

**CITY OF LAREDO CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
M2019-S-05
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
April 15, 2019
5:30 P.M.**

SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTES

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

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing Co-Interim City Managers to amend the City of Laredo 2018 – 2019 Transit Center Budget by drawing down from fund balance \$104,622.00 and increasing expenditures in the amount of \$104,622.00; and authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to amend the 2018-2019 Transit Sales Tax by appropriating revenues and expenses to develop and implement a Pilot Urban Circulator Program (\$104,622.00) and any related expenses.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

No action taken.

III. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action on the creation of an Ordinance to limit Council Member community events per fiscal budget year, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez)

Dr. Marte Martinez explained the intent of this item is to centralize the City-wide events that occur every year. Last year, City Council held at least 75 events.

Anita Stanley, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, presented a list of special events from the last 12 months (April 2018 to March 2019), which total 85 events. These events do not reflect the assistance request forms, which come in throughout the City for bleachers, benches, tents, tables, and chairs. The 85 events also do not include farmers' markets. She noted that each Council Member hosts between 5-15 events; the cost depends on the event itself in equipment and labor.

Graciela Briones, Assistant Parks & Leisure Services Director, reported that from October 2018 to March 2019, District Special Events were as follows:

District 1 8
District 2 11
District 3 8
District 4 6
District 5 12
District 6 7
District 7 12
District 8 6

Mayor Saenz asked if Council would consider a budget limit rather than an event limit. Cm. Torres noted that while Mayor Saenz makes a valid point, he has seen events where there are more Parks personnel than attendees; Council should be conscious of those events where certain days or certain parks do not work or get a return of investment. He added that a groundbreaking for sidewalks is not justified.

Mrs. Briones confirmed that she exhausted the overtime budget last year by December with special events. Manpower is one of the Department's biggest obstacles when planning events.

Cm. Torres suggested adding a timeframe of 30 days in which a Council Member must inform staff or the rest of Council about the plan. Cm. Altgelt agreed, noting that a master calendar would be helpful in coordination efforts. He also noted that the City should define what constitutes an event and recommended defining it as "four employees or more."

Robert Eads, Interim Co-City Manager, agreed that four employees is a good suggestion, he cautioned Council that Police, Fire, and other employees are also involved in these events behind the scenes, which can be misleading.

Cm. Torres asked if staff looked at flex time versus comp time in this matter to keep Parks staff from being too thin.

Motion to direct staff to create an ordinance to limit Council Member community events to six events per Council Member per fiscal year, excluding ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings, and any additional events are to be brought back to Council for approval and add language to give Council Members 30 days to

notify staff and the rest of Council about their events and for events to be defined as four or more Park employees, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

B. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Status report on the contract between the City of Laredo and the Laredo Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainability, with possible action. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member George Altgelt)

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.