

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2019-R-11
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
July 1, 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. Vielma joined at 5:39 p.m.

Cm. Altgelt joined at 5:39 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of June 10, 2019 and June 17, 2019.

Motion to approve the June 10, 2019, and the June 17, 2019 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

Citizen comments

David James reminded Council of the need to focus on a secondary water source. The citizens have been paying their utility bill with the promise and expectation of a secondary water source to no results. The Rio Grande should be viewed as an endangered river. He noted a water source that can supply South Texas with water for 300 years and voiced his hope that this matter can be added to the Council agenda for discussion. If the City of Laredo follows the appropriate procedure, the City could control the water for all future farming in South Texas, particularly industrial hemp.

VI. VETERAN RECOGNITION

1. Honoring Veteran of the Month Juan Tovar Jr. as a member of the United States Marines and recognizing his distinguished service to our country.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, introduced Juan Tovar, Jr., who was part of the inaugural 1996 Junior ROTC Class when it opened at United South High School. After graduating high school, he joined the Marine Corps where he trained at 29 Palms in California. He then served overseas with a deployment to Camp Courtney in Okinawa, Japan. His active duty service ended when he was honorably discharged in 2003. Mr. Tovar has been employed with the Laredo Police Department since 2004. Mr. Garcia played a video presentation highlighting Mr. Tovar's career and military and personal experiences.

Mr. Tovar received a standing ovation. Mayor Saenz presented him with a certificate of recognition for his service.

VII. RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing American Airlines Laredo station employees for winning the Customer Cup that demonstrated the strongest performance in Customer Experience at the Laredo International Airport. Competing against other American Airlines Group stations of same size and operational likeness in areas of Departure Dependability, Turn Dependability, Baggage Performance, Customer Feedback, and Overall Airport Experience.

Jeff Miller, Airport Director, congratulated the station manager. Martin Alarcon, station manager, noted that this is the first time Laredo International Airport American Airlines employees have won the Customer Cup since the competition began 11 years ago. It is a quarterly award that celebrates outstanding performance and customer service experience. The Laredo International Airport staff competes with 45 other stations across the country.

Mayor Saenz presented Mr. Alarcon with a certificate of recognition for the staff's

excellent customer service.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Romy Garza Limon to the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Romy Garza Limon to the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

2. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Poncho Ruiz to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Poncho Ruiz to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

3. Appointment by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez of Jose Luis Villarreal, Jr. to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Jose Luis Villarreal, Jr. to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing allowing interested persons to comment on the 2019-2020 One Year Action plan which identifies the projects proposed to be funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City anticipates receiving \$3,730,742.00 in 45th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$1,085,399.00 through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and \$316,494.00 through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). An additional \$2,800.00.00 is anticipated to be received through CDBG program income, \$72,000.00 in Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan funds, and \$260,000.00 in HOME program income. The following projects are proposed to be funded:

45th AY Community Development Block Grant		
1	Community Development Administration	\$746,148
2	Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$306,308
3	Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program	\$593,676
4	Code Enforcement	\$505,182
5	Graffiti Removal Program	\$30,671
6	Downtown Senior Recreational Program	\$151,557
7	Ejido/Lomas del Sur Traffic Light Project	\$150,000
8	Downtown Rental Rehabilitation Program	\$275,000
9	Downtown Neighborhood Access Improvements	\$100,000
10	District I – Ejido/Pita Mangana Traffic Light Project	\$125,000
11	District II – Cigarroa Park Splash Pad	\$225,000
12	District III – Design of South Laredo Nature Center Trails	\$25,000
13	District IV - Sidewalks	\$125,000
14	District V – De Llano Park Improvements	\$125,000
15	District VII - Neighborhood Bike Lanes	\$125,000
16	District VIII - Sidewalks	\$125,000
	TOTAL	\$3,733,542

Revolving Loan		
17	Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Administration	\$7,027
18	Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program	\$64,973
	TOTAL	\$72,000

HOME Investment Partnership Grant		
19	HOME Program Administration	\$107,139

20	Down Payment Assistance Program (PI)	\$260,000
21	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$390,000
22	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)	\$162,810
23	Inner City Affordable Rental Housing	\$425,450
	TOTAL	\$1,345,399

Emergency Solutions Grant		
24	ESG Program Administration	\$16,258
25	Emergency Shelter – Shelter Operations	\$95,000
26	Emergency Shelter – Essential Services	\$45,000
27	Street Outreach	\$9,884
28	Rapid Re-Housing	\$82,352
29	Homelessness Prevention	\$60,000
30	Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	\$8,000
	TOTAL	\$316,494

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Buildings and Building Regulations, Section 7-2 of the Code of Ordinances and Chapter 24, Appendix D, Permit Fees, to establish new building permit and plan/checking fees for residential construction in accordance with HB 852; providing a cumulative and repealer clause; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; providing for a penalty; and declaring an effective date of September 1, 2019.

Jesus Ruiz noted that the State of Texas is pushing the issue of affordable housing

to the local level. He asked Council to remove the automatic yearly increase portion of this ordinance because not all expenses increase in a linear fashion. The process has several variable and fixed costs that would not accurately be reflected in this increase. He noted that the total fees on the construction of a new 1,400 square foot home would result in a cost reduction on his part as a builder. He noted that third party inspections may be a benefit to the City as many are already performed and a significant portion of 2018 inspections were done with the same 10 builders. Third party inspections may result in improved construction quality because the builder can work with the inspector to improve his/her processes. The City can perform spot checks on the inspections and determine what is required from the inspector regarding documentation.

Dr. Marte Martinez suggested that a change such as this one be modeled after what is successfully being seen in other communities. He asked staff for a recommendation.

Victor Linares, Acting Building Director, confirmed that this item has come up in previous Technical Review Board (TRB) meetings. He noted that previous research shows that other municipalities do not facilitate third party inspections. He cautioned Council that staff has identified potential conflicts of interest as the Certificate of Occupancy is signed by the Building Official. This means that the Building Official signs a certificate based on the approval from a hired inspector. He also noted that the 1.5% increase is based upon the mid-grade salaries in the Department, so the increase assures that the fees are able to cover operations.

Dr. Martinez voiced his agreement with Mr. Linares' arguments for the increasing the rate but added that a compromise could be reviewing the rate every other year.

Mr. Linares confirmed that the Building Development Services Department has four inspectors currently performing these duties, and he projected that the Department will ask for more in the next budget cycle. He noted that some inspectors are specialized, but the Department is moving towards cross-training to allow inspectors to complete their assignments completely and provide better customer service. The Department also intends to go paperless in the coming years.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez asked about the wait time for inspections. Mr. Linares noted that new construction inspections can be performed the day after they are requested. The inspection that gives the Department more trouble is the new business inspection, as it is a complicated application process with multiple Departments involved. He added that inspectors are given a year to complete their certification. Once they have received certification, they are given some time to analyze their strengths.

Cm. Altgelt reminded staff that without data, Council cannot answer any of the questions that they have or that the public directs to them.

Andy Gonzalez, Laredo Builders Association President, commiserated with the struggles presented to the Building Development Services Department as he used to be the Building Official before entering the private sector. He asked that staff

present this ordinance to the Laredo Builders Association before it is adopted and that staff works with the industry to ensure a comprehensive ordinance that meets the needs of the City and stakeholders.

Mr. Ruiz reminded Council that City staff does not work on the weekends; self-employed and private entities do. Every day that is lost on construction waiting for a weekday when the City can perform inspections is a lost day, and yet builders still must pay City taxes, insurances, and bank interest. These costs are invisible but are often the most expensive ones. Extensions of construction keeps the project vulnerable to vandalism as well. He encouraged Council to spend time managing the process, not micromanaging people.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce with an amendment to remove the automatic yearly increase and include an increase evaluation every two years.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez
Second: Cm. Vielma
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending Chapter 31, (Utilities), Article III (water) Division 3 (rates and charges), of the City's Code of Ordinances related to the establishment of a new rate schedule for different categories of wastewater effluent sales; providing a savings clause; providing a severability clause; providing a penalty provision and providing an effective date.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

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

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance ratifying the execution of a contract amendment 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 \$70,000.00 for a total of \$205,000.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies Program (formerly Healthy Texas Babies) to promote maternal child health services for the term from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2020.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Laredo (City), the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA), and the Webb County Drainage District No. 1 (Drainage District) for the development of a new arterial road, as further identified in attached Exhibits 3 and 4, extending from the intersection of Loop 20 (Cuatro Vientos Road) and Los Presidentes Avenue to its intersection with the extension of Concord Hills Boulevard. Also authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to amend the FY2018-2019 Capital Grants Fund Budget by appropriating the estimated total project cost of \$3,070,000.00, which will include: design, permitting, construction, construction oversight, Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") coordination, and environmental clearance. The Laredo District of the Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT") has committed to construct acceleration and deceleration lanes on Loop 20 (Cuatro Vientos Road), which will provide access to the project, at a cost of approximately \$730,000.00. Contributions toward the total estimated \$3,070,000.00 project cost are as follows: \$1,400,000.00 by the City, \$600,000.00 by the Drainage District, and \$1,070,000.00 by the WC-CL RMA. Funding is available in the Capital Grants Fund.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Laredo (City), and the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA), for the development of turn lanes, as further identified in attached exhibit, to be located at the intersection of Killam Industrial Boulevard and Farm to Market Road 1472 (Mines Road). Also authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to amend the FY2018-2019 Capital Grants Fund Budget by appropriating the estimated total project cost of \$2,700,000.00, which will include design, permitting, construction, construction oversight, and environmental clearance. Killam Development, Ltd. ("Killam") has committed to donating the required right-of-way ("ROW") to the project. Contributions towards the total estimated \$2,700,000.00 project cost are as follows: \$1,600,000.00 by the City, and \$1,100,000.00 by the WC-CL RMA.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Task Force and Police Trust Fund budgets by transferring revenues, expenditures and fund balance of \$3,644,140.00 to the Police Trust Fund. These amendments are transferred to the Financial Task Force equitable sharing funds to the Police Trust Fund due to the new equitable sharing guidelines that became effective this fiscal year.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

X. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

8. Accepting the donation from Riverhills Investment LLC, of a 18.785 acre tract of land, more or less, situated in Porcion 35, Abstract 546, Jose M. Diaz, Original Grantee and Survey 2149, Abstract 594, R.H. Raines, Original Grantee, within the City Limits of the Laredo and Webb County, Texas, out and part of the New Santa Fe, LTD. (71.986 Acre) Tract I, recorded in Volume 4394, Pages 566-572 of the Webb County deed records. This property has an appraised value of \$410,000.00 based on the Independent Appraisal Report by State Certified Appraiser Byron B. Hinton from JDH Valuation Group, Fredericksburg, Texas.

Dr. Marte Martinez recused himself from this item.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council (with a recusal from Dr. Marte Martinez)

9. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Article II, Division 1, of the Code of Ordinances by repealing Section 2-29, "Reimbursements," and replacing with a new comprehensive Section 2-29, to be entitled "Compensation of Mayor and Council Members," to provide for all the compensation, allowable expenses, and any other benefits of the members of the City Council; providing for procedures for reimbursement of expenses; providing that business expenses associated with transportation/vehicle, home office, and cell phone will be reimbursed to members of the governing body under a non-accountable plan; providing that a member of the governing body may elect to be reimbursed under an accountable plan for the actual and necessary expenses associated with transportation/vehicle, home office, and cell phone with the corresponding expense substantiation on a form to be provided by the director of financial services; providing for a cumulative clause and repealer clause; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

10. An Ordinance amending Section 2-157 of the Laredo City Code to provide that committee members shall automatically forfeit their appointed position for failure to attend four (4) regularly scheduled meetings only in one calendar year; to provide that a committee member who forfeits an appointed position for failure to attend four (4) regularly scheduled meetings is not eligible for appointment to any committee until the expiration of the current term of the appointing member of the city council; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

11. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, adopting the revised City of Laredo Priority Procedures Handbook for City Council and City boards, commissions, and committees; adopting rules governing the manner in which City Council meetings are conducted; providing for a cumulative clause; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XI. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2019-O-099, 2019-O-100, and 2019-O-101.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

12. 2019-O-099 Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 19, Motor Vehicle and Traffic, Article VIII, Stopping, Standing or Parking, of the Laredo Code of Ordinances Section 19-355, by adding time limits to subsection (b); Sec. 19-360 subsection (a) (1) by revising boundaries; subsection (a) (3) by revising length of time, subsection (a) (4) by excluding boundaries, and adding subsection (5); subsection (b) by revising hours of operations, providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-099.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

13. 2019-O-100 Establishing rental rates and tenant policies at the Fernando A. Salinas Elderly Rental Housing projects located at 1803 and 1806 Juarez Avenue; providing for rents to be in compliance and charged at HOME program rent limits; occupancy to be limited to persons aged 62 years or older with incomes at or below 60% of the area median income as set annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and leasing of the units on a first come first serve basis.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-100.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

14. 2019-O-101 Amending Ordinance No. 2015-O-131 which provides for the rental rate structure of the Downtown Elderly Duplexes located at 1901 Farragut Street. This amendment increases the monthly rental fee amounts effective October 1, 2019 and establishing the following rates: \$425.00 for a one bedroom unit and \$500.00 for a two bedroom unit. It is necessary to increase the existing monthly rates in order to cover for additional operational costs associated with maintenance, repairs, and improvements for current duplexes; providing security deposits for new tenants on or after October 1, 2019 will be established at the same rate as the rental amount; repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-101.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

15. **BUILDING**: STAFF SOURCE VICTOR LINARES, ACTING BUILDING DIRECTOR
- a. 2019-R-96 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Garcia Realty & Investments L.L.C. for a proposed project located at 811 Iturbide St., lot 8; block 26; western division that consists of Commercial/ Rehabilitation, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$22,653.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$143.63 and permit fees to be waived. Project is situated in District VIII. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-096.

Moved: Cm. Torres

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

- a. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Laredo, Webb County, and Laredo Crime Stoppers establishing the Laredo-Webb County Animal Cruelty Task Force to streamline and improve the process for reporting animal cruelty in Webb County, and ensure maximum coordination in the investigation and management of allegations of abuse or neglect of animals.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

17. **ENGINEERING**: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

- a. Consideration for approval of the selection of a consultant for the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course Master Planning hike/bike/birding trails located at 27700 FM 1472 and adjacent areas, and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. A total of seven (7) firms responded to the request for qualifications. The evaluation committee recommends the selection of the top ranked firm: JHS Metaform Studio Architects, Laredo, Texas in association with Nicholson Innovations, Schertz, Texas, S&B Infrastructure, Laredo, Texas, Trinity MEP Engineering, Weslaco, Texas, Synergy Structural Engineering, Inc., Laredo, Texas, and Core Design Studio, Houston, Texas. There is no financial impact at this time.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

After additional discussion, Cm. Altgelt reported meeting with staff about the RFQs and noted that JHS Metaform Studio Architects and Nicholson Innovations were nowhere to be found on the Secretary of State's website; these two vendors have no web presence. In light of that, he initiated a motion to award the contract to Crane Engineering.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, noted that this is the first she has heard that Cm. Altgelt met with staff and had concerns over the top-ranked vendor. She noted that she is not comfortable supporting or contradicting his motion at this time and would like to do some of her own research.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, reported that the RFQ evaluations were performed by a committee of several Department Directors. The scores are based on the responses received. He noted that all companies are licensed under the Secretary of State website.

Cm. Altgelt countered that Nicholson Innovations has forfeited its existence. Mr. Chavez confirmed.

Mayor Saenz asked if confirming the existence of a company is part of the protocol when staff evaluates bid and RFQ/RFP responses.

Cm. Torres noted that agenda items are assumed to be management's recommendations. He voiced his concern that the Purchasing Department did not notice this.

Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Agent, clarified that this bid is an Engineering architectural bid; the Purchasing Department did not manage this RFQ.

Mrs. Cabello asked if the first choice vendor has been contacted to verify this information. Mr. Chavez stated that they had not.

Cm. Altgelt reported that Graciela Briones of the Parks & Leisure Services Department noted that Crane Engineering was the only vendor to submit a time schedule. The City would not be hiring Crane Engineering to hire contractors to do the work; Crane Engineering would perform the work. He added that if he were to join a master planned golf course with a master planned birding trail, he would want to review the landscaping architect's portfolio and confirm that the architect is still operating. He added that Crane Engineering is local with the money staying in Laredo. He initiated a motion to rescind the previous approval of this contract and instead award it to Crane Engineering.

Mayor Saenz noted that the Co-Interim City Managers asked for more time to verify Cm. Altgelt's information, although Cm. Altgelt is likely correct. If he were the vendor who scored so high on a RFQ, he would want Council to allow time for him to defend his position.

Motion to rescind approval and award the contract to Crane Engineering.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

- b. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to Slay Architecture, Laredo, Texas for an amount not to exceed \$86,300.00 for the Barbara Fasken Community Center to include a public special purpose

outdoor swimming pool to provide recreational and instructional activities, a kid's tree house, a natural feature, lighting, cameras, and other amenities located at 15201 Cerralvo Dr.; Funding is available in the 2017 CO-District VII Priority Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

18. **FINANCE**: STAFF SOURCE JOSE F. CASTILLO, ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR

- a. Consideration to renew contract FY14-048 with Southern Sanitation, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$73,627.44, to provide trash collection services for large volume containers. These services will be required for various city operations such as the Airport, Bridge System, Parks and Leisure, Public Access, Fleet Management, Traffic, Transit, Municipal Housing, Environmental Engineering, Utilities, and Solid Waste Departments. The contract vendor is also required to provide these containers for special events such as the Household Collection Event. 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 last extension period for this contract. Funding for these services are available in various departmental funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

19. **FLEET MANAGEMENT**: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, ACTING FLEET DIRECTOR

- a. Consideration to renew contract number FY14-062 with Lozano Body Shop, Laredo, Texas, in an annual amount of up to \$225,000.00 to provide automotive and truck body shop repair services for the Fleet Department. The contract is for a three (3) year term and is subject to future appropriations. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the last extension period for this contract. All repair services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

- b. Consideration to renew annual service contract FY17-046 with Fox Truck World LLC., San Antonio, TX, in an amount up to \$150,000.00 for original equipment manufacturer (OEM) truck repair services for the City's automated side loader trucks. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the second of four 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: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

- c. Consideration to award contract FY19-071 to the low bidder Octane Forklifts, Denver, Colorado, for the purchase of one (1) heavy duty forklift in the amount \$97,751.00 for the Utilities Department. This forklift will be utilized for the unloading of oversize diameter pipe for the Utilites Warehouse. Funding is available in the Water 2018 PFFCO and the Utilities Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

- d. Consideration to renew a two year contract FY17-044 with CABCO Auctioneering Services, Laredo, Texas for auctioneer services for the sale of city surplus vehicles and equipment; CABCO's auctioneer (commission) fee is 20% of the gross sales. The intent of this contract is to conduct turn key public auctions, in accordance to Laws of the State of Texas (TX Department of License and Regulation), for disposal of surplus items on an as needed basis. This is the first of two - two year extension periods. There was no price increase during the last two year extension period.

Motion to approve.

She recalled that this item was brought to Council before, and Council was told that this event had to be paid with promotional funds. She asked how and when staff found funding for this event.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, explained that the sports venue funds are for maintenance and operations. This event qualifies as an operational expense. Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, clarified that this item is back before Council because staff was directed to visit with the Tecolotes to see if they would partner with the City. The Tecos responded that they are unable to do so at this time, so staff must fund the event completely.

Anita Stanley, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, reported that the Tecolotes have since told staff that they will split the cost of the event with the City. Each party will pay \$5,000 for the event.

Cm. Torres voiced his understanding that the fireworks themselves were paid out of the General Fund and Council Members would pay for additional events or services that they wanted to provide, like popcorn and drinks, from their promotional funds. He recalled suggesting that the Tecolotes share the cost of the fireworks event as they stood to benefit from having the event at their game and should share the cost.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

- b. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to grant a public fireworks permit for the City of Laredo at Independence Hills Park located at 1102 N. Merida Drive; and authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a service agreement with Magic in the Sky, LLC, for the fireworks display at Independence Hills Park in the amount of \$10,000.00. The display will take place on the evening of July 4, 2019. Funding is available in the Parks & Recreation Department Budget.

Cm. Vielma recalled that this item was brought to Council before, and Council was told that this event had to be paid with promotional funds. She asked how and when staff found funding for this event.

Anita Stanley, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, explained that every year, staff has pulled from the General Fund to pay for a City-wide Fourth of July event. This event has taken place for years.

Cm. Vielma asked if the City-wide event poster should have the City logo or a picture of the Mayor; she recalled a poster that only had some officials from other entities, but she was told that she would have to pay from her

promotional funds to have her picture included on a City-wide event poster. She stated her opinion that a City-wide event poster should either have no picture or just the City logo.

Cm. Torres noted that the agenda item is to approve the expense and not discuss its advertising. He suggested that Cm. Vielma discuss her issue with administration at another time. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, agreed that advertising is not part of this agenda item. Cm. Vielma countered that the expense account that is paying for the event is on the agenda, which is her discussion point. She was told previously that these events must be paid out of promotional accounts and asked why suddenly they are being paid out of a different account.

Cm. Gonzalez confirmed that he and Cm. Rodriguez are still using their promotional funds to pay for the Independence Hills Park fireworks display.

Cm. Torres voiced his understanding that the fireworks themselves were paid out of the General Fund and Council Members would pay for additional events or services that they wanted to provide, like popcorn and drinks, from their promotional funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

22. **UTILITIES**: STAFF SOURCE RIAZUL MIA, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

- a. Consideration to renew contract FY15-030 with Core & Main, LP, San Antonio, Texas in an amount of up to \$1,395,114.27 for the purchase of AMI/AMR turbine water meters sizes 3" to 8", meter kits, (register/endpoint/antenna) and Unitizing Measuring Elements (UME's) for the Utilities Department. All meters meet NSF Standard 61 Certification and NSF 61 Annex F and G (lead requirements). All meters and meter kits will be ordered on an as needed basis. 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. Funding is available in the WaterWorks System Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

- b. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to purchase the Wireless Flow Monitoring Equipment required to calculate the hydraulic model and design the sanitary sewer of the City, from ADS Environmental Services from Huntsville, Alabama in the amount of \$83,176.20. Funding is available in the Sewer 2018 PFCO and Utilities Department, Wastewater Division Operational Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

- c. Authorizing Co-Interim City Managers to award and execute the construction contract to System Controls & Instrumentation, LLC (SCI), New Braunfels, Texas in the amount of \$1,342,072.00, for the City of Laredo High Service Pump Variable Frequency Drive(VFD) and Power Factor Correction at the Jefferson Street Water Treatment Plant. Construction time is two hundred and seventy (270) working days for final completion. Contract Award is subject to Texas State Energy Conservation LoanSTAR Agreement Amendment approval. Funds are available in the Water Fund - State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) Loan.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

- d. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to sign the permit with Kansas City Rail Road (KCS) to construct the sewer interceptor line from Zacate creek sewer treatment plant to the Chacon creek sewer interceptor. Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond to pay the permit fee in the amount of \$9,375.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

- e. Consideration to award a contract, for the purchase of computer data storage, servers and networking equipment for the Utilities Department, to Network Alliance, LLC., San Antonio,Tx., through Texas Department of Information

Resources (DIR) contract pricing, in the amount of \$487,803.25. Funding is available in the Water and Sewer Construction Funds, Utility I.S. Improvement projects.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

- f. Consideration to renew annual supply contract number FY18-056 for the purchase of copper pipe type K and crosslinked polyethylene (PEXAa) pipe for the Utilities Department. These materials are purchased on an as needed basis by the Utilities Department- Water Operations for construction and repair projects. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one year. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the first of two extension periods. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.
1. Section I - Core and Main, LLC., St. Louis, Missouri, in an amount up to \$150,000.00; and
 2. Section II - Tenoch Distribution, LLC., San Antonio, Texas, in an amount up to \$100,00.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

23. Discussion with possible action on ongoing audits and/or irregularities identified by the Internal Auditor including the potential assignment of other and/or additional auditing duties; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

24. Discussion with possible action to initiate a Sister Cities agreement with the State of Jalisco and authorize a signing on July 9, 2019.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

25. Discussion with possible action on the funding and in-kind support of the 2019 PONY Annual Baseball Tournament (Bronco & Palomino categories) expecting visitors from the U.S., Asia and Europe from August 1-5, 2019; and any other matters incident thereto.

Aileen Ramos, Convention & Visitors Bureau Director, presented the itemized request of the PONY Bronco and Palomino World Series on August 1-5, 2019, as follows:

Ground Transportation	\$25,000
Team/Officials Housing	\$34,700
Internet Live Streaming	\$7,500
Field Rental	\$4,400
Staff	\$1,915
Total	\$73,515

Anita Stanley, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, added that PONY League is planning to utilize Uni-Trade Stadium and Freddie Benavides Fields 1 and 2 for this baseball World Series. The field rental fee is for all fields; staff can waived the rental fee, but it is still an expense.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, confirmed that the City can waive the field rental fees in-house, but staff wanted to present all expenses to the City so that Council may fully see the costs to the City.

J.J. Gomez, Athletic Superintendent, clarified that there are 24 calendar days in which the City can host events at the Uni-Trade Stadium without the Tecolotes. The Tecos are playing away during this time. He added that the PONY Baseball World Series is not the same event as the PONY Softball World Series held two years ago; that event was just a zone tournament series. This event is a true World Series featuring 10 teams from all over the world.

MPT Balli asked about the Internet Livestreaming feature. Richard Rosas, PONY League President, informed Council that PONY raised the \$7,500 last year, and there were about 21,000 viewers during last year's tournament. He encouraged Council to support this expense as it is popular and important. Mr. Eads noted that staff can look at the options and

Motion to approve the whole amount of \$46,000 for the World Series and \$73,000 for PONY and to direct staff to bring a ratification back to Council along with a drawdown recommendation from sports venue tax if needed, as amended.

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Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

26. Discussion with possible action on the funding and in-kind support for the 2019-2020 Texas World Series Tournaments; and any other matters incident thereto.

Aileen Ramos, Convention & Visitors Bureau Director, presented the itemized expenses for the Texas World Series on August 1-5, 2019, as follows:

Ground Transportation	\$18,000
Team/Officials Housing	\$20,700
Baseballs 20 boxes @ \$50	\$1,000
Rings, Awards 125 @ 10	\$1,250
Field Rental	\$3,300
Staff	\$2,223
Total	\$46,473

She recommended that if the City is to support a baseball event, staff recommends supporting the two larger World Series. She clarified that both events can happen concurrently.

Mrs. Ramos presented the itemized expenses for the Texas World Series on February 20-24, 2020, as follows:

Ground Transportation	\$18,000
Team/Officials Housing	\$20,700
Baseballs 20 boxes @ \$50	\$1,000
Rings, Awards 125 @ 10	\$1,250
Field Rental	\$4,750
Staff	\$2,223
Total	\$47,923

Mrs. Cabello clarified that the February 2020 World Series takes place in the next fiscal year, both of the August World Series will be this fiscal year. She noted that the City would be approve \$98,400 if Council approves all baseball events at this time. She explained that management cut many of the Parks Department's event which resulted in a \$74,000 savings, so the Department does not have much resources to assist with baseball events. She clarified that the City has other options for funding, but staff would need to bring this back to Council for a public hearing and draw down from the fund balance.

Cm. Altgelt asked if the City can set up the Internet livestreaming in-house or do something else to lower the costs of these events. Mrs. Cabello reminded Council that FTA does not allow the City to waive transportation costs. If the City waived transportation costs in the past, it was done inappropriately. She noted that the teams could ask the local school districts to assist with ground transportation.

Mr. Eads added that the PONY ground transportation request includes transportation from outside the City (San Antonio) to the City. Mrs. Ramos added that since the PONY baseball tournament is expected to be somewhat smaller than the softball tournament, Laredo should be able to accommodate both World Series events. Staff is paying for a significant portion of the hotel accommodations, which the City will not recover.

Dr. Marte Martinez stated that Council Members must be good stewards of their tax base and must also see what proposed events will bring to the community. The quality of life experiences that come to the community through World Series events is invaluable.

MPT Balli agreed, noting that the voters approved a baseball sports complex, and when tournament are in town, visitors can be seen in the malls and at restaurants and shops. The financial impact is clear. He asked staff for a realistic recommendation.

Mrs. Cabello stated that if Council wants to fund all of the presented World Series, it would have to be done through a drawdown. Otherwise, staff has \$74,000 to work with. Mrs. Ramos clarified that if Council directs the \$74,000 to these events, staff will have to cut other events that were already planned. The baseball World Series events were not already in the Department's budget.

Cm. Torres asked what the CVB Department will have to forfeit in order to utilize the \$74,000. Mrs. Ramos noted that staff could provide the \$74,000 but would not be able to provide any more funding without further cuts.

Mr. Eads confirmed that the ground transportation and housing costs of all of the two FY2019 events total \$98,000. Mrs. Cabello stated that staff could bring a ratification back to Council at the next Council meeting.

Motion to approve the whole amount of \$46,000 for the World Series and \$73,000 for PONY and to direct staff to bring a ratification back to Council along with a drawdown recommendation from sports venue tax if needed, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

27. Discussion with possible action to approve the name change of Santa Maria

Avenue between 4200 and 4500 Santa Maria Avenue to "Canizalez Avenue" after brothers Orlando and Jose "Gaby" Canizalez.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. 2019-RT-05 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to accept and execute the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Application No. TX-2019-063-00 in the amount of \$196,853.00. Funding will be for the purchase of Rolling Stock (2 Vans) for the Laredo Transit El Lift Department and Bethany House of Laredo (1). The required local match in the amount of \$29,529.00 for the Laredo Transit El Lift is funded with the Transit Sales Tax in the amount of \$18,274.00. Local match in the amount of \$11,255.00 for Bethany House of Laredo will be in cash from Bethany House.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-RT-05.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. 2019-RT-09 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) no. CSJ-0922-33-181 with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$200,000.00 including an estimated local participation in the amount of \$76,000.00 including overruns for the city improvement of ADA Bus Stops and Bicycle Plazas Project. The required local match is funded from the Transit local sales tax.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-RT-09.

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

30. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to establish a Transit Advertisement Program. In line with the Five Year Comprehensive Transit Develepoment Plan, the Transit Department currently has fifty (50) bus stop advertismen benches that can generate revenue oportunities that will be 100% allocated for bus stop improvements.

Motion to approve.

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

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. Gonzalez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to replace existing bleachers with larger bleachers and to include shades at the Independence Park Baseball Field; and any matters incident thereto. Funding available in District I Priority Funds.

Graciela Briones, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, reported that the cost estimate for the shades and bleachers are as follows:

4 New Shades (18'x20'x12')	\$27,000
4 Bleachers (15'/5-row)	\$18,000
Total	\$45,000

Motion to approve staff recommendation.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

B. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Discussion with possible action on amending Chapter 31 of the Code of Ordinances in order to establish a separate category for water/sewer rates applicable to multi-family properties when supplied through a single or shared meter, and any other matter incident thereto.

Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, reminded Council that the City just performed a water rate study of the residential and commercial accounts; of the 9,000 commercial accounts, there are almost 2,300 multifamily properties. This accounts for 25% of commercial accounts, and modifying the rates to these properties will have a major impact on revenues. He recommended Council not move forward with this item at this time unless the City were to perform another rate study to assess the financial impact.

Dr. Marte Martinez recalled a discussion to perform a rate study as part of a comprehensive utility master plan with regards to development fees and impact fees. He suggested that Council and staff consider this population as part of that study. Families who live in multi-family or low-income housing should be protected, which may include a separate category for their water and sewer rates.

Mr. Mia explained that all multi-family properties are categorized as commercial unless they get a separate meter. Once they obtain a separate meter, they are categorized as residential. Commercial accounts bring about 1/3 of the City's utility revenue, and multi-family properties make up 25% of commercial accounts. He reiterated his recommendation for Council to not move forward without another rate study given the significant impact any action will have on revenues.

MPT Balli reminded Council that this issue was specifically brought to the City's attention in a recent Council meeting by a citizen. He recalled addressing this issue with Mr. Mia and getting the response that staff would make the adjustment for multi-family properties that share a meter to be considered residential. It was his understanding that this issue has been taken care of, and the current discussion contradicts with his understanding.

Dr. Martinez noted that considering multi-family properties as commercial benefits the property owner, but the benefit is not passed down to the end user because water costs are typically included in the rent itself. This problem is two-fold: the City should consider and safeguard at-risk citizens who live in multi-family properties, and the categorization of multi-family properties has to be differentiated with regards to utility services.

MPT Balli stated that rates are passed onto the end users because condominium association fees are based on costs, including water and sewer. He voiced his opinion that the City does not need another study; he understood that Council already approved an item in which staff was going to make the

distinction between true commercial accounts and multi-family residential accounts. Cm. Altgelt added that his understanding of the situation was similar to MPT Balli's.

Mr. Mia clarified that MPT Balli's understanding was discussed, but when the ordinance was introduced that directive was not included. The commercial rate includes a decedent against overusage of water; if residents use more than 10,000 gallons of water, the rate increases. MPT Balli noted that this "punishment rate" is designed for one user, not for a multi-unit property sharing a meter. However, based on the number of residents sharing a meter, the property will very likely exceed the threshold for the higher rate and all users will have to pay that higher rate even if they did not individually use more water than the threshold amount. He voiced his opinion that the City should change the ordinance to account for that. To address Council's concerns, the City must classify condominiums and apartments must be classified as residential accounts.

Mr. Mia emphasized that if Council wants to modify the rate model, then a study needs to be done to visualize the financial impact of that modification. MPT Balli initiated a motion to direct staff to bring back an ordinance that reclassifies apartments and condominiums as residential users and that does not apply the conservation rate to those properties. Mr. Mia cautioned Council that staff needs more time to study this situation and can present to Council during the budget cycle. He noted that the Department's comprehensive utility master plan is not going to be finished in the next year; it will take at least two years.

Dr. Martinez noted that Council does not have any financial information upon which to base MPT Balli's motion, so making a widespread change such as he suggests is difficult to do. He asked how Council can continue to incentivize water conservation if there are no consequence to overuse, as MPT Balli suggested with his removal of the conservation rate. There must still be some rate structure associated with utility services. He suggested instead researching how other municipalities deal with multi-family properties that are classified as residential accounts and continue to tier the rate structure based on usage.

Cm. Altgelt stated that the new rate study would need to address the water needs of the City's most vulnerable populations, whether they live in an urban dense, multi-family system or in a townhouse or condominium. He added that Council should not sell itself short by stopping at 50,000 gallons per month in its rate structure; there are some users that exceed beyond 50,000 gallons and can pay a higher rate for the usage. The rate structure should continue to gradually increase so that "water hogs" pay more for their usage.

MPT Balli clarified this intention that Council wants a multi-family rate that equates to residential.

Cm. Vielma noted reports that some ranchers are hauling water from their homes for commercial purposes, which should be investigated and charged accordingly. She voiced her agreement in making a distinction between multi-

family residential accounts and commercial accounts. She requested an amendment to have multi-family properties with one central meter because users with their own meters are already considered residential.

Dr. Martinez reiterated that these changes should be part of a larger comprehensive plan, though he conceded that Council wants fast action in its capital improvement.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, voiced his understanding that Council wants a long-term plan and solution for this issue. However, new priorities and issue arise that compete with those preexisting priorities. He noted that the suggestions brought up by Council in this discussion would best be a part of the long-range planning by staff.

Cm. Torres voiced his opinion that the landlord will be the only one to benefit from MPT Balli's suggested change. Cm. Altgelt noted that this rate structure favors single-family residential structures, which contradicts with the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan. The City should be encouraging urban density and multi-family units.

Mr. Mia reported that most newly-constructed condominiums or apartment complexes are being built with individual meters. This is not an issue with new construction; he agreed that many older apartment buildings are occupied by more vulnerable populations.

Motion to direct staff to bring back an ordinance that classifies apartments and condominiums as residential users and that the conservation rate does not apply to these properties, as amended.

Moved: MPT Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Torres

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Altgelt

MPT Balli

C. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to amend Section 6-19 of the Code of Ordinances to (a) prohibit transporting animals within the open bed of a moving pickup, flatbed or similar vehicle where the animal is directly on a metal surface without sufficient protection when temperatures exceed 90 degrees; and (b) provide that the animal must be transported in a manner that its face cannot extend past the sides of the bed and thus bite, or attempt to bite, a passerby; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres reported that an existing ordinance covers this matter, but staff agrees that these amendments are necessary. These amendments will protect the animals as well as pedestrians and citizens waiting to use the bus to avoid incident or injury from an animal riding in the back of a pickup truck. There have been incidents of dogs being leashed in the back of trucks where the leash is long enough for the dogs to jump out of the flatbed and strangle themselves or are dragged for long distances. These amendments will also give Laredo police probably cause to pull over a vehicle and issue a citation. With the extreme heat, dogs in a metal truck bed are at risk of burns and should be transported in plastic crates. He noted that ranchers have called him with concerns that they would have to transport their animals inside their vehicles, but he clarified that the intention is to transport the animals in a crate.

Cm. Vielma noted that the language of this item is so broad that it may apply to all animals, such as cattle traveling in a metal livestock trailer. Cm. Torres clarified that the current ordinance specifies domestic animals, not livestock.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez asked if the City's animal control trucks have a metal pickup bed. Cm. Torres countered that they are protected. He added that a truck bed with a roof that provides shading in the bed also serves as protection. A livestock trailer is also a protection as it is enclosed with shading.

Dr. Marte Martinez voiced his concerns that a dog in a protected pickup bed could still cause a citation if it moves to the edge of the bed. He noted that if Cm. Torres's intention is to confine the animals to a crate, then the amendment should simply direct transportation in a crate. A crate has a roof and prevents the animal from biting passersby. Cm. Torres agreed to his point.

Cm. Torres noted that a crate is not expensive, and if a resident thinks that a crate is too expensive of a purchase, then they should not own an animal given the upkeep and maintenance of pet ownership. A crate is not too much to ask of a responsible pet owner.

Heberto "Beto" Ramirez, Jr., Animal Care Services Director, agreed with the requirement to transport animals in crates if traveling in the bed of a pickup truck.

Motion to approve with a specification for domestic animals such as dogs or cats and to specify that they are transported in crates in the bed of pickup trucks or flat beds, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to bring back the Cemetery Committee that was

dissolved and motioned on June 7, 2004; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres reported that in 2004 the Cemetery Committee was dissolved, and their responsibilities were transferred to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee. With the focus that Council is giving to the City Cemetery, he voiced his opinion that the Cemetery Committee should be reinstated. He noted that this committee should pay extra attention to the veterans' portion of the cemetery and the beautification projects dedicated to the cemetery at large.

Motion to reinstate the Cemetery Committee and have the Mayor and each Council Member appoint one member to serve on the committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to clarify action taken on \$125,000.00 allocated for cemetery improvements from District I, II, III, IV, and VI District Priority Funds; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres reported that he inquired with the Parks & Leisure Services Department for a status report and was told that the Finance Department needed clarification on the Council minutes.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, reminded Council that whatever is spent on this project must be strictly brick and mortar, as maintenance is not an allowable expense for these funds.

Graciela Briones, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, reported that staff proposed three entrance gates and a mural wall facing Saunders Street as well as map locators. Those items are being considered for District Priority Funds.

Dr. Marte Martinez reminded staff that Council discussed alternative means of paying for these beautification projects, such as allowing family members to buy trees or stone heads in memoriam of their departed loved ones. Those mechanisms would offset the costs of the projects. He noted that those plans were supposed to be brought back to Council to see if the District Priority Funds' costs would be defrayed. There is not yet an itemized capital plan for Council to review, and he stated that Council has not yet been given any options for alternative funding.

Cm. Torres stated that with the newly-reinstated Cemetery Committee, Council can allow them to review the issue and receive community input.

Motion to direct staff to bring back a staff report after the Cemetery Committee

has been appointed and provides a recommendation and to include a clarification of the funds and funding sources so that staff may get quotes.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

D. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to rename the Convention and Visitors Bureau as Office of International Relations to Foster Tourism, Economic Development, cultural and global initiatives; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Vielma noted that with the upcoming World Trade center it would be appropriate to include international relations in the naming of the Convention & Visitors Bureau so that it is not solely City-focused. She initiated a motion to this effect.

Cm. Torres voiced his opinion that it is a good idea to task CVB with fostering the global initiatives brought up by Cm. Vielma. However, he disagreed with changing the name of the Department as it would be detrimental for visitors to Laredo. When visiting a new town, it is customary to look for the municipality's Convention & Visitors Bureau. In terms of branding, there is a process that involves marketing and additional expenses to promote the new name. The "Office of International Relations" sounds more like a governmental affairs entity rather than a division that attracts tourism and visitation to the City of Laredo. He asked management for their opinion and position on the proposed renaming of the Department.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, confirmed that staff is already undergoing a rebranding campaign and would like to include these ideas. He noted that there is value in the name "Convention & Visitors Bureau" but added that staff can present Council with options and examples of other cities' rebranding endeavors. There have been other municipalities rebranding their CVB Departments.

Cm. Torres noted that cities that are similar to Laredo tend to have the CVB name in their department. He asked if staff has seen deviations from this model or if they have seen any municipalities with an Office of International Relations.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, reported that management tasked CVB staff with this research. Among the cities studied, most have the department name "Convention & Visitors Bureau."

Aileen Ramos, Convention & Visitors Bureau Director, reported that of the members of the Texas Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus, 53% have the CVB name as the official name. There is a new category that many

departments are moving towards, which is a “branded” name (i.e. Visit [NAME OF CITY], Destination, Experience, or Explore [NAME OF CITY]). This “branded” name accounts for 16% of the organizations studied.

Cm. Torres noted that this research shows that the departments still retain a name that is associated with attracting tourism or visitors. He reiterated that the name “Office of International Relations” sounds too official and is not inclusive; it is reminiscent of a governmental affairs office, which is not inviting.

Mrs. Ramos reminded Council that the phrases used by CVB, such as “Viva Laredo” and “Hola, Laredo” are taglines, which have a finite shelf life. CVB is currently going through a rebranding process, and she stated that the Department already performs international relations duties in addition to their other duties. She asked Council to allow staff to go through the current rebranding process to come up with a name that is truly representative of Laredo as a destination.

Cm. Torres suggested creating a Division in the Economic Development Department for an Office of International Relations, because that makes more sense to him.

Cm. Altgelt asked about Laredo’s conventions; Mrs. Ramos reported that the Convention & Visitors Bureau hosts about 10-15 conventions per year. Because of the size of the Department and its meeting space availability, the Department cannot accommodate more than 150 comfortably. The Department hosts conventions at a variety of venues, mainly La Posada Hotel, Embassy Suites, the Sames Auto Arena, Texas A&M International University, and Laredo College. Staff takes a lead role in hosting those conventions. She suggested that Council allow staff to go through the rebranding process to make it as successful as possible. One of the expected results of rebranding is a new name. The process takes about six months.

Motion to rename the Convention & Visitors Bureau Department as the Office of International Relations.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Torres (for discussion only)

Motion withdrawn.

Cm. Vielma noted that the City of San Antonio has an Office of International Relations that hosts many of the same activities housed in Laredo’s Convention & Visitors Bureau, such as Sister Cities and international trade. Laredo needs to be prepared before the World Trade center is completed to have an international presence. She initiated a motion to have workshops with the public and stakeholders in the industries of business, economic development, and tourism to participate in the rebranding campaign.

Mrs. Ramos informed Council that there are already meetings with stakeholders as part of the rebranding campaign. She clarified that San Antonio’s tourism

office is a separate entity from the Office of International Relations, though they have a strong relationship.

Cm. Vielma stated that staff should think bigger in their rebranding campaign and instead think of ways to attract businesses and investors. Cm. Torres countered that this is a function of the Economic Development Department. One does not go to the CVB office to attract businesses to Laredo as it is not their role. Cm. Vielma emphasized that the City of Laredo does not have an Economic Development Department, so they are behind and need to consider her suggestions.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the City is dealing with two separate issues that are being treated as one. There is nothing wrong with wanting to have a global perspective but economic development should not be a subset of the Convention & Visitors Bureau. The two entities should be separate but collaborative.

Cm. Vielma noted that she was not previously aware that the Department was undergoing a rebranding campaign, adding that if she was not informed then the public may not be aware. Mrs. Ramos explained that the rebranding campaign was a City Council item, but staff has not yet made an announcement to the public.

Cm. Torres reminded Council that rebranding campaigns are open to the public, because citizens submit their suggestions for slogans, colors, and taglines.

Cm. Altgelt agreed with Cm. Vielma's suggestion to obtain input from more stakeholders in the community.

Cm. Torres voiced his opinion that Cm. Vielma's intentions would be better executed by the forthcoming Economic Development Director/Department, noting that he would support this item after the hiring of the new Director.

Motion to direct staff to have workshops with the public and stakeholders in the industries of business, economic development, and tourism to participate in the Convention & Visitors Bureau rebranding campaign.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Cm. Altgelt
Motion withdrawn.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Balli was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action directing the Co-Interim City Managers to explore an Inter-governmental Contracting Agreement with the Webb County Tax Assessor Collector; and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Vielma reported that the City Charter precludes removing the Tax Department, but with regards to the reality of the property tax cap, the City must think outside of the box for long-term solutions. She noted that there is no need to do away with the entire Department but instead to reduce the Department so as to result in a savings since citizens have multiple locations where they can pay bills throughout town.

Dora Maldonado, Tax Assessor Collector, reported that the two or threelongest-tenured Tax employees have been employed in the department for about 20-25 years each. Cm. Gonzalez noted his understanding of Cm. Vielma's item but voiced his opposition to redirecting a long-tenured employee to a different department.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, noted that the City Charter states directs the City to take payments to the City of Laredo Tax Department. Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, reminded Council that she was specifically task with researching any potential savings in consolidating the Tax Department when she was the Chief Innovations Officer. She found that there was a savings potential at the time with the tax rate that Webb County quoted to the City. She reported that the Tax Department has some employees who are housed in the Tax Department but are not taxed with actual tax work; they perform other duties like alarm permits. The City would need to contact Webb County again to see if they are still interested in providing this service and if their quoted charges will remain the same. She reported the initial savings calculation as follows:

Method #1

Revenues (Add'l Billing Fee)	\$1,800,000
Expenses	<u>\$1,364,062</u>
Subtotal	\$435,938
Savings due to Consolidation	<u>\$508,640</u>
Savings	\$944,578
Webb County Fee	<u>(\$268,247)</u>
Estimated Savings	\$676,331

Method #2

Savings due to Consolidation	\$508,640
Webb County Fee	<u>(\$268,247)</u>
Estimated Savings	\$240,393

Cm. Altgelt suggested allowing the Tax Assessor Collector do the tax duties and put the other employees, who will not lose their tenure, in the departments where they are already performing teller or administrative duties.

Mrs. Maldonado reminded Council that the Tax Department has always had a healthy collection rate. She voiced her uncertainty that the collection rate will

remain the same if handed over to Webb County. She confirmed that the City has a law firm that assists with tax collection. Cm. Altgelt emphasized that Council is happy with the Tax Department's work and that this discussion is not a reflection of any dissatisfaction.

Motion to direct the Co-Interim City Managers to explore an Inter-governmental Contracting Agreement with the Webb County Tax Assessor Collector.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Balli was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action directing the Co-Interim City Managers to develop a plan of attrition, digitalization and streamline of services to maximize budget savings at the Tax Assessor Department; and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Vielma clarified that management can review the staffing needs as part of a plan of attrition.

Motion to direct the Co-Interim City Managers to develop a plan of attrition, digitalization, and streamline of services to maximize budget savings at the Tax Department.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Balli was not present.

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

1. Creation of a Directors Cabinet in order to plan, review, promote and process ideas for future legislative sessions with possible action; and any matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the City puts its legislative agendas together quickly just before the legislative trip in which the Department Directors are asked what they want without a true strategy. He voiced his opinion that there is nobody better but management to direct and advise on the City's needs.

Motion to create a cabinet consisting of Department Directors and management to start the process of reviewing the City's agenda items to take to state and national agencies ahead of time and encourage management to proactively pursue grants and discussion topics and ask Dr. Hector Gonzalez to share his planning strategy with staff, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and MPT Balli were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to update the Future Land Use and Long Range Thoroughfare plans for the City of Laredo in accordance with Section 9.03 of the City Charter; and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez reminded Council that the Future Land Use and Long Range Thoroughfare plans have not been updated since 2013.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and MPT Balli were not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to establish a local government corporation pursuant to Chapter 431 of the Texas Transportation Code for the implementation of the City of Laredo and Webb County detox/triage center; and any other matters incident thereto.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, reported that the corporation plan to-date is preliminary. Staff needs direction from Council as the last time that this item was on the Council agenda, it was an interlocal agreement that Council wanted to initiate with Webb County. Because there was a funding issue, that agreement stalled. This is another mechanism that allows the City to pursue the corporation.

Dr. Marte Martinez informed Council that this corporation is how the City of Austin created their detox and sobriety centers. Many municipalities use this tool to fundraise and pursue state and national grants. He emphasized the value of taking advantage of this tool.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, reported that he spoke with McWilliams & Associates to determine the possibilities available to the City. He reminded Council that the City's Drug & Alcohol Commission is a very committee organization who have discussed the issue of alternative funding for health-related needs. He encouraged Council to consider funding sources outside of the City's budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and MPT Balli were not present.

F. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Status update on the nationwide search for a City Manager, to include the total time spent by committee and City staff as well as cost, and in addition to request the Ad-Hoc Committee to recommend a compensation package including salary and incentives; and any matters incident thereto.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, reminded Council that information was provided in Council's Friday packet. She explained that on February 1, 2019, Council appointed a City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee, and the final member was appointed on March 18, 2019. Meanwhile, staff put out a RFP for recruiters to consult the City in its City Manager search. During the first round of RFP's, there were no responses. Staff put the request out again on March 19, 2019, and received responses from three vendors. Since then, the ad-hoc committee met four times and have reviewed the job position description. The RFP responses were also scored, and the winning responder signed an agreement on Friday, June 28, 2019. The recruiter will present to the committee on July 16, 2019 and will take a tour of the city.

Mayor Saenz asked staff to encourage the recruiter to review the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan beforehand. Cm. Altgelt asked for an estimated time when the City can expect to review the applicant pool. Mrs. Cabello reported that the recruiter voices confidence to have something available in three months. She cautioned Council that one of the responders stated that Laredo may be a difficult city to recruiter candidates; she added that the City of Corpus Christi took over a year to find its City Manager. The ad-hoc committee is a diverse group who take their responsibilities very seriously.

Cm. Altgelt noted his intention for Council to encourage the committee to continue its work posthaste. He reminded the public, particularly those who would complain about the City spending too much money on management salaries, that one gets what one pays for. For the City to attract a truly valuable candidate, the City must pay competitively. He asked staff to share that reminder with the ad-hoc committee when they consider compensation packages for this position.

Cm. Torres voiced his concern with delegating the City's power to a committee. There is no incentive package until the City gets the candidate they like. When staff negotiates with the top candidates, the incentive package can be properly developed and negotiated.

Cm. Vielma asked if staff could ask the recruiter for an industry standard recommendation for its City Manager incentive package. Dr. Marte Martinez reminded Council that the City has hired a consultant to offer guidance throughout this process as well as appointed a committee to provide citizen

input into the process. Ultimately, the final decision is Council's, including salary, incentive packages, and qualification requirements. Previous hiring methods have not worked, which explains the City's current process; he encouraged Council to allow the consultant to perform his duties and advise the committee on putting an incentive and salary package recommendation together for Council approval.

Motion to instruct staff to allow the consultant to advise the ad-hoc committee on an incentive and salary package recommendation for submission to Council for approval, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and MPT Balli were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to file a formal resolution complaining about TxDOT management in Laredo and their lack of concern for pedestrians and cyclists and willingness to properly maintain on system routes and roads; and any matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and MPT Balli were not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to direct staff to come up with an incentive program for the installation of irrigation meters; and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Altgelt reported that the current costs for a residential irrigation meter is about \$1,600. Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, confirmed that there is no cost difference between irrigation meters for newly-constructed residential and existing residential properties. The size of the tap, which typically differs between existing and new construction, is the determiner for cost differences. Newer homes typically have larger tap sizes and require a new tap or additional meter, resulting in a new connection fee. He reported the residential irrigation meter costs as follows:

IRRIGATION METER	3/4" METER T-CONNECTION	3/4" METER NEW 3/4" TAP
Meter	\$180.90	\$180.90
Security Deposit	\$100.00	\$100.00
Meter	\$93.20	\$93.20

Installation		
T-Connection	\$240.61	N/A
Water Availability Connection Charge	N/A	\$300.00
New Tap	N/A	\$800.00
TOTAL	\$614.71	\$1,474.10

Mr. Mia clarified that every new account needs its own security deposit; irrigation accounts are separate from residential accounts. Cm. Altgelt countered that if there is one rate payer with a residential and irrigation account, there should only be one security deposit. Mr. Mia reminded Council that after one year, the security deposit is credited back to the account. He noted that if the average irrigation account holder uses 8,000 gallons, their savings comes from the rate difference between sewer usage and irrigation usage; it would take an account holder using about 8,000 gallons of irrigation to see a return on investment. He added that account holders with swimming pools see a bigger savings because the irrigation line is feeding their swimming pools rather than the water or sewer line.

Cm. Torres and Dr. Marte Martinez both noted that they saw return on their irrigation meter investments within a year.

Cm. Altgelt asked why the City does not require new construction in a suburban model to have an irrigation meter in addition to their regular meter. Mr. Mia explained that it is the homeowner's choice.

Cm. Vielma opposed requiring the additional meter for new construction given all of the upfront costs associated with purchasing a new home.

Mr. Mia reminded Council that when the customer wants to add a meter, the City offers a payment plan option for those interested with no interest.

Dr. Marte Martinez suggested that the public be made aware of the payment plan options available to them.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his opposition to the water availability connection charge since the Department has already collected such a fee from the developer and are now "double dipping" and further decentering citizens from purchasing a home. He initiated a motion to reduce this charge and to instruct staff to finance all fees associated with a new irrigation meter without interest over a 12-month period.

Mr. Mia reminded Council that for every fee or dollar amount removed by Council leaves less money to purchase water rights.

Cm. Rodriguez reminded Council of their intention to discourage residents from over-irrigating their lawns; he asked why Cm. Altgelt worded his motion as he

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, and MPT Balli were not present.