

**CITY OF LAREDO  
RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATION NOTICE  
M2018-R-07  
CITY COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS 1110  
HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
May 7, 2018  
5:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor presented the following:**

1. Recognizing the Laredo Cheer Factory for placing 1st place five times during this season's national competition.

Oscar Gomez of the Laredo Cheer Factory stated that this gym is the first all-star gym in Laredo.

Cm. Rodriguez thanked the parents for believing in their children and commended Coach Gomez for his contributions to South Laredo.

Mayor Saenz presented the cheerleaders with certificates of recognition.

2. Recognizing the students from Milton Elementary School, Sanchez-Ochoa Elementary School, and Ligarde Elementary School for their recent accomplishment as contributing authors of the book "A Visitor's Guide to Sumpkinville" by author Carmen Andersen. Their book is currently being sold on Amazon and bookstores throughout the country. As contributing authors, the young students will receive royalties from all book sales.

Mayor Saenz contributed the students for their contributions.

Cm. Torres reported that he attended the book release with these students, and Mrs. Andersen was presented with a key to the City. He thanked the author and staff for putting the event together.

Carmen Andersen, author, stated that multiple other school districts have contacted her for a collaboration after the success of this book. She reported that the Rolling Oaks Mall in San Antonio, TX, will transform the entire mall into the town of Sumpkinville during Halloween 2018. Children will be able to walk through and shop in the stores, and the student authors will be able to sign their books.

Mayor Saenz presented the students with certificates of recognition.

3. Recognizing the City of Laredo Mountain Bike Team for their achievements during the 2018 State NICA competition.

Cm. Altgelt reported that he has followed the team and seen the grit and determination of the team members. A video was presented showcasing the values and benefits of cycling events and Laredo team members' participation in cycling courses.

Mayor Saenz presented the cycling team with certificates of recognition.

4. Acknowledging the effort of the Rio Grande International Study Center in organizing a multi-faceted 2018 Earth Day Celebration for Laredo, and recognizing key individuals from the various festivities that included: #NoPlasticStraw/#DiaSinPopote Campaign, Campus Art Contest with Recycled Materials, Laredo Kayak Race, and a Festival at Lake Casa Blanca that featured more than 25 interactive eco-stations and eco-games.

Melissa Cigarroa stated that the organization started with the No Plastic Straw campaign not knowing how the restaurant industry would respond to it. However, 40 restaurants participated, and she voiced her gratitude for their involvement.

Tricia Cortez recognized the winners of the campus art contest using recycled materials. There were 40 kayakers, 25 interactive eco-games, and a dozen vendors.

Jorge Martinez, Park Superintendent for Lake Casablanca State Park, reported that the fees were waived for this event.

Martin Cigarroa, winner of the kayak race, encouraged more kayakers to participate in the event next year. He has previously won first and second place in the race, as well.

Cathy De Leon, Principal of Macdonell Elementary School, noted that the school is growing its enrichment programs and clubs. The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students worked on a sculpture for the art contest

Tony Garcia, sponsor of the Finley Elementary Ecology Club, reported that the club has been invited to participate for the third year.

Mrs. Cortez reported that a Muscovy duck event will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2018, to study the Muscovy duck, a neo-tropical duck that has been seen for the first time in the area to encourage inhabitation. She also invited the public to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Rio Grande International Study Center's meeting on Saturday, May 12, at the Laredo Public Library starting at 11:00 a.m. Complimentary lunch and refreshments will be served, and the meeting will summarize the accomplishments of the previous year as well as upcoming projects, and community volunteers will be recognized.

Mayor Saenz commended the organization for its accomplishments.

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2018-R-07  
CITY COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS 1110  
HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
May 7, 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.	District III
Alberto Torres Jr.	District IV
Norma "Nelly" Vielma	District V
Charlie San Miguel	Mayor Pro-Tempore, 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

Motion to excuse Cm. Vielma's absence.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

Cm. Vielma joined at 5:56 p.m.

**V. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of April 16, 2018.

Motion to approve the April 16, 2018.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez, Cm. Vielma, and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

**Citizen comments**

Victor Gomez thanked Council for approving the ethics investigation of Cm. Perez's actions towards his business. He reported that the investigation will take place on

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. He notified Council that he has filed a criminal complaint against Cm. Alex Perez for abuse of his official capacity, initiating a police investigation into the matter as well. After thorough contemplation, he noted that the harassment and mistreatment that he received from Cm. Perez warrants the Council Members' resignation or removal from office. He asked Council to take such action.

Luis Cisneros stated that since November 2014, the City has had multiple changes in the makeup of City Council. There have been two City Managers, a new Mayor, a new City Attorney, and six new Council Members. The foundation of a good government is the separation of powers. Since the 1970s, Laredo has had a strong Mayoral form of government, moving to a strong City Manager form of government, and currently the City seems to have a strong City Council form of government. He stated that the City Charter has been circumvented for many years, as well as the City's procurement procedures, with many violators simply saying "this is how we have always done it." He iterated that no person or Council should have absolute power. He asked all parties to respect the checks and balances system in place and act accordingly in the best interest of the citizens of Laredo.

Cynthia Vazquez thanked Cm. Altgelt for bringing the ethics investigation forward to Council. She also commended Mayor Saenz for voting on this issue. She voiced her concern to City Attorney Kristina L. Hale that, as a public servant, she is paid by taxpayer money. However, she has voiced the opinion that many Council matters are open to discretion and debate; the public would like for her to make more "black and white" determinations.

Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath voiced a concern to City Manager Horacio De Leon that Section 2.03 of the City Charter mandates that Council go solely through the City Manager to get information from City staff. However, Mrs. Hale made a ruling at the last City Council meeting that Executive Directors are an extension of the City Manager and therefore can be approached directly by Council Members. Through an Open Records Request, Mr. Vish asked for standard operating procedures as to how City Council should be pursuing any issues with City Management. Through his request, he learned that there are no apparent standard operating procedures. He stated that the City Manager should develop a written policy that mandates the guidelines to be followed by City Council. Regardless, Council is not currently following Section 2.03 of the City Charter as it is written.

Frank Rotnofsky of BIKE Laredo, notified Council that May is National Bike Month, and there are 27 events planned in Laredo. He invited the public to join the National Ride of Silence on May 16, at 6:00 p.m. at the Telecommunications Building of the Civic Center. The ride commemorates all cyclists who have been injured or killed after being struck by vehicles while cycling.

Karen Gaytán challenged the community to participate in the National Ride of Silence. She added that the events planned during National Bike Month are for all riders, ranging from beginners to advanced cyclists. The events are comprehensive, and BIKE Laredo expects over 200 riders. Luis Dominguez added that many of the rides have an easy pace for beginning and young riders.

Mr. Rotnofsky stated that a full calendar can be found at [www.bikelaredo.org](http://www.bikelaredo.org) or visit the BIKE Laredo Facebook page.

Julie Bazan, LULAC Veterans Council 777 President, invited Council to attend an educational information forum scheduled for May 15, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the UT Health Science Center Regional Campus on the corner of Bustamante and Bartlett. The forum will educate attendees of the process of developing and creating a veterans' museum project, which is very detail- and planning-intensive. She asked Council to attend to gather the necessary information and data to build a well-informed and well-planned museum. The forum will also honor Mr. John A. Adams, a former Laredoan from Texas A&M in College Station. Mr. Adams will be the guest speaker, and he was charged with a similar task in College Station. She added that the forum is co-sponsored by Cm. Vielma and Commissioner John Galo. The forum is free to all attendees.

Jesus Segovia reported that there are less than 35 veteran spaces left at the City Cemetery. He asked Council to put this item on the agenda for the next Council Meeting, where he would like to present figures and a potential solution for this issue.

Juan Avila addressed Mayor Saenz directly, noting that public opinion is that Mayor Saenz initiated the FBI investigation a year ago. He added that Mayor Saenz has a relative who works at the FBI, according to rumors. He noted that he would like for Mayor Saenz to confirm to the community whether he initiated the FBI investigation. He voiced his opinion that the Mayor must be doing something wrong for a political opponent to run against him in the upcoming election. He added that he was disappointed that there was no police presence at a recent annual boxing match, which was needed at the time.

## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Presentation for this year's Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) Dusty TRON NASA robotics team and their robot that will be used in the 2018 NASA robotic mining competition. This competition will include 54 universities from all over the United States, and the Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) is one of two teams from the State of Texas to be invited.

Tarig Tashtoush, Assistant Professor of the TAMIU DustyTRON NASA Robotics team, reported that TAMIU is one of only two Texas universities to be invited to the 2018 competition. One of the team's projects focuses on integrating technology into exploration missions on Mars. The team will travel to NASA and compete against 56 universities from all across the United States.

Mayor Saenz asked the City Manager to find a way to support the team during their NASA competition.

2. Presentation by Driscoll Health Plan & Texas A&M Colonias Program on the 5th Annual UISD & LISD Back to School Health Fair.

David Gomez, Community Outreach Representative of the Driscoll Health Plan, asked for Council's support of the annual Back to School Health Fair. Driscoll Health Plan is a community-based non-profit community organization that offers all of its events free of charge. The health insurance plan offers health care coverage to South Texas communities as well as providing information and resources to needy and vulnerable communities. The Back to School Health Fair offers health services, information, and school supplies to children as they

prepare to start the new school year. Community partners, such as physicians, health agencies, and community agencies, participate in this free event. The health fair started in 2014 with 547 attendees and has grown consistently since then. There is equal representation across all eight districts at this health fair, which is why organizers want to host the fair in a central location.

Motion to host the event at the Laredo Energy Arena for next year.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

## **VII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

1. Appointment by Council Member Roberto Balli of Mr. Julio Mendez to the Fine Arts & Culture Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Julio Mendez to the Fine Arts & Culture Commission.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Ruby Hernandez to the Border Area Nutrition Council.

Motion to approve the nomination of Ruby Hernandez to the Border Area Nutrition Council.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

3. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Dr. Selena Stuart to the Border Area Nutrition Council.

Motion to approve the nomination of Dr. Selena Stuart to the Border Area Nutrition Council.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

4. Appointment by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr. of Richard Norton to the Board of Adjustments.

Motion to approve the nomination of Richard Norton to the Board of Adjustments.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

## VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending Chapter 31, Article I, Section 31-3(a) deleting exemptions for tracts with prior water system improvement expenditures; amending section 31-3(b)3 of the code of ordinances requiring developers pay water and sewer treatment fees equivalent to those required by the annexation ordinance; adding section 31-3(b)6 requiring industrial purpose developers apply to city council for approval of their industrial purpose development in order to obtain water services; amending sections 31-4 to provide for service charges consistent with sections 31-138.1.2 and 31-102; and deleting section 31-6 (refunds to persons sixty five years of age and older).

Amending Chapter 31, Article III, Division 1, Section 31-113 to specify plumbing permit required and adding requirement of annexation; deleting section 31-115 same-failure of waterworks to connect deemed misdemeanor; deleting Section 31-116. same-failure of owner to connect deemed a misdemeanor; renumbering of section 31-117 as 31-115; and renumbering section 31-118 as 31-116 (reserved).

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, explained that this ordinance gives the Utilities Department the authority to provide water and sewer to those tracts that have or will have an industrial use and that are not annexed. Between the introduction of this ordinance and its final reading, staff will bring amendment recommendations for Council that will protect the City once it is feasible to annex them.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 11.8928 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at South of Riverhill Loop & West of Nogal Avenue, from R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District) to R-1MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-30-2018

Staff does not support the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. District III

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that the Department did not receive any letters in favor or in opposition to this zone change. He clarified that staff is only opposed to it because the Comprehensive Plan shows the location as a medium- to high-density residential, but it is an appropriate designation in this area.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 through 7, Block 1070, Eastern Division, and the Northeast corner of Lot 3, and 4, Block 1006, Eastern Division, from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District). ZC-33-2018

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Zone Change. District III

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that the Department received one letter in opposition for this zone change.



Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 7 and 8, Block 1153, Eastern Division, located at 712 Malinche Ave., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District). ZC-34-2018

Staff does not support the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends denial of the Zone Change. Therefore, the applicant has exercised the right to appeal this decision directly to City Council. District III

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that the Department received four letters in opposition this zone change.

Ricardo Godinez spoke in opposition of the zone change. He noted that he is a resident of the area, and he and his neighbors want to keep the neighborhood as it is.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, reported that Mr. Godina submitted a list of signatures in opposition of the zone change, with 19 signatures in total.

Susan Walker, resident near the property, spoke in opposition to the zone change. She has greatly enjoyed the park in the neighborhood, and she has gotten to know her neighbors very well. She reported that nearly every resident in the area is in opposition to the zone change. It is a quiet, family neighborhood, and the residents want to keep it that way.

Sara Mendoza, resident of the neighborhood, spoke in opposition to the zone change. She reiterated that it is a quiet, mixed neighborhood, and the neighbors wish to leave it as is.

Motion to close public hearing and deny the zone change per the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

## IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

5. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 18, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article I, In General, of the Code of Ordinances to modify the licensing and regulatory process for amusement redemption machine establishments and amusement redemption machines within the city by providing clarification on definitions, application, registration, renewal, suspension, and revocation of licenses; and establishing new rules and regulations for amusement redemption machine establishments; amending the Laredo Land Development Code, Article IV, Section 24.65.15, Highway Commercial District, and Section 24.65.16, Light Manufacturing District, by changing the hours of operation of amusement redemption machine establishments; providing for a penalty; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Mayor Saenz asked if Council can propose changes to the ordinance at this time or at the final reading. Cynthia Collazo, Deputy City Manager, confirmed that Council can propose amendments at this time.

Cristian Rosas-Grillet, Assistant City Attorney, reported that at the strategic planning session, Council directed staff to bring recommendations on regulations and rules for amusement redemption establishments based on what other Texas cities and counties are doing. This ordinance is the first attempt at language that will increase the safety of these establishments. The ordinance is about 14 pages long; Mr. Rosas-Grillet noted that under this ordinance, the application process asks more of the applicant than before, such as inquiring whether the applicant has any previous convictions. He stated that the doors must remain unlocked during the hours of operation, the windows cannot be tinted, and membership-type establishments are prohibited. No person under the age of 18 shall be permitted, and there is a process by which licenses can be denied, suspended, or revoked for violations of the ordinance or for convictions of certain crimes. He explained that other ordinances enforce keeping doors unlocked during hours of operation in the event that law enforcement or City officials want to inspect the premises so that they may have access.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his concern with keeping doors unlocked during operation, because the threat to these establishments is the criminal element and not law enforcement or City officials. Giving the establishments the ability to monitor the individual attempting to enter and having the discretion to permit entry to who the operator chooses would be one way to mitigate the armed robberies that occur currently.

Cm. Balli asked if allowing businesses to lock their door during operating hours would be a fire hazard. Cm. Altgelt clarified that the doors can be equipped with a push bar that allows the occupants inside to leave without hindrance but requires individuals attempting to enter to be permitted by the operators inside.

Cm. Torres asked if the City currently requires security guards, because he has seen them outside of these establishments at night. Mr. Rosas-Grillet reported

that he is not aware of any such requirements by the City.

Cm. Torres noted that not all amusement redemption establishments have windows, whether tinted or not. Some are located in brick buildings with just a door.

Mr. Rosas-Grillet confirmed that most of the recommendations in this ordinance do not require modifications to the establishments because most establishments are grandfathered into the building and zoning regulations. Grandfathered establishments are granted a legal non-conforming use allowance. As drafted, this ordinance say that current establishments are given 30 days before some requirements become effective. Most establishments with a current permit would fall under these requirements when they renew their permit.

Cm. Balli asked if the City Attorney's Office is ready to present their findings now or if the office is still gathering information. Mr. De Leon reminded Council that they directed the City Attorney's Office through discussion at the strategic planning workshop to provide an ordinance recommendation separate from the proposed moratorium.

Mr. Rosas-Grillet reported that Police Department recommendations include stricter spacing requirements, which the City could not implement lawfully.

Cm. Bali voiced his opinion that if an amusement redemption machine is defined as any play machine that issues token or tickets, then Chuck E. Cheese's qualifies as an amusement redemption establishment. Mr. Rosas-Grillet confirmed that excluded machines include machines that award the user non-cash merchandize, prizes, toys or novelties solely and directly from the machine including claw, crane, or similar machines or a representation of value redeemable for those items. Therefore, Chuck E. Cheese's play machines are excluded from the definition of amusement redemption machines.

Cm. Altgelt stated that within a home-rule city's police powers, there must be something that can be imposed to ensure public safety and deter armed robbery. He asked if the City can require that the applicant acquire door locks to keep patrons safe. Mr. Rosas-Grillet replied that it is on a case-by-case basis; the requirement to lock doors must be the result of sufficient data that proves it is necessary. If these types of requirements are only applied to a certain type of establishment, then the requirements are harder to defend from a legal standpoint. The requirements would be easier to defend if they are applied to all types of establishments.

Cm. Altgelt suggested that the City pass these requirements as they might not be challenged. Mr. Rosas-Grillet noted that this is a policy decision for Council to make, not the City Attorney's Office. The City Attorney's Office fulfilled the directive asked of them to determine what other Texas cities are doing. Harris County, Ft. Worth, and other larger cities or counties have received lawsuits challenging ordinances regulating these types of establishments, either for being preemptive or going too far. He iterated that the City faces a risk of litigation if it implements regulations that are too strict.

Mayor Saenz noted that staff might have a legitimate reason for not

recommending locked doors, such as a Police or Fire requirement or at the advisement of the District Attorney's Office.

Victor Linares, Acting Building Director, informed Council that the Building Development Services Department requires fire exits separate from the main entrance of businesses.

Ricardo Ramos, Deputy Fire EMS Chief, confirmed that a business can lock its doors as long as it has panic hardware from the inside, which allows any patrons to exit the building if needed.

Manuel Maciel, Deputy Police Chief, stated that anything that can assist the Police Department in ensuring public safety is supported by the Department.

Mayor Saenz noted that convenience stores have video surveillance outside of the establishments; he asked if the Police Department would oppose video surveillance at amusement redemption establishments.

Deputy Chief Maciel stated that convenience stores experience robberies, and many cases that are solved are attributed to the video surveillance footage.

Mayor Saenz suggested a compromise of video surveillance outside of amusement redemption establishments rather than inside the premises. He added that if an establishment is operating legally, the owners should not take issue with video recording. Cm. Altgelt agreed but noted that he did not believe there was enough Council support to add this requirement to the ordinance.

Mr. Rosas-Grillet confirmed that if a specific location has multiple instances of criminal activity, violence, or nuisances then nuisance clauses may assist the City in revoking or suspending the operators' license.

Cm. Vielma asked what is seized during amusement redemption establishment raids, such as the machines or hard drives. Deputy Chief Maciel reported that at the last enforcement operation, the machines themselves were seized. In the past, space and logistical issues led the Department to only seize the memory cards of each machine. He confirmed that there has been a routine operation in which an amusement redemption establishment owner/operator has shut down business following a raid and opened another establishment under the name of a family member or business partner and continued to operate. These operators have used other people to apply for permits.

Mr. Rosas-Grillet stated that the drafted ordinance has a more thorough applicant inquiry process to determine the applicants' business partners in the entity. This information is required by all partners, so if one individual is disqualified then the entire application is disqualified. However, there is no provision preventing the family member or other person applying for a permit on behalf of a previous operator trying to circumvent regulations.

Cm. Vielma noted that the ordinance needs more penalties for illegal operation of amusement redemption establishments. She asked if the City could impose language that states if an operator is determined to be operating an establishment illegally, they and their affiliates no longer qualify for permits or licenses in

perpetuity. Mr. Rosas-Grillet stated that such language could be included given the scope of the language. It would be necessary to determine by what degree an individual is considered an affiliate to the person in question. However, there is already a penalty included that states if an operator has his or her permit revoked or suspended, they cannot apply for another one for a certain period of time. Cm. Vielma voiced her opinion that a 30-day period penalty for a suspended license is not strict enough.

Mr. Linares reported that as it relates to Building Development Services inspections, the Department utilizes permits to not only count the machines being used in each establishments but also to grant the permission to operate the business itself. Any new business is subject to a fire inspection, occupancy and parking inspections, and other mandatory state regulations. The City does not have the capability to inspect the machine programs or software. That is done by the State of Texas.

Mr. Rosas-Grillet noted that Harris County has a regulation requiring visibility through the windows of amusement redemption establishments in which the windows cannot be obscured via tinting or blocking with merchandise. This also applies to doors. That regulation has been incorporated into this ordinance in Section 18-2.4(g). He noted his opinion that most Texas cities are not equipped to inspect maquinitas to determine if they are rigged. He confirmed that staff will research whether other Texas cities inspect the machines.

Cm. Balli noted that Mr. Rosas-Grillet informed Council that regulations must be uniformly applied to similar types of establishments. He stated that convenience stores would likely be the most closely-associated type of establishments to amusement redemption centers, and he asked Mr. Rosas-Grillet if the City Attorney's Office proposes that this ordinance apply to both types of establishments or only maquinitas.

Mr. Rosas-Grillet confirmed that the ordinance as it is written is specific to amusement redemption establishments. He clarified that the requirement is that the City cannot treat amusement establishments differently than any other type of establishment in terms of zoning. Any regulations that the City imposes through its police power must be reasonably tied to sufficient evidence in the City of that regulation's need.

Cm. Balli asked for Legal's opinion regarding robberies at maquinitas as opposed to convenience stores. Mr. Rosas-Grillet stated that if the Police Department had sufficient data that the robberies were similar, then the City can implement regulations to both types of establishments.

Deputy Chief Maciel confirmed that the last few convenience store robberies have involved less than \$100 per robberies. Cm. Balli voiced his opinion that the issue is not the amount of money stolen but the safety. Despite the robbery of less than \$100, the robbery victims are not in any less danger. He confirmed that five convenience store robberies have been reported this year to-date. There have also been five amusement redemption establishment robberies and five general store robberies reported to-date this year.

Mayor Saenz countered that amusement redemption establishment robberies

seem to be more violent than convenience store robberies due to the larger amounts of money on-hand. He voiced his concern that someone will soon be killed in a maquina robbery.

Cm. Altgelt asked if it would be reasonable to require that amusement redemption establishments install door locks with panic mechanisms as a safeguard. Mr. Rosas-Grillet reiterated that this is a policy decision for Council to determine.

Motion to introduce the ordinance and include language that would require amusement redemption establishments to either fit or retrofit door locks and panic mechanisms consistent with the Fire Department’s recommendations that can be controlled from inside the establishment and include a mechanism to assist the City in monitoring and inspecting amusement redemption machines and including penalties for repeat offenders, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 2	Against: 4	Abstain: 0
Cm. Vielma	Cm. Rodriguez	
Cm. Altgelt	Cm. Torres	
	Cm. San Miguel	
	Cm. Balli	

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

Motion fails.

Cm. San Miguel reminded the public that Council does not support criminal activity. Citizen safety is Council’s utmost priority. He voiced his opinion that Mr. Rosas-Grillet has made the case that imposes stricter regulations would be unjust as they are discriminatory against one particular type of business when there are other crimes happening at other types of business. He asked how much of the City’s resources are being targeted maquinas at the expense of other law enforcement operations. It is not the job of Council to determine which criminal activity is more important than the other; that is the duty of law enforcement. He voiced his trust in the local law enforcement community to perform its functions. Cm. San Miguel noted that prostitution along San Bernardo has increased in recent weeks, to which Cm. Torres confirmed that he heard similar reports. Cm. San Miguel cautioned Council not to dedicate too many resources to the safety of one subgroup in the community at the expense of all citizens. He stated his opinion that additional ordinances are not necessary.

Mayor Saenz countered that they are necessary because the Police Chief and District Attorney’s Office have come to Council begging for assistance, noting that amusement redemption establishments are participating in organized criminal activity. The last raid seized over \$1 million.

Cm. San Miguel argued that the City has already dedicated nine additional investigators and money to those units. There have been murders and assaults in City parks, but the City has only three dedicated Park Police officers. The City must consider all of the information in its decision-making.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

6. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with Hamilton Housing Partners, LTD for approximately two hundred square feet of the parking lot located at 1300 Matamoros for the purpose of providing a garbage container space to service the Hamilton Apartments. The term of the lease is for five (5) years with an option to renew for another one (1), five (5) year term and beginning June 1, 2018 with a monthly rate of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## **X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES**

Motion to waive the final readings of Ordinances 2018-O-057, 2018-O-061(B), 2018-O-062, 2018-O-063, 2018-O-064, 2018-O-065, 2018-O-066, 2018-O-067, and 2018-O-068.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

7. 2018-O-057 Authorizing the City Manager to amend the Capital Improvement Fund FY 2017-2018 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$125,000.00 from Webb County as specified in the lease agreement for the construction and paving of the parking lots at the Cedar complex in proximity to the Community Action Center (Fernando Salinas Community Center). Funds from Webb County are to be released in lump sum to begin the construction project.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-057.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

8. 2018-O-061(B) Amending the City of Laredo FY 2018 Airport Construction Fund budget to appropriate revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$3,800,000.00. Revenues are from a Transfer In from the Capital Improvements Fund. The expenditures will be for various airport improvement projects, including reconstruction of Phase 12 and 13 of the cargo apron area project.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-061(B).

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

9. 2018-O-062 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 8.9264 acres, (described by Metes and Bounds in attached Exhibit "A"), located at 900 LF South of Aquero Blvd. & West of Bernadette Lane, from AG (Agricultural District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District); provided for publication and effective date. ZC-31-2018 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-062.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

10. 2018-O-063 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 7.7267 acres, (further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A"), located at 1,200 LF South of Aquero Blvd., and East of Bernadette Lane, from AG (Agricultural District) to R-1B (Single Family High Density District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-32-2018 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-063.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

11. 2018-O-064 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 9 and 10, less the North 6' of Lot 9, Block 86, Western Division, located at 318 & 320 Iturbide St., from B-1 (Limited Business District) for Lot 9, and B-3 (Community Business District) for Lot 10, to CBD (Central Business District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-29-2018 District VIII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-064.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.



12. 2018-O-065 Amending Ordinance 2016-O-005 which provides for the rental rate structure for all properties managed through the City of Laredo's - Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 150 Airport Noise Compatibility Program. This amendment increases the monthly rental fee amounts for residential and multi-family units effective October 1, 2018 in the amount of \$25.00 per month and an annual monthly increase of \$25.00 in fiscal years 2019 and 2020. It is necessary to increase the existing monthly rental rates in order to cover additional operational costs associated with maintenance, repair and improvements of current dwellings and new acquisitions. The deposit amounts for all new tenants on or after October 1, 2018 will be established at the same rate as the rental amount; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-065.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

13. 2018-O-066 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with New Vision Community Church, for the purpose of operating and managing a small scale food market/pantry for food distribution located at 1210 Matamoros, Suite #4 & #5, situated on property described as a portion of S49.6' of the E25.6' of W35.5' of LOT 2, BLK 73, situated in the Western Division of the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas for approximately 1,745 square feet, for a term of eighteen (18) months beginning May 8, 2018, at an annual rate of one dollar (\$1) and contingent on satisfaction of City insurance requirements. The contract may be extended for one additional two (2) year period upon mutual agreement of the parties.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-066.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

14. 2018-O-067 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending section 1 of Ordinance 2018-O-040 of the City of Laredo to amend the FY 2017-2018 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) position listing by adding one (1) Public Health Technician, R36 as approved by the Department of State Health Services, and removing one (1) Health Educator II, R32, which was approved in 2018-O-040 to conduct

outreach, education and health promotion for maternal child health services and providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-067.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

15. 2018-O-068 An Ordinance adopting unanimous settlement agreement, setting rates and establishing tariffs for the provision of natural gas service by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas Company within the City of Laredo; declaring this ordinance to be a final determination of rates; requiring acceptance by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas Company of the rates prescribed herein; and establishing an effective date. Approval of the Ordinance will result in a \$3.0 million decrease in CenterPoint's annual revenues. This is a \$3.5 million reduction to the \$490,778.00 increase requested by CenterPoint in its Errata to its Statement of Intent. The Settlement Agreement also increases the residential monthly customer charge to \$19.00, and approves the recovery of reasonable rate case expenses. Under the agreement, new rates would go into effect on May 22, 2018.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-068.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

## **XI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item #16-22.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item #23-28, #30-31, #33-46, and #48-52.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

## **XI (a) RESOLUTIONS**

16. 2018-R-21 Authorizing City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$20,328.00 from the Texas Department of Transportation for the enforcement of Vehicle Occupant Protection during the "Click It or Ticket" Campaign. The grant period will begin May 2, 2018 through June 10, 2018. This grant is to pay overtime salaries and fringe benefits for officers to conduct intense occupant protection enforcement in order to increase occupant restraint use in all passenger vehicles and trucks. Grant is 100% funded by the Texas Department of Transportation and will be accounted for in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-021.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

17. 2018-R-47 Ratifying the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Laredo International Airport Police & Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the MOU between the Laredo International Airport Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI); and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents resulting from the MOU for the purposes of reimbursing costs incurred by the Laredo International Airport Police in providing resources to joint operations/task forces. MOU terms shall be for an indefinite duration period; MOUs may be terminated by any party upon written notice; and may be amended only upon the mutual written consent of the parties.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-047.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

18. 2018-R-56 Authorizing City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$1,243,814.00 to the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2017 Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG). This funding will be used for the purchase of equipment and for overtime and fringe benefit expenses used for Stonegarden Operations. No local match is required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-056.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

19. 2018-R-60 Accepting the conveyance of a 0.019 acre utility easement for a sanitary sewer lift station from West Laredo, Ltd. Said utility easement being located in the Pinto Valle Industrial Park Phase I, situated in Webb County Texas; being more particularly described by metes and bounds on the attached Exhibit "A".

Being a tract of land containing 0.019 acres, more or less, situated in survey 1542, porcion 3, abstract 233, and being out of lot 1, block 1, Pinto Valle Industrial Park Phase I, recorded in volume 10, pages 19-22 of the Webb County plat records.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-060.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

20. 2018-R-61 Accepting the conveyance of a 0.237 acre utility easement for a water pumping and water storage facility from West Laredo Investments, Ltd. Said utility easement being more particularly described by metes and bounds on the attached Exhibit "A".

Being a tract of land containing 0.237 acres, more or less, out of a 1,359.38 acre tract, more or less, situated in survey 1542, abstract 530, porcion 1, abstract 231, porcion 2, abstract 232, porcion 3, abstract 233, recorded in volume 1385, 645-648, deed records of Webb County, Texas.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-061.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

21. 2018-R-62 Ratifying the execution of a contract with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department to continue targeted evidence-based community systems and environmental change strategies that

address one or more of the eight (8) Texas Healthy Communities (TXHC) priorities to improve healthier outcomes for chronic diseases in particular for heart and stroke disease prevention, improve access to health care, promote physical activity, healthier nutrition and injury prevention for the term period from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-062.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

22. 2018-R-65 Resolution by the City of Laredo supporting the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and the Homeless Assistance Programs funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-065.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

## **XI (b) MOTIONS**

23. Consideration for approval to award a contract to O'Connor Engineering & Science, Inc., (OES), Laredo, TX for asbestos abatement and consulting services of three buildings at the Laredo International Airport in the total amount of \$91,400.00. Funding is available in the Airport Operations Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

24. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the law firm, Davidson Troilo Ream & Garza, for the purpose of providing representation regarding claims arising out of the construction and design of El Pico Water Treatment Plant in accordance with the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Litigation Handling Guidelines.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

25. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) for the purpose of jointly pursuing claims related to the construction and design of facilities located at the El Pico Water Treatment Plant. The agreement shall provide that litigation expenses and settlement proceeds will be split equally between the City and TMLIRP, and that either party may terminate the contract at any time, with or without cause, by giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

26. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo's 2017 One Year Action Plan for the purpose of reprogramming Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds totaling \$91,898.00 to supplement ongoing projects at Ochoa Sanchez Park (\$30,632.00) and De Llano Park (\$30,632.00) and San Ignacio Soccer Fields Park Improvements (\$30,634.00) as a new project. These projects are proposed to be funded through the use of fund balances from the 2016 Community Development Administration activity (\$61,264.00) and 2016 Code Enforcement activity (\$30,634.00).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

27. Authorizing the City Manager, in support of the City of Laredo's International Airport Compatibility Program, to award a contract for Sound Insulation Service to Northeast Noise Abatement Corporation of Warwick, RI in the amount of \$613,000.00. Sound Insulation improvements will be performed on 21 Units to meet Federal Aviation Administration acceptable sound insulation limits. Funding is available through FAA Airport Improvement Projects (AIP) Grant # 81.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

28. Consideration for approval of the Laredo International Airport Runway Re-Designation as complete; approval of change order no. 1 to add forty-nine (49) calendar days to the construction contract time; release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$25,925.00 to Reim Construction, Inc., Mission, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$259,250.00. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund – FAA Grant No. 84.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

29. Consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest bidder Romo Contractors, LLC., Laredo, Texas, in the base bid amount of \$137,000.00 for the North Central Park Restrooms Project (Re-Bid) – District VI with a construction contract time of one hundred twenty (120) 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 September 2018. Funding is available in the 2016 CO District VI Priority Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

30. Authorizing the City Manager to proceed with the design and construction of a 12-foot wide trail approximately 6,200 feet long from Eden Lane on the East, parallel to the north side of the AEP Easement, and to connect to Candlewood on the west and onto Springfield Avenue at an approximate cost of \$222,000.00 and subject to obtaining a public use easement. Funding is available in the District VII Priority Funds - 2016 Tax-T/E C.O. Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

31. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to RS&H, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$116,138.81 for preparation of a Design Analysis Report for the construction of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Facilities to include a Border Federal Integrated Training (B-FIT) Center and a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Air and Marine Facilities located at the Laredo International Airport. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be executed in the very near future between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and City of Laredo to identify the responsibility of each agency for this project. Design work is to be done on a fast track basis. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

32. Consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest bidder for the CDBG Ponderosa Park Improvements Shade Structure – District V Project with a construction contract time of ninety (90) 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 August 2018. Award to contractor to be announced at the City Council Meeting. Sealed bids will be publicly opened, read, and taken under advisement Friday, May 4, 2018. Funding is available in the 2017 CDBG Grant.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, recommended awarding the contract to Romo Contractors, who was the lowest bidder with \$79,890.00 and 90 calendar days.

Motion to approve per staff recommendation.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

33. Consideration to approve addendum No.1 to Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Houston, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$115,460.00 for updates to the design, utilities coordination, hydraulic and hydrologic analysis, street lighting conduit, sidewalk improvements, preparation of plans and specifications, and construction services for the Flores Street Drainage and Utility Improvements - Phase II. New contract total will be \$269,285.00. Preliminary and design work is to be approximately one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Funding is available in the Environmental Services 2016 CO and Utilities Sewer Bond.

Motion to approve.



Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

34. Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a joint funding agreement with U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) to install two stream monitoring stations at Zacate Creek and Jacaman Road and Manadas Creek and Bristol Street in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00, with the City providing funding of \$70,571.00 and USGS \$19,429.00. Stations will provide real-time data on rainfall, stream stage, soil moisture and camera feeds to Fire, EMS, Traffic, and Environmental personnel during rain events. Purchase and installation of equipment will be through USGS. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

35. Consideration to authorize the City of Laredo to issue a Letter of Approval to Laredo Hope Ambulance Service, LLP to provide ambulance service within the corporate limits of the City in a non-emergency capacity and to use "Laredo" as part of their business name. Laredo Hope Ambulance Service, LLP is eligible to provide basic service and (1) the addition of another licensed emergency medical services provider will not interfere with or adversely affect the provision of emergency medical services by the licensed emergency medical services providers operating in the municipality; (2) the addition of another licensed emergency medical services provider will remedy an existing provider shortage that cannot be resolved through the use of the licensed emergency medical services providers operating in the municipality; and (3) the addition of another licensed emergency medical services provider will not cause an oversupply of licensed emergency medical services providers in the municipality in accordance with Texas Health and Safety Code Section 773.0573 (b)(1-3).

Laredo Hope Ambulance Service, LLP will not be providing 911 emergency services for the City of Laredo. However, if necessary the Fire Chief may call upon them for mutual aid upon disaster conditions.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

36. Authorizing the City Manager to approve the purchase of three (3) 2019 Ford Focus 5DR Hatchback vehicles from Silsbee Ford for \$54,358.50. The purchase of these vehicles shall be made utilizing the Goodbuy Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding is available in the Information Services and Telecommunications Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

37. Consideration to ratify award to Netsync Network Solutions, Houston, TX with hub in McAllen, TX, in the total amount of \$70,553.06 for technology hardware upgrades and improvements for four Laredo Public Library locations. The Library is currently eligible for 80% discount under the e-Rate Program; this contract adheres to both the Federal e-Rate and local procurement procedures. Funding is available in the Library's operational budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

38. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Kraftsman Commercial Playground, for the purchase and installation of playground equipment for Robert De Llano Park in the amount of \$94,406.10. This purchase is utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program; contract 512-16. Funding is available in the Community Development Block Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

39. Consideration to award contract FY18-051 to Redline Architecture, LLC and Hickey Pena Architects to provide professional design services, surveys, testing, and preparation of plans and specifications for single-family residential projects for the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years, subject to future appropriations, beginning the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for one (1) additional year period upon mutual agreement of the parties. The two companies selected will be rotated. It is estimated that four (4) design projects will be undertaken annually dependent on

funding availability, contract will be between approved homeowners and the selected architects. It is estimated the annual combined design costs for these services will not exceed \$50,000.00. Funding is available thru the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program via Community Development Block Grant funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

40. Consideration to award annual supply contract FY18-046 for the purchase of automotive parts for the Fleet Department to the following vendors:

- 1) Gonzalez Auto Parts, Laredo, TX, for annual amount up to \$200,000.00 (Primary Vendor); and
- 2) Fleet Pride Inc., Laredo, TX, for an annual amount up to \$25,000.00 (Secondary Vendor); and
- 3) O'Reily Auto Parts, Springfield, MO, for an annual amount up to \$25,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

The replacement parts will be purchased on an as needed basis for all City fleet vehicles. The contract items include: oil/fuel filters, front end parts, hoses, clamps, belts, lamp/bulbs service lubricants and brakes. 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. This contract can be extended for two, one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

41. Consideration to renew annual service contract FY17-034 with Laredo Mechanical Industrial Services, Laredo, TX, in an amount up to \$100,000.00 for repair services for the City's automated side and rear loader trucks. There will be no price increase during this extension period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the first of four possible extension periods. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. The City shall provide the parts. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

42. Consideration to award contract FY18-050 to the sole bidder Rush Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in the total amount \$142,404.45 for the purchase of one (1) medium duty cab/over rear loader for the Solid Waste Services Department. This truck shall be utilized for garbage pickup in the downtown area. Funding is available in the 2017 Solid Waste Property Finance Contractual Obligations Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

43. Consideration to renew the existing annual service contract FY14-052 to Delta House Electric & Motor, Freer, Texas in an amount up to \$350,000.00 to provide electric motor repair services for the Utilities Department. Repairs are for motors with horsepower ratings from 1/8 HP to 400 HP that are used in water and wastewater operations. There will be no price increase during this extension period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the fourth of five extension periods. All services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Water and Sewer Operating Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

44. Consideration to award annual parts/service contract FY18-054 to the sole bidder AGPRO of Texas, Weslaco, Texas in an amount up to \$115,000.00 for repairs to the City's John Deere heavy equipment. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract allows for two additional, one year extensions upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in Fleet Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

45. Consideration to award annual parts/service contract FY18-055 to the sole bidder Mechanical Shop of Laredo, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$50,000.00 for repairs to the City's lawn maintenance equipment. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract allows for two additional, one year extensions upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in Fleet Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

46. Consideration to reject all bids received for FY17-058 for the a Document Management System for the City of Laredo - City Secretary's Office. The bids received, were thoroughly evaluated and pricing was deemed to be well over the estimated budget. There is no financial impact on this motion.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

47. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with the Laredo PONY Association to host/sponsor the 2018 PONY South Zone World Series Girls Fast Pitch Softball Tournament to be held July 17-22 (allowing for one inclement weather contingency day). LPA will be responsible to cover all the costs associated with the umpires estimated at \$30,000.00; LPA will be responsible for incidental tournament expenses including meals and refreshments for tournament directors and umpires; the City is responsible for providing the following softball fields: Base Community Sports Complex, Independence Hills Regional Park, M. E. Benavides Sports Complex, Uni-Trade Baseball Stadium (as an alternate, if needed), Slaughter, Dryden, St. James Community Baseball fields (as an alternate, if needed). In addition to the use of the fields, the City will provide 15 hotel rooms for out of town umpires for an estimated amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 and up to thirty hotel rooms for Directors and PONY Officials for an anticipated amount of \$33,000.00. The City will pay LPA a Tournament Director fee of \$125.00 per team for 100 teams not to exceed \$12,500.00; this includes the cost of all awards and licensing fees for the use of the photographer and the use of all PONY Baseball and Softball marks and/or names for the Tournament. The City will host and cover site visit expenses, including lodging, meals and transportation in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 directly related to the planning of this tournament. These expenditures total an estimated \$60,500.00.

Furthermore, the contract includes in-kind services in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00 for parking, softball field maintenance, traffic management, opening ceremonies facility, inspection services, street closures, police and paramedic services, and overall tournament facilitation, for a total contractual amount not to exceed \$191,000.00. It is anticipated that over 100 teams will participate from throughout the South West United States and between 8,000-10,000 team members and visitors will be in our city during this tournament. Funding is available in the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau; Parks and Leisure Services; Police; Fire; Traffic Safety; Solid Waste; Health; and other departments, as needed, FY 2017-2018 department budgets for facilitation of tournament tasks.

Ivan Rodriguez noted that Council and City staff have referred to budget constraints and limitations throughout this Council Meeting. Last year's audit on the Laredo PONY League World Series was in part due to citizens' concerns that the City spent a very large sum of money to facilitate a tournament that was ultimately found to be simply a zone tournament and not a world series as is commonly known. The majority of the teams involved were from South Texas, not international teams. The audit was to have included amounts spent by the City of Laredo and an estimate of the revenues generated. He voiced his understanding that a sum of \$42,000-\$52,000 had been approved by Council, but the total amount of taxpayer money spent was \$411,000, more than eight times the amount approved. He asked Council if any Members saw the portion of the audit that showed the revenues generated from this tournament. The public has still not been informed of that amount. If the Council Members are not aware of that amount, then Mr. Rodriguez cautioned them from spending more tax dollars on another tournament like this. Council is allocating moneys to an out-of-town organization that should be raising their own funds like similar-based groups in Laredo. Taxpayer dollars are tight, and Council will not be good stewards of those dollars if they approve this tournament without understanding what the previous revenues were.

Richard Rosas, Laredo PONY President, thanked Council for its continued support. He reported that the economic impact from the World Series was around \$699,000. He argued that the branding of "World Series" is commonly done in major league baseball, even though most teams are US-based. He reported that team fees for the World Series are \$500 per team. He clarified that the Tournament Director fee of \$125 per team goes to the corporate PONY office as a contract fee to bring the World Series to Laredo; it covers the cost of medals, trophies, banners, and related costs. He noted that about 5,000-6,000 people attended the tournament last year, with more expected this year.

Cm. Vielma voiced her opinion that giving these tournaments the title of "World Series" is deceptive. Last year, local vendors thought that international guests would be in attendance, but most attendees were South Texas residents.

Mr. Rosas stated that this issue was raised in October 2017, and he had explained that all teams are invited to participate in this tournament. If teams do not have the funds to attend, that is not the fault of the PONY League. He also iterated that the branding of these tournaments as "World Series" is not his decision but the corporate PONY offices.

Cm. Vielma voiced her concern over the amount of money being requested of the

City. Last year, much of the City's staff and resources were spent on this tournament, and she did not see the direct correlation between the PONY World Series and the hotel occupancy or economic impact of the city. Mr. Rosas countered that that data was already presented to Council. Cm. Vielma restated her issue with the high price tag given the in-kind services that the City already commits to the tournaments.

Mayor Saenz asked if the PONY League is a for-profit league or if the tournament director fees paid by the City is exhausted on the materials and services described. Mr. Rosas confirmed that the PONY League is a non-profit organization, adding that the financials were already reported to the Council.

Mayor Saenz reported some community feedback that no other organization has the opportunity to host a similar tournament with City support. Apparently, the City has not responded to other leagues for tournaments, even when that league has been willing to pay for the use and maintenance of the fields. Mayor Saenz encouraged the public to organize and bring their requests to the City for events that make economic sense. The City Manager and Council will entertain these requests and proposals.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that of the \$50,000 estimated costs, the Laredo PONY League will pay \$30,000 to pay for umpires and officials. He asked what the other \$20,000 go towards. Mr. Rosas explained that those monies pay for bases and softballs. He noted that the PONY League provided bases last year, but they disappeared after the tournament and need to be provided again. Mr. De Leon recommended that PONY collect the bases after tournaments so that they have them available for the next year.

Mayor Saenz noted that public perception is that Mr. Rosas and his company personally profit from the tournaments. Mr. Rosas argued that he invests his own time and resources into the tournaments.

Cm. San Miguel stated that Council has had this discussion multiple times at Council Meetings; he thanked Mr. Rosas for his dedication to youth sports in Laredo. He asked how many teams will participate in this tournament.

Mr. Rosas estimated that about 1,800 athletes will participate in the summer softball tournament, of which 22 teams will be local with an average of 15 girls per team.

Cm. Vielma asked that all local hotels be included on the PONY League list, as last year some hotel owners in District V were restricted from the list. She iterated that the taxpayers of Laredo need to be prioritized. Mr. Rosas clarified that the hotel list goes through the hotel planner at PONY League, but he confirmed that he would reach out to the corporate office.

Mayor Saenz voiced his agreement with Cm. Vielma's sentiment, adding that the City is willing to give some resources but needs to benefit as well. He suggested making the inclusion of local hotels part of the contract arrangement.

Cm. Vielma added that she sees preferential treatment to Laredo PONY League. Her children play in another league, and she sees the coach paying out of his

own pocket and cleaning up the fields that they use, but it appears that everyone goes out of their way to assist the PONY League. Mr. Rosas countered that all PONY League volunteer assist with cleaning bathrooms. He added that the PONY League does not dictate which leagues receive City support and which do not; that is done by Council and the City Manager.

Cm. Balli stated that he would continue to support local baseball and the Laredo PONY League's tournaments.

Motion to approve and add the inclusion of all local hotels to the hotel list as part of the contract terms, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Rodriguez  
For: 7                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

- 48. Refund of property tax in the amount of \$783.38 payable to D.C.B., LTD due to an overpayment. Tax account # 964-30023-150.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Balli  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

- 49. Consideration to authorize the purchase six (6) 2018 Chevrolet Colorado midsize trucks in the total amount of \$149,044.00 from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, Texas through the Buyboard Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract Pricing. These trucks are replacement vehicles for units that have already reached their useful life. All the trucks will be assigned to the Building Department for operational use. Funding is available through 2014 PPFCOs.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Balli  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

- 50. Consideration to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Summit Building & Design, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$1,060,000.00 for the Utilities Department Administration Building Expansion Project. The contract time is one hundred eighty (180) calendar days. Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.



Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

51. Accepting the Water Line Replacement for Lane Street from Stone Avenue to Smith Avenue Project and authorizing change order # 1, in the credit amount of \$5,559.56 and releasing the final payment in the amount of \$100,118.07 which is 5% retainage of the project final amount, to ALTUS Construction, LLC, Laredo, Texas. The final contract amount is \$2,002,361.30 and the contract time is two hundred and sixteen (216) working days. The change order is due to a credit based on actual quantities in place. Funding is available in the 2016 Waterworks Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

52. Consideration to approve a change order in the amount of \$5,260.00 and additional 5 calendar days to Romo Contractors, LLC Laredo TX for the construction of the Steel Deck Truck Scale. The total contract amount with this change order is \$134,260.00 with a completion period of 185 calendar days. Funding is available in the 2011 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

## **XII. STAFF REPORTS**

53. 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 Internal Auditor's report as presented in Council packet.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm .San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

54. Presentation of the Plan of Finance by Noe Hinojosa of Estrada-Hinojosa & Company, Inc., as it relates to a proposed refunding bond issuance. The bonds under consideration to be refunded include the 2009 "B" Certificates of Obligation and the 2009 "D" Combination Tax Waterworks & Sewer Revenue Certificates of Obligation.

Adrian Galvan of Estrada-Hinojosa & Company reported that the organization developed a plan of finance for general obligation refunding bonds that the City can utilize to pay off some of its existing debt. The City's total outstanding general obligation debt as of FYE 2018 is \$291,115,000.00. To-date, the City has refundable bonds totaling \$51,410,000.00, which would save the City \$2,681,362.00 on a present-value basis or \$3,697,422.00 on a future-value basis. Refunding bonds is usually advised when the savings are between 3-5%; the net present value savings of refunded bonds is 5.216%, within the threshold. The average tax rate on the taxable bonds is at 6.533%, but the buyer of the bonds does not receive a tax-exempt status. Mr. Galvan stated that the City would do better to borrow taxable bonds because of the rebate.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, explained that if City money is going to use money for a governmental project that will not generate revenue, the City can use a non-taxable bond. If the project has the potential to generate profit, the City must use a taxable bond. Now there is an opportunity to refinance the debt with non-taxable bonds for a savings.

Don Gonzalez of Estrada-Hinojosa & Company stated that the federal government had explored to reduce the amount of credit provided to governmental entities that issue Build America bonds. The exact percentage that the City was committed to receiving was higher than what the City was actually receiving. Estrada-Hinojosa has been monitoring that amount and determined that market conditions favor refunding at this time.

Mr. De Leon compared refunding these bonds as refinancing a mortgage at a lower rate.

Mr. Galvan explained that Estrada-Hinojosa set up their recommendation to price the bonds in July and close in August 16, 2018. The City has a six-month period to call its debt for a rebate; if the City calls outside of that window, the rebate opportunity is lost.

Mr. De Leon recommended that Council approve the bond refunding.

Mayor Saenz suggested giving latitude to the City Manager in the event that the interest rates increase and the plan becomes questionable.

Motion to approve the refinance plan as presented by Estrada-Hinojosa & Company, giving latitude to the City Manager to bring a new recommendation to Council in the event that interest rates increase and the finance plan becomes questionable, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt  
Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

55. Staff report by Xavier Villalon, SMG Manager, on the Laredo Energy Arena performance through the first six months of FY18.

Xavier Villalon, Laredo Energy Arena General Manager, reported that from October 2017 to April 2018, the LEA has hosted 62 events with 208,588 total attendees. State of the art concession video menu boards and jumbotron screens were installed, and the LEA incorporated a new Point of Sale system and VIP parking ticket procedure. A drop-off/pick-up area has been successful with Lyft, Uber, and parents driving their children to events at the LEA. He reported the net loss over the six-month period as \$454,108, which is 16% lower than the budget loss of \$540,222. The current annual rolling forecast is \$172,650.00, which is better than the budgeted amount. Event liability covers the actual loss of the event, not the shortfall of revenues from a show that has not sold out. Staff estimates about 30 home hockey games.

No action taken.

56. Discussion and possible action on recommendations by the Fine Arts and Culture Commission of mural proposals under the Mural Arts Grant Program. Funding is available in the Hotel Motel Occupancy Tax Fund.

Maria Soliz, Library Director and Fine Arts and Culture Commission Staff Liaison, reported that the Commission three student artists, who will provide presentations to Council for approval.

Carlos Castro, artist, reported that he has eight years of experience and has worked with schools and a judge for community art in Laredo. He displayed his art concept for a public wall Downtown, which featured a luchador and palm tree behind the words "Puro Vida." He noted that adding vibrancy to the area may attract more shopping and exploring downtown. He displayed a photograph of the wall on which he hopes to place his art, as well as some past work on comic books, interior design, and graphic t-shirts. Mrs. Soliz clarified that this project would be located at 1210 Lincoln Street.

Cm. Balli noted that it is important to know the experience of the artists as well as the quality of art materials they intend to use in order to prevent adding art that will not last.

Mrs. Soliz clarified that all three artists have experience with murals, and the Commission considered the quality of paints and materials during its assessment of the proposals.

Dr. Martha Villarreal, Commission Member, reported that there were specific criteria asked of each proposal. The artists were required to meet those criteria, otherwise they were not considered. She noted that maintenance of the murals

was also a criterion of the proposal applications. The artists will maintain the murals for five years.

Mrs. Soliz confirm that upon Council approval of these murals, the artists will need to sign contracts with the City, and mural maintenance fees will be a part of the negotiated contracts.

Mauro Martinez, artist, noted that as an artist he would be honored to have his work featured as a landmark of Laredo. His mural is to be finished on a wall adjacent to the Outlet Shoppes, and his intention was to stimulate commerce through his art. The mural is text-based in two parts. Each letter is about six feet tall, making the mural visible from the bridge. The mural says, “No Dejes De Soñar” (Don’t Stop Dreaming), a message of hope in the current time. Next to the words is a speech bubble that says, “Mi sueño es...” (My dream is...), which is interactive. The viewer can stand under the speech bubble for a photo and can add text to the photo to describe the viewer’s dream or wish. These photos can be shared on social media using the hashtag #sueñosdoslaredos, allowing the mural to become a promotional flyer. Mr. Martinez noted that the hashtag corresponds to a website, which he will manage personally for as long as the City will allow. The website will include the location of the mural along with any facts or links that the City would like to be included. The mural will appeal to viewers across generations and platforms.

Heberto Rocha, artist, explained his academic and professional background in fine arts and noted that his mural will be located at 2121 Travis Street. He estimated that the execution time for this mural, which is 7.5 feet by approximately 80 feet, will take one to three months using volunteers. His intention is for this mural to be visually stimulating and complex in meaning, making it open to interpretation. Combining Spanish and English words in the mural brings new meaning to the words and terms. He cited a mural that he created in the City of Cotulla, adding that his murals are coated with a protective anti-graffiti sealant.

Cm. Balli congratulated the artists. He voiced his enthusiasm for these murals and the continuing work of the Fine Arts & Culture Commission.

Cm. Gonzalez asked Dr. Villarreal to consider opportunities to add murals to South Laredo as well for beautification.

Dr. Villarreal confirmed that the Commission has many beautification opportunities in Laredo. She asked that Council approve these art projects at this time so that the artists can add these murals to Laredo.

Cm. Altgelt reminded Council that the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan includes the support of public art.

Gale Aker Rodriguez, Fine Arts & Culture Commission Chair, reported that the Commission was very pleased with all of the proposals submitted. Because of the limited budget, only three artists could be selected at this time. Some proposals submitted were not for murals, so they were not considered. However, Mrs. Rodriguez noted that the Commission would like to open a new opportunity at some point to include sculptures or other media for public art. The Commission

was allotted \$25,000 for the three projects, and the total cost will be about \$23,000.

Motion to approve the projects and to use Hotel Motel funds.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

57. Discussion with possible action to consider a fifth request for an extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Roberto Vedia.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

### **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to go into executive session to consult with Legal Counsel on contemplated litigation relating to the construction and design of facilities located at the El Pico Water Treatment Plant.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres, Cm. San Miguel, and Cm. Balli were not present.

58. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(A) to consult with Legal Counsel on contemplated litigation relating to the construction and design of facilities located at the El Pico Water Treatment Plant, and with a return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

Motion to accept and/or ratify the contract between the City Manager's Office and the risk pool and the attorneys as presented to Council.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

### **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: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

- 59. Ratifying the award of a contract for the purchase of three (3) Paratransit Vans for the El Lift Division in the amount of \$296,869.23 utilizing the TXSMARTBUY Cooperative Contract Pricing with Creative Bus Sales from Irving, Texas. Funding is available in the Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 Grant #TX-2017-066-00. The required 15% local match for the grant will be funded by Transit Sales Tax.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

- 60. Approving the selection by the Third Party Advisory Committee of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 applications for the Laredo Urbanized Area Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Funding Program, and authorizing the City Manager to execute and submit to the Federal Transit Administration all necessary documents resulting from said Funding Program. The FY 2017 Call for Projects received two (2) completed applications.

The Third Party Advisory Committee recommends for the Laredo Mass Transit Board to approve the Committee's selection and award of Bethany House in the amount of \$63,774.00 and the Laredo Transit Management Inc. (El Metro) in the amount of \$103,550.00 and authorizing the City Manager and staff to proceed with all necessary contractual documentation and FTA applications as mentioned in the LTMI Section 5310 Program Management Plan.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez 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: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

## **GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz**

1. Discussion with possible action on status of accessibility to Mental Health providers and a status on the Navigators - (case workers) and what roles they are currently playing in our City.

Dr. Henry Carranza stated that many school shootings that take place across the country are blamed on mental health issues. He reported that Laredo does not have any private-practicing psychiatrists. Citizens with mental health needs must go to San Antonio or the Valley for mental health services. Border Region services are only for adults. Laredo needs psychiatrists and psychologists; there is only one psychologist in Laredo. Substance abuse issues also plague the residents of Laredo.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, voiced his agreement with Dr. Carranza's assessment of the state of Laredo's mental health crisis. He reported that Laredo is designated as a health shortage area, particularly in behavioral health. TAMIU has increased its psychiatric program recently, and other organizations are moving forward in the field of mental and behavioral health. Webb County is the authority for Border Region services, and the City has added two psychiatrists at TeleMedicine. Border Region has 12 psychiatrists.

Dr. Carranza encouraged Council to get the private sector involved for the benefit of Laredoans.

Alma Peña, Peer Representative for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Laredo division, which is the largest grassroots mental health organization in the United States. NAMI runs educational classes for mental health issues, offers presentations throughout the community, and offers multiple programs for the area. Early intervention is very important in diagnosing and treating mental health, so NAMI performs outreach to schools and families. Recently, housing vouchers have been approved for people with disabilities who are not elderly as a way to decrease the number of homeless individuals and obtain affordable housing for those individuals with mental illness. There are matching grants for clubhouses that serve mental health purposes. She reported that there are more opportunities for the City to incorporate if they were to research and apply.

Cm. Vielma noted that she has worked with MHMR for about five years, volunteering to work with this group to find opportunities to grow Laredo's mental health services. She added that part of the problem with securing psychiatrists is

that the Hispanic culture does not like to go to a psychiatrist because of a stigma, but mental health issues turn into many other problems if not treated.

Dr. Gonzalez reported that the Homeless Assistance Navigators RFP was made public in November 2017, and there was only one applicant that submitted a proposal. The Homeless Coalition raised questions with that applicant, who was later not accepted. The RFP was reposted, and the applications were reviewed last week. Staff intends to bring a recommendation to Council for awarding the RFP at the next Council Meeting.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action on status of usage of vacant or unoccupied Downtown lots owned by the City.

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

#### **B. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma**

1. Discussion with possible action regarding status of Health Department Food Inspection App and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to bring this item back at the next Council Meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to install sidewalks on Sandman from Bartlett to Calton and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Vielma clarified that the installation would only be on the side of the street that connects to the Laredo Public Library for now. Funding would be from her district priority funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

#### **C. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlie San Miguel**



1. Discussion with possible action to provide additional parking spaces for veterans and individuals with disabilities at the Uni-Trade Stadium, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to bring this item back at the next Council Meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to go out for RFQ's for the design and construction of a public concrete Skate Park to be located at 10202 International Blvd (North Central Park) at the intersection of Woodridge Dr. named after John Valls WWII Veteran, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. San Miguel noted that Laredo has an active community of skateboarders, who have requested skate parks to serve their needs.

Eduardo Garcia advocated for concrete skate parks in Laredo as adequate recreational spaces for the city's growth. Skateboarding culture has grown since the late 1940s with numerous professional and amateur competitions held throughout the world. Skateboarding is now a \$2.5 billion industry. The first skate park was opened in Laredo in the early 2000s, and yearly skate competitions are held locally. Skate parks provide a safe recreational space, reducing less desirable activities in the area, and revitalizes neighborhoods and communities. Mr. Garcia noted that many of the City's current skate parks have undergone damage or have eyesore designs.

Mr. Garcia reported that skate parks were rated as important as other community sports in Laredo, such as volleyball, tennis, and basketball. Over 104,000 square feet of skate park is needed to effectively meet the needs of the skateboarding community. Concrete parks are the most cost effective and change the aesthetic of the city; they are often more attractive than metal parks and require less maintenance over time. He requested a skate park master plan for concrete skate parks.

Cm. San Miguel commended the tenacity of the skateboarding advocates. He added that almost 4,000 signatures have been collected in support of concrete skate parks.

Motion to go out for RFQs for the design and construction of a public concrete skate park to be located 10202 International Boulevard (North Central Park) at the intersection of Woodridge Dr. named after John Valls WWII Veteran and use \$350,000 from the District VI priority funds.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to build a Bikers rest area at the Shiloh Extreme Bike Trial to include a concrete slab picnic table, roof cover, water fountain, and to name this rest area Laredo Cycling Association Pit Stop, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. San Miguel confirmed that the funding would come from his district priority funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

**D. Request by Council Member George Altgelt**

1. In light of the April 17th armed robbery and aggravated assault that happened at a local gambling establishment, discussion and possible action to have once again Council Members 8, 6, 4, 3, 2, and 1 to reconsider making gambling establishments safer for the general public through the installation of commercially reasonable security measures.

Motion to bring this item back at the next Council Meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

**E. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.**

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps at the following locations, under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy, and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps, instead of speed cushions, which is currently required under the policy: and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District I Priority Funds will be used for this project. Total cost \$4,000.00.
  - a. (2) Speed humps on Johnson Dr. between Reagan Dr. and Bismark St.  
\$4,000.00

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

**F. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez**

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps at the following locations, under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy, and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps, instead of speed cushions, which is currently required under the policy; and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District II Priority Funds will be used for this project. Total cost \$8,000.00.
  - a. (1) Speed hump on Lago Del Valle between Concord Hills and Monticello Ave \$2,000.00;
  - b. (1) Speed hump on Monticello Ave, between Marble Falls and Lago Del Valle \$2,000.00;
  - c. (1) Speed hump on Marlin Dr., between Corvina and Pargo Dr. \$2,000.00, and
  - d. (1) Speed hump on Espada Dr., between Corvina and Pargo Dr. \$2,000.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to purchase and replace (105) "STOP" signs, street name signs and poles in the Royal Oaks, Las Misiones and Concord Hills subdivisions for approximately \$100,000.00 using District II Priority Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

**G. Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez**

1. Discussion with possible action on the Viva Laredo Neighborhood Action Plan for Districts 3 and 4, to include any available funding sources, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps between Lamar Middle School and Ryan Elementary School 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. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

3. Discussion with possible action regarding implementing a permit approval process for amusement rides, including inflatable bounce houses, within the City limits in accordance with State law requirements. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlie San Miguel)

Cm. San Miguel explained that this item is to comply with state law. He reported that people are renting out bouncy houses without any insurance or bonds or regulations. This has resulted in many safety concerns.

Cm. Torres added that the City is operating against state law by not regulating these bouncy houses.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

## **XVI. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.