

**CITY OF LAREDO
RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATION NOTICE M2018-
R-08
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
May 21, 2018
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor presented the following:

1. Recognizing Zaida Vela-Gonzalez, Principal at Andrew Trautmann Elementary School, for being named 2018 Elementary Principal of the Year for the State of Texas during the 2018 HEB Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony on Sunday, May 6, 2018. Overall statewide winners are determined based on interviews, campus tours, and discussions with district and campus staff. This is an honor that not only names her as such, but brings along a \$25,000.00 grant awarded to her school.

Zaida Vela-Gonzalez thanked the City for this recognition and added that this award is a nomination. She invited community members to nominate any educator that they feel deserves the recognition. Because of this award, Trautmann Elementary School received \$25,000 for the next year.

Mayor Saenz congratulated Mrs. Vela-Gonzalez and presented her with a certificate of recognition.

2. Recognizing Lourdes Marquez, Alexander High School Junior for being selected to compete at the International Science Fair in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Lourdes Marquez thanked her parents and teachers for their support and assistance during her preparation. She explained that her environmental project centered around larvae consuming Styrofoam as a way to reduce Styrofoam waste.

Mayor Saenz congratulated Ms. Marquez and presented her with a certificate of recognition.

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2018-R-08
CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
May 21, 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

Cm. San Miguel joined at 5:43 p.m.

Motion to excuse Mayor Pro-Tempore San Miguel.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of May 7, 2018

Motion to approve the May 7, 2018 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

Citizen comments

Gabriel Lopez, veteran advocate, urged Council to move forward with Introductory

Ordinance #14 regarding a veterans' preference policy to the City's hiring process. Items like this have brought the veteran unemployment rate in Texas from 7.9% to 3.7%.

Mellie Hereford spoke as a representative for all children who have died too young in regards to Cm. San Miguel's item to name a park after only one child. The unbearable pain of those children's lives being cut too short is felt by all parents and family members, and Mrs. Hereford voiced her opinion that Council is playing favorites to one particular child. She spoke against the proposition to limit the park naming to one individual and asked Council to be all-inclusive and name that proposed area after all of the angels in our community who did not have the opportunity to reach adulthood. She asked Council to dedicate a park to all lost children, noting that if Cm. San Miguel Council continues to favor one individual and/or her family, then the voters will not forget that he is the worst kind of politician: one who exploits the suffering and death of a child for political gain.

Cynthia Vazquez reported that on August 29, 1995, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Rivera was shot by a fellow student at Memorial middle school. The school's band director, named the band hall after Lizzy. Ms. Vazquez voiced her support of the new children's park idea in Laredo, but she countered that Cm. San Miguel's motives are speculated as political. About a month ago, a one-year-old boy was murdered, which shocked the community. Another child died of cancer recently, which made local news. She voiced her opinion that Council is taking advantage of people's deaths, because the child in Cm. San Miguel's item died in 2016. She asked why Cm. San Miguel waited two years to commemorate this child's death, suggesting that he will soon run for Mayor and is trying to gain votes. She asked why this new park is not named after a child who died more recently, implying that the child in question has a locally famous family member who is also considering running for mayor. She asked Council to take these points under consideration before taking a vote.

Javier Mendoza stated that there are many candidates for the District VI seat, which will soon be vacated by Cm. San Miguel. He asked Cm. San Miguel to postpone naming any parks as he is about to term out of his office in five months. While there are political rumors as to the Council Members' motives, Mr. Mendoza clarified that he is withholding judgment. However, he would like to see Cm. San Miguel give that decision to his successor. Mr. Mendoza, who stated that he is debating whether to run for the District VI Council Member position, suggested that the large list of candidates hoping to fill the vacancy might be indicative of the community's opinion on the job that Cm. San Miguel did in office. A lot of people are running because they are not happy with how the District is being run. He recalled that Cm. San Miguel has not fulfilled promises that he made during his reelection campaign and has missed a lot of meetings during his terms in office. Mr. Mendoza commented on the same five Council Members always voting in a bloc, which can make it difficult to try to affect change or do one's job as a Council Member. He encouraged Council to put an end to amusement redemption establishments, noting that a lot of families are suffering in Laredo because a parent or loved one is struggling with a gambling addiction. Mr. Mendoza noted the current and former chairman of the Democratic Party are on Council; these Council Members claim to advocate for the poor, but they have not voted to help families who are being victimized by amusement redemption machines establishments. He asked Council to do the right thing.

Luis Cisneros reminded Council that the lazy river project should have been completed in March 2017. It is now 14 months overdue with no real end date in sight. He stated that

Council has also gotten away from the criteria in place to add speed bumps in their districts using priority funds. There are speed bumps all throughout town, and he voiced his opinion that Council Members are adding them as political favors to friends and family members. He asked Council to investigate if speed bumps are truly needed before approving their installation. Mr. Cisneros also stated that on the surface, Cm. San Miguel's idea to name a children's park after a deceased little girl seems like a nice thing to do, and he gave his condolences to the family of the little girl. As the parent of a baby boy who was buried in infancy, he stated that he would never condone a Council Member using his baby's name as a political tactic for his political gain. He suggested that Cm. San Miguel is using this child's name because he is going to run for Mayor and wants to gain votes. He also suggested that the child's aunt is a potential political opponent for the Mayor position, and this tactic is to convince her not to run for office anymore. He stated that the situation does not look good in the eyes of the citizens, and he voiced his concern that some Council Members would stoop so low and compromise their personal integrity and character. He convinced Council to run for office on their own merit, not using political favors and bargaining with others.

VI. VETERAN RECOGNITION

- a. Honoring Veteran Sergio Hernandez, for his service as a member of the United States Marines and recognizing his distinguished service to our Country.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, played a video presentation highlighting Mr. Hernandez's military career and post-service work assisting other veterans.

Sergio Hernandez, thanked the City for the nomination and voiced his gratitude for the opportunity to make a difference for his country.

Mayor Saenz commended Mr. Hernandez for his service and presented him with a certificate of recognition, leading a standing ovation.

Mr. Garcia explained that veteran recognition nomination forms are available online at the City of Laredo's website. He encouraged the public to submit one to the Community Development Department to honor a veteran that they would like to see recognized.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Presentation by Chief Jason Owens of the Laredo Border Patrol Sector regarding the state of Laredo's border with Mexico and emerging threats, patterns, and related matters.

Chief Jason Owens stated that some of the Border Patrol's closest allies and partners are the Laredo Police Department and the Webb County Sheriff's Department. He noted that the state of the border impacts the community on both sides by facilitating lawful trade and travel. The Laredo Border Patrol Sector is responsible for about 170 miles of the US-Mexico border and extending upwards to the Oklahoma state line, which is a large area. At full staff, the Laredo Sector has 2,000 agents dedicated to this effort. Currently, the sector has about 1,800 agents. There is no border wall in this area.

Chief Owens reported that in the current fiscal year to-date (as of October 1, 2017) the Border Patrol have performed over 20,300 arrests, an increase of 25% from last year. Of that population, 359 special interest aliens have been arrested in Laredo's area of responsibility. BP projects to arrest a total of 600 special interest aliens by the end of the fiscal year, 30% more than last year's 446 arrests. Chief Owens clarified that special interest aliens describes immigrants from Bangladesh, Syria, Yemen, Cuba, Venezuela, and other countries. To-date, Laredo Border Patrol have arrested multiple violent offenders, and almost 40,000 pounds of marijuana have been seized in Laredo's area alone. BP has also seized 340 pounds of cocaine, 330 pounds of methamphetamines, 456 ounces of heroin, and 71 pounds of fentanyl. He noted that the conditions in stash houses are deplorable and dangerous; to-date in Laredo alone for the past two years, 144 stash houses have been discovered with 770 migrants rescued from them. In these locations, Chief Owens reported that extortion, sexual and bodily assault, and kidnapping take place. He reported 56 border violence incidents to-date, which is also on the rise from last year, of which there were 72 total.

Cm. Balli asked why Chief Owens compared this year's statistics to last year's, which was a record low year for trafficking and related border issues. Chief Owens explained that he was simply giving a comparison of one year to the next. He confirmed that he could compile statistics for previous years if Council so wished.

Chief Owens continued that the Laredo sector experiences two types of gang activity: gangs who operate in the area, and those that transit through the area. Gangs encountered in the Laredo sector include the Mexican Mafia, Norteño, The Pisces, Tango Blast, Texas Syndicate, 18th Street, Los Zetas, Banditos, HPL, Latin Kings, and others. He reported 722 rescues and 36 deceased person findings to-date. He explained that these numbers are the result of a chaotic, weak border. He noted that the Rio Grande Valley will likely be the first beneficiaries of the federal resources for border protection. The activity south of the border will not cease when that pressure is applied; it will revert to a different port like Laredo. He encouraged Council to consider this situation so that Laredo can prepare for the impact and discourage illegal border crossing at its ports. The illegal crossing can move along the river if the Laredo sector is adequately prepared.

Cm. Rodriguez thanked Chief Owens and the men and women in Border Patrol for their work keeping Laredo safe. He noted that Council is considering providing the budget for security surveillance cameras throughout the city.

Chief Owens iterated that the most successful force multiplier in Laredo will be the law enforcement partnerships throughout the area. Controlled flow of the border ports of entry is the primary objective, and targeted enforcement against criminal parties closely follows. He voiced his opinion that law enforcement efforts to make illegal crossing more unattractive and difficult in this area would benefit border security. He clarified that the intention of the Border Patrol is to protect the aspects of the area that make the community great and safe, not to impede those community assets.

Cm. San Miguel reiterated the value of collaborative law enforcement efforts.

Cm. Perez informed Chief Owens that he had received complaints from citizens of Border Patrol vehicles speeding through residences. He asked him to inform his

agents to be conscious of their speed as they perform their duties.

Cm. Vielma noted that in her law practice, she regularly represents the victims of stash house kidnappings and physical or sexual assault. She asked Chief Owens if there is a hotline or resource for these victims where they can access help. Chief Owens reported that a free Border Patrol app is available for download for all smartphones called USBP Laredo Sector; he noted that the Laredo Sector is the only one with an app of this kind. Through the app, users can access a tipline icon that provides a phone number or email address that connects directly with the Border Patrol operation center. The tips and information that are reported through the app are anonymous. Chief Owens invited the public to attend the upcoming Tecolotes baseball game; the Border Patrol will celebrate its 97th birthday at the game with a cook-off competition.

2. Recognizing Municipal Court Judge Rosie Cuellar and Municipal Court Clerk Ana Rodríguez for receiving the 2018 MTSI Traffic Safety Award in the High Volume Division.

Cm. San Miguel congratulated Judge Cuellar to applause.

Rosie Cuellar, Municipal Court Judge, thanked Council for the recognition, noting that this is the first time that the Municipal Court applied for this award. There are approximately 917 municipal courts in the State of Texas, and Laredo's Municipal Court was one of four winners in the high volume category. She emphasized that the operations of the Municipal Court are team efforts with City and County departments.

Cm. San Miguel provided Judge Cuellar with a certificate of recognition.

Ana Rodriguez, Municipal Court Clerk, noted that she is happy to be a part of the Municipal Court and educate the community on driving safety.

Cm. San Miguel provided Ms. Rodriguez with a certificate of recognition.

3. Discussion with possible action to recognize the We Got Game (WGG) Team, a local volleyball club for earning a bid to participate in the USAV Girls' Juniors National Championship in Detroit, MI. The WGG is the only team representing Laredo that qualified for this event and they are raising funds to offset the expenses of the trip; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres reported that he requested this item to be placed on the agenda because the team reached out to him for assistance in funding.

Rafael Peña reported that the team was pleasantly surprised to hear that they qualified for nationals after what they believed was the last tournament of the year. While they are thrilled, the national tournament is short notice for many of the parents, leaving the team with almost no time to fundraise. He asked Council to consider providing assistance to the team; they are currently working on a plate sale for June 2, 2018.

Cm. Torres recognized the parents of the team members and commented on the fact that this team is comprised of girls from different schools working together.

Motion to instruct staff through the Convention & Visitors Bureau to assist the We Got Game Team if possible.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

Cm. San Miguel presented the team members with certificates of recognition for their achievement.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez of Lizeth Cuellar to the Laredo Commission for Women.

Motion to approve the nomination of Lizbeth Cuellar to the Laredo Commission for Women.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

2. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Armando Garza to the Transportation & Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Armando Garza to the Transportation & Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Subdivision Ordinance Handbook of the City of Laredo by revising Chapter III, Subdivision Design Standards, Section 3-2 streets and alleys (R) pavement standards, pavement

specifications for public and private streets; providing for publication, severability and effective date.

Ramon Chavez, Executive Director of Public, noted that this item is in relation to the street paving ordinance. He reported that on February 20, 2018, Council adopted Ordinance 2018-O-032; last month, staff was directed to bring recommendations back to Council from the Technical Review Board.

Hector Cabello, consultant, noted that he understood many streets in Laredo were experiencing premature failure. He informed Council that there are four types of soils in Laredo: gravel, sand, silt, and clay. Clay soil is the most problematic in Laredo development if it gets wet. In new residential subdivisions, many residents are overwatering their lawns, which causes runoff into the streets and gutters. That water oversaturation goes below the subgrade and degrades the street in only a year or two. French drains are one of the most effective protections for street pavement.

Cm. Altgelt asked Mr. Cabello why he is addressing street paving ordinances rather than irrigation ordinances if the problem is overwatering lawns. Mayor Saenz interjected, stating that this argument has taken place at least three times in the past and without new information from Council, the presentation would continue without rehashing the same points.

Mr. Cabello emphasized that if there is a landscaping or irrigation ordinance, it is on the part of the City to enforce it to correct the problem of overwatering. If that ordinance is not being enforced, then the street paving ordinance must address solutions for the problem. He noted that all landscaping must be positioned above the sidewalk to prevent any rainwater or watering to seep under the pavement.

Cm. Altgelt reminded Council that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of repair, as the old adage goes. He asked why Council is not focusing on prevention.

Victor Linares, Acting Building Director, reported that the Department has already held some meetings to address the irrigation issues present in the City with more being planned to find a solution.

Mr. Cabello voiced his concern, as an engineer, that if the City does not properly pave streets, then they will all be subject to damage and destruction within a matter of a few years. This will present a significant economic problem for the City down the road. He encouraged Council to pass an irrigation ordinance and enforce it properly in addition to addressing paving issues.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

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

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to ratify and execute a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 2017-2018 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$135,000.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Healthy Texas Babies Program for the term from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2020.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

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

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

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

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to ratify and execute a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 2017-2018 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$467,599.00 and amending the FY 2017-2018 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Health Educator I, R29 position and one (1) Public Health Technician, R36 position for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Zika Health Care Services Program for the term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

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

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 1, JDK, located at 23909 FM 1472 Rd., from AG (Agricultural District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff does not support the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. ZC-37-2018 District VII

George Vazquez, owner and director, confirmed that he will use this location for transportation company and build his office there.

Alejandrina Sanchez of the Planning Department reported that staff does not support this application because it does not comply with the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan. The Planning & Zoning Commission recommend approval because there is already M-1 zoning in the area on both sides of this property.

Motion to table pending a site plan from the applicant.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a Restaurant Selling Alcohol on Lot 3, Block 1, Falcon Center of McPherson, located at 7718 McPherson Rd., Suite 105 G; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit. ZC-38-2018 District VI

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a Restaurant Selling Alcohol on Lot 4, Block 8A, Las Brisas Del Mar Subdivision, Phase I, located at 8602 McPherson Rd., Suite 101; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit. ZC-48-2018 District VI

Lawrence Miles, owner of a nearby property, noted that he and the neighbor across the street from this property are supportive of a stable restaurant in the area. However, this location is much closer to their homes, and they would want to ensure that the restaurant operate during normal restaurant hours and not function as a bar during late hours. He requested that the full food menu be provided during the entire time that the restaurant is open for business.

Alejandrina Sanchez of the Planning Department confirmed that the restaurant is going to be a seafood restaurant. She confirmed that one of the conditions for this zoning is that outdoor speakers and music is prohibited.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a Bus Station on North 34 FT. of Lot 1 and a part of Lot 2, Block 59, Western Division, located at 801-803 Flores Ave, providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends

approval of the Conditional Use Permit. ZC-46-2018 District VIII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

8. Motion to open public hearing #8.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 3, 4, 13 and 14, Block 2133, Eastern Division, located at 606 S. Meadow Ave, from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District).

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 ZC-41-2017

Ana Villarreal of Planning confirmed that applicant already has a building but did not provide a specific use. His application simply stated "amusement services outdoors and indoors." The Planning & Zoning Commission's main concern was the discrepancy between his description of amusement services and his request for an office. Due to the vagueness of the application, the applicant could turn this property into an amusement redemption machine establishment (maquinita). She reported that the Department did not receive any letters in favor of or opposition to the zone change.

Cm. Perez stated that he would like to speak with the applicant for clarification; the applicant was not present.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

9. Motion to open public hearing #9.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez, 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 7-9, Block 1490, Eastern Division, located at 2508 Cortez St., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District).

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 ZC-42-2017

Cm. Perez reported that he told the applicant that he would not approve the zone change until the applicant installed a chain link fence. The applicant was not present to confirm whether a fence was installed.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

10. Motion to open public hearing #10.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 9, Block 3, Santa Rita Subdivision Phase IV, located at 305 Avila Dr., from R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District).

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 ZC-44-2018

Cm. Perez asked for clarification regarding R-1A zoning. Ana Villarreal of Planning explained that the current zoning allows for multiple units, but the applicant wants to downgrade the zone. She stated that Planning staff thinks he intends to replat the lot to subdivide the property. The lot meets the minimum requirement for an R-1A zone. The Planning Department received three letters in opposition to this zone change application.

Motion to table pending further discussion with the applicant.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

11. Motion to open public hearing #11.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning the East 35' of Lot 7, Block 1693 and North 62.4' of Lot 8, Block 1693 and 34.39' of Lot 7, Block 1693, Eastern Division, located at 2305 N. Arkansas Ave. and 2816 Clark Blvd., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District).

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Zone Change. District IV ZC-43-2018

Ana Villarreal of Planning confirmed that this applicant already has a valid Conditional Use Permit, which was issued several months ago. Staff does not have any information regarding whether the location has changed ownership.

Cm. Torres noted that this is his third time since taking office that this location has come before Council. It has been operating under a loan shop.

Ms. Villarreal confirmed that the property has two lots, Lot 7 and Lot 8. The property currently looks like storage.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

12. Motion to open public hearing #12.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 12.09 acres out of a 134.59 acre tract of land, out of a 181.50 acre tract of land, situated in Porcion 10, Tomas

Sanchez, Abstract 280, located north of FM 1472 (Mines Rd.) and west of FM 3338 (Las Tiendas Rd.) from AG (Agricultural District) and B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

Staff does not support the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Zone Change. District VII ZC-47-2018

Ana Villarreal of Planning reported that staff does not support the application because it goes against the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

13. Motion to open public hearing #13.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 57.1450 acres out of Porcion 20, Abstract 48, Bautista Garcia Original Grantee, and Porcion 21, Abstract 49, Leonardo Garcia Original Grantee (as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit A), located north of Simon Blvd. and east of Bucky Houdmann Blvd., from R1- (Single-Family Residential District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District).

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Zone Change District VI ZC-45-2018

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

X. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

14. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, Amending Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances by adding a new section 2-17 that provides for a Veteran Employment Preference Policy within the hiring process of all non-civil service City positions;

providing for a severability clause; and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

15. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Amendment to the Ground Lease between the City of Laredo ("Licensor") and American Towers LLC, A Delaware Limited Liability Company ("Licensee"), for ground space at 2502 Alamo St. (Jefferson Water Plant Compound), Laredo, Webb County, Texas, for the continued maintenance and operation of a 479' skeletal steel guyed communications tower and related ground facilities. Term of the License Agreement is one (1) initial term of five (5) years commencing July 22, 2017 and ending February 17, 2022, with four (4) additional five (5) year renewal options. The annual license fee will be \$45,000.00 with a three percent (3%) annual escalator.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

16. Amending Chapter 19, motor vehicles and traffic, Article VIII, stopping, standing or parking, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Laredo, specifically adding Subsection 19-364 (24) which establishes a section of the north side of the 3600 block of Monclova Dr, from 120 ft east of Ixtapa Dr to 150 ft west of Poza Rica Dr, as a "no parking /tow away zone" from 8 am to 5 pm, school days, providing for severability, effective date and publication.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

17. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 19, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article VIII, Stopping, Standing or Parking, to remove the appeal bond in the amount equal to the parking fines; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

18. Authorizing the City Manager to convey an easement and right of way to AEP Texas Central Company located at, and to serve, a lift station, one (1) conveyance over a tract of land containing 11,071 square feet of land, more or less, situated in Porcion 15, Abstract 53, Jose Prudencia Garcia original grantee, and Porcion 16, Abstract 46, Dolores Garcia original grantee, and being out a 32.24 acre tract as conveyed to the City of Laredo, as recorded in volume 3351, pages 579-593, Webb County official public records as described in the easement conveyance attached as Exhibit A; and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XI. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final readings of ordinances 2018-O-069, 2018-O-071, 2018-O-072, and 2018-O-073.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

19. 2018-O-069 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 (As Amended).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-069.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

20. 2018-O-070 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 District III

Motion to table Ordinance 2018-O-070.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

21. 2018-O-071 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 District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-071.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

22. 2018-O-072 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.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-072.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

23. 2018-O-073 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).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-073.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda # _____.

Moved: Cm.

Second: Cm.

For:

Against:

Abstain:

XII (a) RESOLUTIONS

24. 2018-R-64 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a partial grant in the amount of \$285,275.00 to fund the Laredo Police Department HIDTA Task Force and the Rio Grande Valley Financial HIDTA Task Force. Both grants are funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) at no cost to the City. Funding will be used to pay personnel salaries, fringe benefits, overtime, travel and operating expenses from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Funding for the Rio Grande Valley Financial Task Force will be used for payment of fringe benefits, overtime, and operating expenses from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-064.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XII (b) MOTIONS

25. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$237,308.70 to the professional services contract with RS&H, Inc., San Antonio, Texas for the revised scope of work to design and provide for bidding services for the Laredo International Airport Air Cargo Apron Reconstruction Phase 11, Phase 12, Phase 13 and Phase 14 Reconstruction. Current contract amount with this amendment is \$479,755.77. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

26. Consideration to award Contract FY 18-043 Navigators to Bethany House in the amount of \$96,000.00 to help address homelessness through case management of persons and navigation of services to assure the continuum of care, provide social, housing and health services to the homeless, serving as the lead for the coordinated process for the homeless city wide services, coordinating with

homeless stakeholders, and with the City of Laredo Health and Community Development Departments for the term from June 1, 2018 through May 30, 2019; contract may be renewed for one (1) additional year upon mutual agreement of the parties and subject to future appropriations. Funding is available in the Health Department budget.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, confirmed that language adding displaced victims of sexual assault will be added to the scope of work, since the bid had already gone out when Cm. Vielma requested that it be added.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

27. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Raul Miguel Ramos, Tennis Professional, in the amount of \$32,700.00. Contract term shall be for twelve (12) months commencing on the 21st day of May 2018 and terminating on the 20th day of May 2019. Services to be provided by tennis professional include, oversight and monitoring of tennis facilities, providing activities, tournaments and lessons at the Market Street and Haynes Tennis Courts. Funding is available in the Parks and Leisure Services Budget - Recreation Centers Division.

Anita Stanley, Parks & Leisure Services Director, explained that the City pays this fee to provide services to the public. The cost to the students vary depending on the type of class, such as one-on-one or group lessons. That price schedule is available online for the public. There are no tennis services provided free of charge at this time. Based on the contract terms with Mr. Ramos, the City collects a percentage of all classes that he provides for the public. Mrs. Stanley noted that it is not normal practice for the City to pay teachers an upfront fee, but Mr. Ramos is overseeing the facilities themselves. This is a full-time position, but his schedule varies given the temperatures out on the tennis courts.

Cm. Torres voiced his confusion as to what the City receives for the \$32,700 payment. Mrs. Stanley explained that that payment results in a tennis professional being available to give lessons to the public and oversee the tennis courts. Cm. Torres voiced skepticism at the fact that Mr. Ramos receives \$32,700 from the City whether he teaches any lessons or not; paying that amount for his availability and then allowing him to charge for his lessons additionally does not give the City much return on its investment.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, recommended that Council table this item pending further discussion and recommendation from staff.

Cm. Balli asked how much income the City receives from lessons to offset the \$32,700 payment. Mrs. Stanley could not confirm that information, but she reported that the City receives 10% of Mr. Ramos private lesson fees.

Cm. Balli noted that it is important to have a tennis professional in the recreation

centers and Parks Department. It is a very healthy form of exercise and is not expensive.

Mayor Saenz agreed but asked staff to bring a scope of duties back to Council.

Cm. Perez noted that the City has invested a lot of money into its tennis courts and needs somebody to be tasked with overseeing it and maintaining it throughout the day.

Mr. De Leon agreed but asked for more time so that he may negotiate a contract where Mr. Ramos provides free classes to individuals who cannot afford them or a similar service.

Mrs. Stanley explained that this contract is only for one year and can be renegotiated annually. The experience required results in only a few qualified candidates for the position. She noted that Mr. Ramos provides and coordinates tennis tournaments, working closely with the Laredo Tennis Association, the Laredo Country Club, and the school districts. The fees are paid to the City, but that money goes towards the equipment, trophies, and supplies for the tournament. Neither Mr. Ramos nor the City profit from the tournaments.

Cm. Vielma asked if it is customary to pay someone to provide a service and then allow them to charge for their lessons, because it seems like the City provides the facilities, a salary, and the opportunity for Mr. Ramos to run a personal business. Mrs. Stanley voiced her understanding, adding that this arrangement is not done through the other sports programs in the Department. However, the other programs are indoors where the City staff maintain all of the facilities. City staff also does all of the marketing for those programs as well to cover the utility and administrative costs. Mr. Ramos runs his programs completely independently and provides reports to the City.

Mr. De Leon compared this arrangement to the tennis professional at the Laredo Country Club. He agreed that it is expensive to have a tennis professional available on-site, but he clarified that the City could try to negotiate some free lessons from Mr. Ramos.

Cm. Rodriguez asked why, for that amount of money, the City does not just hire a Recreation Specialist with experience in tennis. He added that Mr. Ramos's contract caters to only two tennis courts when there are tennis courts in South Laredo in need of attention. Mrs. Stanley noted that his contract allows Mr. Ramos to bring in additional trainers at his own expense, which he normally does during the summer. Those trainers have a lower rate because they are not as experienced as Mr. Ramos.

Cm. Rodriguez countered that the City is paying a "middle man" to offer these lessons. Mrs. Stanley reminded Council that if the City were only to provide lessons to children and beginners, that situation would be ideal because they would not need to hire a professional at such a high rate. However, for skilled players who play semi-professionally, the highly-skilled professional is needed for those lessons as well. This is a demand from the tennis-playing community. Cm. Rodriguez suggested that the City work with the local schools that have tennis courts and facilities.

Cm. Torres reiterated his concern that the City is paying almost \$33,000 for someone to just be available at two tennis courts.

Motion to approve, conditional on the negotiation of a contract for Mr. Ramos to provide some classes free of charge and offer lessons at Cigarroa High School, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Mayor Saenz

Cm. Torres

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Perez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Balli

28. Consideration to award FY18-037 for the purchase of uniforms for various City Departments to following Vendors:

1) Section I for Parks and Leisure Services: LF Enterprise, Laredo, Texas in an annual amount of up to \$25,000.00.

2) Section III for Solid Waste Department: Mike's Western Wear, Laredo, Texas in an annual amount of up to \$15,000.00 and; local bidder, provides the best combination of contract price and additional economic development opportunities in accordance with Section 271.9051(b)(2) of the Texas Local Government Code for the purchase of uniforms for City employees.

3) Section IV for Public Works Department: Al & Rob Sales, Laredo, Texas in an annual amount of up to \$25,000.00.

The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract allows for one additional, two year extension period upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available within the budget of the various city departments.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

29. Consideration to renew the two (2) year contract FY16-036 with the following vendors:

Clark Hardware, Laredo, Texas in an annual amount of up to \$172,532.61;
Advantage Supply, Fort Worth, Texas in an annual amount of up to \$54, 493.75.

This is a two year contract for the purchase of water fountains, water heaters,

assorted plumbing items such as bathroom repair items, couplings, fittings and is subject to future appropriations. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis throughout the year and for various city departments. There will be no price increase during this extension period. This is the last extension period for this contract. Funding is available in the Parks and Recreation, Airport, Public Works, Health, Solid Waste, Laredo Transit Management Inc., Laredo Municipal Housing and Utilities Departments budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

30. Consideration to renew the six-month (6) supply contract FY18-001 with Arguindegui Oil Company, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$80,000.00 for the purchase of lubricants for the Fleet Department. All lubricants will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of six (6) months beginning as of the date of its execution. Due to an increase in the crude oil market, there will be an average price increase of 12% during this extension period. This is the first of six extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

31. Consideration to renew the existing annual contract FY13-036 to LSC Environmental Products, Appalachian, New York in an amount up to \$100,000.00 for the purchase of alternative daily cover material for the City Landfill. The materials are made of fiber and cement mortar used to replace the use of on-site soils for daily cover at the disposal area, as required by TCEQ. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. All material will be ordered on an as needed basis. This contract may be extended for one additional period upon mutual agreement of parties. There will be no price increase during this extension period. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Services Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

32. Consideration to award annual supply contract number FY18-056 to the lowest responsible bidders: Core and Main LLC., St. Louis, MO for Section 1 and Tenoch Distribution, LLC for Section 2. This contract is for the purchase of Copper Pipe Type "K" and Crosslinked Polyethylene (PEXa) Pipe for the Utilities Department; Contract is for an annual amount not exceed to \$250,000.00. Contract will be awarded in the following sections for various divisions of the Utilities Department:

Various Divisions (Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection, etc.)

Core and Main, LLC in the amount of \$150,000.00

Section I - Copper Pipe Type "K" ¾" – 2" soft 60 Ft. Coils and 20 Ft. joints

Tenoch Distribution, LLC in the amount of \$100,000.00

Section II – ¾ – 2" Crosslinked polyethylene (PEXa) piping 100' coils

The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract may be extended two (2), additional one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement of the parties. These materials are purchased on an as needed basis by the Utilities Department for water operations, construction and repair projects. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

33. Consideration to award contract FY18-047 for the purchase of ornamental sign poles to the low bidder Capital StreetScapes (Capital StreetScapes, LLC.), Austin, Texas, in an amount up to \$50,563.00. These ornamental sign poles will be installed in the following subdivisions: Concord Hills, Las Misiones, and Royal Oaks. All ornamental sign poles are fabricated from cast aluminum alloy. Since the quantities are estimated, the City reserves the right purchase more than the estimated quantities. Funding is available in the District II Priority Fund - 2017 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

34. Consideration for approval of the selection of the consultant firm for the Downtown Parking Study (FY18-044) and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. Funding is available in the Parking Meters Fund.

Robert Eads, Traffic Director, recommended Walker Consultants for the Downtown Parking Plan. Two firms submitted bids, and Walker Consultants works exclusively on parking plans.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

35. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of April 2018, represent a decrease of \$59,886.33. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

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

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

37. Status Report on the CDBG Freddy Benavides Recreational (Sisters of Mercy) Water Feature (Lazy River) adjacent to the City of Laredo Cigarroa Recreation Center Swimming Pool at 2201 Zacatecas Street, with possible action.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, reported that on March 19, 2018, staff addressed the liquidated damages regarding this project. At that time, the contractor proposed that, in lieu of liquidated damages, he would provide larger slides for the water feature and would have the slides by mid-May. To-date, the contractor has caused 105 days of liquidated damages at a rate of \$700 per day, equal to \$73,500 of liquidated damages. The contractor submitted plans on May 14, 2018, but the work on the slides has not begun yet. The contractor submitted a change order addressing the liquidated damages and is asking for another 180 days.

Cm. Rodriguez stated that there is no way Council is going to grant the contractor

an additional 180 days. Mr. Rivera voiced his agreement. He reported that the contractor proposed the slides, which were not installed, and stated that he needed 60 days to install them. Mr. Rivera reported that the project is about 92% complete, but the slides are the lazy river's main attraction and are not completed with no end confirmed. The last inspection was performed Friday, May 18, 2018.

Mayor Saenz asked what legal option the City has. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, confirmed that the City can legally submit a bond notice to go after the contractor's bond as an assuery to protect the City's position.

Cm. Altgelt made a motion to pursue the bond. Cm. Vielma seconded the motion.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if the City pursues liquidated damages, how much time would it take before the pool is complete.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, stated that the City is a little late in going after a performance bond, since the project is 92% complete. Liquidated damages are in the contract with the contractor, which would likely be more successful than pursuing the bond. In his experience working with performance bonds, Mr. De Leon estimated that the City would have a hard time pursuing it.

Mr. Rivera reported that going against the bond will not complete this project any sooner because, according to the contract, the City must give the contractor some time to work with his bonding company, who will need to come back to the City to negotiate a plan of action. The bonding company will either take over the project or will give the City the money to complete the project.

Mr. De Leon recommended that the City enforce the liquidated damages accrued from a certain date forward and give the contractor time to either finish the project in the next few weeks or pay the full cost of liquidated damages.

Mr. Rivera explained that when the contractor presented his proposal, Council approved tentatively to accept the larger slides in lieu of liquidated damages until mid-May. From mid-May onward, Council can still charge liquidated damages.

Mayor Saenz stated that if Council is going to waive the pursuit of a performance bond, Council should be made of aware of the financial impact of that decision. He voiced his opinion that he would want all options and their costs presented to inform his decision.

Mr. De Leon explained that Council gave staff the directive to approve the larger slides in lieu of some of the liquidated damages. Mr. Rivera added that staff was supposed to come back with a change order, but the contractor has now submitted a change order that is different than what Council approved. Nothing has been concretely approved; the proposal was tentatively approved upon the condition of staff bringing Council a change order to include the longer slides, liquidated damages, and the additional time. However, the contractor is now adding more time to his change order.

Mr. De Leon recommended that Council approve the change order up to a certain date, and staff's recommendation regarding the date is May 15, 2018. Beyond May 15, he recommended that Council charge liquidated damages as per the contract.

Mayor Saenz voiced his opinion that the contractor proposed a number of days in which he knew he could not perform. Cm. Vielma agreed, adding that the contractor promised to have the slides constructed and installed by May 15 and did not fulfill his promises. Because he did not meet the first extension granted by Council, the agreement should revert back to the preexisting agreement as per the contract.

Cm. Altgelt agreed with Cm. Vielma's argument, saying that any reasonable court would interpret the situation in the same manner. Therefore, Council can revert back to the contract terms and pursue all liquidated damages incurred.

Cm. Vielma noted that this contractor has come to Council multiple times and been untruthful as to his capabilities to perform the job asked of him. He has also misrepresented his insurance coverage and has proven to be untrustworthy.

Cm. Rodriguez expressed his desire to pursue the action that will result in a quality pool with the slides installed that are available so that South Laredo residents will have access to the pool for the summer season.

Mr. Rivera cautioned Council that the City must go after the bond as per the contract terms.

Given the confusion as to whether the performance bond or liquidated damages will be the best course of action, Mayor Saenz suggested that the City pursue the action that provides the maximum recovery for the City.

Mr. De Leon clarified that if the City pursues the bond, the work stops on the project because the City is essentially terminating the contractor and working with the bonding company. That will further delay the project.

Cm. Rodriguez suggested that the City pursue liquidated damages starting on the agreed upon date and hold the contractor accountable so that the project can be completed.

Cynthia Vazquez voiced her disagreement with the estimation that 92% of the project is completed to-date. She displayed pictures showing an unfinished pool and pipes in trenches along the property. She stated that somebody must be held accountable. She asked why Miguel Pescador, as the City's Purchasing Agent, has not upheld the purchasing standards. It is his duty to ensure vendors are complying with their contracts with the City. If the vendor has not fulfilled his duty as per his contract, Ms. Vazquez asked why Mr. Pescador has not taken action. She suggested that he be held as responsible as the contractor on this project. She displayed City's Debarment Clause in the agreement, which states that by executing the agreement, the contractor certifies that it is not currently debarred, suspended, excluded, or otherwise ineligible from participation in federal, state, or local procurement contracts. Ms. Vazquez voiced her concern as to why the City is still entering into agreements with Sunset Pools and Mr. Ayala despite him not delivering promised goods and services. She reported that the contractor originally bid \$1.3 million. The contractor submitted a change order on December 12, 2016, for another \$198,000 for a total of \$1,498,900. A second change order asked for 166 more days. On January 24, 2018, he asked for another 166 days to be added

to the project. Due to all of the issues that surround the lazy river and Tony Ayala of Sunset Pools, this contractor should be debarred and made ineligible to participate in any future procurement endeavors of the City of Laredo. Ms. Vazquez noted that she is a resident of South Laredo with three children who would love a lazy river and pool, but not at the cost that Mr. Ayala has caused the City.

Mr. De Leon confirmed that Council has already approved the purchase of river vega land from Mr. Ayala. Mr. Saenz asked if the City has already paid him and if the City has the right to offset that cost.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, confirmed that the City has already initiated the transaction to A&S Holding, not Tony Ayala or Sunset Pools. It was a closed transaction.

Cm. Balli stated that he will not support a motion made by Cm. Altgelt on this item but would support a motion made by Cm. Rodriguez on this project.

Cm. Vielma stated that this situation is highly questionable as Mr. Ayala was in Cancun with Cm. Rodriguez, although she was not sure if that coincided with the second change order that Mr. Ayala submitted. She stated that the City should not continue to grant change orders or do business with Mr. Ayala when it is clear he is not performing. The City is not acting in the best interest of its citizens by fulfilling some potential political favors.

Cm. Rodriguez questioned Cm. Vielma's implications about Cancun; he went on that trip with the entire City staff, including the Mayor, on City business.

Mayor Saenz confirmed that Mr. Ayala was in Cancun as well, adding that he and Mr. De Leon saw Mr. Ayala visiting with Cm. Rodriguez and Cm. San Miguel.

Cm. Rodriguez stated that Mr. Ayala was not on the plane with him.

Mr. De Leon cautioned Council that this topic is deviating too far from the agenda item.

Motion to calculate the liquidated damages incurred starting on the date of the initial breach of contract, and to additionally go after the performance bond, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Vielma

For: 2

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Altgelt

Against: 5

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Torres

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Balli

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Motion fails.

Cm. Vielma stated that she had voted in favor of the bigger slides as a way for Mr. Ayala to mitigate the damages that he incurred. However, even after the promise to mitigate the damages he caused, Mr. Ayala has not performed or fulfilled his promises, causing more damages to the City. The Council cannot set dates of damages on a whim, as it flies in the face of the contract's terms. The City might as well not have a contract with Mr. Ayala as he is doing whatever he wants with no consequences.

Mr. De Leon stated that if the City goes back to the initial terms of the contract, then the City cannot accept the new slides. If the City opts to accept the slides, then the City needs to give him time.

Cm. Vielma argued that whatever Mr. Ayala promised to do by May 15, 2018, he did not do. It would make more sense to revert back to the date of his initial promise. Mr. Ayala has proven that his modus operandi is to delay progress until the deadline and then make a deal.

Cm. Altgelt clarified that Council accepted the slides so long as the project was completed by May 15, 2018. Mr. Rivera confirmed that is correct. Nothing was memorialized in writing, so Cm. Altgelt asked for Legal's opinion on the waiver issue.

Mrs. Hale stated that the decision is on the bonding company rather than Mr. Ayala. Depending on Council's wishes, calling on the bond is a lengthy process. The longer the City waits to call on the bond, the more difficult the process becomes, even though the City does not waive the ability to do so when they approve additional time to the contractor.

Cm. Torres voiced his support of the motion to pursue liquidated damages as of mid-May as per the recommendation of the City Manager and City Attorney.

Cm. Vielma clarified that her comments were not a reflection of staff but on Council's disregard of contract breaches.

Cm. Rodriguez clarified that his intention is to pursue the liquidated damages starting on May 15 and not to grant the additional 180 days as the contractor is currently requesting.

Mr. Rivera reminded Council that the City must hold Mr. Ayala accountable on the contract, not on promises that he made. He agreed to the terms of the contract, to which the City must adhere.

Cm. San Miguel stated that he can appreciate the situation in which Cm. Rodriguez finds his district. Council has been advised that if the City goes after the bond, construction stops, which will further postpone the project. He voiced his opinion that pursuing liquidated damages as of May 15 at a rate of \$700 per day will be effective until the project is completed. If Council expects Mr. Ayala to finish this project, then someone at the City will need to be in contact with him on a very regular basis.

Mr. Rivera confirmed that staff has been in contact with Mr. Ayala since he first

started incurring liquidated damages. Mr. Ayala only presented his latest plans on May 14, when he was supposed to complete the project by the next day.

Cm. San Miguel voiced his opinion that Council should give a deadline for the completion of the project in addition to the pursuit of liquidated damages, such as June 22, 2018.

Mayor Saenz countered that liquidated damages should continue for every day that the project is not completed, and Mr. Ayala should perform in a way sufficient to successful completion of the project. Cm. San Miguel clarified that the liquidated damages will continue. The deadline of June 22, 2018 will be the date by which if Mr. Ayala has not completed his work then he will be terminated from the project and jobsite.

Mr. Rivera confirmed that about \$235,000 remain to be paid to be paid to Mr. Ayala on this project.

Cm. San Miguel suggested that the City get quotes for the remaining work to be done on this project in the event that Mr. Ayala does not complete the project by June 22. At that point, the City can terminate him from the project and will already have quotes to select a new contractor for the final work to be done.

Mr. Rivera reiterated that, at some point, if Mr. Ayala does not perform then the City must go after the bond. He voiced his opinion that the 92% completion is not substantially completed and recommended that Council allow him to prepare a letter to the bonding company. He argued that Council is attempting to take action that deviates from the contract. Mrs. Hale agreed that pursuing only liquidated damages and not the bond goes against the terms of the contract. She recommended that Council call the bond.

Cm. Torres asked Cm. Rodriguez to consider including calling the bond as recommended by the City Attorney contingent on the contractor's noncompliance of the June 22 deadline.

Motion to demand the liquidated damages incurred as of May 15, 2018, and to set a date of June 22, 2018, as the final deadline granted to Mr. Ayala to complete the project, after which he will be terminated from the project and liquidated damages will continue and to call on the bond contingent upon the non-completion of the project by the June 22 deadline, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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

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

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

38. 2018-RT-03 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$3,401,493.00 to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for Fiscal Year 2018 Section 5307 Urbanized Area authorized under the new Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Funding will be for Operating Assistance and Preventative Maintenance to the El Metro Bus Operations. The required local match for this grant will be funded with the Transit's Local Sales Tax.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-RT-03.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

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

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

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

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

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, reported that the City currently only has two lots that are not being utilized. One is an empty corner lot south of McDonald's at 801 Washington Street, and it was donated in 2005. The other site is adjacent to the Laredo Outlet Shoppes; it was bought for parking purposes in March 2017 for \$906,201.00.

Cm. Balli noted that the Washington Street location is nearly unusable; McDonald's might be able to use it as an exit onto Washington Street or additional parking.

Mr. Garcia reported that the Traffic Department had requested proposals for the use of this site, but he could not confirm inquiry results.

Cm. Torres asked if the City is forced to sell the property at fair market value since it was initially donated to the City. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, confirmed that the City is bound to sell it at fair market value. Cm. Torres noted that since the lot does not have much use to the City, Council should consider selling or leasing it.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that staff will consider the options for Council.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action on status of the Port of Laredo Master Plan.

Mario Maldonado, Executive Director of Transportation, reported that staff received input from stakeholders on how to prepare the RFQ. The RFQ was released on February 19, 2018, and as of the March 5, 2018, deadline there were no responses received. Staff revised the RFQ and released it again on March 15, 2018, and after three extensions, staff received two submittals. He noted that staff will review the proposals in the next week or two to develop a recommendation to Council.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, clarified that the port property is outside of the boundary of the traffic study. Mayor Saenz noted that communication should still take place among impacted parties to ensure the successful execution of a port master plan.

Mr. Maldonado confirmed that part of the scope of the RFQ requires that the selected party coordinate with all stakeholders in developing the master plan.

No action taken.

B. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlie San Miguel

1. Discussion with possible action to build a small shed/locker room at several City parks that will hold various outside games like large chess boards, ping pong tables, foosball, etc. and manned by the youth volunteers and to be named Kataleya's Fun Zone.

Cm. San Miguel reported that Priscilla Villarreal shared this idea with him based on a video that she recorded in San Antonio. The video showed a shed or locker room that held several games for children to use in the local park. Ms. Villarreal shared how the youth were very involved with the equipment and games and would volunteer to monitor the locker room.

Priscilla Treviño Villarreal noted that the large chess boards and pieces would be very successful in Laredo because there are a lot of chess teams. She addressed Council as a concerned citizen regarding Laredo's youth deteriorating due to lack of opportunities. Recently, she saw children playing in a San Antonio park using items

that they were able to check out from a small shed, from books to sports equipment. Those games and equipment items were placed there by City officials that made them available for children to enjoy. She proposed Laredo following this example, and she recognized Brenda Treviño and Jose Tamez, the parents of a deceased little girl, Kataleya Treviño, who is also Ms. Villarreal's niece. Kataleya died of brain cancer on October 16, 2016. Her family buried her the day before her third birthday. Kataleya influenced her family and Ms. Villarreal's "La Gordiloca" Facebook followers heavily during her short life, and Ms. Villarreal spearheaded a campaign to help pay for Kataleya's funeral and burial costs. She asked Council to approve her proposal of these sheds to honor Kataleya and all of Laredo's babies who have lost their lives to cancer. She asked Council to put their differences aside and come together for the common goal of enriching the lives of Laredo's youth by providing them the tools to stimulate their lives.

Cm. San Miguel explained that one of the ideas discussed was to not only honor Kataleya's life but all of the lives of children who have passed away from cancer. He had discussed building the shed and incorporating a brick path or foundation where citizens could purchase a brick to be engraved with the child's name that they would like to honor. The City would place those bricks recognizing the youth and honor their lives. Citizens could either purchase the brick directly or donate that amount to the City to purchase the bricks on their behalf.

Ms. Villarreal noted that her goal is to place a fun zone in Eistetter Park. Cm. San Miguel asked Cm. Vielma to consider installing a fun zone in that park in the future.

Graciela Briones, Assistant Parks Director, reported that Parks staff researched different option for the equipment kiosks, and she displayed some examples of kiosks, book carts, and games or equipment to offer children. She reported that the play zone implementations would cost between \$5,000-\$25,000, depending on the sizes and features.

Cm. San Miguel stated that many students need volunteer hours as part of their academic requirements, and running these kiosks would be a good way to accrue those service hours. He voiced his opinion that the expense would not be much given the small sizes of these kiosks. He added that these kiosks are common, noting his surprise that the City has not implemented them already. This idea would be very simple to implement but have far-reaching effects. The idea is to honor all children who have lost their lives to cancer. He suggested that the City select a vendor to give the best price on bricks and engraving.

Cm. Torres asked if Cm. San Miguel intends to bypass the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission in naming this facility. Cm. San Miguel argued that this idea is not a facility; it is a small kiosk. Cm. Torres voiced his opinion that when Council created the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission, language may have been used that directs Council to send potential namesakes to the Commission for consideration. He cautioned Cm. San Miguel from not complying with the language that created the Commission.

Cm. Altgelt conveyed his condolences to Ms. Villarreal and Kataleya's parents for their loss, as no parent should ever have to bury a child. He voiced his support of the idea to name these zones after all of the angels that Laredo has lost, noting that members of the public have given their opinion that naming this zone after Kataleya

specifically is politically motivated. Ms. Villarreal countered that she has no political motivation for naming this idea after her niece.

Cm. Altgelt suggested, as a way to rebut the notion that political motivations are at play, that Council send this idea to the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission for consideration or to name it after all lost children. Ms. Villarreal countered that the bricks would be a way to honor all children, but she still wished for the zone to be named after her niece. Her “La Gordiloca” Facebook page has 90,000 followers, all of whom knew Kataleya through her appearance on Ms. Villarreal’s social media. Because of the number of people who knew and loved Kataleya from Facebook, Ms. Villarreal argued that naming the fun zone after her would be appropriate.

Cm. Vielma offered her condolences to Ms. Villarreal and informed her that several community members spoke in opposition to the circumstances surrounding this proposal. Comments included political motivation behind the proposal and whether Ms. Villarreal is running for Mayor in the November 2018 election. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, she suggested not sullyng the beautiful project that Ms. Villarreal has brought to Council and instead name the project after all children who have passed away. Because the name would single out Ms. Villarreal’s niece and everyone else would simply have bricks in the ground, it will give the appearance of preferential treatment.

Cm. Balli argued that this idea is not a facility; it is a small kiosk and does not need to be sent to the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission. He commended Cm. San Miguel for providing the opportunity to honor a child. He noted his interest in seeing how successful this is at John Valls Park as he would like to implement something similar in District VIII. He stated that he would support Cm. San Miguel completely.

Cm. Torres asked if Council would consider using an application form for citizens to fill out asking the City to pay for the bricks that they would like to use to memorialize a deceased child. Cm. San Miguel agreed.

Motion to build a small shed/locker room at John Valls Park and name it Kataleya’s Fun Zone with funding for the shed/locker room and memorial bricks coming from District VI priority funds, as amended.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Perez

Cm. Torres

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Balli

2. Discussion with possible action on adopting a Resolution on the River Road and working with Congressman Cuellar to coordinate the use of Homeland Security funds and consider all other funding options.

Cm. San Miguel voiced his opinion that the resolution should include Border Patrol

given the information provided by Chief Owens of the Laredo Sector earlier in the meeting. He encouraged Council not to delay this opportunity. He had spoken with one of the landowners, Albert Muller, who is on board with this with reservations about La Bota subdivision; Mr. Muller wants to make sure that La Bota residents are not impacted by any through traffic. Cm. San Miguel noted that by his understanding, this River Road idea will not impact that community.

Juan Ramirez, Jr., representative for Emerald, stated that he has tried to find a solution for this problem for years. He thanked Cm. San Miguel for taking the time to put together a concrete idea to alleviate traffic for the whole City, not just District VII residents. He noted that 45 acres of parkland will be donated, which the Parks & Leisure Services Department have already tentatively accepted pending Council approval.

Mayor Saenz noted that all stakeholders should be included in the resolution if one is to be prepared.

Cm. Altgelt asked Mr. Ramirez if he is running for office in November 2018. Mr. Ramirez confirmed that he is running for the District VI Council position. Cm. Altgelt stated that Mr. Muller has long been the only holdout for this project. Mr. Ramirez clarified that this project is not going to be in District VI and therefore is not related to his political campaign or for his political gain.

Cm. Altgelt reminded Council that he had been working very diligently on the River Road project while in office, and he had not been informed of Mr. Ramirez's negotiations between the parties.

Mayor Saenz voiced his opinion that the discussion was becoming personal and that Council should focus on the matter that the project is ready to move forward after a long holdup. He did not want to discourage Mr. Muller from participating now that they have his attention.

Cm. Altgelt argued that the public's attention is on the fact that community members with political aspirations are using the Council lectern to grandstand, which is offensive and in appropriate.

Motion to direct staff to bring a resolution back to Council on the River Road and work with Congressman Henry Cuellar, Border Patrol, Homeland Security agencies, and interested stakeholders as part of the resolution, as amended.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to construct a bicycle BMX course at the Shiloh Extreme Bike Trails in accordance with the recommendations of the City of Laredo Environmental and Engineering departments and all other matters incident thereto. District VI Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Gustavo Martinez confirmed that he had come to the Parks & Leisure Services Department about 18 years ago asking for something similar. He displayed an image of a typical BMX course, which is sculpted dirt mounds and is environmentally

friendly. There are no chemicals used in a course, and clay (which is usually not desired in construction) can be used for the BMX course. He reminded Council that BMX races are Olympic sports as of 2008.

Cm. San Miguel reported that community feedback has found that a cycling course is a needed and highly-requested amenity.

John Porter, Environmental Services Director, recommended placing this course in the area out of the floodplain by the Shiloh Bike Trails behind the apartments. Given the course materials, he did not anticipate any need to clear out green space or upset the trails.

Cm. San Miguel added that there is area to turn into parking if needed.

Mr. Martinez stated that a BMX course can invite more visitors to Laredo for tournaments or events. There are standards for building a course for competitive BMX racing. San Antonio has BMX courses, all of which are public. Other cities also have indoor BMX courses.

Motion to construct a bicycle BMX course at the Shiloh Bike Trails in accordance with the Environmental Service and Engineering Departments, directing staff to bring a cost estimate back to Council to be funded with District VI priority funds, as amended.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

C. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install a security camera system at Independence Hills Park to prevent constant vandalism. City Council District 1 Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Graciela Briones, Assistant Park & Leisure Services Director, displayed images of the vandalism that have occurred at this location.

Homero Vazquez-Garcia, Information Services & Telecommunications Director, reported that the proposal to purchase and install surveillance cameras totals \$221,807.18, which will cover both the park and the walking trail and pond area. Having the infrastructure already in place will be beneficial to the success of these cameras.

Cm. Gonzalez noted that the total is a large cost, but he voiced his opinion that the investment in park security is important and worth the expense.

Motion to instruct staff to research what camera surveillance system best fits the Parks facilities for implementation and bring a recommendation back to Council in a month.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. 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 \$6,000.00.

- (2) Speed hump on the 3700 block of Aguanieve, between Avenida Mexico and Guaymas Ave \$4,000.00 and;
- (1) Speed hump on Wright Ranch Drive, between Cuarto Vientos Blvd. and Hereford Rd. \$2,000.00.

Cm. Gonzalez noted that a constituent showed him a video of a truck ramming into a vehicle, and he voiced his opinion that speed humps are needed at these locations.

Motion to approve the speed humps on Aguanieve.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Motion to table the speed hump on Wright Ranch Drive pending a recommendation from staff.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

3. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install two (2) additional stop signs on Mexico and Aguanieve to make it a four way stop. City Council District 1 Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

D. Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to resurface 1600 block of Laredo St.

John Orfila, Public Works Director, confirmed that staff will schedule this project. The funding source will be District III priority funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install a memorial monument for fallen officer Pedro Ayala+ Laredo Police Department hero at one of the District III parks.

Cm. Perez stated that in the spirit of Police Week, Council installed a monument last year memorializing fallen officer Pablo Aviles. This year, he would like to do the same thing, possibly in the Santa Fe area for Officer Pedro Ayala, who died on June 11, 1936, in the line of duty. Officer Ayala served in the Laredo Police Department for 28 years and was directing traffic on the scene of an accident when he was hit by a passing vehicle. He died at Mercy Hospital later that afternoon, and the driver was arrested for driving while intoxicated. Cm. Perez thanked the family for Officer Ayala's service to Laredo.

Alicia Delia Montemayor Ayala, family member of Officer Ayala, noted that she worked for the City of Laredo for 30 years and would be honored to see the police substation in District IV named after him.

Cm. Perez voiced his opinion that it is important to see memorials to fallen police officers seen throughout the City.

Mrs. Montemayor Ayala thanked the Police Department and City for honoring officers who lost their lives in service to their community.

Cm. Perez noted that out of respect for Cm. Torres, he would allow Officer Ayala to be the namesake of the police substation in District IV, as the family has lived in District IV their whole lives. He added that he would like to memorialize a fallen officer in a park in his district and asked the Police Chief to recommend the next fallen officer as a memorial namesake in District III.

Motion to instruct staff to place an item on the next Council agenda sponsored by Cm. Torres and co-sponsored by Cm. Perez regarding the naming of the police substation in District IV as the Officer Pedro Ayala Police Substation and that the Police Department bring a recommendation back to Council for a fallen officer namesake for a memorial monument in a District III park at the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

E. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to repeal Ordinance 2009-O-173 pertaining to the civil adjudication of parking offenses thereby declaring these respective violations as Class C Misdemeanors, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Nelly Vielma, Council Member George Altgelt, and Council Member Roberto Balli)

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

2. 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 IV Priority Funds will be used for this project. Total cost \$4,000.00.
 - (1) Speed hump on Ash St., between Logan and Tilden St., \$2,000.00 and;
 - (1) Speed hump on Logan Ave, between Ash and Elm St., \$2,000.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

F. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to approve the 2nd Phase of Improvements for El Metro Bus Enhancement Program for District V and any items incident thereto.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit Director, displayed an image showing the work performed on the Bus Stop Enhancement Program, District V Phase 1 Spring 2018, highlighting the improvements on the entire block by enhancing the bus stops in the district. She reported that Phase 2 of this project will provide similar enhancements to 20 other bus stops in District V, areas of high volume transit use and commuting. These locations have been identified as areas with the most use or the most need. Staff has also identified areas for four bike and ride plazas that coincide with the

Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Saenz reported that in a recent meeting with the MPO, some funding was identified that might also apply to this project, asking staff to check whether this project would be an eligible expenditure of those funds.

Mrs. San Miguel confirmed that staff will apply for set aside funding for Transit improvements; all districts will be included in that application to gain any potential funding to offset costs.

Motion to approve Phase 2 using \$20,000 of District V priority funding.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Status report on a request on the feasibility of installing a Traffic Light at the Hillside/Bartlett intersection.

Robert Eads, Traffic Director, reported that the network has been built out to the extent that staff conducted a feasibility study for this light. Staff determined that the intersection qualifies for a traffic light for multiple reasons and is a naturally progression of the build-out for the area. He recommended that Council approve the traffic light installation, though staff is currently seeking funding. He compared the end results to that of the intersection of Calton Road and Bartlett Avenue., with the exception of Bartlett's right turn lane.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that since there is not any funding for the project currently, Council wait until the next budget cycle to approve this installation.

Mr. Eads reported that staff has studied this area because of its impact on the corridor, but he could not confirm how many similar intersections were reviewed for traffic light installations specifically. He noted that the Capital Improvement Plan recommends additional signal installations, though this one has been prioritized by Cm. Vielma.

Cm. Rodriguez asked that District II and South Laredo areas be reviewed and prioritized as well, as there are many traffic incidents there.

No action taken.

3. Discussion and invitation to the First Special Needs Transitions Conference scheduled for May 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Joe Guerra Public Library.

Julie Bazan of the Area Health Education Center invited the public to the conference, acknowledging the support of Cm. Vielma. The purpose of this conference is to empower parents of children with special needs to help them make the transition from the school system into adulthood. The conference will host professionals from the workforce, the legal system, and the higher educational system to provide parents and family members the correct data and information to

make that transition. She noted that many parents of special needs individuals are not aware that once that child becomes an adult, the child needs a power of attorney and the proper documentation to help make decisions regarding their health and quality of life.

Ms. Bazan informed Council that the conference will be held at the Laredo Public Library on the corner of Calton and McPherson and is free to attend. All are welcome to attend, and she encouraged Council to spread awareness of the conference to increase attendance.

Cm. Vielma thanked Ms. Bazan and her team for coordinating this event. As the mother of a child with special needs, Cm. Vielma stated that this conference is the first of its kind in Laredo.

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.