

**CITY OF LAREDO
RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATION NOTICE M2018-
R-03
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
February 20, 2018
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor presented the following:

1. Recognizing Alexander High School Junior Captain Juan Montoya who earned All-State honors, honorable mention at guard by the Texas Sports Writers Association for 6A. Montoya helped the Bulldogs average 4.7 yards per carry and 301.9 total offensive yards per game as they went 6-6 and advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Juan Montoya, Alexander High School senior, noted that he plays offensive right guard and encouraged other athletes to listen to and trust their coaches.

Mayor Saenz recognized Mr. Montoya's mother in attendance and presented him with a certificate of recognition.

2. Recognizing United High School Sadey Rodriguez for breaking her own city record in the discus with a throw of 143'8 at the LISD Invitational Relays.

Mayor Saenz recognized Miss Rodriguez, who was not in attendance.

3. Recognizing Tommy Treviño, a senior at Alexander High School for winning 1st place in the B Class Division of ATV's Lone Star Quad Racing (LSQR) series.

Tommy Treviño explained that he races ATV four-wheelers, and the series in which he won the championship was in Houston, Texas, this year. He will begin training for the next season over this weekend.

Mayor Saenz presented Mr. Treviño with a certificate of recognition for his achievement.

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2018-R-03
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
February 20, 2018
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	District I
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Alejandro "Alex" Perez, Jr.	Mayor Pro-Tempore, District III
Alberto Torres Jr.	District IV
Norma "Nelly" Vielma	District V
Charlie San Miguel	District VI
George J. Altgelt	District VII
Roberto Balli	District VIII
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Horacio De Leon	City Manager
Cynthia Collazo	Deputy City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	City Attorney

Cm. Altgelt joined at 5:40 p.m.

Cm. San Miguel joined at 5:55 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of February 5, 2018

Motion to approve the February 5, 2018, minutes.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez, Cm. Torres, Cm. Altgelt and Cm. San Miguel were not present.

Citizen comments

Mellie Hereford noted that Council appoints highly-qualified individuals to the City's boards and commissions but then ignores the advice that they provide. She voiced her opinion that Council thinks that they know better than the advisory committees. She reminded Council that these appointees also represent all of the City's districts. She cited the ad hoc committee, unspecified, and the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission, both of which Council created and then dictated its own wishes rather than receiving the committees' recommendations. She urged Council to let the people of Laredo choose the names that they want for facilities rather than only the names that Council assigns. Ms. Hereford also noted her concern that Council's intentions to amend the Ethics Code may be to acquire permission to break the law. Section 2.09 of the Ethics Code was created for a reason, and the Ethics Commission voted unanimously against a change to the Code. However, Council added the item to the agenda to change the Code despite the Commission's protestations. She asked why Council bothers to have committees if it continues to play politics. She warned Council that if they vote against the Ethics Commission, they will be voting against the will of the people, which is not new behavior. Voting to change the Ethics Code will result in the people losing their confidence in this Council. Ms. Hereford voiced her opinion that Council will display a lack of respect for the law and a preference to their own self-interest if they change the Ethics Code. She iterated that citizens are against changing Section 2.09 to the Ethics Code.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Maria Teresa Fonseca to the Building Standards Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Maria Teresa Fonseca to the Building Standards Board.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore Perez was not present.

2. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Gabriela Perez to the Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore Perez was not present.

3. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Mario Guzman Jr. to the South Texas Development Council.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore Perez was not present.

4. Appointment by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez of Sergio Chavez, Jr. to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Sergio Chavez, Jr., to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore Perez was not present.

5. Appointment by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez of Elizabeth Lopez to the Laredo Commission for Women.

Motion to approve the nomination of Elizabeth Lopez to the Laredo Commission for Women.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore Perez was not present.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Presentation by Raul Moreno, General Services Administration (GSA) on the construction update on the Juarez - Lincoln International Bridge Project, the improvements to Bridge I and the upcoming closure of North bound vehicular traffic.

Raul Moreno of GSA reported that the Bridge #1 construction on Convent Street is about 85% complete, and automobile traffic is scheduled to reopen on April 29, 2018. Pedestrian traffic will open on April 24, 2018, using the 14 new booths in the new, modernized facility. He noted that the construction at Juarez-Lincoln will introduce a two-stage delivery, and the construction will be completed at the end of April 2018. He reminded Council that the west end of the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge houses the bulk of vehicular processing. Automobiles will be shifted from the east side to the west side to work on the secondary vehicle inspection facility, which will be housed on the east side of the bridge. The total project is expected to be completed by December 2018. He added that SENTRY capabilities on Bridge #2 will be expanded but will remain there. Mr. Moreno invited Council and City Management to tour the facility before its public opening.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept and execute a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 2017-2018 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$50,625.00 and amending the FY 2017-2018 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Health Educator II, R32 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Healthy Texas Babies Program for the term from execution date through August 31, 2018.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a Restaurant Serving Alcohol, on Lot 1, Block 1, Northridge Commercial Plat, located at 8511 McPherson Rd. Suites 109, 110 & 111; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit. ZC-24-2018 District VI

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez, and Cm. Perez were not present.

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2018-O-033, 2018-O-034, 2018-O-035, 2018-O-036, 2018-O-037, 2018-O-038, and 2018-O-039.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

3. 2018-O-031 Amending Chapter 28, Article IX Public Right of Way Management; Amending Section 28-165, Definitions; Amending Section 28-174, Permit Required; Clarifying Section 28-215, Fees; Providing for a Repealing Clause; providing for publication, severability, and effective date.

Victor Linares of Building Development Services clarified that this item allows residential owners to obtain permits to perform work on their driveways without having to use a right-of-way contractor. It gives homeowners more freedom to work on their driveways. This is for local, residential roads only.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-031.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez and Cm. Perez were not present.

4. 2018-O-032 Amending the Subdivision Ordinance Handbook of the City of Laredo by revising Chapter III, Subdivision Design Standards, Section 3-2 Streets and Alleys (R) Pavement Standards, Pavement Specifications for Public and Private Streets; providing for publication, severability and effective date. (AS AMENDED)

Ramon Chavez, Executive Director of Public Services, reported that staff added additional recommendations to this ordinance, such as:

- 90% soil compaction behind the curb once in place to prevent drain water from penetrating the finished road
- Wet ball mill method test requirement for determining the disintegration of flexible base material
- Texas Triaxial Testing requirement for disturbed soils and base materials
- French drain installation
- 5' minimum wide valley gutter installation at intersections where runoff is designed to cross asphalt pavement
- Roadway Maintenance per TxDOT Operations Manual (crack seal,

fog seal, seal coat, slurry seal, thin hot mix overlay)

Cm. San Miguel voiced his approval of these recommendations.

Jesus Ruiz noted that the Technical Review Board was not presented this list of additional requirements. He noted that the drainage recommendations are already addressed in the drainage ordinance that Council previously passed. The 90% soil compaction is already being done, and he was unsure if the wet ball method is currently available. He noted that the wet ball test is best administered through the specifications book, which is currently being reviewed. The community is meeting on a biweekly basis, and Mr. Ruiz noted that adding French drains all over the City is usually done to correct a mistake, in his experience building residential homes. He explained that the specifications book addresses testing and similar issues, so these should not be included as part of this ordinance.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reminded Council that the 90% soil compaction was a recommendation from the expert that addressed Council previously.

Mr. Chavez confirmed that staff is currently reviewing the Standards Specification Manual, which covers materials, equipment, and testing standards. He explained that French drains are typically installed behind the curb, and he clarified that staff is not recommending that French drains be installed throughout the City. The recommendation is just a call to consider them.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, confirmed that valley gutters are in the drainage ordinance; however, there are many streets with inlets in the middle of the streets rather than at the corners. This causes water to cross from one side of the street to the other, including intersections. Valley gutters need to be built because of that.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-032 and include staff's additional six recommendations, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore Perez was not present.

5. 2018-O-033 Authorizing the City Manager to ratify and execute a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 2017-2018 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$250,000.00 and amending the FY 2017-2018 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Chief of Health Education, R39 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Obesity Prevention Program for the term of February 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-033.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

6. 2018-O-034 Authorizing the City Manager to ratify and execute a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 2017-2018 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$224,584.00 and amending the FY 2017-2018 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Health Educator I, R29 position and one (1) Caseworker, R34 position and six (6) contract employees for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Zika Health Care Women's Health Prevention Services in our target area for the term of January 18, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-034.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

7. 2018-O-035 Amending the City of Laredo 2017-2018 Special Police Fund budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$182,174.40 to fund the Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Project and to accept said grant award in the amount of \$182,174.40 from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. The funds will be used to equip 480 officers at risk of shootings with bullet-resistant personal body armor compliant with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standard for rifle protection. The Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant performance period is from January 01, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and may not exceed 12 months. No local match is required. Funding available in Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-035.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

8. 2018-O-036 Amending the City of Laredo's FY 2018 annual budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$124,952.07 in the General Fund. The revenues are from forfeiture cases involving abandoned and unclaimed money from the Laredo Police Department Property and Evidence Section. These funds will be used for PD

buildings that are in dire need of repairs and improvements. Funding is available in General Fund and will be utilized as approved by City Manager.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-036.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

9. 2018-O-037 Authorizing the City Manager to allow the City of Laredo Utilities Department to sell sanitary sewer capacity in the amount of \$617.00 per gallon per minute (GPM) to the development community that are required to participate in the construction of the Eastern Chacon Creek 36" Interceptor Project due to the lack of capacity of the existing sanitary sewer system; allowing the development community to do the improvements in lieu of payment of the sanitary sewer capacity; amending the wastewater annual budget 2017-2018 by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$100,000.00; and providing for an effective date. This interceptor will provide extra capacity to the Eastern Chacon Creek Watershed Service area and will start from the Vaquillas lift station to the siphon at the intersection of Gates and India. The sale of the sanitary sewer capacity will be enforced to the development community during the recordation of the platting process that includes the interest from the bond. Properties requesting an increase of sanitary sewer capacity beyond those designated in the original plat will be subjected to the additional payment of the extra sanitary sewer capacity. The estimated cost of the improvements including the interest will be \$7,088,153.00. Utilities Department recommends increasing the cost per GPM by 2% on October 1st of every year. Fees collected will be set aside in the sanitary sewer capacity projects account.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-037.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

10. 2018-O-038 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 14, Article II., Section 14-9, of the code or ordinances by amending section 14-9 (m) to eliminate the brush pick up fee in its entirety for city residents paying garbage fees and waiving the bulky item and debris fees for residents who claim illegal dumping has affected their property/residence and who provide a signed affidavit attesting to the fact and specifying bulky items may be collected at no charge during schedule semi-annual and special collection events; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and

declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-038.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

11. 2018-O-039 An Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article II, Section 2-16, "Departments of the City," of the Code of Ordinances by creating the Economic Development Department; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-039.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item # 12-22.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore Perez and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item # 24-38.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

X (a) RESOLUTIONS

12. 2018-R-24 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a non-financial agreement between the City of Laredo - Public Libraries and the Webb County Head Start Program to coordinate services provided to Head Start families.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-024.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

13. 2018-R-26 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$85,790.75 to the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2018 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)-Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) Grant. This funding will be used to replace one fully equipped bomb vehicle that is essential and necessary in the prevention of terrorism events. No local match is required. Funding is available in Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-026.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

14. 2018-R-27 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$80,000.00 to the Office of The Governor, Criminal Justice Department (CJD), for funding the 2019 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for the period of October 01, 2018 through September 30, 2019. This funding will provide overtime for the Anti-Gang Unit which will target Criminal Street Gangs by identifying, monitoring, suppressing and documenting criminal gang activities and maintaining the TX-Gang database. Funding is available in Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-027.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

15. 2018-R-28 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$108,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division for the General Victim Assistance Program Grant under the 2019 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2020. This grant will fund the Crime Victims Service Coordinator position, travel/training and equipment & supplies affiliated with the grant program. The City of Laredo will be responsible for a required match of 20% of total grant funds. Funding is available in Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-028.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

16. 2018-R-29 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$225,000.00 to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, for funding the 2019 Body-Worn Camera Program for the period of June 01, 2018 through September 30, 2018. The purpose of this program is to aid municipal police departments in establishing or enhancing body-worn camera (BWC) programs. The City of Laredo will be responsible for a required 20% match of total project cost. Funding is available in Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-029.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

17. 2018-R-30 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a tax abatement agreement between the City of Laredo and Alberto & Jennifer Garcia for a proposed project located at 420 W. Montgomery St, Lot 12; Block 177; Eastern Division that consists of new construction, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of Economic Development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$195,581.39, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$1,434.72 and estimated total fee waivers of \$3,190.50. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-030.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

18. 2018-R-31 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a tax abatement agreement between the City of Laredo and Armando Soto for a proposed project located at 1915 Rosario St., Lot 2; Block 1085; Eastern Division that consists of new construction, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$110,100.00, estimated annual tax abatement total

of \$701.33 and estimated total fee waivers of \$1,681.00. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-031.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

19. 2018-R-32 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a tax abatement agreement between the City of Laredo and Frank Group Properties limited for a proposed project located at 916 Salinas Ave, south 61.25 feet of Lot 6 & the south 61.25 feet of Lot 7; Block 127; Western Division that consists of rehab, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a ten (10) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$163,892.16, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$1,044.00 and estimated total fee waivers of \$3,028.00. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-032.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

20. 2018-R-33 Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a license agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for controlling vegetation (carrizo cane removal) along the banks of the Rio Grande at Santa Rita park; said license agreement will allow the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's contractor to control vegetation (including, but not limited to, visually inspecting, marking, mowing, cutting, clipping, trimming, topping, pruning and/or shredding vegetation; removing cut vegetation and/or other debris; and/or implementing erosion control measures); there is no financial impact to the City of Laredo.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-033.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

21. 2018-R-34 Resolution correcting the recorded volume and pages for a drainage

easement dedication to the City of Laredo through Resolution 2017-R-92 to properly reflect volume 1774 pages 289-293, Webb County Official Public Records and authorizing the City Manager to execute the revised donation agreement documents that set forth the terms of the drainage dedication.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-034.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

22. 2018-R-36 Designating and creating Phase II of the Economic Development Incentive Program within the Arts and Entertainment District along Iturbide "IT" Street from Flores Avenue to Juarez Avenue, for bars and restaurants only, to include reimbursement of the City's portion of the sales tax (1%) with a cap equal to the start-up investment over a 5-year term and the waiving of permit fees for rehabilitation of existing buildings as allowed by Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-036.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro-Tempore and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

X (b) MOTIONS

23. Consideration to adopt the 2018 Federal Legislative Agenda for the 115th U.S. Congressional Legislative Session.

Blasita Lopez, Executive Director of Tourism, Marketing, & Communications asked Council to approve this item as amended following crucial discussions over the weekend with DHS officials, specifically the Commissioner of Homeland Security. The City is expanding its request for the marine base facility, which is not included in the position paper on the current agenda.

Mayor Saenz informed the public that through the efforts of Congressman Henry Cuellar, the City is planning to ask for 20 acres of the airport property to house a large Department of Homeland Security facility with Laredo serving as the venue for those operations. This will have an impact on the City's federal monies and employment.

Cm. Vielma reported that the City met with Congressman Henry Cuellar and the Commissioner of Homeland Security, and this facility will bring more jobs to Laredo, which would be the first city to have all Homeland Security subdivisions under one roof.

Mayor Saenz added that all branches appear to be in favor of this request and opportunity. The City has the potential to be reimbursed for any costs associated with this facility. As the number one land port, he voiced his opinion that this is a crucial opportunity for the City to embrace.

Motion to approve as amended by staff.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

24. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for Economic Development services with the Greater Laredo Development Foundation doing business as the Laredo Economic Development Corporation in the amount of \$560,000.00 for fiscal year 2017-2018. Funding is available in General and Bridge Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

25. Consideration for approval of the Roof Replacement for the City of Laredo Health Department located at 2600 Cedar Avenue Project as complete; release of retainage; and approval of final payment in the amount of \$35,241.32 to ALC Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$704,826.38. Funding is available in the 2015 and 2016 CO Issues.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

26. Consideration for approval of the CDBG Sidewalk Project District VIII (20 City-Blocks) as complete; release of retainage; and approval of final payment in the amount of \$15,500.00 to ALC Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$150,500.00. Funding is available in the 42nd Action Year CDBG Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

27. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to Sherfey Engineering Company, L.L.C., Laredo, Texas, for an amount of \$65,780.00 for design and preparation of plans and specifications for the El Eden Park Improvements to include a splash park, sidewalks, shade structures, picnic tables, benches, landscaping, lighting, and other amenities deemed necessary and located at 4735 Loma Vista Drive. Design work is to be done on a fast track basis. Funding is available in the 43rd Action Year CDBG Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

28. Authorizing the City Manager to grant a public fireworks display permit for the City of Laredo at Uni-trade Stadium located at 6320 Sinatra Pkwy. It will take place on March 24, 2018. The technicians for the display will be Pyrotecnico.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

29. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute contract payments with Spectrum for providing the existing 9-1-1 telephone network and maintenance for the South Texas Region, including Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb and Zapata Counties, in the amount of \$106,000.00. Payments are for the period of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. Funding is available in the 9-1-1 Regional Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

30. Authorizing the City Manager to ratify payment in the amount of \$51,964.58 to the Firm of Greenberg Traurig, L.L.P. for past legal services related to the oral argument and post submission brief in Texas Supreme Court Case No. 16-0748 styled City of Laredo v. Laredo Merchants Association. The City has paid \$415,668.70 to date in defense of its Checkout Bag Reduction Ordinance at issue in this case. Funding is available in the General Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

31. Consideration to award annual supply contract FY18-029 for the purchase of general electrical supplies to all City departments in an estimated amount up to \$300,000.00 to the following vendors:

- 1) 3-G Electrical Supply, Laredo, Texas (Primary Vendor)
- 2) Core Supplies & Materials, Laredo, Texas (Secondary Vendor)

This contract establishes discount percentage pricing for those electrical supplies most commonly utilized by City departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract may be extended for two additional one year periods upon mutual agreement. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the respective user departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

32. Consideration to award contract FY18-028 for the purchase of heavy duty equipment for various city departments to the following vendors:

1. Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$707,929.37 for the purchase of six (6) backhoes, one (1) case tractor, one (1) mini-excavator, and one (1) pad foot roller;
2. AG Pro-Company of Texas, Weslaco, Texas in the amount of \$179,158.38 for the purchase of three (3) utility vehicles, four (4) riding mowers and two (2) tractors with tillers;
3. Ron Grant Equipment, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$49,950.00 for the purchase of five (5) backhoe trailers.

Funding is available from the 2015 Contractual Obligation Bond, Sports & Community Venue-Unitrade, 2017 Solid Waste PPFCO, and 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

33. Consideration to ratify contract FY18-027 for the purchase of veterinary medication to the following bidders:

1. Miller Veterinary, Fort Worth, Texas (Primary Vendor) in an amount up to \$60,000.00
2. MWI Animal Health, Boise Idaho (Secondary Vendor) in an amount up to \$60,000.00.

The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years, subject to future appropriations, beginning as of the date of its execution; contract may be extended for one, additional one (1) year period upon mutual agreement. All medications will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Laredo Animal Care Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

34. Consideration to award annual contracts FY18-030 for the purchase of truck tires to the following bidders:

1. Items 1, 3, 4, & 5: Southern Tire Southwest, Columbia, Missouri in an amount up to \$400,000.00; and
2. Item 2: GCR Tire Centers, Nashville, Tennessee in an amount up to \$75,000.00.

All tires will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract has two extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

35. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into a three (3) year contract for the Collection of Delinquent Property Taxes with the firm of Flores, Flores, and Canales, P.L.L.C.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

36. Refund of property tax in the amount of \$747.83 payable to Kish Manwani due to an overpayment. Tax account # 558-01704-070.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

37. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of January 2018, represent a decrease of \$10,655.77. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

38. Consideration to ratify the issuance of an emergency purchase order by the City Manager in the amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 to United Rentals, San Antonio, Texas for the rental of two 7500 GPM skid mounted diesel pumps, associated 18" HDPE by-pass pipe, manifold, and fittings at the El Pico Water Treatment Plant Intermediate Pump Station #2. Funding is available in the Waterworks-Water Treatment Division.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XI. STAFF REPORTS

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

Motion to approve the Internal Auditor's report as presented.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

40. Status Report on the Washington D.C. trip scheduled for March 4 - 8 to include private sponsorships collected by Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC).

Blasita Lopez, Executive Director of Tourism, Marketing & Communications, reported that the City is on track for the trip. The delegation will be staying at the host hotel, the Mayflower, and the legislative agenda has just been approved by Council. The City will have meetings for three days with 20 delegates. Mrs. Lopez estimated another 40 interested parties from the Laredo private sector will also be in attendance. The City will showcase the City's culinary culture along with a signature tequila-based beverage. She reminded Council that the City asked staff to work with a third party entity on the contributions that are used to support the Laredo Day reception. However, after deliberations, the Chamber of Commerce and their board opted not to partner with the City on this particular endeavor, although they are collaborating with the City on many other fronts for the legislative trip. The City then asked the Laredo Economic Development Corporation to collaborate, who accepted the offer. She asked Council to revisit the previous action to work with the Laredo Chamber of Commerce and instead allow the City to work with the Laredo Economic Development Corporation.

Olivia Varela, Laredo Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, reported that the organization agreed to take over the solicitation of sponsorships for the legislative trip, and to-date LEDC has secured 20 commitments. There is still work to be done, but in the remaining week and a half, LEDC should secure the sponsorship goal. She noted that she has not been approached by anyone to disclose the entities who committed any funds.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, clarified that the sponsorship monies were intended to cover the expenses for the Laredo Day reception in Washington, D.C.

Tony Arce, Laredo Economic Development Corporation President, reiterated the healthy and productive working relationship between LEDC and the City.

Ms. Varela noted that other than the transparency of local government to the public, the benefit to LEDC remains to be seen at this time. To-date, LEDC has raised \$46,000 of its \$50,000 goal for this trip. Any monetary amount over \$50,000 raised may be surrendered to LEDC as an administrative fee, much like a marketing firm.

Cm. Torres voiced his opinion that LEDC should receive some benefit for the work that they are doing and that the City should pay an administrative fee even if the full \$50,000 is not raised. Mr. De Leon clarified that Council has approved a contract with the Corporation, which provides a benefit to LEDC.

Mrs. Lopez confirmed that the full \$50,000 would go toward the Laredo breakfast reception. It is separate than the additional breakfast that is sponsored with the Mexican Embassy.

Cm. Vielma thanked LEDC for their assistance in garnering sponsorships and asked the City Manager if staff could compile a report of all of the funding that was spent or

earmarked as a result of the last Washington, D.C. legislative trip.

Mr. De Leon clarified that the City is downsizing this year, which is why the sponsorship goal is about half of previous years.

No action taken.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

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

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

41. Authorizing the Mass Transit Board to allow the Public Transportation Operator (El Metro) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding among the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO"), the Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT") and El Metro, the Laredo Public Transportation Operator as per the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) promulgated regulations 23 CFR 450.314. No financial impact.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

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

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

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

42.

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Discussion with possible action on the study in the Northwest quadrant traffic study from Colombia Road State Highway (255) to IH 35 along Mines Road addressing freight mobility and local non commercial traffic for the purpose of alleviating congestion and any other matters incident thereto.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that TxDOT through the Metropolitan Planning Organization has offered to fund this study, as has the Regional Mobility Authority. Previously, there was discussion that this item could be included in the Port Laredo Master Plan, but staff wants the Port Master Plan to stay in the port boundaries. He recommended that Council work with the MPO or RMA for this item. Having this study already completed would benefit the master plan, and including this study in the master plan would be counterintuitive. If there is funding identified by the MPO, it would be highly beneficial for the City to take advantage of that.

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, clarified that the Northwest Corridor Study focuses on the area west of I-35 from 255 to Mines toward the river. TxDOT has voiced concerns about this area, and the study will help the City plan for its right-of-way and future expansion needs. All parties need to articulate their priorities and objectives for the study.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action to prioritize the outer loop roadway initiating in South Laredo in coordination with Bridge V timeline and any other matters incident thereto.

Mayor Saenz clarified that this item is important to the transportation needs of Laredo and Mexico. Mexico has designated that area for a roadway. He iterated the need for the City to plan for this area, which could take six to eight years. He encouraged the City to identify the corridor in the next three or four years and clear it environmentally. He encouraged developers and landowners to come forward and provide feedback, noting that Congressman Henry Cuellar has advised the City not to divert funds from priority projects with nearer timelines.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his support of this item, clarifying that it does not make sense to bottleneck all traffic at World Trade Bridge. The proposed expansion plans to make the bridge 20% more efficient, but unless the City, along with TxDOT and the MPO, invests in downstream infrastructure, this solution will only further overwhelm an already overwhelmed area along Mines Road. He cautioned Council not to rush to find a quick fix for the congestion on World Trade Bridge.

Mayor Saenz reported that he has approached the private sector to provide funding in the event that Mexico is unable to participate in the expansion project. The City will attend a bridge meeting in McAllen in the next week to address the primary and secondary plans for this concept.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that the City is far from prioritizing any funds. However, the City can initiate the planning stages of Bridge V in

conjunction with the outer loop, which comes into play in moving commercial traffic through town quickly.

Cm. Balli noted that TxDOT estimated the design of this project alone to take eight years. Therefore, the City should move forward as soon as possible.

Mayor Saenz added that TxDOT will cover some upfront costs, but they need authority from the City.

No action taken.

3. Discussion with possible action on the City's and State's Traffic Synchronization Project and any other matters incident thereto.

Robert Eads, Traffic Director, reported that staff foresees a contract for this project. Beginning with FM-1472 and prioritizing intersections and corridors, the City has over 250 signals in the City. With \$600,000 budgeted, the City will attempt to get the most value as possible for this project and will be making a sizable leap in traffic synchronization. The City selected Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam (LAN) as the consultant for this project, and the negotiations are drawing to a close. On March 19, 2018, staff expects to bring the finalized agreement to Council for approval along with the report of corridors and intersections that staff intends to improve. He confirmed that the financing came through TxDOT with local match regulations to which the City needs to comply.

Bob Austin, LAN Senior Advisor, reported that LAN submitted the scope and general terms to the City in the last week and a half and address the most critical signals in Laredo. With that completed, the negotiations are 99% complete. Traffic counts need to be completed before the end of the school year, and traffic counters are ready to be implemented.

Mr. Eads confirmed that all major corridors of Laredo are being included in the study as well as some off-system improvements. He noted that staff may bring other funding sources to Council for consideration of more synchronization.

No action taken.

B. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion and possible action to require the City of Laredo Animal Shelter to change their policies to allow for low cost adoption alternatives in order to gain control of the number of animals that are being euthanized weekly. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Charlie San Miguel)

Cm. Altgelt explained that, based on reports given to him by animal advocates, the City is efficient in rounding up stray animals but lacks the efficiency in finding homes for those animals. He was told that people show up at the animal shelter wanting to adopt an animal but are charged multiple fees and given numerous instructions before they are able to adopt, resulting in them leaving the shelter discouraged and without a pet to bring home. He suggested that the department change its policies so that nobody leaves the shelter without a pet that they were hoping to adopt barring proof that the individual is not capable of animal

ownership. He encouraged the animal shelter to do something that would alleviate the shelter's skewed kill numbers versus low adoption numbers.

Clarissa Rangel, Animal Care Services Director, displayed the following statistics for the Animal Care Services Department for the month of January 2018:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Animals Collected		
Dogs	[Not visible/disclosed]	
Cats	230	
Euthanized		
Dogs	230	57.50%
Cats	152	80.53%
Fostered		
Dogs	15	3.75%
Cats	4	1.77%
Adopted		
Dogs	14	3.50%
Cats	2	0.88%
Returned to Owner		
Dogs	41	10.25%
Cats	8	3.54%
Released to Rescue Group		
Dogs	100	25.00%
Cats	30	13.27%
Outcome Total-January 2018		
Dogs	400	
Cats	226	
Live Release Rate-January 2018		
Dogs	170	47.50%
Cats	44	19.47%

Cm. Torres noted that animal issues continue to come up in Council Meetings. One question continues to arise, which is "why can't the adoption rates for the shelter be more affordable?" He noted that as per the Animal Care Services Advisory Committee, the rate cannot be more affordable because if people cannot afford the adoption rate then they will likely not be able to afford the care and maintenance costs for the animal. That is the philosophy in the animal community because when animals are adopted due to a lower adoption fee, the odds that those same animals are returned to the shelter later are very high. He added that the Animal Care Services Department works well with the rescue organizations, noting that one person who spoke to Council identified herself as part of a rescue organization and in fact was not. Each person that comes to the advisory committee initially has the same belief that adoption rates should be

lowered, but Dr. Leyendecker, the animal care authority, counters that the person will not be able to afford the food, veterinary care, vaccinations, or surgeries that the animal may need. The current adoption fee is just enough to help the City break even for the vaccination and neutering costs that the City provides.

Cm. Altgelt stated that if the City has a high turnover rate of animals returning to the shelter, that is still preferable than a high kill rate of animals. Animals that are adopted out at least have a chance of survivability as opposed to being killed in the shelter.

Ms. Rangel explained that an individual coming to the shelter to adopt a dog is not charged anything during the pre-adoption program. Once an animal is sterilized, receives its rabies vaccine and microchipping and registration, the individual would pay a total fee of \$137.

Cm. Altgelt countered that for \$137, a person could just as easily check listings for purebred dogs or puppies for sale. Cm. Torres clarified that purebred dogs cost a lot more than \$137.

Ms. Rangel explained that the general fee for sterilization at a veterinarian can cost upwards of \$160 alone.

Cm. Altgelt continued that while it is a worthwhile endeavor to try to break even for the costs of services that the City provides at the animal shelter, the department has a crisis of killing more animals than it saves or rehomes. He suggested that while the department implements its policies, in the interim they should hold a "fire sale" in which adoption fees are drastically lowered to encourage pet adoption. The City can continue its current operation and keep a reputation as a kill city, or it can make a change in an effort to save more animals.

Cm. San Miguel countered Cm. Altgelt's insinuation that the rest of Council does not care about decreasing the number of animals killed in the City shelter. All City officials and Council Members want to improve the number of animals that are homed and decrease the number of strays that are captured and killed in the shelter. He suggested that the City could add a financial campaign to utility bills where residents may opt to donate money to help pay for spay/neuter programs in the shelter.

Ms. Rangel relayed staff ideas for promotions. Staff hopes to start a catch-and-release pilot program in the near future. After attending the American Pets Alive conference last week, City staff networked with other municipal shelters and rescue groups. One idea that staff thinks may be successful is hosting "Caturdays," which are free cat adoptions on Saturdays. This will coincide with "cat season," the period in which the shelter sees more kittens and cats coming into the shelter. She also recommended an "adopt by the pound" campaign in which an individual would pay \$1 per pound of the animal they wish to adopt. These low fees would include the sterilization and vaccination fees as she described previously.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if there is a system in place where animals that return to the shelter after being adopted result in the owners being sanctioned. Ms. Rangel

confirmed that the owners of a pet that ends up back in the shelter after adopting the animal are not allowed to foster or adopt from the shelter again.

Cm. Torres reported that Pets Alive has approached the City and requested a small building or facility in which the organization can move dogs from the LACS shelter. This will help the euthanasia rate because Pets Alive will become responsible for these dogs and rehouse them. He encouraged the City to consider accommodating this idea and finding a facility to help bring LACS's kill rate to under 25%.

Ms. Rangel noted that other municipal shelters achieve a no-kill or low-kill status by having promotions and holiday specials, including giving discounts to patrons who dress for a particular occasion. Staff should focus on marketing pets that have been with the shelter for the longest amount of time. She reported that an individual has volunteered his or her marketing skills to help the department promote the dogs and cats that have been in the shelter for a long time.

Cm. Altgelt reiterated that despite numerous conversations about this problem over the years, the City has not improved its shelter animal statistics. He noted that the City needs to rethink how it will address the issue.

Cm. Torres reminded Council that the City already has a full-time veterinarian who the City pays about \$160,000 per year. The City already has a contract with Dr. Leyendecker, who is performing all of the veterinarian services to shelter animals.

Ms. Rangel explained that once the shelter receives a dog or a cat, they make an immediate appointment with Dr. Leyendecker to get the animal sterilized and vaccinated. Dr. Leyendecker is able to perform those services within two days, depending on the space available for the animals. She also performs surgeries and as-needed services.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, explained that once the full-time veterinarian receives the medication that has been ordered, she will focus on sterilizing which takes about 60% of her time. Currently, the City does not have a wait time or insufficient funds for sterilization.

Ms. Rangel added that the department is catching up on the dogs and cats that were not sterilized previously. She also reported that up north, there are shelter or rescue organizations that request animals from LACS because they are underutilized.

Cm. San Miguel suggested paying for the fuel costs of external organizations coming to take animals from the LACS shelter.

Cm. Torres suggested that the City provide a location to Pets Alive, who is very willing to help with the overpopulation of the City shelter, through a Memorandum of Understanding for a small fee, like \$1 per a set number of years as is done with the Boys & Girls Club.

Cm. San Miguel noted that Council Members have big events coming up soon. He asked what they could do to make it easier to have pet adoptions on-site. Ms.

Rangel noted that LACS has a pet trailer and will be participating in the upcoming Kite Festival. The Department is also hosting an adoption at Petco on March 3 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Department will be happy to bring animals to any event where they are welcome and invited.

Cm. Vielma voiced her opinion that the City should do more to educate the public, starting with elementary school-age children. Ms. Rangel reported that the Department participates in Career Days at schools in Laredo, and they received an offer from United High School to work with one of their teachers to promote pets.

Cm. Balli noted that the reports from staff are different than what is reported or relayed from Council. There is a full-time veterinarian who has a waiting list of about 100 animals. Instead of going through the expense of hiring someone else full-time, he asked if getting a short-term contract with a veterinarian to eliminate the backlog would solve the problem.

Ms. Rangel explained that once the veterinarian catches up with the animal backlog, the veterinarian will be able to keep up with the services moving forward. She has been communicating with recently-graduating veterinarians who can help the shelter as part of their work experience.

Cm. Torres reminded Council that Dr. Leyendecker has been the only local veterinarian who is willing to work with the City. He commended her for her availability and noted that she deals with a lot of demand from the public and helps mediate issues regarding the animal shelter. She has a backlog of animal sterilizations because many foster homes were neglecting to return to the shelter with the commitment to sterilize and adopt the animals. About a month ago, Dr. Leyendecker was able to act on her contract, charging the City about half of her normal fee. Cm. Torres reported that there may be a need to increase the contracted amount for Dr. Leyendecker, but the department will be able to transfer funds from one line item to another in order to fulfill this additional amount. He explained that no other veterinarian is willing to work with the City because they are either too busy with their own animal care practice or they are unable to wait for the City to pay them at the end of the month, as Dr. Leyendecker is willing to do.

Motion to direct management and staff to have the full-time veterinarian dedicate as much time as practical to spaying and neutering the shelter animals and adjust the City's adoption rate to something nominal in order to encourage rescuing animals until the City's animal population and adoption rates under control to minimize the kill rate and that, simultaneously, the City expedite the transfer of shelter dogs and cats to whatever communities demand them and further instruct staff and management to assist in finding a location for Pets Alive to assist the City in such a way that when the City's shelter reaches capacity, Pets Alive is able to relocate animals to their facility rather than being euthanized, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

2. Discussion and possible action to audit the City of Laredo's ADA compliance for all city facilities. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Charlie San Miguel)

Cm. Altgelt reported that he received some complaints by constituents that certain City facilities are not ADA compliant.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that he had asked Rogelio Rivera to perform an assessment of City facilities to find any that do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and determine what steps could be pursued to correct those deficiencies. He noted that the City could go out for Requests for Qualifications for a consultant to help with designs and costs, adding that these repairs may need to be added to the Capital Improvement Plan's budget if they are substantial.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, confirmed that all facilities go through the ADA inspections, and all new facilities are built to ADA specifications at the onset. Older buildings are possibly noncompliant, but Mr. Rivera reported that all entrances, offices, and restrooms have been retrofitted to comply with ADA.

Mayor Saenz asked Cm. Altgelt what specific facilities received complaints for noncompliance. Cm. Altgelt could not recall from memory.

Mr. De Leon noted that the federal courtroom building on Matamoros Street was cited as having a wheelchair ramp that was gated and locked, which prevented wheelchair-bound individuals from using the ramp and gaining entrance to the building. He reported that the Public Works Department is working on reinstalling the ramp. The City was sued at one point because the Downtown sidewalks were not ADA compliant, but the City corrected the sidewalks, and they are now in compliance. Mr. Rivera added that the sidewalk lawsuit was back in the 1990s, and the City responded.

Mr. De Leon recommended that the City perform an in-house assessment to gather a sense of the scope of work needed. From there, he recommended that the City go out for RFQs based on the assessment. He added that the City owns the federal building, which is now a United States Post Office, so it is the City's responsibility to make the building ADA compliant.

Mr. Rivera clarified that the post office building itself is compliant, but the wheelchair ramp is fenced off for some reason, which makes it unusable for wheelchair-bound individuals.

Motion to direct staff to perform an in-house assessment regarding all City facilities to verify ADA compliance.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

3. Discussion and possible action to build a public boat ramp for canoes and kayaks at the Max Mandel golf course.

Cm. Altgelt noted that funds would come from his district priority funds.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that there are some deed restrictions on this property that would need to be reviewed to ensure that a public boat ramp is an allowable use. Cm. Altgelt stated that in the event of a deed restriction, the City can meet with the donor of the property to find a solution.

Motion to go out for RFQs for the design for a public boat ramp for canoes and kayaks at the Max Mandel golf course.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

C. Request by Council Member Roberto Balli

1. Discussion with possible action to design and construct cycling lanes along Zacate Creek between Chicago/Taylor and Jefferson/Lyon to connect same to the San Bernardo/Santa Maria cycling lanes. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. and Council Member Nelly Vielma)

Robert Eads, Traffic Director, confirmed that CDBG funds can be used for these lanes. In the Comprehensive Plan, which has been approved and adopted by the City, there is a mobility section that include a bike mobility plan, which has been followed by staff. The bike mobility plan largely starts in District VIII but expands to other districts. Some of the current bike lanes include Convent Avenue's northbound lane from International Bridge 1 to Victoria Street, San Bernardo Avenue from Park Street to Chicago, and Casa Verde Road from Jacaman to University. Staff will extend as far south as possible while maintaining connectivity. He noted that TxDOT has some minor concerns to address throughout the process. He estimated that staff will be able to construct additional lanes in the next month, but staff will need an official TxDOT letter approving the lane designations.

Cm. Altgelt asked for a staff report at the April 2, 2018 Council Meeting. Mr. Eads confirmed that a report could be presented as early as the March 19, 2018 Council Meeting.

Mr. Eads added that staff has reached an agreement with AEP to provide pebble-wash type lighting along San Francisco Avenue, which would be underground rather than the large gray poles. The pavement markings have already been designed, but there is a CDBG qualifying period to ensure that the project can be completed in the area.

No action taken.

D. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alejandro "Alex" Perez

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct and authorize staff to install speed humps at 1600 Milmo Ave., 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 III Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on an invitation by AIA Laredo to the Laredo City Council and the City of Laredo staff to participate in an Urban Design and Economic Development Workshop and Lecture by Urban Planner, Joe Minicozzi of Urban 3 (specializing in land value economics, property and retail tax analysis and community design); and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. and Council Member Roberto Balli)

Mario Peña of AIA Laredo invited Council to attend a lecture and potential workshop to help AIA's mission to promote excellence in design through education and awareness in Laredo and Webb County. AIA has hosted five previous lecture series featuring architectural design, sustainability, and walkability in communities. The sixth lecture series, which Mr. Peña requested Council and City staff to attend, will feature Joe Minicozzi, an urban planner who has worked in over 40 cities across multiple states and in Canada. Mr. Minicozzi's mission is to promote livable communities through award-winning analytic tools.

Mr. Peña reported that Mr. Minicozzi is available to lead a workshop on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The architectural community is seeking sponsorships for this lecture, which will be held in the Laredo Community College auditorium. AIA has committed to raising the funds if sponsorships are not available. The total cost of the event is estimated to be \$7,500. He clarified that this lecture benefits the neighborhood Master Plan, but it is not the same thing. Mr. Minicozzi's lecture will focus on investing in inner-city development. His lecture will not be akin to hiring a consultant. His lecture is purely educational in nature.

Cm. Altgelt noted that Mr. Minicozzi discourages urban and suburban sprawl and voiced his enthusiasm to hear the lecture.

Mr. Peña added that AIA intends to link Mr. Minicozzi's lecture with Viva Laredo Plan. LCC is providing the use of their facilities and giving a donation for the event costs.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that staff would look for funding to pay for one-third of the cost.

Cm. San Miguel requested that the developing community be invited to the workshop as this topic is helpful information for them, as well. Cm. Altgelt echoed

the same sentiments, imploring all development stakeholders to attend this workshop.

Motion to attend a workshop on April 24, 2018, with City staff and Council present to hear Joe Minicozzi's lecture and that the City co-sponsor the workshop with AIA and Laredo Community College and provide \$2,500 for funding, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

E. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to assist the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) as an official sponsor of the 2018 CLEAT Convention being held in Laredo, Texas, September 20-22, 2018; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alex Perez and Council Member Roberto Balli)

Cm. Torres noted that this convention is a great opportunity to showcase the City of Laredo to law enforcement officials from across the state.

Ray Navarez of the Laredo Police Officers Association (LPOA) noted that the last time the CLEAT Convention was in Laredo was 2008, and it was a large production. The Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau worked hard to bring the convention back to Laredo in 2018.

Motion to assist the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) as an official sponsor of the 2018 CLEAT Convention through the City's Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to create an Ordinance and/or Resolution requiring the City Secretary to publish on the City's Website all Candidate and Officeholder Campaign Finance Reports (CFR) and Campaign Treasurer Appointments by a Candidate (CTA) within 48 hours from submission to the City Secretary's Office and that an Online Archive be made available for all previously filed CFR's and CTA's; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Roberto Balli)

Cm. Torres noted that Webb County requires citizens to submit open records requests for election-related financial information, and he commended the City Attorney for being more transparent and accessible than that. If the City publishes this information online within two days of the City Secretary's Office receiving the documents, it would alleviate some of the open records requests that bombards the City Attorney's Office and increase the City's transparency, as citizens can access these materials whenever they want.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, confirmed that staff can upload these documents with no problem. The City Secretary's Office timestamps and scans CFRs and CTAs upon receipt, so they are immediately accessible to the public and ready for uploading online. He noted, however, that the retention period of these types of records are around two years, so the archive would not go back very far into the past.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to create an ordinance to allow law enforcement and/or constituents acting in good faith to rescue any animal that may be left in a vehicle, specifically during extreme weather conditions; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

F. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to create a Citizens' Advisory Board to assist the Financial Innovation Officer to make technological improvements, department and budget efficiencies recommendations to Council and any matters incident thereto. (Co-sponsored by Council Member George Altgelt)

Cm. Vielma noted that it is a daunting task on the Chief Innovations Officer, Rosario Cabello, to review the overall budget to find deficiencies and that a technology-savvy committee would be helpful in this objective.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that staff welcomes input in an advisory capacity. It is the City Manager's responsibility to bring a balanced budget to Council, as per the City Charter. The input that Mrs. Cabello provides is to aid the City Manager. He cautioned Council that input provided by an advisory committee will simply be advisory, as the City Manager is responsible for the budget decisions.

Cm. Rodriguez voiced his opinion that the City Manager is perfectly capable of giving directions regarding the budget. He added that the Chief Innovations Officer has not been in her new position for a year yet, so he asked Council to wait for her to have at least experienced a full year and to bring a recommendation to Council as per any cost savings that she might find. He reiterated his opposition to creating more committees, as many already experience difficulty in securing quorums and crowding Council Chambers for their meetings.

Cm. Torres voiced his support of committees and commissions, but he noted that Council should first get a status report from Mr. Cabello as to what she has gathered and reviewed before creating a committee to assist her. After receiving a status report from her, then Council can determine what action to take. He noted that this item may be premature if the officer is still getting settled into her role.

Mr. De Leon reiterated that staff welcomes the input of an advisory committee but does not feel ready to act on any input at this time, because the Department is still working on a structure that will work most efficiently for the Chief Innovations Officer. Mrs. Cabello's role and focus is still being developed, and she will need to work with existing staff to bring forth ideas that actually result in cost savings. She will document the findings of each department's review.

Cm. Torres suggested that adding an advisory board this early may hurt Mrs. Cabello's progress rather than help.

Mr. De Leon noted that there is a misconception that the Chief Innovations Officer is a performance auditor. However, that is not the role that Mrs. Cabello is carrying out with the City. He noted that to-date, Mrs. Cabello is reviewing the Police Department. She has completed some work with the Information Services & Telecommunications Department and the Health Department. He recommended that Council wait until the budget discussions in August 2018 before deciding to create an advisory committee.

Cm. Vielma clarified that her intention was to perform a balancing act between the City employees and individuals from the private sector to maximize cost savings and efficiencies. She noted that staff does not have to follow any advice from the committee right away.

Mr. De Leon repeated that staff always welcomes advice and supports the creation of the committee with some standards for their operation, but any recommendations to Council from the Chief Innovations Officer would most likely be during the budget workshop in August.

Cm. Altgelt recited the scope of a Chief Innovations Officer from the Internet: "As their job title suggests, a Chief Innovations Officer is put in charge of idea generation within an entity. They can develop these ideas on their own, and they can also accept ideas generated by others. A CIO is basically in charge of managing the innovations process within an organization." He voiced his opinion that having Mrs. Cabello focus on the City's three biggest departments that consume the City's budget (Police, Fire, and Parks) would lead to ideas that save the most money. He envisioned the CIO having unfettered access to technical data so as to be able to come up with ideas to innovate the City. She will need access to management, middle management, and boots-on-the-ground employees. He encouraged Council to do everything possible to empower the CIO so that she can innovate processes, levels of service, and cost savings. He suggested that Mrs. Cabello would pair up with the Internal Auditor.

Mr. De Leon noted that everything explained by Cm. Altgelt is already a duty or ability of the CIO. Management has already worked out with the CIO that when

she visits a department, she will establish a small committee made up of employees of that department to bring in the ideas in the different divisions of that department. Cm. Altgelt countered that that approach does not have a component of citizens or the private sector.

Mr. De Leon confirmed that the Chief Innovations Officer is a department of one. If she creates a committee of the employees in each department that she reviews, then she has access to the entire departmental resources for a report back to the City Manager.

Rosario Cabello, Chief Innovations Officer, reported that she met with the City Manager, the Executive Director of Personnel, Risk, & Civil Services, and the Police Chief in advance of her review of the Police Department. She confirmed that the department is fully accessible to her during her investigations. When asked if she believed that a citizens' advisory committee would help or hurt her work at this time, she noted that either result is likely. It may provide some direction for ideas that the public would like to see adopted, but it may also introduce too many deviations from her objectives. She noted that having bylaws in place or prioritizing two or three areas for her to direct her efforts and receive feedback from the committee on those objections would probably be most helpful.

Mr. De Leon noted that it is also the responsibility of every Department Director to innovate within their department. It should not have to take the CIO auditing every department for innovation to occur. Mrs. Cabello's role is an idea that came from the What Works Cities forum, but the collective City employees must contribute to innovation and efficiency. The City Manager's Office has to vet the ideas coming from the different departments before they go to Council, and the CIO will take on that major role.

Cm. Torres asked how much weight the opinion of the CIO will carry with Department Directors. If Directors do not respect her opinion simply because she is not the City Manager, that in itself will not contribute to innovation or cost savings. He advocated for checks and balances in the innovation process. He asked for clarification on the authority of the CIO.

Mr. De Leon reiterated that it is a work in progress. Staff has addressed concerns as they arise during Mrs. Cabello's time in her new role. There is an opportunity for her to address the approach to each department.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, and Cm. San Miguel were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to schedule a workshop to present the possibility to defease the debt from the 2011 and 2014 Sports Venue Tax Bonds and the possible transition to 4A-4B or Economic Development District taxation and any matters incident thereto. (Co-sponsored by Council Member Charlie San Miguel

and Council Member George Altgelt)

Motion to schedule a workshop in April 2018 to begin looking for opportunities to defease the debt from the 2011 and 2014 Sports Venue Tax Bonds and the possible transition to 4A-4B or Economic Development District taxation.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

XV. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Perez, and Cm. San Miguel were not present.