

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2019-R-17
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
October 21, 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 a 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
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 6:03 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of September 23, 2019, October 2, 2019, and October 7, 2019.

Motion to approve the September 23, 2019, October 2, 2019, and October 7, 2019, minutes.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

Citizen comments

CY Benavidez, III, Rancho Viejo Waste manager and owner, submitted a letter regarding authorization to move forward with purchasing the Ponderosa Landfill. He noted that the public should know the purchase price and negotiation process of the landfill acquisition. He encouraged Council to consider keep the Pescadito landfill project in mind as it has more flexibility and long-term growth potential and is identical in permit to the one being considered by Council today.

Humberto Treviño, Jr., reminded Council that the City and Webb County entered into an interlocal agreement for the Juan Francisco Farias Veterans Museum. He reported that he met with Webb County Budget Officer Lalo Uribe and County Judge Tano Tijerina to make progress on something that has been overdue for much too long. The topographical work, utility studies, and soil sampling have been completed; the community is invested in this project in terms of funding, input, and support. He thanked Council for being a part of the process and confirmed that he will bring updates as they become available.

Armando Cisneros asked Council to read the Final Readings of Ordinances into the record, particularly Ordinances 2019-O-178 and -179. He reminded Council that new state law prevents Council from allowing a maximum of three people to speak on any side of an issue; per the new law, anyone who wishes to speak will be able to. While a speaker must sign up for public comments, he voiced his doubt that a speaker must sign up for a particular agenda item. He added that public trust in the water system has been lost, and many citizens are still concerned about their water; he recommended that Council add a status update item to each Council agenda for the next few meetings to help alleviate the public's concerns.

Mary Lou Garza stated that taxpayers continue to pay fines for negligent City personnel, such as a recent incident in which she saw water being dumped in the street without City staff begin able to explain what was going on. She voiced her concern of Ordinance 2019-O-179 as Council should save their own money or work for their retirement plan. She criticized Council's use of taxpayer money for the Canseco House which only increased property values of the few homes around that building. She asked Council to seriously rethink how they spend taxpayer money.

VI. INVITATION

1. Invitation by Laredo Main Street on upcoming 2019 JamBOOzie Music Festival to be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 in downtown at the Tres Laredo Park on 1300 Pedegral Street from 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Priscilla Iglesias, Laredo Main Street Executive Director, reminded Council that this item was addressed at the last Council meeting. No further discussion or action taken.

VII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pro-Tempore Roberto Balli of Salvador Mercado to the Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Salvador Mercado to the Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

2. Appointment by Mayor Pro-Tempore Roberto Balli of Rodolfo Morales to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Rodolfo Morales to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

3. Appointment by Mayor Pro-Tempore Roberto Balli of Joe Maldonado to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Joe Maldonado to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Community Development Department FY 2019-2020 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by creating one (1) additional position for an Administrative Assistant I at a total estimated cost of \$53,000.00 including benefits. Funding is available in the 45th Action Year Community Development Block Grant 2019 Fund.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Community Development's Laredo Municipal Housing division FY 2019-2020 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by creating one (1) additional position for an Administrative Assistant I at a total estimated cost of \$53,000.00 including benefits. Funding is available in Laredo Municipal Housing Enterprise Fund.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

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 commercial Billboard on approximate .0137 acres out of Lot 1, Block 1, Trinity Plaza Subdivision, located at 1815 Shiloh Dr; providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit and staff supports the application. ZC-56-2019 District VI

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 9, Block 168, Western Division, located at 1602 Victoria St., from H-R-O (Historic-Residential/Office District) to H-CBD (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application. ZC-66-2019 District VIII

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that this property is currently in a Historic Residential/Office District and intends to use the building for a bookstore. The reason for the zone change request is the required parking associated with those two zones. Central Business District zoning has no parking requirements, which will allow the applicant to use both floors of the building for their bookstore. Otherwise, they will be restricted to a certain square footage under the H-R-O zoning. There are currently six parking spaces at this location.

Margarita Govea, property owner, presented her plans for the location, which is an independent bookstore with an emphasis on Hispanic/Latino authors and books about the life and struggles of Hispanics. The bookstore will be a family-friendly venue for entertainment and community engagement with an array of caffeinated and non-caffeinated drinks and pastries to enjoy while patrons shop and read. She reported that the owners plan to host readings and signings, book club meetings, poetry and monologue readings, and educational exhibits. The anticipated hours of

operation will run into evening hours. She added that the owners intend to seek a Beer and Wine license to offer their patrons an extra luxury of enjoying a glass of wine while they read their books. She noted that this decision caused some concern for neighboring residents who thought that this would turn the bookstore into a bar so close to a school. She clarified that the business will be a bookstore with the sale of books the primary income for the business; the owners will fully comply with state laws for the sale of alcohol and will not allow the sale of alcohol to minors. When they purchased the home, it had been red-tagged by the City as a nuisance building and was nearly dilapidated down to its frames. She and her husband purchased the property for \$68,000 and invested more than \$200,000 into it so far.

Jose R. Cantu, property owner, reminded Council that under the current zoning, they are able to open the same type of business but would not be able to utilize the second floor as the square footage would bring a requirement for increased parking, which is not available. Changing the zoning would eliminate those parking requirements. Mrs. Govea stated that she contacted the vendors who supplied books to the Book Warehouse that recently closed at the Outlet Shoppes, and those vendors have expressed interest in supplying books to this business. Therefore, the owners would like more space available within their property so that they can fully stock the bookstore with discounted books for their patrons. Mr. Cantu reminded Council that without entrepreneurs investing in these buildings, they will remain vacant and attract a public nuisance. He noted that within their property, the owners were originally given four parking spaces in the front of the business. However, they were told by the City that these four spaces could no longer be used due to some new regulations.

Mrs. Govea noted that in an effort to meet the needs of the patrons, the owners are willing to negotiate with surrounding businesses to make use of their parking spaces after those businesses have closed for the evening, as those are mostly office spaces that operation from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Jorge Santana, St. Peter's Historic Neighborhood Association President, distributed copies of a petition with 57 residential and property owner signatures opposing the proposed zone change for 1602 Victoria St. to a Historic Central Business District. He emphasized that many of the neighbors have invested heavily in the community, including its tranquility as a residential area. The neighborhood has value because its residents take care of their properties and try to maintain its historic form. Mr. Santana clarified that the protestors do not oppose the proposed bookstore itself, just the zone change to H-CBD. He asked Council to instead consider a Special Use Permit (SUP) to this property. The Association would welcome good restaurants, a coffee shop, an art gallery, and other businesses that would enhance what the neighborhood already offers in character and architecture. However, turning the neighborhood into H-CBD zones opens the floodgates of development that could alter the character of this intact piece of Laredo's history. He voiced his understanding that Mrs. Govea and Mr. Cantu are not going to make a bar out of their bookstore; the issue is not with the alcohol or parking but instead the potential that the proposed zone change could bring.

MPT Balli noted that he had the same concern as Mr. Santana when he saw this application. He voiced his hope that a creative alternative could be found that would help the property owners open their business while also making the Neighborhood Association happy. He asked staff to meet with representatives of the neighborhood and with the property owners to find something that is workable in a SUP. Mr. Santana reiterated that the residents who signed the petition are only opposing the zone change, not the business or the property owners themselves.

Mr. Cantu clarified that the owners spoke with the Building Department regarding a Special Use Permit but were told that it would still not apply as even SUPs require a certain amount of parking. James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, confirmed that staff would have to change the conditions of the zone in order to address the parking allocation. Parking requirements cannot be addressed through SUPs; they can be expanded but not reduced.

Virginia "Vicki" Garcia asked why the business owners would not be able to use street parking in combination with the six parking spaces that they currently have, as there is street parking available.

Juanita Dovalina noted that if Council approves the zone change and the property owners eventually sell or relocate, then the precedence has already been set and the new property owner could bring in businesses that will clash with the neighborhood. Mr. Snideman reminded Council that staff is currently going through a ReCode Laredo process and is looking at issues like parking requirements. He noted that the City's parking requirements are not very logical as they are from the 1990s and older. He noted that the zone change was a short-term fix until staff could complete the ReCode Laredo process and recommend changes. The property owners will not be able to sell their property easily given the significant amount of investment that they have made to improvements. In a year and a half, Mr. Snideman estimated that staff will have changed the parking requirements for most, if not all, of the zones, to make them less restrictive. He reminded Council that staff wants to encourage people to invest in buildings and properties so that they do not sit vacant. He suggested that the City be less restrictive and more flexible with its parking requirements to help achieve that goal.

Ms. Garcia asked if the City wants to recreate the same mistakes of the past, such as when residential areas are often mixed with commercial or industrial zones. She cautioned Council from replicating those issues with short-term "solutions." She reminded Council that most of the property owners in the St. Peter's Neighborhood also purchased abandoned or historic homes and invested significantly in the repairs and renovations. MPT Balli assured Ms. Garcia that Council is not considering permanent changes that would affect this neighborhoods.

Maria Eugenia Guerra agreed with Ms. Garcia's comments about other residents' investment, asking why one owner's investment is deemed more valuable or important than another's. She countered that this area is not part of Downtown and should not be treated or compared to as such. The same zoning cannot be applied to a neighborhood with as much history and character as St. Peter's.

Sara Cabello noted that she bought her childhood home in the St. Peter's Neighborhood and has invested considerable money in the property. She reminded Council that the neighborhood is full of beautiful, notable homes with historical significance. The St. Peter's area has multiple historical plaques.

Roberto Gonzalez informed Council that not all of the neighbors are against the zone change. There are a few that want change and are tired of seeing vacant or damaged buildings that have not been maintained. If the City would consider some change, many of these homes would be restored; protests such as the one demonstrated by the St. Peter's Historic Neighborhood Association encourage homes to remain vacant. Denying the requested zone change sends a poor message to other investors who want to renovate homes in the area.

Amber Avis informed Council that the St. Peter's Historic Neighborhood Association is inactive; therefore, Mr. Santana is not the Association President. She noted that the historic business district desperately needs parking, and the parking meters near her property are often occupied by Laredo ISD employees. She emphasized that this neighborhood is a part of Downtown despite comments to the contrary, and without creative changes to the zoning, investments will only occur in the north side of Laredo.

Juan Uribe voiced his opposition to the zone change and support of a Special Use Permit; he reiterated sentiments that the community wants and welcome the investment of the bookstore but not through the proposed zone change.

Ms. Guerra clarified that Jorge Saltana never resigned as Association President; the organization lapsed but he has always been the President.

MPT Balli initiated a motion to close the public hearing and direct staff to work with the residents and property owners to find a Special Use Permit with agreeable conditions to the parties involved.

Jose Campos reminded Council that the neighbors are not trying to divide the community; all parties are trying to improve the area and protect it.

Adrian Gonzalez stated that the area is not a part of Downtown and asked why the property owners are not invested in the vacant buildings that *are* Downtown instead of turning a residential property into a commercial one. She clarified that she supports the bookstore but not the zone change.

Mrs. Govea voiced her appreciation that MPT Balli is so willing to help them realize their objectives for the bookstore. However, she noted that SUPs would not be applicable to their business because the parking requirement is not addressed in SUPs. Even if the City were to give the property owners the four additional parking spots in the front of their building (which they are not), it would still not be enough parking spaces to allow her and her husband to utilize the second floor of the building for their business. MPT Balli asked the City Attorney's Office to participate in the meetings between staff and the stakeholders to find a creative way to complete the project while meeting the needs of the neighborhood.

Jose Ceballos voiced his opinion that process pits people against each other. The parking requirements are based on local policies, which can be overcome.

Mr. Snideman reminded Council that staff needs to give notice to the public for 15 days as required by law. Cm. Torres noted that the neighborhood has already provided their input and given Council a sense of the direction that they would like to see occur. MPT Balli countered that he wants staff to meet with the stakeholders anyway to ensure that nothing is left unaddressed before Council's decision.

Motion to close public hearing and direct staff to meet with the residents and property owners to develop a Special Use Permit with agreeable conditions and to bring a recommendation to Council as soon as legally possible, as amended.

Moved: MPT Balli

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning West One-Half of Lot 7, Block 355, Eastern Division, located at 417 East Frost St., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change and staff supports the application ZC-67-2019 District IV

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that the proposed use is a medical office.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Balli was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximate 0.631 acres (Lot 1-B), Porcion 32, Abstract 296 located at North of US Hwy. 359 and Northwest of Veterans Blvd., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended denial of the zone change and staff supports the application. Therefore the applicant has since exercised the right to appeal this decision directly to City Council. ZC-69-2019 District II

Rodolfo Torres of TEC Engineers, representing Rodolfo Sepulveda, stated that Mr. Sepulveda requested the zone change so that he may put in a commercial trucking and parts business on this property. The application meets the requirements for this zone change, and Planning staff supports the application; he added that the area has many businesses related to trucking.

Adrianna Gaona Torres informed Council that the road near that property is a private road owned by her family for nearly 50 years. Mr. Sepulveda does not have right-of-road and is knowingly using it illegally to get to his property. She noted that Mr. Sepulveda does not have any building permits but is still building on the property. The Planning & Zoning Commission denied his zone change request, but he continued to build the next day. He continues to use the road illegally and build on it despite being directed to stop building by the City twice. Mrs. Goana Torres noted that Mr. Sepulveda is trespassing on private property and has no access to his property. When she confronted him on the private road, she noted that he verbally assaulted her. She asked why Planning staff would support the application of someone who is building without a building permit.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, explained that the process begins with a plat; the applicant brought in a plat with notes. It has been noted that the applicant needs to get access to his site and would need a zone change in order to use his property commercially. The process of requesting a zone change is separate from the process of obtaining or requiring a building permit as well as the process of flagging a property building without a permit. Staff has noted the issues involved with this application, but the City cannot get involved in private issues between the Gaona Torres family and Mr. Sepulveda. However, staff has been involved on the issues in which the City can intervene. That still does not prevent the applicant from requesting a zone change. Staff does not assess the character of the applicant; they simply look at the property and assesses whether a zone change is applicable.

Cm. Rodriguez voiced his concern with the different B-4 businesses that could be established so closed to the Gaona Torres family's residences. He initiated a motion to close the public hearing and deny.

Mr. T. Torres noted that his client would be willing to reduce the zone to a B-3 as a protection for the residences.

Paul Torres spoke in opposition of the zone change, noting that his father-in-law's house is less than 47 feet from this property. A B-4 zone change would allow maquilinas or a bar to be established far too close to his family's home.

Hector Gaona reported that his family bought this land from the Bruni estate and have had it for over 50 years; there was no road, so he and his family built the road, and it only leads to their private residences. They pay taxes on the road and the homesteads.

Motion to close public hearing and deny.

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

Cm. Vielma was not present.

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by repealing Ordinance 2018-O-077 and authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit for a Restaurant Serving Alcohol, on Lot 3, Block 1, Falcon Centre of McPherson, located at 7718 McPherson Rd. Suite 105 G; provided for publication and effective date.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Special Use Permit and staff supports the application. ZC-70-2019 District VI

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. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

8. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, authorizing a one-time waiver in the month of October of the minimum water charge for residential (\$10.52) and commercial (\$39.61) accounts of customers in the area affected by the water boil notice issued by the City of Laredo on September 28, 2019, more particularly described in Exhibit A, excluding fire hydrant, irrigation, and agriculture accounts; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final readings of Ordinances 2019-O-173, 2019-O-175, 2019-O-176, 2019-O-177, 2019-O-178, 2019-O-179, 2019-O-180, 2019-O-181, 2019-O-182, and 2019-O-183.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

9. 2019-O-173 Authorizing Co-Interim City Managers to accept a grant award in the amount of \$103,080.00 from the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division to fund the Special Investigations Unit Crimes Against Women Project for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020; and to amend the FTE's by adding one (1) Investigator position as awarded by the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division. This grant will fund salaries and travel/training for the Special Investigations Unit. The grant requires cash match in the amount of \$44,278.00 which is available as a transfer in from General Fund for a total grant amount of \$147,358.00. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-173.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

10. 2019-O-175 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to amend the lease agreement approved by Ordinance No. 2001-O-042 as amended between D & P Enterprises, A Nevada Corporation, as Lessee, and City of Laredo, as Lessor, as for assignment of lease agreement to 6552 BBL TX, LLC, as Assignee, for Tract No., 8 containing approximately 2.82 acres of property located at the Laredo International Airport. All other terms and conditions remain the same

in effect; providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-175.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

11. 2019-O-176 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to amend the City of Laredo FY 2020 Airport Construction Fund Budget to accept and appropriate the Federal Aviation Administration Grant No. 3-48-0136-089-2019 in the amount of \$9,856,303.00 funding for the rehabilitation of Cargo Apron Phase 13 at the Laredo International Airport. The City's local match in the amount of \$1,095,145.00 (10%) is available in the Airport Construction Fund Budget. Total project cost is \$10,951,448.00.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-176.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

12. 2019-O-177 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, providing for the Laredo Public Art Program and delineating the administration of the same; authorizing the allocation of two percent (2%) of the construction costs of eligible Capital Improvement Projects for art; establishing criteria for review of suitable capital projects and establishing a method for calculating art appropriations for capital projects; providing for qualifications, term limits, and additional duties for the Fine Arts and Culture Commission; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-177.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

13. 2019-O-178 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Section 2-5 of the Code of Ordinances "City Council Meetings" to provide the rules governing public comments at city council meetings in accordance

with House Bill 2840; to allow members of the public three (3) minutes to address the city council before the city council's consideration of an agenda item or under the agenda item "citizen comments" for non-agenda items; to direct the City Secretary of the City of Laredo or designee to develop an online registration system to allow members of the public wishing to address the city council to fill out the required witness registration card electronically; providing a cumulative and repealer clause; providing a severability clause; and providing for related matters.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-178.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

14. 2019-O-179 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, providing for participation in the Texas Municipal Retirement System for persons who hold and are regularly engaged in the performance of duties of an elective office that normally requires actual performance of services in a participating department of the municipality for not less than 1,000 hours a year in accordance with Section 852.107, Title 8, Texas Government Code, as amended; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Mary Lou Garza reminded Council that at the beginning of the Council meeting, Council was asked to read this item into the record as it had not been read. MPT Balli clarified that this item is a Final Reading, meaning it was read at a previous Council meeting.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, explained that the Council's only requirement is to read public hearings into the record; the readings of ordinances can be waived.

Ms. Garza reminded Council that they represent citizens who are living near or below the poverty level. She asked Council if they thought they have taken enough taxpayer money yet to line their own pockets. She encouraged them to get their own 401(k) retirement plans rather than pursuing this ordinance.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-179.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

15. 2019-O-180 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to execute a lease agreement with Laredo Crime Stoppers Inc. (LCS) for the use of office space located at Police Substation No. 9, 320 E. Ryan St., Laredo, Texas, 78041, described as Lot 5 Block 494, situated in the Eastern Division of the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas for a term of ten (10) years at an annual rate of one dollar (\$1) and contingent on satisfaction of City insurance requirements, and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-180.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

16. 2019-O-181 Authorizing Co-Interim City Managers to execute all documents for the purchase of the following three (3) tracts of land: 0.54 Acre tract, 0.25 Acre tract, and 0.11 Acre tract out of the Property Legally described as a 2.0 Acre (87,120 square feet) tract of land out of a called 2.000-Acre tract of land Recorded in Volume 1927, Page 53, W.C.D.R. , City of Laredo, Texas, being out of Porcion 22, Dona Maria Jesus Sanchez, Original Grantee, Abstract 277, Webb County, Texas, otherwise known as 8801 Mines Road, as depicted on Exhibits "A", "B", and "C" from Jose C. Resendez in the negotiated amount of Three Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$340,000.00). Acquisition is needed for the West Laredo Corridor – Phase II Realignment of Las Cruces and Flecha Lane to address traffic, drainage and public safety; and would bring Condemnation Case 2015EDA000004C3 to a resolution; Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund-West Laredo Corridor-Phase II grant; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-181.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

17. 2019-O-182 Amending Article VI [Investment Policy] of Chapter 2 [Administration] of the Code of Ordinances in order to:

1. Update Investment Officers Titles;
2. Adjust / Update the current Broker / Dealer List and:

3. Provide for an effective date

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-182.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

18. 2019-O-183 Amending Ordinance 2011-O-019 and authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to allow the Utilities Department to sell water and sewer capacity to future landowners that are using their platted lot or tract as multifamily, commercial, industrial or combination of commercial-residential inside of the 15 colonias listed in the interlocal agreement and did not participate in the oversizing of the water and sewer extensions that will serve future developers inside and outside of the colonias; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-O-183.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE JEFFREY J. MILLER, AIRPORT DIRECTOR

19. Consideration to award contract to vendor Wunderlich-Malec Systems, Inc, Eden. Prairie, MN for Airport Security System Services and related Software Maintenance Support for the City of Laredo International Airport for an annual amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. These services are obtained on an as needed basis, using Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative pricing under contract HGAC SE05-18. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for two (2) additional one (1) year terms upon mutual agreement. Funding for this contract is available in the International Airport Operations Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

BRIDGE: STAFF SOURCE YVETTE LIMON, BRIDGE DIRECTOR

20. Consideration to authorize the selection of a consulting firm for contract FY19-086 City of Laredo International Bridge Master Plan and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. This master plan scope of services include but are not limited to: current and projected traffic trends, including capacity ratios and wait times, for the four (4) existing and future international bridges of the Laredo Bridge System in order to forecast and prepare the needed infrastructure to efficiently process pedestrian, non-commercial and commercial traffic traveling to and from Mexico and the United States. Funding for this contract is available in the Bridge Construction Fund.

Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Agent, recommended S&B Infrastructure for the contract.

Motion to approve staff's recommendation of S&B Infrastructure.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

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

21. 2019-R-166 A Resolution of the City of Laredo, Texas, reaffirming the City's opposition to a border wall along the United States-Mexico border.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, confirmed that staff will file an amicus brief within the next week.

Melissa Cigarroa spoke in favor of the resolution and thanked Council for their support of it. She reported that in declaring a national state of emergency, nearly 40 environmental laws have been waived including the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act, among others. Citizens of Laredo rely upon Council to act in the best interests of their constituents. The border wall will damn tributary flows, leading to increased flooding risks for Laredo. The 100-foot enforcement zone will also contribute to soil erosion and will impact the most vulnerable populations living along the border. She stated that this resolution also helps prevent the federal government from appropriating City lands and private lands in perpetuity. This resolution is also necessary to restore the City's reputation as a safe community.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-166.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

22. 2019-R-168 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Regional Land Management Services, Ltd., for the purpose of identifying key provisions and requirements by both sides prior to the formalization of a purchase agreement for the sale of the Ponderosa Landfill to the City of Laredo.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, explained that this item is to show a good-faith effort in negotiations in accordance with what the City decided in executive session. There is not an agreement currently.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-168.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

23. Approving the agreement with Cuatro Vientos South, Ltd. accepting the donation of a 165.00 acre tract of land being out of abstract 456, survey 35, J.M. Diaz, abstract 594, survey 2149, R.H. Rains and abstract 473, survey 36, L. Salinas original grantee, Webb county, Texas, also being a portion of a called 490.78 acre tract conveyed to tract 5, Cuatro Vientos South, Ltd., recorded in volume 4225, page 242, deed records of Webb county, Texas for the purpose of developing a multi-purpose sports complex.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

24. Discussion with possible action on the progress of the City Manager's Ad Hoc Committee to date and the next steps that should be undertaken by the committee in the selection process, including but not limited to, the evaluation of information submitted by the candidates, the interview process, and recommendation to City Council of the finalists for the position of City Manager, and any other matter incident thereto.

Gerry Schwebel, City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee Chair, reported that this committee has been fully engaged and committed to finding the best candidates for the City of Laredo City Manager. The process began April 2019 with the selection of a recruitment firm, Slavin Management Consultants, to assist the City

with finding quality City Manager candidates; to-date, the Committee is prepared to present to Council six candidates for an interview phase. He noted that the Committee also instructed Slavin to initiate background checks on these candidates so as not to delay the process. Slavin has also been instructed to continue to recruit additional candidates for consideration should any additional applications be submitted. He requested guidance from Council regarding how to proceed.

Mayor Saenz thanked the Committee for their time and dedication on this matter. Mr. Schwebel explained that the six candidates were selected from 19 applicants as they met the basic qualifications and have shown the traits and attributes that Committee members sought to find in the next City Manager. Should those candidates not meet background check requirements or no longer be viable candidates, he noted that the search has been left over to find additional candidates. He asked if Council wished to join the Committee during the interview process or if Council intended to interview the candidates by themselves.

Cm. Torres suggested that Council give this process some structure, such as selecting the date upon which this position closes. He voiced his concern that holding interviews while the position is still open would give any new applicants an unfair advantage; he suggested that the position close at the end of December and that interviews commence after the closing. He initiated a motion to close the position on December 31, 2019.

Mr. Schwebel emphasized that the selection will not be determined by whatever has been reported in the media; it will be made by Committee as a result of their discussions during their meetings. He noted that the Committee could rank and present Council with the six candidates' scores right away if Council so wished. There has been discussion about the number of applicants that have come in; he voiced his opinion that all six candidates are viable candidates.

Cm. Gonzalez voiced his opinion that once the six candidates have completed their background checks, then the Committee should interview them and rank them with the same scorecards that Council will use. He recommended that Council conduct the second interview and compare scores.

Hector J. Garcia, City Manager Search Ad-Hoc Committee Vice-Chair, reported that the Committee discussed extending the position or background checks. He recommended closing the position before starting any interviews but noted that the Committee does not want to stop at six candidates. He voiced his opinion that there are some strong and weak candidates in the pool of six and that not all six should be interviewed. He agreed with the opinion that interviewing candidates while the position is still open would not be fair to other candidates.

Mr. Schwebel reminded Council that the more time taken by the City on this matter, the greater the risk that these six candidates will accept other positions or lose interest. He could not confirm the estimated timeline to select a candidate given the qualifications of the candidates and Council's direction. He noted that the job posting requires a minimum of seven years in municipal government; however,

he stated that many of the candidates did not meet the minimum qualifications because their experience with county government was not considered as municipal experience. In some states, county government is bigger and more involved than municipal government. More applicants were expected for this position, but from June 2019 to August 2019, the firm received 19 applications and forwarded six.

Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, informed Council that it typically takes six months to a year to fill a City Manager position without a committee involved. Mr. Schwebel voiced his preference to leave the position open while the Committee and/or Council interviews the first batch of six candidates so that, if they prove not to be viable candidates, the City does not have to start from scratch in posting the position. Mrs. Cabello confirmed that the candidates' interviews are public.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, confirmed that the candidates could legally be interviewed in executive session if Council wishes. The Committee could be included in executive session interviews, as well. The candidates would have to agree to being interviewed in executive session.

Cm. Torres countered that if one candidate does not agree to being interviewed in executive session, then the process goes back to being unfair for the six candidates being interviewed and any future applicants. He recommended that the job posting be closed before interviews are conducted. If the Committee determines that none of the candidates are fit for the position, then the City will reopen the position and keep recruiting. He noted that he has never seen any job positions being opened for applications during the interview process, especially in the public sector.

Cm. Vielma noted that since the position has been open for so long, Council can decide to close it now so that the interviews may start shortly. She encouraged Council to take action before the holidays. MPT Balli voiced his understanding that the applicant pool is not what the Committee or City expected. Seven years' experience and a Bachelor's degree is not a high bar, and he suggested that the Committee only interview its top candidates, such as the top four or three.

Mr. Schwebel clarified that the experience and degree were not the only criteria; the consulting firm also took the qualities developed by the Committee to narrow down the pool to six qualified applicants.

Mayor Saenz reminded Council that a candidate's interview and resume may contradict each other in terms of determine whether a candidate is strong or weak. Mrs. Cabello clarified that the City opened the City Manager position in July 2019; one candidate withdrew from consideration while a new candidate was added. Therefore, there are still six candidates before the Committee.

Mr. Garcia stated that there is a new appointee to the Committee who needs to catch up on the information and candidates before any interviews. Cm. Torres noted that this informed his motion to close the position on December 31 so that the new appointee will have the opportunity to familiarize himself with the

Committee and the applicants. He added that any information or correspondence with the Committee and the City or Council is public record, and recommending candidates for interviews while the position is still open may discourage any new applicants. He recalled that the media obtained the candidates' resumes before Council did.

Armando Cisneros asked that Council allow every qualifying candidate to be interviewed so that their qualities may be observed and scored. Afterward, secondary interviews could be done to narrow the pool down to a finalist. He also voiced his opposition to giving praise to the Co-Interim City Managers publically if they are candidates for the position.

MPT Balli recalled that Council made it clear they wanted the best candidate for this position, and rushing the process will not help achieve this objective. He voiced his support to close the job posting on December 31, 2019. Cm. Vielma noted that the media posted the candidates' resumes and labeled them all as "weak." She stated that if she had been a candidate, she would be upset to be labeled as weak despite some of the resumes being very impressive. For the City to continue to extend the job posting furthers the impression that these candidates are not "good enough." She encouraged Council to close the position earlier than December 31, preferably by the end of October. Now may be the best time to interview candidates so that they can make decisions to move their families during the holiday break.

Dr. Marte Martinez clarified that it's not Council's understanding that the applicants are poor or weak candidates; the understanding is that six candidates from a nationwide search is a poor pool. He agreed with the suggestion to close the position at the end, and the risk of losing talent is one that is common in the industry. He doubted that the City will receive many more applicants over the holidays.

Motion to close the City Manager job posting on December 31, 2019.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Torres

Dr. Marte Martinez

MPT Balli

Dr. Marte Martinez initiated a motion to start the interview process now. He voiced his preference for all six candidates to be interviewed and Council be given the top three.

Anna Benavides-Galo, City Manager's Search Ad-Hoc Committee member, reminded Council that the background checks have not even been completed for

the six candidates. To start interviewing immediately would not be wise. Mr. Schwebel clarified that the Committee will not interview candidates that have not had a background check yet.

MPT Balli asked the Committee to send Council as many strong candidates as they determined there to be, whether it be two or six. He voiced his opinion that Council could or should determine a number of referrals for the Committee to consider.

Mrs. Benavides-Galo voiced her opposition to the idea of interviewing while the position is still open, asking if the Committee is to send its recommendation of the top candidates after December 31 or after the first round of interviews is completed. Cm. Gonzalez agreed, noting that if the Committee is going to use the same questions for all candidates, new applicants will be encouraged to wait to apply so that they could study the questions that are going to be asked. Mrs. Benavides-Galo reminded Council that she, as a Committee member, read about the candidates in the newspaper before the Committee had even been given any information.

Mr. Garcia voiced his opinion that if the position is going to be closed on December 31, 2019, then any interviews should not take place until after that closing date. Interviewing in batches sends the wrong message. Cm. Rodriguez agreed, noting that interviewing while the position is still open also creates an unfair advantage to applicants submitting later in the process. Dr. Martinez withdrew his motion.

Motion to start the interview process with the current pool of qualified candidates.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Vielma

Motion withdrawn.

Cm. Torres initiated a motion to direct the Committee to commence interviewing after the closing date. Mr. Schwebel reminded Council that the longer they wait to interview, the greater the City's risk of losing competitive candidates. MPT Balli noted that Council is aware of this point and is willing to take such a risk for a fair process.

Cm. Gonzalez asked that the score sheets and grading criteria used by the Committee also be used by Council during interviews. Cm. Torres amended his motion to reflect Cm. Gonzalez's request.

Cm. Vielma agreed with Mr. Schwebel's concerns about the time being taken for this process. She urged Council not to stall the process and to look at the strong candidates. Cm. Torres disagreed, noting that this issue is of such important that Council should do it right without rushing. He reiterated that six qualified candidates is not a large pool for a national search.

Mrs. Hale explained that many of the 19 applicants did not complete their application, which is why they were not forwarded to the committee as qualified

candidates.

Mr. Schwebel stated that a major component of the applications was a questionnaire, which was only presented to the Committee at their last meeting. Some comments were made during Committee meetings before the questionnaire was presented which may have been taken out of context. He clarified that the Committee only had the six candidates' resumes until the last meeting, when they were presented with the questionnaires.

Motion to direct the City Manager's Search Ad-Hoc Committee to commence candidate interviews after the closing date of December 31, 2019, and to continue reviewing resumes and giving Slavin direction regarding background checks and to direct Slavin continue their recruitment work and to use the same score cards and grading criteria among Council and the Committee during the interview process, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Rodriguez

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Torres

MPT Balli

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TINA MARTINEZ, ACTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

25. Authorizing the City Manager to execute (14) Fourteen Individual contracts with the following Hotel-Motel Tax Fund recipients totaling \$562,000.00 for FY 2019-2020.

Organization	Amount	
Border Olympics	\$125,000.00	
Laredo Area Youth Soccer	\$30,000.00	
Laredo Center for the Arts	\$150,000.00	
Laredo Chamber of Commerce- Cola Blanca	\$20,000.00	
LULAC #7	10,000.00	
Laredo Main Street/Farmers Market	\$15,000.00	
Laredo Main Street/ Jamboozie	\$25,000.00	Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra
	\$22,000.00	
Mexican Cultural Institute of Laredo	\$10,000.00	
Princess Pocahontas Council	\$10,000.00	
Society of Martha Washington	\$15,000.00	
WBCA	\$60,000.00	
Webb Co. Heritage Foundation	\$60,000.00	

TAMIU-Alumni Association	\$10,000.00
Total Budget	\$562,000.00

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

26. Authorizing the City Manager to execute (27) Twenty-Seven individual contracts with the following General Fund recipients totaling \$430,814.00 for FY 2019-2020.

Organization	Amount
Area Health Education Center	\$5,000.00
Bethany House	\$25,000.00
Holding Institute	\$8,000.00
Border Area Nutrition Council	\$25,000.00
Border Region MGMR Community	\$10,962.00
Boys & Girls Club of Laredo	\$20,000.00
Catholic Charities-Diocese of Laredo	\$10,962.00
Casa De Misericordia	\$20,000.00
Childrens Advocacy	\$27,000.00
Kidney Foundation of Laredo	\$18,000.00
Laredo Amateur Boxing	\$5,000.00
Laredo Cancer Society	\$10,966.00
Laredo Childrens Museum-Imaginarium	\$7,000.00
Laredo Crime Stoppers	\$25,000.00
Laredo Little Theater	\$6,500.00
Laredo Regional Food Bank	\$3,000.00
Gateway Community Health Center	\$3,000.00
Literacy Volunteers of Laredo	\$6,000.00
Mercy Ministries	\$10,962.00
Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center	\$100,000.00
Sacred Heart Childrens Home	\$15,000.00
Serving Children & Adolescents in Need	\$13,500.00
South Texas Food Bank	\$35,000.00

Volunteers Serving the Need	\$10,962.00
PAL-Pet Alive Laredo	\$3,000.00
Habitat for Humanity of Laredo	\$3,000.00
Rio Grande Intl Study Center	\$3,000.00
Total Budget	\$430,814.00

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

27. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo's 2018 One Year Action Plan to allow for the reprogramming of a CDBG project. It is proposed that the El Eden Park Improvements project's scope of work described in the 2018-2019 plan as "improvements to the park including sidewalks, shade structures, exercise equipment, drinking fountains, benches and other amenities as deemed necessary" be changed to "Project improvements will include the extension of the fiber optic network (I-Net) of the City to the El Eden Recreation Center and other amenities as deemed necessary to increase the connectivity and allow citizens to have access to the World Wide Web in order to apply for jobs, benefits & services, and continue education. Safety and security will also be enhanced using the same infrastructure to control and transmit data from security camera's to be viewed both locally and by the Laredo Police Real Time Crime Center to deter and investigate any crime in the area." Funding for this project will remain as initially proposed, \$120,000.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

28. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 2 an increase of \$378,318.12 to the professional services contract with RS&H, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, for the Laredo International Airport Air Cargo Apron Phase 13 Rehabilitation. This amendment no. 2 is for construction phase services including construction administration (CA) and resident project representative (RPR). Current engineering contract amount with this amendment is \$823,964.92. Funding will be available upon approval of budget appropriation of FAA Grant #89; 90% federal funds with 10% local match.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

29. Consideration for approval of award of construction contract to the sole bidder Reim Construction, Inc., Mission, Texas, in the amount of \$8,099,987.55 for the Laredo International Airport Cargo Apron Phase 13 Rehabilitation with a construction contract time of three hundred eighty-five (385) calendar days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Completion date for the project is scheduled for January 2021. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund. Funding will be available upon approval of budget appropriation of FAA Grant #89; 90% federal funds with 10% local match.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

FIRE: STAFF SOURCE STEVE LANDIN, FIRE CHIEF

30. Consideration to award contract FY19-091 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder K-Air Corporation, San Antonio, Texas in the amount of \$281,692.00 for the renovations/rehab of Fire Station #4. The project consists of renovation/remodeling and construction to include all labor, materials, and related appurtenances as per bid specifications. Contractor will be responsible to provide (and maintain current) payment and performance bonds, as well as builder's risk insurance throughout the duration of the project. The estimated time for completion of this project is ninety (90) working days; notice to proceed will be provided upon contract execution so that improvements could commence immediately. Funding is subject for approval - 2017 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

31. Consideration to authorize the purchase of protective structural firefighting suits for the Fire Department from Dooley-Tackaberry, Deer Park, TX., through the Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing in the total amount of

\$111,696.30. Funding is available in the Departments FY 2019-2020 operational budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

32. Consideration to renew contract FY16-051 to sole bidder Praxair, Laredo, Texas for an annual amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. This contract is to provide welding gases/medical oxygen to various City Departments to include: Fire, Traffic, Parks and Recreations. This is the first of two renewals and it is for a two (2) year term; subject to future appropriations. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

33. Consideration to renew the existing annual contract FY18-091 with RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$150,000.00 for repairs to the City's John Deere heavy equipment. All repairs will be secured 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. This is the first of three extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE DR. HECTOR GONZALEZ, HEALTH DIRECTOR

34. 2019-R-163 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to accept an additional amount of \$7,285.00 for a total amount of \$338,420.00 with a cash match of \$33,842.00 for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department Public Health Emergency Preparedness

(PHEP) and Response program for the term period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-163.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

- 35. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to accept a contract amendment with provider Winder N. Vasquez, M.D. for physician services for the City of Laredo Health Department Tuberculosis Elimination Program in the amount of \$31,200.00 for a total amount of \$53,600.00 for the term of September 1, 2018 through September 30, 2020, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department budget.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

HUMAN RESOURCES: STAFF SOURCE MELINA BERMUDEZ, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

- 36. City Council confirmation of City employee's nominated member, Juan Jose Avila to the Municipal Civil Service Commission, as per ordinance 2017-0-020.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

INFORMATION SERVICES & TELECOMMUNICATION: STAFF SOURCE HOMERO VAZQUEZ-GARCIA, IST DIRECTOR

- 37. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”), attached hereto as Exhibit A, between the South Texas Development Council (“STDC”) and the City of Laredo for the Management of the South Texas Regional Radio System (“STRRS”) and the Advance System Key (“ASK”) for a one (1) year term beginning October 1, 2019 at

an annual fee of \$40,000.00 payable quarterly in four (4) equal payments of \$10,000.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

PARKS & RECREATION: STAFF SOURCE JUAN J. GOMEZ, JR., ACTING PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

38. 2019-R-165 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit an application for the 2020 Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grant to provide, promote and support outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental education to under-served communities, and execute all relevant documents as determined by TPWD.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-165.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

39. 2019-R-167 A Resolution of the City of Laredo, Texas, authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to approve a donation agreement between the City of Laredo and Mr. Robert "Beto" P. Gutierrez for acceptance of \$37,500.00 towards the construction of bathroom facilities at Divine Mercy Park.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-167.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

40. Consideration to renew contract, FY16-076 to low bidder, South Texas Waste Systems, Laredo, Texas in an estimated annual amount of \$52,230.00. This contract is subject to future appropriations and will provide portable restroom rental services and portable hand washing stations to various City of Laredo departments on an as needed basis. Term of this contract shall be for a one year period and there is no price increase. This is the first of two extension periods. Funding for this

contract is available in the respective department budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

41. Consideration to award contract FY20-001 to the sole bidder Ameri-Brand Products, Oroville, California in the amount of \$70,393.04 for the purchase and installation of one custom manufactured pool dome enclosure at the Inner City Pool for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks Department is seeking to install a dome over the inner city pool in order to provide year round use for recreation and training. The estimated time for completion of this project is between thirty five and sixty working days. Funding is available in District Priority Funding in District 4 & 8.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

PLANNING & ZONING: STAFF SOURCE JAMES KIRBY SNIDEMAN, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR

42. Motion adopting the following schedule of hearings and proceedings for voluntary annexations for 2019-2020:

October 21, 2019	Council adopts proposed annexation schedule.
October 22, 2019	Begin annexation petition/application submissions.
December 6, 2019	Annexation petition/application deadline at 5:00 p.m.
January 21, 2020	Council meeting authorizing by motion the drafting of annexation agreements and service plans for submitted annexation requests and refer to Planning and Zoning Commission.
February 6, 2020	Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and review of proposed annexation and proposed zoning designations.
March 2, 2020	City Council holds first public hearing on proposed annexation/s. Loc. Gov't Code §43.063.

March 16, 2020	City Council holds second public hearing on proposed annexation/s. Loc. Gov't Code §43.063
April 6, 2020	City Council meeting: Introduction of an ordinance instituting annexation proceedings and adopting a service plan for the areas to be annexed and establishing zoning. (Not more than forty (40) nor less than twenty (20) days from the date of public hearings. (Institution of Proceedings).
April 20, 2020	City Council Meeting: Second reading and adoption of annexation ordinance instituting annexation proceedings and adopting a service plan for the areas to be annexed and establishing zoning. (Completion of Proceedings). Loc. Gov't Code §43.064.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

43. 2019-R-155 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to accept a grant in the amount of \$66,123.00 from the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance for funding the 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program for the period of October 01, 2019 through September 30, 2022. The Bureau of Justice Assistance mandates that this grant be divided equally between the City of Laredo and Webb County; \$33,061.50 will be allocated for the LPD Network Specialist and \$33,061.50 for Webb County Sheriff's Office operation enhancements. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-155.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

44. 2019-R-158 Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to apply for a grant in the amount of \$872,271.00 to fund the Laredo Police Department HIDTA Task Force, the Laredo DEA HIDTA Task Force and the Rio Grande Valley Financial HIDTA Task Force. The initiatives are funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and High Intensity Drug

Trafficking Area (HIDTA) at no cost to the City. Funding will be used to pay personnel salaries, fringe benefits, overtime, travel and operating expenses from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Funding for the Rio Grande Valley Financial Task Force will be used for payment of fringe benefits, overtime, and operating expenses from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-158.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

SOLID WASTE: STAFF SOURCE STEPHEN GEISS, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

45. Consideration to renew contract FY18-032 to the sole bidder Gutierrez Machine and Welding Shop, Laredo, Texas in an amount of up to \$100,000.00 for providing welding repair and fabrication services for the Solid Waste Services Department. The term of this renewal shall be for a period of one (1) year upon mutual agreement. This is the last renewal for this contract. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Services Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

TAX: STAFF SOURCE DORA MALDONADO, TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

46. Approving the monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts adjusted for the month of September 2019 represent a decrease of \$90,829.92. 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: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

TRAFFIC SAFETY: STAFF SOURCE DANNY MAGEE, TRAFFIC DIRECTOR

47. Consideration to award contract FY19-096 to the sole bidder, MRL Equipment Co., Billings, Montana for the purchase of one (1) thermal melter trailer in the total amount of \$96,915.00 for the Traffic Safety Department. This thermo machine shall be used by the pavement marking crew to apply roadway signs such as crosswalks, bike lanes, and arrow turns throughout the City. Funding is available in the 2016 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE RIAZUL MIA, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

48. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to approve a sole source contract from Core & Main, LP, San Antonio, Texas for maintenance of the AMI/AMR equipment and software in the current annual amount of \$61,274.40. Funding is available in the Water Works Fund - Utilities Billing Division.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

49. Authorizing the Interim Co-City Managers to approve Amendment No.1 for the surveying lab services contract in the amount of \$14,500.00 to Howland Engineering and Surveying Co., Inc. to verify verticality and settlement of the 2.5 Million Gallon (MG) San Isidro Subdivision Elevated Storage Tank (EST). Total new contract with this amendment will be \$81,600.00. Funding is available in the 2016 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

50. Consideration to ratify the issuance of an emergency purchase order by the Co-Interim City Managers in the amount of \$52,992.96 to HEB Grocery for the purchase of waters due to the boil water notice. These waters were distributed to the community in the affected areas. Funding is available in the Waterworks

Administration Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

51. Authorizing the Co-Interim City Manager to contribute to a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) in the amount of \$42,600.00 to benefits the environment instead of paying fines to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's proposed agreed order, Docket No. 2019-0881-MWD-E; Enforcement Case No. 57883 for the Zacate Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant. Funding is available in the Utilities Department - Sewer System Fund - Construction Division.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XII. STAFF REPORTS

52. 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: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

53. Presentation by the Laredo Commission for Women 2020 action plan with possible action and any matters incident thereto.

1. Breast Cancer Awareness (October - 2019)
2. Women Voter Awareness Events (Ongoing throughout 2020)
3. Business Etiquette Workshop (January - 2020)
4. Women's Hall of Fame Event (March - 2020)
5. International Women's Day Event (March - 2020)

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, explained that there is one activity still pending. Sylvia Bruni, Laredo Commission for Women Chair, assured Council that the Commission's 2020 action plan is carefully aligned with the Commission's bylaws, mission, and purposes. Each event is designed to advance the issues that are of particular importance to women. The Commission's Hall of Fame proposal that will be presented to Council next year will be carefully constructed and will utilize a scoring matrix that has already been reviewed and approved by Council. She noted that a 2020 year-long campaign of the Commission will be to encourage voter registration for the community but particularly women; next year will mark 100 years since the House and the Senate passed the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. This will be a signature event for the Commission for Women.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XIV. 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: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

54. Consideration to renew FY 16-053 Tire Lease Contract with the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year. This is the first of two extension periods.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

55. Consideration to renew the (FY17-059) engine motor oil and lubricant contract for

the Laredo Transit Management, Inc. (El Metro) to three of the original five low bidders. The following vendors had a two year contract with two additional one-year options extend. The two year contract will expire on October 3, 2019. We're exercising the first one (1) year option to renew. Funding is available in El Metro Operations.

- 1.) Arguindegui Oil Co., Laredo, TX, in the estimated amount of \$38,504.00
- 2.) Hollon Oil Company, Weslaco, TX, in the estimated amount of \$32,890.00
- 3.) Gonzalez Auto Parts, Laredo, TX in the estimated amount of \$21,750.00

Claudia San Miguel, Transit General Manager, explained that the vendor contracts are based on the best price for different products.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

56. Consideration to exercise the option to renew a two (2) year contract FY17-062 with Andy's Auto Air and Bus Air, Inc., Laredo, Texas to provide fleet air conditioning services for the Transit System Fleet, in the estimated amount of \$65,000.00 per year. The term of this contract will be for a period of two (2) years beginning on 11/8/2019 per the initial contract awarded to vendor by Laredo Mass Transit Board on 11/6/2017 provided the contract pricing does not exceed the current pricing structure. Funding is available in El Metro Operations fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

57. Consideration to award parts annual supply contracts (FY19-090) to the listed vendors for providing bus and van fleet parts. Contracts will be awarded by item(s) to the lowest responsible bidder for parts most commonly purchased for non-warranty repairs. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis. The term of contract is two years (24 months) with an option to renew one (1) year. Funding is available in the El Metro Operations Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

XV. 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: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

58. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. 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 under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy, and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps, instead of a speed cushion, 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.

- a. (1) Speed Hump on 3700 Katiana

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

B. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action on amending Ordinance 2-61 Section A regarding military leave, and any other matters incident thereto.

Rogelio Nevarez of the Laredo Police Officers' Union noted that this ordinance was last updated 12 years ago. Many City employees are also service members, and military leave would allow them to serve their country without providing hardship on their families. He asked that the City amend the ordinance to ensure that any enlisted employee who is deployed on an assignment have their income supplemented so that they do not see a reduction in their family's income. This would be differential pay.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that the intention is to make this military leave available to all City employees who are also active military, not just Police or Fire employees. He initiated a motion to approve this item.

Mr. Nevarez noted that two employees to his knowledge are on military leave right now since August. He asked if this action would be applied to them. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, countered that the City is not allowed to give retroactive pay.

Mayor Saenz how many City employees are also active military to provide an estimated cost to the City for approving this item. Cm. Rodriguez reminded Council that there should be no fiscal impact because the City would only supplement any employees who are paid less than what they earn at the City during their assignments. In fact, these employees going on military leave will result in a savings to the City because they will not be paying the full salary during those assignments.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, reported that approximately eight to 10 Police employees are on active military duty; two of those employees are deployed currently.

Armando Garcia explained that the military has some insurance benefits for families of military members, but they are not the same as what is provided by the City.

Motion to approve for all City employees on active duty to receive differential pay for all military assignments that cause them to take military leave.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez were not present.

C. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Discussion with possible action on a presentation by the Emergency Assistance Team (E.A.T) regarding public safety employees appreciation dinner.

Celicia Garcia clarified that EAT is not involved in the public safety employees appreciation dinner but is instead requesting funding for the non-profit organization. EAT offers a food box distribution the Tuesday before Thanksgiving; the box includes Thanksgiving food as well as staple pantry items. The organization started in 2012 and intends to serve 300 boxes valued at \$60 per box this year. The families who receive a box are compiled by school administrations.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez recommended that EAT apply for Third Party Funding

next year. This year, each District can individually contribute funds to the organization.

No action taken.

D. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to incorporate through ordinance the Grants Department as a division of the Economic Development Department; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III and Council Member George Altgelt)

Cm. Torres noted that Council wants to have the Grants Administrator and Economic Development Department work together, which is how Webb County also operates. Rosario Cabello, Co-Interim City Manager, confirmed that management supports this item.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted his opinion that all Department Directors should be incorporated with the Grants Administrator so that all Departments are developed through grant funding. He stated that he has an agenda item for a cabinet that coincides with this issue. Management should also have a say-so in the direction that the Grants Administrator takes since management directs how economic development progresses in the City. Management should be the ones to dictate how needs in the community are met.

Tecló Garcia, Economic Development Director, reported that the Grants Administrator, Arnoldo Lozano, has asked for direction on this matter and has worked with Mr. Garcia closely. Mr. Garcia noted that he asked Mr. Lozano to meet with every Department head to determine the needs of each Department.

Cm. Torres noted that his concern is regarding the structure of administration. His intention is to formalize what has already been going on, which is the Economic Development Director providing the Grants Administrator with regular direction. Mr. Garcia will communicate with management as to that direction, which he is currently doing.

Mr. Garcia reminded Council that City Departments already do a great job with their grants and are knowledgeable about their processes and objectives. Mr. Lozano will work with them to supplement those efforts. He noted that quality of life projects, such as transportation and park projects, are also economic development.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez voiced his agreement with having the Grants Administrator report to the Economic Development Director.

Mrs. Cabello reported that staff met with Directors regarding this item and Dr. Martinez's cabinet proposal; the Grants Administrator was included in this meeting. She voiced her opinion that both objectives can be achieved.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

E. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action and status on Memorandum of Understanding or accommodations for special needs interns/job trainees at the City of Laredo, and any other matters incident thereto.

Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director, reported that staff will move forward with the MOU in a slightly different direction. There was some confusion with Let's Go Texas and them being able to provide workers' compensation insurance for their members. While they have that insurance for their coaches, they are unable to develop a policy to cover their workers. However, through the Texas Workforce Commission and Vocational Rehabilitation, Mrs. Bermudez reported that the City will be able to move forward with this objective with these two entities. They both cover the individuals that they bring and requested that the particular individual selected for the Finance Department start on November 1, 2019, which is doable.

No action taken.

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

1. Discussion with possible action on status of director level cabinet for legislation; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III)

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, explained that staff has started forming this group to include the Grants Administrator and Directors. The City's lobbyist is involved, as well, and the group has access to last year's legislative agenda. They will submit items that they believe is currently representing the needs of the community. The lobbyist will provide guidance on how to best form this group and its objectives.

Dr. Marte Martinez stated that the City cannot leave lobbying efforts to just one trip to Washington D.C. and one trip to Austin. Lobbying efforts must be continual; the majority of the work should be done prior to the trips rather than during that week. The cabinet must begin reaching out to the Chairs of finance committees and special interest committees. He encouraged staff to develop the City's requests now rather than just a few months before the trip. Mr. Eads confirmed that staff has already reached out.

Mayor Saenz encouraged staff to stay in close contact with the City's lobbyist.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action and status on the Amphitheater Project; and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez reported that an area on the north side of North Central Park has a detention pond that has been serving recently as a venue for summer concert series and movie nights. He noted his plans to create an amphitheater in this area and will release funds to realize the project. The venue will be covered, and he noted a tree-planting on November 23, 2019 to shade the entire west side of this detention pond and along the creek. The southeast portion of this area will be where the stage will be located as the water does not get very high. A grassy knoll will allow people to play sports if desired.

Robert Eads, Co-Interim City Manager, stated that staff is prepared to work on cost estimates and a design given Council's direction. Dr. Martinez noted that the funding source for this project will most likely be District VI Priority Funds. There are some funds available from the General Obligation Debt that may also be utilized for this project.

Motion to start the in-house design process for an amphitheater in the north side of North Central Park near the detention pond.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

XVI. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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