued for a two (2) year term with one (1) option for a two (2) year renewal for a total term of four (4) years. Funding will be determined as projects are awarded.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- d. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to Bendicion Engineering, LLC., San Antonio, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$171,000.00 for design, survey, traffic engineering , analysis for critical area delineation for both shared and dedicated bicycle lanes, improving pedestrian and bicycle safety, and preparation of plans and specifications for the Santa Maria Avenue Bicycle Lane Project. Design work is to be done on a fast track basis. Funding is available in District VII Priority Funds - Project No. D71906, 2015 CO Bond, 2016 CO Bond, and 2017 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

19. ENVIRONMENTAL - STAFF SOURCE JOHN PORTER, ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

- a. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application to the Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS) Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in the amount of \$160,000.00 with \$40,000.00 in matching funds. Funds will be used for the design and construction of the East Chacon Creek multi-use hike and bike trail phase I.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

20.1 FINANCE - STAFF SOURCE JOSE CASTILLO, ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR

- a. Consideration to award supply contract FY19-069 for the purchase of general office supplies for all City departments to primary and secondary vendors (to be announced at City Council meeting).

This contract establishes discount percentage pricing for those office supplies most commonly utilized by City departments. Approximately \$600,000.00 is spent on office supplies and copy paper on an annual basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for one (1) additional two (2) year periods each upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding for the additional extensions are subject to future budget appropriations. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the user departmental budgets.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, reported that the primary office supplier will be Patria Office Supply; Executive Office Supply will be the secondary supplier.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Torres

Cm. Vielma

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Balli

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

21. FIRE - STAFF SOURCE STEVE LANDIN, FIRE CHIEF

- a. Consideration to award a contract to Rotex Truck Center Inc, Laredo, TX for an hourly labor rate for service repairs through BuyBoard Cooperative Contract in an estimated annual amount of \$67,500.00. This service contract is for original equipment manufacturer parts for the City of Laredo Fire Department EMS Ambulances. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for one (1) additional two (2) years period upon mutual agreement of the parties and contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Funding is available in the Fire General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

22. FLEET- STAFF SOURCE RON MILLER, ACTING FLEET DIRECTOR

- a. Consideration to renew annual service contract FY17-034 with Laredo Mechanical Industrial Services, Laredo, TX, in an amount up to \$100,000.00 for repair services for the City's automated side and rear loader trucks. There was no price increase during the last extension period. 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 second of four possible extension periods. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. The City shall provide the parts. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- b. Consideration to award annual service contract FY19-063 to the lowest responsive-responsible bidder Mechanical Shop of Laredo, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$140,000.00 for repairs to the City's lawn maintenance equipment. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract allows for three (3) additional, one (1) year extensions upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- c. Consideration to renew the six-month (6) supply contract FY18-001 with Arguindegui Oil Company, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$80,000.00 for the purchase of lubricants for the Fleet Department. All lubricants will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of six (6) months beginning as of the date of its execution. Due to an increase in the crude oil market, there will be an average price increase of 8% during the last extension period. This is the third of six extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

23. **HEALTH - STAFF SOURCE DR. HECTOR GONZALEZ, HEALTH DIRECTOR**

- a. 2019-R-68 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to accept and execute a contract amendment from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$331,135.00, with a cash match of \$33,113.00, for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Response services for disease control and emergency management for the term period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-068.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- b. 2019-R-69 Ratifying the execution of the contract amendment from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$300,600.00 for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department's HIV Prevention Program to continue to provide prevention, educational, and outreach services for the term period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-069.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- c. 2019-R-70 Ratifying the execution of the contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$230,491.00, with a projected amount of program income of \$107,488.00 for a total of \$337,979.00 for the

continuation of the Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Program for the City of Laredo Health Department to provide immunizations for serious vaccine preventable diseases and conduct disease detection and surveillance activities for prevention for the term beginning September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-070.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- d. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a contract amendment for an additional \$25,000.00 with Doctors Hospital of Laredo for mammography services to patients referred to the hospital by the City of Laredo Health Department related to women's health services and breast cancer prevention for a total contract amount of \$73,000.00. The term of the contract is from February 13, 2017 through February 12, 2021, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- e. Ratifying the amendment of a continuation contract to Change Healthcare Technology Enabled Services, LLC (formerly known as PST Services, LLC) for support of a cost reimbursement analysis to submit appropriate reports to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (TASPP) to generate revenue for uncompensated ambulance costs for emergency services for the term from November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019. This extension, as permitted by the original contract, is subject to renewal for another two (2) one year terms contingent on program availability, mutual agreement, and future budget appropriation.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

24. **HUMAN RESOURCES - STAFF SOURCE ROSA SALINAS, ACTING HR DIRECTOR**

- a. Consideration to award contract FY19-044 for the following Group Medical Insurance Benefit Services:

1) Group Medical

- a. Third Party Medical Claims Administration
- b. Stop Loss Insurance Administration
- c. Cobra Administration
- d. Medical Network
- e. Pharmacy Benefit Management

2) Section 125 & H.S.A. Administration

3) Retiree Medicare Supplement Carrier

The selected vendors will be announced at the meeting. The City of Laredo intends to award a three year initial contract from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022 with the City of Laredo retaining the right to renew for up to two (2) additional one (1) year renewal periods, with the exception of item No. 3 that is effective January 1, 2020.

Cm. Balli noted that the City of Laredo's health insurance is very good, and many employees are very happy with the health insurance that is currently offered. He voiced his trepidation to change the current insurance plan. One of the reasons that Council raised the wages of the City's lowest-paid employees was because those employees' wages were so low that they were not able to afford health insurance.

Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Agent, explained that the City of Laredo requested formal proposals for medical benefits and ancillary benefits. Six responses were submitted for the medical benefits RFP while 19 were submitted for the voluntary insurance products. HUB International assisted the City with drafting the RFPs, answer questions to vendors, and perform the submittal evaluations.

Dr. Marte Martinez asked Mr. McGraw to present not only what the costs will be to the municipality but also what the cost will be to the employees for doctors' visits so that Council may be aware of any additional costs that the employees will have to bear.

Randy McGraw of HUB International explained that the medical insurance was categorized separately from the ancillary products that employees could voluntarily purchase. The vendors were invited to submit their offers assuming that they duplicate the benefits that are currently offered by the City of Laredo to its employees. Changing any benefits are decided by the City. The benefits

and copays for the next fiscal year will be identical to this years' unless the City makes the decision to change any benefit offerings.

Dr. Martinez stated that, as a physician by trade, he is concerned that Mr. McGraw's statements may be misleading. When his medical practice works with Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, or other insurances, there is a preauthorization process that takes place. He has seen that Aetna does not have as rigorous a preauthorization process that takes place, and patients often have to pay two copays because they come in (and pay a copay), get the preauthorization, and then come back later (paying a second copay) to get the procedure (paying for a certain percentage of the procedure). With Blue Cross Blue Shield, the preauthorization takes place ahead of time, so the patient often can get their procedure the same day. With Aetna, the insured often has to cover the cost of this change. While the monetary amount of copays may not change, the number of copays that the insured must pay may often change.

Mr. McGraw reminded Council that there are many versions of the different insurance companies; preauthorization processes may different under the different sets of an insurance program. Dr. Martinez countered that he accepts every type of Aetna and Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance coverage across the board, and by and large, Aetna is harder to work with an oftentimes requires more visits and therefore more copays.

Mr. McGraw stated that the City is not under any obligation to do what Aetna or Blue Cross Blue Shield suggests that they do in the insurance plan. The City reserves the right to change anything within its plan at any time during the course of the contract. When an employee retires from the City of Laredo and is not eligible for Medicare, they are covered under the City's health insurance plan until they become eligible for Medicare, and the risk/liability is transferred to a company called United American. Laurel Insurance Agency provides service and support for many of the benefit products through the City. Laurel Insurance responded to the RFP as servicing agents for various products.

Rosa Salinas, Acting Human Resources Director, explained that for many of the medical insurance questions that City employees have, staff will answer those questions directly or refer to Blue Cross Blue Shield, the current provider, through its representative.

Cm. Torres voiced his disagreement with the recommendation to change from Blue Cross Blue Shield to Aetna.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

- b. Consideration to award contract FY19-045 for the following Basic and Voluntary Products:
 - 1) Group Life/AD&D
 - a. Basic Life-Securian Financial (Direct)
 - b. Basic AD&D-Securian Financial (Direct)
 - c. Voluntary Life-Securian Financial (Direct)
 - d. Voluntary AD&D-Securian Financial (Direct)
 - 2) Group Dental
AETNA by Laurel Insurance and Associates, Inc.
 - 3) Group Vision
The Guardian (Davis Vision) by Laurel Insurance and Associates, Inc.
 - 4) Personal Insurance
 - a. Long Term Disability-Ochs, Inc (Direct)
 - b. Short Term Disability-Ochs, Inc (Direct)
 - c. Accident-Colonial by Laurel Insurance and Associates, Inc.
 - d. Cancer- The Guardian by Laurel Insurance and Associates, Inc.
 - e. Critical Illness - The Guardian by Laurel Insurance and Associates, Inc.

The City of Laredo intends to award a three year initial contract from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022 with the City of Laredo retaining the right to renew for up to two (2) additional one (1) year renewal periods. Funding is available in the Health & Benefits Fund account.

Rosa Salinas, Human Resources Director, explained that the Direct line items are products that the employee opts into directly through the insurance companies.

Cm. Torres stated that providing local support for these insurance products has been essential and crucial for the City's employees and voiced his concerns over removing that local support. When an employee needs to make a claim on their disability insurance, the support is more important than ever. Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, clarified that the local support will not change.

Mrs. Salinas clarified that the employees will come to the City, who will deal directly with the insurance companies. Customer service will be delivered to the customer through the City. The City will answer questions regarding the Basic Life and AD&D; the Voluntary products will be answered by Laurel Insurance. She emphasized that all of the employees' questions come through the City; some of the questions the City is able to immediately answer and the others are answered by Laurel. The employees will not be affected by any servicing through the City or Laurel Insurance. She added that the City pays for Basic Life and Basic AD&D for the Police and Fire Departments; the City

pays for Basic Life for other employees. Employees themselves pay for the Voluntary products.

Mr. McGraw informed Council that Securian Life's RFP responses were provided directly from the carrier, not the servicing agent. If the City intended to compensate its agents for their services, then that would change the pricing for Life and AD&D.

Cm. Torres countered that he did not say he wanted to compensate the agents; he clarified that he wanted to maintain local support for the City's employees on their claims and questions. Mr. McGraw stated that if Council opts to compensate their agents, then there will be a change in the price; otherwise, no changes will be made to the services or cost. Some vendors submitted their RFP responses with a commission and some did not. He reported that if the City kept its current carrier without any additional changes, the cost to the City will be about \$11,000 more than last year; the cost to the employee would be about the same as what they pay currently.

Mrs. Cabello explained that the lower the price, the more options the employee has to choose ancillary products. Staff's intention is to make the options as affordable as possible so that the employee is able to afford more benefit products. She noted that while she has not been involved in the process for long, she has not heard any complaints about changing the City's insurance options.

Mrs. Salinas assured Council that the City will deal with employees and the carriers to answer questions and assist with claims.

Cm. Torres asked if there was any employee input sought on these proposed changes. Mrs. Cabello reported that the City had a committee with two Department Directors (from Utilities and Health) and members of the Budget, Finance, Purchasing, City Manager's Office, and Human Resources Departments. Cm. Torres countered that if the City wanted what is best for the employees, they should have included the employees themselves on this matter through a survey or poll. Surveying would have been preferable to using Department Director opinions, since Directors make six-figure salaries and are essentially unaffected by increases to insurance premiums. He asked why this matter was only brought to Council now rather than giving Council more time before open enrollment and the new fiscal year.

Mr. McGraw noted that one of the key timeline factors is preparing for open enrollment and communicate employees' options ahead of the online enrollment window. The committee working on this matter budgeted into its timeline this Council meeting or the June 3, 2019 Council meeting for Council approval. The medical and ancillary products were separated into two categories on this agenda so that if one category took longer to deliberate, Council could approve the other

one and allow staff to move forward with that item in anticipation of open enrollment.

Cm. Torres stated that staff has been working on this item since before the Co-Interim City Managers came onboard. Mr. McGraw confirmed that the RFPs went out in February 2019. Cm. Torres continued that if Council is the entity that is making the final decision, only being presented with the information at this time is not enough time. When he and Cm. Vielma were first elected, they met with previous City Manager Jesus Olivares to discuss what items were going to come before Council in advance so that they would be prepared to make an informed decision. If time is of the essence, then he voiced his opinion that the City should continue with what is currently being provided to the employees rather than making any changes.

Cm. Vielma noted that while she is not an expert in this field, Dr. Martinez is and has not been given adequate time to review the information. There is too much information to digest at this point if Council is to make an informed decision.

Mr. McGraw reminded Council that a doctor served on the committee reviewing the RFPs, spending a total of eight hours per member on the information. Life and AD&D insurance do not have much changes over the years like a health plan might. He reported that Securian Life confirmed they would allow employees to add coverage after open enrollment up to the allowable amount with no questions asked. The prices are the same between Securian Life and the City's current carrier.

Dr. Marte Martinez voiced his discomfort making a decision at this time as he has not had time to make sense of the numbers being presented. He noted the need to table this item so that Council may obtain more information.

Motion to approve servicing Basic Life and Basic AD&D through the City of Laredo and servicing Voluntary Life and Voluntary AD&D through Laurel Insurance Agency.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Balli
No vote

Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 4	Against: 4	Abstain: 0
Mayor Saenz	Cm. Rodriguez	
Cm. Vielma	Cm. Mercurio Martinez	

Dr. Marte Martinez Cm. Torres
Cm. Altgelt Cm. Balli

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Motion to table fails.

Mrs. Cabello asked Council to approve the ancillary products at this time, noting that the medical products can be brought back to the next meeting or in a special workshop.

Mrs. Salinas explained that when the City goes out for bids, they are told to try after two renewals to test the market. The time came to test the market for a better price on the same services.

Mr. McGraw reiterated that on the Life and AD&D insurance, the employees would see no price change or decrease in coverage for the new carrier that they currently see.

Motion to approve the Group Life and AD&D insurance as presented.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 4 Against: 3 Abstain: 0
 Mayor Saenz Dr. Marte Martinez
 Cm. Rodriguez Cm. Altgelt
 Cm. Mercurio Martinez Cm. Balli
 Cm. Torres

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.
Motion fails.

Cm. Altgelt noted that his vote against approving the Life and AD&D is because the information is all technical and important enough to warrant further study.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

25. **INFORMATION SERVICES & TELECOMMUNICATION-STAFF SOURCE
HOMERO VAZQUEZ - GARCIA, 1ST DIRECTOR**

- a. Authorizing Co-Interim City Managers to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), attached hereto as Exhibit A,

between the Texas Department of Public Safety and the City of Laredo to participate in the Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan. This MOU authorizes the use of state-licensed frequencies by emergency response organizations as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications and the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

26. LIBRARY- STAFF SOURCE MARIA G. SOLIZ, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

- a. Consideration to authorize the use of the following Inter-Local Cooperative Purchasing Programs: The Inter-local Purchasing System (TIPS), Texas Procurement and Support Services Cooperative Purchasing Program (TPASS), BuyBoard and include Sole Source vendors for the purchase of library materials such as books and audio visual materials in an estimated amount of \$489,336.00 this fiscal year. Approximately \$489,336.00 in library materials is purchased on an annual basis. This contract will supplement the Library's ability to purchase books and audiovisual material to keep high quality and variety of reading materials for efficient collection development. The term of this contract shall be for a two (2) year term with an option to renew one (1) additional two (2) year term and subject to future appropriations. Funding is available in the Public Library Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

27. PARKS & LEISURE - STAFF SOURCE ANITA O. STANLEY, ASSISTANT PARKS DIRECTOR

- a. Authorizing the Interim Co-Interim City Managers to enter into an agreement with Raul Miguel Ramos in the amount of \$32,700.00 for professional tennis services at City of Laredo tennis facilities. Services to be provided by the tennis professional include oversight and monitoring of tennis facilities, providing activities, tournaments and lessons. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. Funding is available in General Fund-Parks

Department.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

28. POLICE - STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

- a. 2019-R-57 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$20,000.00 to the Texas Department of Transportation for the enforcement of Vehicle Occupant Protection during the "Click It or Ticket" Campaign. The grant period will begin May 17, 2019 through June 5, 2019. This grant is to pay overtime salaries and fringe benefits for officers to conduct intense occupant protection enforcement in order to increase occupant restraint use in all passenger vehicles and trucks. Grant is 100% funded by the Texas Department of Transportation. Budget is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-057.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- b. 2019-R-58 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to apply for a grant in the estimated amount of \$100,000.00 to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) for the FY2019 Community Policing Development (CPD) Program. The City of Laredo will utilize this funding to obtain a professional service contract for Clinical Advisory for Trauma and Work Related Counseling for a twenty-four (24) month period. There is no requirement for a local match for CPD awards. Funding will be available under the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-058.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- c. 2019-R-59 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$90,000.00 to the Office of Justice Program for the purpose of funding the Bullet Proof Vest Grant for FY2020. The funds will be used to replace 120 vests that have exceeded the recommended life expectancy. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program will require a 50% match. Funding will be available in the Special Police account.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-059.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- d. 2019-R-60 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the amount of \$80,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division (CJD), for funding the 2020 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, LPD Project Safe Streets for the period of October 01, 2019 through September 30, 2020. This funding will provide overtime for the Juvenile and Gang Enforcement (JAGET) Unit which will utilize target enforcement techniques against violent street gangs and their associates responsible for violent criminal activity. Funding will be available in the Special Police Fund. No match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-060.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- e. 2019-R-61 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application in the amount of \$33,774.81 to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation . The funds will be utilized to equip 20 officers with protective shields to increase officer safety and lesse injury during armed and violent confrontations. There is not matching funds involved in the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-061.

Moved: Cm. Torres
 Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
 For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- f. 2019-R-66 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a New Grant Application for the FY2020 grant year in the amount of \$1,715,294.00 to the Texas Auto Burglary & Theft Prevention Authority to fund the Laredo Auto Theft Task Force for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. This grant pays for salaries and supplies for the LPD Auto Theft Division. The city's local match is approximately 25% which is available as a transfer from General Fund. Funding is available in the Auto Theft Task Force Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-066.

Moved: Cm. Torres
 Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
 For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- g. 2019-R-67 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,402,488.00 from the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2018 Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG). This funding will be used for the purchase of two patrol units and for overtime and fringe benefit expenses, for Stonegarden Operations. No local match is required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-067.

Moved: Cm. Torres
 Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
 For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

29. TAX - STAFF SOURCE DORA A MALDONADO, TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

- a. Refund of property tax in the amount of \$1,380.56 payable to VA C Dental Management LLC due to an overpayment. Tax account# 947-13001-105.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- b. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts adjusted for the month of April 2019 represent a decrease of \$196,553.02. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

30. UTILITIES- STAFF SOURCE RIAZUL MIA, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

- a. Consideration to award annual contract FY19-059 to the low bidder Nick Benavides, Laredo, Texas in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 for landscaping and maintenance services for various wastewater treatment plants and for the water treatment plant. This contract establishes a cost per cycle rate to include, but not limited to, the collection of trash, debris, litter, and mowing trimmings. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract has three extension periods. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Budget Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- b. Consideration to award annual contract FY19-060 to the lowest responsive-responsible bidder Nick Benavides, Laredo, Texas in an amount, not to exceed, \$90,000.00 for lawn and landscaping repairs caused by water line break repairs. This contract is based on square and linear footage rates, and includes the cost of a licensed irrigator, plus a contingency fund to cover miscellaneous landscaping repairs including (but not limited to) replacing trees, mulch, various plants, and other landscaping items. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract has three extension periods. All services will be secured on an as needed basis.

Funding is available in the Utilities Department Budget Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- c. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to lease equipment from Pitney Bowes for processing Utility bills utilizing a BuyBoard Cooperative Lease Agreement. The total cost to lease this equipment is \$76,217.16 per year for a 60 month lease. Funding is available in the Utilities Billing Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- d. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to purchase the Granite Net software and hardware upgrade used by CCTV inspection crews for Utilities and Environmental Services Departments from CLS Equipment Company, Inc. from Richardson , Texas in the amount of \$83,646.00. Funding is available in the Sewer Operating Fund, Sewer 2018 PPFCO, and Environmental Services Department Operational Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

- e. Authorizing City Manager to execute amendment #2 for the professional services contract with Carollo Engineers Inc., Dallas, Texas in the amount of \$109,000.00 to address the existing chlorine system cross connection violation from Texas Commission Environmental Quality (TCEQ) at El Pico Water Plant. The scope of work will be to design the Chlorine System Cross Contamination Elimination for compliance with the requirements of the TCEQ. The scope and associated effort summarized would be part of the work in the El Pico Water Plant Reliability Mitigation and Filter Assessment Project. The new total contract amount with this amendment will be \$487,986.00. Funding is available in the Utilities Department 2016

Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

31. 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.

Veronica Baeza, Internal Auditor, reported that staff submitted a compliance report in Council's Friday packet regarding Elite Employment Services. An executive summary of that report was also provided.

Motion to direct staff to bring the Elite Employment Services compliance report to the next Council meeting as a Staff Report.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

32. Discussion with possible action regarding the City of Laredo 4th of July Event; and any other matters incident thereto.

Anita Stanley, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, reported that last year, the City hosted three Fourth of July events: one at Independence Hills Park (July 4 with 3,000-4,000 attendees), one at Uni-Trade Stadium (July 4 during a baseball game with 6,200 attendees), and one at the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course (July 7 with 250 attendees). The total cost for the Independence Hills Park event was \$27,700, which included fireworks and all personnel. The Uni-Trade Stadium event cost \$14,000; the Max Mandel event totaled \$11,800.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, informed Council that staff is seeking recommendation to not host the Max Mandel Fourth of July event in 2019.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his opinion that the City should only host one Fourth of July event. Mrs. Stanley confirmed that the costs for the vents came from the Parks budget. Fireworks cost \$10,000 for a 15-minute show.

Cm. Rodriguez asked how staff determined the attendance numbers, noting that he attended the Independence Hills Park event and did not see any measures to count the attendees. Mrs. Stanley clarified that with experience, staff can easily gauge the number of attendees at an event. Cm. Rodriguez countered that staff is not counting the number of people who sit in their cars and watch the fireworks outside of the venue.

Mrs. Stanley noted that staff negotiates with an organization for the fireworks shows at \$10,000 for 15 minutes. Mrs. Cabello recommended that the City maintain the Uni-Trade Stadium and Independence Hills events in 2019. Mrs. Stanley noted that while she could not advise Council on the industry standard, experience has shown that 15 minutes is a long time to watch fireworks. She recalled feedback from multiple sources that 10 minutes would be sufficient.

Dr. Marte Martinez asked if staff reached out to a radio station to play the music coinciding with the fireworks display, adding that when he lived in Oklahoma City, there was one large City-sponsored show that played its music on the radio for any spectators to listen to if watching the fireworks display from afar. Mrs. Stanley confirmed that staff did not do so; the company that the City utilizes works closely with the radio station, but the music was not aired over the radio.

Cm. Torres added that the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association (WBCA) works with the radio station to air its music as described by Dr. Martinez through a temporary channel. He added that the City is paying for the Uni-Trade Stadium event wholly, but the Tecolotes are also benefiting from the investment during their ball game. He asked if the Tecos have been approached to cover some of the expense. While the constituency benefits from the Uni-Trade Stadium Fourth of July event, he voiced his opinion that the Tecolotes should assist with the cost as more people are attracted to their game.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, confirmed that staff has not yet approached the Tecolotes for cost-sharing of the Fourth of July event. He could not speak to the negotiations made by the previous management last year, but this year's event has not included any cost-sharing to-date.

Cm. Torres stated that the City is paying for a public show with public funds in which a private investor (the Tecos) makes more money off of that investment, causing him concern over the Uni-Trade Stadium event. He voiced his opinion that if the City were to only host one Fourth of July event, he would be inclined to discontinue the Uni-Trade Stadium event for that reason. The Uni-Trade event could create a conflict of interest given the investors in the baseball industry making money off of the City's investment.

Mrs. Stanley confirmed that the Tecolotes have a baseball game scheduled on July 4, 2019. She displayed an itemized cost breakdown of the Uni-Trade Stadium and Independence Hills Park events. At the Uni-Trade Stadium event, \$4,591.57 were associated with payroll and \$10,000 were associated with the fireworks for a total of \$14,591.57.

Cm. Vielma noted that the City spent twice as much money at the Independence Hills Park event but had twice the attendance at Uni-Trade Stadium, making the stadium event the better return on investment.

Cm. Rodriguez reminded Council that not many people can afford to go to the Tecolotes games, so having a free South Laredo event should not be disregarded. He added his opinion that there were more than 3,000-4,000 people in attendance at Independence Hills Park. He voiced his opposition to the criticism of South Laredo's event as it is the first of its kind in the area. He noted that the 2019 Independence Hills Park Fourth of July event could be counted toward his pending District event limit. He initiated a motion to host the event again in 2019.

Cm. Torres asked how the Uni-Trade Stadium event could be counted as a public event or benefit if the attendees must pay admission to get into the stadium.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, stated that while she must confirm, her understanding is that the City is contractually bound to host the Fourth of July event at Uni-Trade Stadium.

Cm. Torres voiced his opinion that whether the Fourth of July event is held at Uni-Trade Stadium or Independence Hills, it should be counted towards the Council Member's pending limit in district in which the event is held. Since Council Members claims that some facilities belong to certain districts, he noted that it is fair to count those events towards the Council Member's event limit.

Dr. Martinez noted that the Tecolotes bring visitors from out of town and asked if the Fourth of July event could be funded with hotel/motel tax revenues so that the whole budget would not come from the Parks Department. Mrs. Cabello noted that if the event resulted in "heads in beds," then hotel/motel revenues could be used. However, she noted that the City has no way of knowing how many people are coming from out of town and staying in hotel rooms to watch the fireworks.

Mr. Eads reminded Council that the stadium has a large grassy area where citizens come and enjoy the fireworks from outside the stadium for free. Many spectators sit in their cars and watch the fireworks. Dr. Martinez agreed, noting that the fireworks are visible from a mile or two away, making them watched by many citizens outside of the event venues. When Council first began to consider limiting the number of district events, the main idea was to centralize City-wide events which should not be part of the districts' count. He recommended not counting any City-wide events against a Council Member's limit until the ordinance is finalized with language, which has not been done yet.

Cm. Vielma objected to the Uni-Trade Stadium Fourth of July event potentially being counted as one of her six District events. She noted that she did not plan the Fourth of July event at Uni-Trade Stadium, as it is contractually required. Therefore, it should not be counted against her. She recommended City-wide events be considered outside of the event limit for Council Members. Council has been looking for ways to reduce the budget and the rate of taxation, and she voiced her opinion that Council could be more frugal on some of the Fourth of July expenses. She

asked if the Sames Auto Arena could be used, if there are no other events planned on the Fourth of July, for citizens who do not purchase stadium tickets to sit and watch the fireworks. Inflatables or picnic areas could be made available for families and children.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez recalled the City hosting a fireworks display for New Year's Eve when the Laredo Bucks were operating. Many fans were able to tailgate outside and watch the fireworks even though they did not purchase tickets for the game. Accompanying music was available on the radio at the time.

Mayor Saenz asked if El Metro could provide free or discounted shuttle or park and ride services in the event that the City hosts one, centralized Fourth of July event. Mrs. Cabello agreed that the City has some buses that could serve that purpose, but the gas and operations would have to be billed to the City per FTA regulations.

Mrs. Stanley reminded Council that every event is different due to the amenities, games, and entertainment provided. Cm. Rodriguez countered that for an event to be labelled as a "City event," it needs to be consistent and equivalent across the board.

Mrs. Cabello clarified that after reviewing the contract, the City is not contractually obligated to host the Fourth of July event at the Uni-Trade Stadium.

Motion to host the Independence Hills Fourth of July event in 2019 and that the event(s) count toward Cm. Gonzalez's District I event limit, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

Cm. Balli agreed with the sentiment that the Tecolotes should share the cost of a Fourth of July event as it benefits both parties and provides a community value. He initiated a motion to this effect.

Mr. Eads explained that the cost of fireworks is typically \$1,000 per minute. The reason why the 15-minute fireworks shows were only \$10,000 is because the City purchased two shows at a discounted volume price in a bundle.

Cm. Balli added that to be fair, this event would need to count against a Council Member's event limit. Cm. Vielma objected to having the event counted as one of hers as she did not plan it. Dr. Martinez directed staff to count the event towards his limit.

Motion to direct staff to negotiate cost-sharing with the Tecolotes to host a second Fourth of July event at Uni-Trade Stadium and count the event towards Dr. Martinez's District VI event limit, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Introduction of new selected director Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, reminded Council that staff is going through final checks and document procurement. While Mrs. Bermudez will come onboard once those checks are complete, her introduction at this meeting is technically unofficial.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, informed Council that Mrs. Bermudez has over 15 years of experience and substantial qualifications.

Cm. Altgelt welcomed Mrs. Bermudez, suggesting she disregard the “keyboard cowards” who have recently come forward.

Melina Bermudez, prospective Human Resources Director, voiced her enthusiasm to join the City of Laredo. She explained that she was born and raised in Laredo and is a graduate of Alexander High School and University of Texas at San Antonio. It was always her dream to work for Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, where her career started. She then joined a division of Hilton Worldwide servicing the region from Hawaii to Colorado. She also served the Pacific Northwest with Ikea and ended up in California. She noted that she has been certified with Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) since 2016 and is also certified with Focal 360, a company that services 360 evaluations and situational leadership. Mrs. Bermudez reiterated her eagerness to work not only with City Council and management but also with every single City of Laredo employee.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his satisfaction with the selection of Mrs. Bermudez, noting that Council was adamant about hiring someone from the private sector rather than a season bureaucrat. When Mrs. Bermudez’s resume came through, he noticed her experience in the private sector at impressive organizations like Ikea. He stated that he would like to clear the air on a few points, namely his understanding that Mrs. Bermudez is the daughter of Cynthia Collazo, recently retired Deputy City Manager for more than 20 years and a faithful public servant. Detractors have put City officials through heavy scrutiny, and Cm. Altgelt recalled that despite seeing the scrutiny and criticism from the public, Mrs. Bermudez still believed in her City and chose to apply for the Human Resources Director position.

Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath informed Mrs. Bermudez that his frustration has nothing to do with her or her mother personally. He reminded Council that he asked if Rosario Cabello and Robert Eads are “interim” or “acting” Co-City Managers for a specific reason. He cited Section 2-16 (b) (1) and (2) of the Code of Ordinances, Departments of the City; City manager’s authority subject to division 5 of this article: “Pursuant to authority granted by the City Charter, section 3.05 and 4.01, the city manager has exclusive authority to appoint, suspend or remove all city department directors, except as otherwise provided by law, the City Charter or policy adopted in accordance with the Charter. The city manager also has direction and approval

authority over department directors' supervision and control of their departments, except as to the department directors' authority to appoint, suspend or remove their respective departments' employees... Pursuant to City Charter section 3.04, the city manager may designate and delegate, subject to the approval of the city council, a qualified administrative officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office during his or her temporary absence or disability. City council, however, may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the city to serve as the city manager until the city manager returns or the disability of the city manager ceases. The authority delegated to the acting city manager as it regards department directors, however, shall be limited to suspending directors, and shall not include the authority to appoint or remove any department director" Mr. Vish assured Council that he is not a "keyboard coward," as he behaves the same in person as he does online. He emphasized that the Code of Ordinances says that the Acting City Manager cannot appoint Department Directors. He displayed a document on his iPad that he assured Council he legally obtained from the City Attorney's Office in which Mrs. Cabello and Mr. Eads are listed as Acting City Managers. By this list's classification of their positions, he stated that Mrs. Cabello and Mr. Eads cannot appoint Mrs. Bermudez as the Human Resources Director. He cautioned Council that ignoring this matter will invite a lawsuit and will be co-conspirators in the scandal.

Cm. Altgelt reminded the public that Council has the responsibility to interpret the City Charter, and a new Human Resources Director is needed. He voiced his confidence that Council's interpretation of Mrs. Cabello and Mr. Eads as Co-Interim City Managers would be upheld if questioned legally.

Cm. Torres welcomed Mrs. Bermudez, noting that the City is happy to have her as part of the team and commended her certification and experience. He noted his privilege to have worked alongside her mother, Mrs. Collazo, noting her honorable moral compass and character. He assured the public that Mrs. Collazo would never reach out to Council to put in a good word for her daughter and praised Mrs. Bermudez's fortitude despite the negative attention brought to her. He emphasized that Mrs. Bermudez's earned this position "fair and square" based on her merit and qualifications. Cm. Torres also clarified that Council is not confirming Mrs. Bermudez's appointment at this Council meeting; the agenda item was added as a professional courtesy. He welcomed Mrs. Bermudez.

Cm. Balli reminded the public that once a person leaves a position of power and authority, such as Mayor or Deputy City Manager, they no longer have any power over Council or staff. Dr. Marte Martinez congratulated Mrs. Bermudez and welcomed her to the City, reiterating that this agenda item has no Council action.

Mayor Saenz echoed the same sentiments as Council, adding that he has been satisfied with the work of Mrs. Cabello and Mr. Eads since their appointment. He recalled instructing them to avoid any "shenanigans" given the scope and scrutiny to which Laredo officials are subjected. He conceded that the conclusions people have drawn from the may be fair given the information presented, but without any proof of anything untoward he grants all parties the benefit of the doubt. He welcomed Mrs. Bermudez and caution her to expect controversy and direct

inquiries, which is part of the culture in Laredo politics.

Dr. Martinez stated that Mrs. Cabello and Mr. Eads' titles are "Interim," as stated repeatedly through the City's documentation.

Mr. Eads stated that he and Mrs. Cabello are able to sleep soundly knowing that they selected the best candidate for the position. Mrs. Cabello confirmed that Mrs. Collazo never reached out to her regarding her daughter or the Human Resources Director position. Mr. Eads echoed the same sentiments.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, informed Council that Utilities Director Riazul Mia and he also served on the selection committee, assuring Council that neither of them had any idea that Mrs. Bermudez was Mrs. Collazo's daughter until after she had been interviewed, graded, and selected.

Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, confirmed that during his time on the selection committee, he had no idea who Mrs. Bermudez was related to until after the process was over. He noted his appreciation that this information was kept from the committee during their deliberations. Mrs. Bermudez's qualifications along made her the ideal candidate.

34. Request to set meeting dates for the Strategic Planning Session and the Ethics Training, with possible action.

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

35. Status report by Olivia Varela, Executive Director for Greater Laredo Development Foundation dba Laredo Economic Development Corporation, for the organization performance in FY2019, with possible action.

Olivia Varela, President and CEO of the Laredo Economic Development Corporation, presented the Laredo EDC's marketing strategy as revised from January 2019 to date. The Corporation targets Maintenance Repair Operations (MROs) that cut across all industries in Laredo, meaning that its services encompass all fields. It is also in alignment with the City's Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan. The Laredo EDC promoted the Laredo region with an exhibit at the Red River States Conference & Deal Making Commercial Real Estate event in Fort Worth, Texas. The International Conference Shopping Centers (ICSC) was a three-day regional event providing opportunities to gain information about the most current industry issues, networking, and making deals with colleagues doing business in the same region.

Cm. Altgelt asked, since online shopping has changed the landscape of economic development so drastically, how the Laredo EDC's efforts can embrace that new

economy. He noted that Laredo built the Outlet Shoppes with high aspirations, but it proves to be struggling if not for the Mexican shoppers that visit it. He voiced his skepticism that retail is a worthwhile endeavor for the Corporation at this time. Cm. Balli added that the Mall Del Norte has two large spaces that recently diversified out of retail, a key indicator of the decline of brick and mortar retail.

Mrs. Varela clarified that shopping centers will bring in not only retail but restaurants, offices, health organizations, and more opportunities. All of these opportunities are important for the quality of life in Laredo. When prospects come to Laredo, they want to see restaurants and shops. Cm. Altgelt countered that these industries are minimum wage jobs for Laredoans. Mrs. Varela stated that while they are minimum wage jobs, they are still important to the community. Until Laredo has a highly skilled workforce, the city must have jobs that citizens can perform. Every city in every community offers these types of centers and jobs.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that while it is attractive to have specialty stores and boutiques, those will happen naturally as the community has more spending power. There must be continued increasing wages in order to have the spending power that draws companies in. He stated that the City's economic development objective is to identify the industries or amenities that will not naturally come into Laredo and determine how to bring them into the community.

Mrs. Varela explained that while these centers and jobs might not be Laredo's targeted-wage jobs, they are still something that create value in the community, making them necessary. She reported that Laredo EDC, with the City's assistance, secured a commitment from a larger investment to a large mixed-use development in District II. She reported that Laredo EDC participated with the City of Laredo during the legislative trip in Austin, Texas, and met with the Office of the Governor of Economic Development and Tourism staff. The Corporation gave a presentative at the Laredo Advantage Luncheon to showcase the City and put its interest and industry at the forefront.

Mrs. Varela reported that in February 2019, the owner of the former Mercy Hospital, Chendo Carranco, and Chinese investor Long Cao officially signed a binding development contract for the World Free Trade Plaza of America, Inc. In March 2019, the Corporation again joined the City of Laredo during the legislative trip in Washington, D.C. and performed multiple direct advertising in well-distributed trade journals. The Laredo EDC promoted the Laredo International Airport in January 2019 through site selection industry publications. The Corporation is working aggressively with site selectors, who are contracted by corporate America to perform research and find investment sites. The Corporation has targeted conferences that easily facilitate one-on-one meetings with site selectors, such as the Site Selectors Guild (SSG) Annual Conference held in March 2019 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mrs. Varela reported that the Corporation has teamed with Team Texas, the member-based state business attraction program through the Texas Economic Development Council to create opportunities for job creation, increased investment, and economic diversification as a team of future-focused and collaborative Texas communities and partners. She attended the Chicago Road Recruitment Mission with Team Texas in Chicago, Illinois, where Medline Industries has its corporate

offices. In April 2019, the Corporation attended the MRO Aviation Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, again teaming with Team Texas. Through this conference and Team Texas, Laredo EDC is able to follow up specifically with certain companies. Over the last week, she attended the US China Innovation and Investment Summit in Houston, Texas with high-tech US innovation companies and Chinese investors and potential partners. Attendees were relieved to hear of the removal of steel tariffs to ease the growing tensions in the trade war.

Mrs. Varela continued that the more Council informs Laredo EDC about their districts, the easier it is for the Corporation to sell that district to potential investors. She noted that the Corporation strives to work with each district equally. Active prospects for 2018-2019 year to date total a projected \$328.470 million and 575-600+ new jobs, throughout about half of the districts in the City. The Laredo EDC completed two major projects over the last year for a total of \$42.4 million and 105 new jobs with 211 existing jobs retained; these projects were completed in District VI and VII. She voiced the Corporation's intent to have the City go out for an RFP for mixed use development to help achieve upward mobility with the airport, one of Laredo's greatest assets.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, added that the RFP is to solicit a firm commitment from a group to develop the grounds around the airport commercially and expand its services to be the developers of City-owned properties. Cm. Rodriguez asked if that task would better fall under the City's in-house Economic Development Director. Mr. Eads clarified that the RFP would ensure that the development is done by a professional development company who brings the investment dollars to the City, who provides the infrastructure for those services.

Mrs. Varela noted that the Laredo EDC has the pilot program for a security pre-clearance facility, which is for automotive, electronic, and aerospace industries, particularly air cargo. A potential call center is in the works for \$12 million; the location is open though Mrs. Varela voiced her opinion that South Laredo would be ideal due to the housing density there.

Dr. Marte Martinez recalled the City of Round Rock, Texas, built their own water park without any outside investment or resources. When looking at public-private partnership opportunities, Round Rock determined that they were not feasible and came up with their own investment and paid it off within three years. He noted that Council has been wanting to take on a project such as this for some time and would welcome some help as it is viable. Mrs. Varela countered that not going into a public-private partnership shifts the cost of development to the City. There is an investor that is willing to bring more investment dollars to Laredo. She strongly encouraged Council to reach out to the Corporation for any potential projects or meetings with investors in the event that the Laredo EDC can add value to that meeting or project.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez commended Mrs. Varela and the Laredo EDC for their coordination and initiative. Cm. Altgelt agreed, adding that the Corporation serves as a mirror for the City to view its own coordination and initiative.

Cm. Rodriguez asked Mrs. Varela to bring a financial breakdown to the budget workshop so that Council could determine if the Laredo EDC needs any more third party funds given their success. Mrs. Varela reminded Council that one-third of Laredo EDC's third party funding from the City goes to MileOne.

No action taken.

36. Status report by Priscilla Iglesias, Executive Director for Laredo Main Street, for the organization performance in FY2019, with possible action.

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session to discuss Item XIV. 37 and 38.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

37. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(A) to consult with City Attorney and outside counsel relating to ongoing litigation in the City of Laredo, Texas, v. Western Summit Constructors, Inc., McAllen Construction, Inc., A Joint Venture, Dannenbaum Engineering Company-McAllen, LLC, Dannenbaum Engineering Company-Laredo, LLC, Patterson Pump Company, Cause no. 2018CVF001299-D2, pending in the 111th District Court, Webb County, Texas, relating to the construction and design of facilities located at the **EI** Pico Water Treatment Plant, and to return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Pro-Tempore Balli reported that no action was taken.

No action taken.

38. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(2) and Section to consult with City Attorney relating to negotiations with Regional Land Management Services, Ltd., owners of Ponderosa Regional Landfill in connection with long term landfill options for the City of Laredo, and to return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Pro-Tempore Balli reported that no action was

taken.

No action taken.

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

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and convene as the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

39. 2019-RT-08 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application to the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program for 2019 on funding authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act in the amount of \$100,000.00 for El Metro ADA Bus Stop and Bike Plazas Enhancement Program; bus stop locations are set to be in line with planned bike lanes, and safe routes to schools in the district committing the City of Laredo and Laredo Transit Management Incorporated to providing the required local match of \$20,000.00 from District 8 Priority Funds; and acknowledging the availability of funds to pay all up front costs, since the TA Program is a cost reimbursement program as outlined in the MPO Transportation Alternatives Program Guidance and Application Packet for 2019 authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-RT-08.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

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

Motion to adjourn as the Laredo Mass Transit Board and reconvene as the Laredo City Council.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

40. **GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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

1. Discussion with possible action to direct staff to explore alternative exit options for the Northeast part of the City to include the Unitec Industrial Park and surrounding areas where train crossings result in safety concerns; and any matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

B. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion and possible action to have City Staff conduct an audit as to compliance with the City Ordinance that requires all industrial and commercial warehouses/yards/"patios" to be paved so as to avoid environmental contamination of the surrounding areas, especially the residential ones, and any matters incident thereto including but not limited to the issuance of citations and enforcement.

John Porter, Environmental Services Director, reported that staff has already identified areas through Google Earth in which this problem may occur. Building and HazMat inspectors will coordinate with the Building and Engineering Departments to determine if these locations are complying with the ordinance.

Motion to direct staff to ensure businesses operating with yards/warehouses/patios comply with the ordinance.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion and possible action to direct staff to commence all necessary measures to meaningfully investigate why power outages occur every time the wind picks up in Laredo, Texas and any matters incident thereto.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, confirmed that 1,200 power

outages occurred recently in District VII. Cm. Altgelt agreed, recalling many phone calls regarding the issue. He noted that AEP continues to invest in substations and clean lines, but he voided his hope that staff could be tasked with producing a report that explains the causes of the outages and preventive and corrective measures that the City can take.

Cm. Vielma added that some constituents in her district have been trying to secure tree trimming around power lines.

Tony Arce of AEP Texas stated that this subject needs to be readdressed. Outages are not the problem; tree contacts in the right-of-ways has been a significant issue. He researched if any City ordinance could help provide better planting moving forward to prevent trees from growing too close to power lines. He found a requirement in the Code of Ordinances to place shrubs in the public right-of-way.

Cm. Balli agreed that the City's ordinances may be part of the problem, recalling a three-foot wide space in the Casa Verde area that has trees planted that will one be very large. Irrigation comes from a neighborhood in the area, and Cm. Balli noted that this arrangement makes no sense. He noted that ordinances are requiring developers to put in a certain number of trees, and the developers are placing the trees wherever they fit to comply without thought to the problems they cause when they grow to full size. The trees ruin the streets, hit power lines, and are generally obstructing the right-of-way.

Mr. Arce reported that the City of Laredo averages about nine outage events per month caused by tree-related contact; all are in the right-of-way.

Cm. Torres asked who is responsible for trimming trees. Mr. Arce confirmed that AEP Texas trims them with an active crew, and the crew often goes back to the same locations following the growing season. Cm. Torres suggested that the trimming crews prepared to trim prior to storms or maintain the trees.

Mr. Arce suggested that the City and AEP Texas work together to determine tree planting placement. The City of Laredo's Code of Ordinance does not have any language that regulates how close trees can be placed near a power line. The ordinance only states that the trees must be placed in the right-of-way. He suggested that adding setback requirements may be more helpful. He added that there is also a lot of resistance from residents regarding AEP entering their neighborhoods to trim.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, confirmed that trimming of trees is already in the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan. Cm. Balli clarified that the intention of Council is to have the trees placed away from power lines, such as in the utility easement.

Mr. Arce clarified that trimming trees is solely AEP Texas's responsibility, not a responsibility of the municipality. To complaints that the trimming crews are trimming too much of the trees and ruining the aesthetic, he reminded Council

that they just suggested that the crews trim more often. The situation is not as simple as one might believe.

Motion to direct staff to amend the Code of Ordinance to reflect the utility easement for tree planting placement.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action directing Co-Interim City Managers to create an app so that City employees can submit comments, concerns, or questions related to operational or departmental issues and where City Manager/City Council Members can view; and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Altgelt explained that this item would create an internal 3-1-1 system for City of Laredo employees to funnel information to management and City Council.

Homero Vazquez, IST Director, explained that the 3-1-1 application was created to receive, track, and respond to information from citizens. It can customize different reports, dashboard, and data views and has different security levels within department. He informed Council that staff is preparing to launch a new app open to all citizens as an engagement tool.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, clarified that staff will bring this item back to Council to report on the feasibility and cost of Cm. Altgelt's proposed app. Cm. Altgelt emphasized the importance of having anonymity on the app so that an employee can raise a concern or provide a report without being identified.

Mrs. Cabello countered that the employee can always report or raise concerns with the Internal Auditor's Office. She voiced her understanding that this app was for more positive purposes like provide suggestions and recommendations for improvements to the City. She asked why Cm. Altgelt would be adamant for anonymity since transparency has been the highest priority for this Council. Cm. Altgelt explained that the long history of "patron" retribution is his reason.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez voiced his opposition to Cm. Altgelt's suggestion. While he liked the idea of the app itself, he noted that giving Council access to it reeks of micromanagement. He noted that the grievances an employee has should be handled by management and is irrelevant to Council's business.

Cm. Torres voiced his agreement with Cm. Martinez and added that Council responding to the feedback on this app would be interfering with management. Employees already call him to complain about their directors, as disgruntled

employees are present in every organization. He asked if this app would risk Charter violations regarding direct contact between Council and staff.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, stated that if a complaint goes directly to Council and they make any decision on the complaint, then that would potentially violate the Charter.

Cm. Altgelt clarified his intention to treat the app like a reverse inquiry.

Cm. Balli suggested having the new Human Resources Director respond to this issue once she begins her employment. Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion to have the new Human Resources Director develop a recommendation for a 360 communication system between employees, management, and City Council. He added that other staff members can be a part of that process, like the Internal Auditor.

Mrs. Hale stated that the Internal Auditor oversees fraud and waste

Motion to direct management to meet with staff and develop recommendations on how to best facilitate communication anonymously between employees, management, and City Council, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 3	Against: 4	Abstain: 0
Cm. Vielma	Cm. Rodriguez	
Dr. Marte Martinez	Cm. Mercurio Martinez	
Cm. Altgelt	Cm. Torres	
	Cm. Balli	

Motion fails.

Motion to direct management to meet with staff and develop recommendations on how to best facilitate communication between employees, management, and City Council, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5	Against: 2	Abstain: 0
Cm. Torres	Cm. Rodriguez	
Cm. Vielma	Cm. Mercurio Martinez	
Dr. Marte Martinez		
Cm. Altgelt		
Cm. Balli		

C. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Roberto Balli

1. Discussion with possible action to pursue an immigration court for downtown Laredo; and any matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by

Council Member Nelly Vielma and Council Member George Altgelt)

Cm. Balli reported that management has been in talks with Congressman Henry Cuellar's office to pursue an immigration court. There are a few buildings Downtown that can potentially serve as the immigration court. The most viable option currently is the old Federal Court House. Having an immigration court house Downtown will serve the many individuals in the midst of immigration proceedings and traveling throughout the United States. He explained that immigration courts will benefit the City of Laredo financially as both an investment in a Downtown building and economic development for professional jobs. He added that the old Federal Court House would be ideal, but there are other venues that will be adequate, such as the currently-used GSA facility that they will soon vacate and is well-equipped as a court room. He reminded Council that empty buildings are bad for the Downtown area.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his agreement and added that the old federal court house would provide rental revenues as the City owns the building. He suggested memorializing this commitment in the form of a resolution.

Motion to direct management to continue pursuing an immigration court in Downtown Laredo in the form of a resolution and to further direct staff to discuss this matter with any government leaders as necessary to achieve this objective, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on the Boulevard of the Americans Project (4 Blocks) including cost estimate; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

D. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct the Co-Interim City Managers to authorize staff to install speed humps at the 2417 Turin, under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy, and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps, instead of speed cushions, which is currently required under the policy; and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District I Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

E. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action to change the City Council Meeting from July 15, 2019 to July 1, 2019; and any matters incident thereto.

Motion to change the City Council Meeting from July 15, 2019 to July 1, 2019.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct the Co-Interim City Managers to authorize staff to install one (1) speed hump on 3000 Monterrey St., under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy, and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps, instead of speed cushions, which is currently required under the policy; and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District II Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

F. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to re-evaluate Ordinance 2018-0 -050, specifically Section 2-157 (Automatic Forfeiture); and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to establish an Office of Public Integrity responsible for investigating complaints of violations of law, including but not limited to ethics violations and other city ordinances, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Roberto Balli and Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

G. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with LISD, UISD, TAMIU, Laredo College, Webb County and other entities to create a local Grants Office to improve inter-local resources and expertise; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pete Saenz and Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III)

Cesar Hernandez, MileOne Program Director, reported that MileOne houses over 15 numerous workshops, presentations, and meetings. He reminded Council that any individuals who want to be an entrepreneur or start a business does not have to be a MileOne member. The organization has 55 members, 12 mentors, 15 advisory committees, and three teams. MileOne generated \$1.196 million in revenues in 2018 and \$1.562 million in the first quarter of 2019 alone with a projected total 2019 revenue of \$6.248 million. These revenues are generated from the entrepreneur incubators, meaning that the revenues will go back into the community and not the organization. The City's funding to MileOne is used for the administrative lease, administrative salaries, operations, maintenance, utilities, and marketing.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the school and colleges, along with Webb County and other entities, are trying to bring business to Laredo. However, all the groups have not been able to sit down at the same table for the purposes of economic development. He suggested establishing an MOU to start participating so that the full taxing body can find ways to incentivize businesses in the community.

Cm. Vielma voiced her agreement and noted that there can be a way to achieve this goal without having a heavy impact on the City's budget. The City is usually made aware of grant opportunities with too little time to get all interested parties together so that they can pool information. However, all entities have a grant writer, so it would be easier to divide the task among the

multiple experts. She reported that some of the entities are already on board.

Cm. Torres stated that several members of Council has expressed support of a concerted effort towards economic development. To hear Cm. Vielma's proposal focus more on grants than shared economic development, he reached out to County officials to find that they did not know what this agenda item was about. He asked if the MOU terms were already prepared or if Cm. Vielma was suggesting to develop one.

Cm. Vielma clarified that there are not already terms to the MOU, but she had spoken to multiple County departments regarding this issue. Her item was not meant to interfere with anything related to economic development.

Cm. Torres countered that mixing grants with economic development is not Council's objective. Everyone has prioritized economic development, and he voiced opposition to shifting focus to grants as they are unrelated.

Dr. Martinez clarified that he brought up the subject of grants in the spirit of interdepartmental cooperation. Cm. Torres reiterated his disagreement with having all of these entities under one roof for grant seeking due to the effort involved in pursuing grants. It is also counterintuitive to collaborate with the County in grant applications because in many instances, the City actually competes with the County for grant funding.

Cm. Altgelt voiced agreement with Cm. Torres' sentiments. Olivia Varela, Laredo Economic Development Corporation President and CEO, agreed that grant-seeking entities should stay separate because Webb County has had a grant writer for many years. The Corporation approached that grant writer for the purposes of collaboration and soon realized that there was a significant conflict of interest. There is not much of a conflict of interest with the grant writer at Laredo College, but the entities are often in conflict with one another and must proceed with tremendous caution.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, informed Council that staff would like to talk about these two issues separately with the Economic Development Advisory Committee. He voiced agreement to keep the entities separate in terms of grant-seeking because while there may be only one taxpayer, there are multiple stakeholders with the City of Laredo and the City Council. He advised Council to allow the City to remain operationally autonomous.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, reminded Council that currently, the City and County are competing with one another for bulletproof vests, as an example. It would be very complicated to differentiate the priorities of each entity versus the collective group. She hesitated to give a recommendation without giving the topic more consideration.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if this MOU or collaboration would require personnel or funding; Cm. Vielma clarified that she is not requesting that. It would simply be a "meeting of the minds." Cm. Rodriguez stated that the Council already has

an Economic Development Advisory Committee that they are responsible for filling. He has also been inquiring on the status of an Economic Development Director for some time and suggested that the City get its own affairs in order before attempting this endeavor.

Cm. Vielma countered that her item does not have any reference to economic development so Cm. Rodriguez's comments are not necessary.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to commission TAMIU to start a historical compilation of video testimonials and evidence documentation of local veterans biographies; and any other items incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to negotiate the terms for an MOU between EI Lift & UISD's Cherish Center to provide mobility training & transportation transition services for adult students with special needs; and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Vielma noted that she has a child in the Cherish program which provides children with special needs with vocational treatment. Currently, the kids are taken by the school bus to job sites. When those children mature and enter the job force, they will not be able to rely on the school bus system. Cm. Vielma reported that she met with the United ISD superintendent who sent a proposal for an MOU that would allow United ISD to use EI Lift and pay for whatever rate or costs that the student would incur. The MOU would essentially reimburse EI Lift for the student rate. While the school bus system is adequate, Cm. Vielma reminded Council that students who are about to graduate need transitional services so that they can navigate the public transportation system to get to their employment.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, explained that federal transit laws and regulations place limitations on the use of the public transportation system to transport students to and from school and school-sponsored events.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit Director, confirmed Mrs. Cabello's statements that the City's El Lift and El Metro services cannot compete by using federally-funded vehicles for this purpose.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.