

**CITY OF LAREDO
RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATION NOTICE
M2018-R-10
CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
June 18, 2018
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor will be presenting the following:

1. Recognizing Gabriela Berlanga, teacher at Alma Pierce Elementary School for being recognized as Krispy Kreme's Teacher of the Year. Ms. Berlanga is one (1) of five (5) teachers in the entire State of Texas to receive this award.

Gabriela Berlanga stated that she has taught for two years at Alma Pierce Elementary School teaching the first grade. She noted that she is honored to receive this distinction and that her students are her motivation.

Mayor Pete Saenz presented Ms. Berlanga with a certificate for her recognition, noting that being one of five teachers to receive the honor in Texas is noteworthy.

2. Recognizing Karime Nevarez for winning the Ironman 70.3 Triathlon in Monterrey, Mexico on May 14, 2018 and qualifying in the World Championship 2018 Ironman 70.3 in South Africa in September and for being the first female from Los Dos Laredos to compete.

Karime Nevarez stated that she has been an athlete for many years and thanked her husband and family for their support and for participating in athletics with her. Her coach commented on her impressive achievement and added that coaching her has been an honor.

Mayor Pete Saenz presented Mrs. Nevarez with a certificate of recognition for her achievement.

3. Recognizing Coach Juan Avila, Coach Valeriano Hernandez, and Coach Gilberto Palacios for volunteering as basketball parent coaches for numerous years and helping the community when in need.

Juan Avila noted that when Baby Oliver was shot and killed a few weeks ago in Laredo, Mr. Avila, Mr. Hernandez, and Mr. Palacios, along with others, combined their efforts to put on a plate sale to support Oliver's parents. He thanked the community members that supported the plate sale and noted that the other two individuals sent their well wishes. He advised community members wanting to serve as a parent volunteer to contact their school districts or the Boys and Girls Club. Serving as a parent volunteer takes time and sacrifice, but it is worth the investment to serve the youth in Laredo.

Mayor Pete Saenz presented Mr. Avila with a certificate of recognition for his service.

**CITY OF LAREDO CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
M2018-R-10
CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
June 18, 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. Vielma joined at 5:45 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of May 29, 2018 and June 4, 2018

Motion to approve the May 29, 2018 and June 4, 2018 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Citizen Comments

Nathan Henry Chu thanked the City for building the animal shelter, which he works with as part of the Cocker Spaniel Rescue organization in Austin and San Antonio. The new shelter is well-built, and he reported that he assists in transport two or three dogs per month. He wanted to give voice to the positive aspects of the animal shelter in Laredo.

Ricardo Quijano, veteran, introduced a group of four veterans present with him during his address to Council. He reminded Council that he notified them that the residence 3001 Pecos Plaza, which is Cm. Vidal Rodriguez's residence, had a pool rebuilt without a Building Department pool permit as required by the City. He asked what action the City has taken to ratify this violation. All City pool permits are given to certified and licensed pool contractors, and Mr. Quijano asked if Cm. Rodriguez has identified which contractor built his pool and if that contractor has a license. He shared his opinion that the City cannot perpetuate double standards in which some citizens are fined for violations while others are not. The City has had sufficient time and notice to take action. He also asked Council not to act too quickly on proposed changes to the City Charter.

VI. VETERAN RECOGNITION

- a. Honoring Veteran Joshua D. Guell, for his service as a member of the United States Army and recognizing his distinguished service to our Country.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, introduced Joshua Guell, who is originally from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He joined the Army when he was 18 years old and went to basic training in Fort Benning in Georgia. His first duty station was in the 3rd Ranger Battalion at Fort Benning. Agent Guell had five combat deployments, three to Afghanistan and two to Iraq. He served a total of nine years, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. His list of military accomplishments and schools include airborne, jumpmaster, ranger, pathfinder, and sniper schools along with other various leadership courses. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with valor for his actions after a combat jump when deployed to Iraq, plus multiple other medals for actions overseas and during training. Agent Guell has been employed with the US Border Patrol for the past 11 years, station at the Laredo West Station. In the Border Patrol, he developed the Veteran Support Program and serves as the coordinator for the Laredo Sector helping follow veterans. Mr. Garcia displayed a recorded interview with Agent Guell, who commended his wife for her loyalty and strength and encouraged the community to embrace veterans and their experiences.

Agent Guell received a standing ovation. Mayor Saenz thanked him for his courage and obligation to his duty. Agent Guell thanked the team that prepared the video. He thanked the City for the recognition, professed his gratitude to the Lord, and recognized his family, especially his wife. He thanked the US Customs and Border Patrol for allowing him to initiate the Veteran Support Program, which has grown to other areas in CBP.

Cm. San Miguel thanked Agent Guell for his service and for his contribution to the Veteran Support Program, adding that Agent Guell started and coached Laredo's first rugby team, which went to the state competition.

Mayor Saenz presented Agent Guell with a certificate of recognition for his service.

Mr. Garcia reminded Council that veteran nomination forms are available online at the City of Laredo's website, and he encouraged Council and the public to submit their nomination forms to the Community Development Department.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Presentation by Stephen Ratke, of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), on Vision Zero.

Stephen Ratke of Federal Highway Administration explained that the primary mission of Vision Zero is to eliminate the loss of life on roadways. Traffic fatalities and injuries are preventable, and although people make mistakes, the penalties of those mistakes should not be fatalities. He reported that Texas has not had a day without a traffic death since November 7, 2000. The Cities of Austin and San Antonio have formally adopted Vision Zero, which requires that the City have a Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan, a long-term aspirational goal of zero deaths. Mr. Ratke explained that the protection of human life is the highest priority of the transportation system. Human error is inevitable, and the transportation system should be forgiving. He stated that safe systems are more important than influencing behavior in reducing crashes. A comprehensive approach involves public health, law enforcement, education, infrastructure improvements, technology advancements, and more.

Mr. Ratke explained that cities adopting Vision Zero designate an individual or entity to serve as a champion for safety as the best way to ensure all safety partners work in a collaborative group. This could be a member of Council, the City Manager, or a Departmental Director. The leadership would establish an organizational structure to formalize collaboration, develop action plans, and evaluate the City's progress and reassess goals. Leadership must be data driven, using safety data to determine the City's priorities and establishing emphasis areas. Developing actionable strategies is best achieved when leadership uses evidence based approaches on what works. Mr. Ratke emphasized that a safe systems approach is more successful than a focus on user behavior or individual locations. He recommended targeting overall trends with proven countermeasures rather than narrowly focusing on specific intersections and to comprehensively address engineering and infrastructure, enforcement, and education.

Mr. Ratke reported that some types of infrastructure have proven to help reduce traffic collisions, like roundabouts, pedestrian hybrid beacons, and road diets. Prioritizing safety in all departmental actions must be incorporated, including land development and permitting, maintenance of streets, long range plans, and street design policies and standards. He also recommended prioritizing funding for safety improvements and maintaining a collaborative approach to safety.

Cm. Altgelt asked staff to task key interdisciplinary staff to present a Vision Zero

plan to the Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee and Bike Laredo.

2. Presentation by Jay B. Crossley, of Farm and City, on Vision Zero efforts in cities and MPOs across Texas and elsewhere.

Jay B. Crossley explained that Farm and City is a non-profit think-and-do tank focusing on urban planning, transportation, sustainability, and equity issues. He reported that since the City of Austin has adopted its Vision Zero plan, traffic deaths have significantly decreased over the last few years. the most dangerous method of transportation is overwhelmingly automobiles; riding in cars is the leading cause of death of children in Texas. Speed is the determining factor in traffic safety. Mr. Crossley reported that when a pedestrian is hit by a vehicle traveling 20 miles per hour, 9 out of 10 pedestrians will survive. Only 1 out of 10 pedestrians hit by a vehicle traveling 40 miles per hour will survive.

Mr. Crossley recommended retrofitting some intersections with neighborhood greenways, pedestrian improvements, and stormwater management, among other solutions, to make the intersections safer for drivers and pedestrians. Neighborhood greenways are extremely effective and inexpensive; Mr. Crossley estimated that the City could connect most homes in Laredo via neighborhood greenways for about \$20 million. He encouraged Council to consider adopting Vision Zero and assembling a Vision Zero Task Force with all interested parties at the table.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez of Nick Benavides to the Secondary Water Source Ad-Hoc Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Nick Benavides to the Secondary Water Source Ad-Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez of Joe Villarreal to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Joe Villarreal to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing allowing interested persons to comment on the 2018-2019 One Year Action Plan which identifies the projects proposed to be funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City anticipates receiving \$3,729,949.00 in 44th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; \$1,178,458.00 through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME); and \$306,204.00 through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). An additional \$2,800.00 is anticipated to be received through CDBG program income; \$72,200.00 in Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan funds; and \$160,000.00 in HOME program income. The following projects are proposed to be funded:

44th AY Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	
Community Development Administration	\$656,089
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$304,458
Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program	\$468,451
Code Enforcement	\$489,984
Graffiti Removal Program	\$49,944
Downtown Senior Recreational Program	\$145,225
Downtown Elderly Affordable Rental Housing	\$301,198
Rental Rehabilitation Program	\$350,000
Downtown Neighborhood Access Improvements	\$127,400
El Eden Park Improvements	\$120,000
Freddy Benavides Park Improvements	\$120,000
Sidewalks in District III	\$120,000
Eastwoods Neighborhood Park Improvements	\$20,000
Sidewalks in District IV	\$100,000
De Llano Park Improvements	\$120,000
Bike Lanes in District VII	\$120,000
Sidewalks in District VIII	\$120,000
TOTAL	\$3,732,749

Revolving Loan	
Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Administration	\$9,452

Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program	\$62,748
TOTAL	\$72,200

HOME Investment Partnership Grant	
HOME Program Administration	\$98,139
Down Payment Assistance Program (PI)	\$160,000
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$390,050
15% CHDO Set-Aside	\$176,769
Rental Housing Project	\$253,500
Downtown Elderly Affordable Rental Housing	\$260,000
TOTAL	\$1,338,458

Emergency Solutions Grant	
ESG Program Administration	\$16,490
Emergency Shelter – Shelter Operations	\$85,000
Emergency Shelter – Essential Services	\$45,000
Street Outreach	\$9,884
Rapid Re-Housing	\$81,830
Homelessness Prevention	\$60,000
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	\$8,000
TOTAL	\$306,204

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo Airport Operations Fund by drawing down and appropriating Fund Balance in the amount of \$1,888,889.00. This appropriation will be transferred out to the Airport Construction Fund for the purpose of various airport improvement projects, including the reconstruction of Phases 12, 13, and

14 of the cargo apron. In addition, authorizing the City Manager to amend the Airport Construction Fund by appropriating said funds for the improvements mentioned above.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

3. Motion to table public hearing #3.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 14.03 acres as further described by Metes and Bounds in Exhibit A, located Southeast of Casa Verde Rd., and East of Lucia Ct., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. ZC-54-2018 District V

Public hearing tabled.

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel 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 bar on Lots 1 & 2, Block 2, San Isidro/McPherson Subdivision, Phase IV, Cantera Ct., located at 9802 McPherson Rd one-half of Suite 100, and Suites 101, 102 and 103 providing for publication and effective date.

Staff does not support the application and Planning & Zoning recommends approval of the Conditional Use Permit. ZC-56-2018 District VI

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 123, Block 8, Del Mar Hills Section I, Area A Subdivision, located at 427 Candlewood Rd., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff does not support the application and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommends denial of the zone change. Therefore the applicant has since exercised the right to appeal this decision directly to City Council. ZC-50-2018 District VI

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that staff mailed out 29 notices on this case and received one letter in favor and 17 letters in opposition. He also reported that staff received a petition, which was supplied to Council, that contains 31 signatures of individuals opposed to the zone change.

Motion to close public hearing and deny the application.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that staff does not support the application because the proposed zone change, though compatible with the surrounding uses, does not comply with the Comprehensive Plan's designation

of the future land use of the location. This is an anomaly that occurred with the adoption of the Future Land Use Plan. Staff is workshopping the discrepancies, but the noncompliance with the Comprehensive Plan is the reason for staff not supporting the application. The Comprehensive Plan designates the future land use of this property as agricultural, but the application is to change the zone to industrial. He reminded Council that they have the final decision. If Council changes the land use, then the future land use map will be amended to reflect this change.

Cm. Altgelt asked if Council could resend this item back to the Planning & Zoning Commission asking them to develop a Special Use Permit to provide a vegetative buffer between the roadway and the lot along with some storm water management.

Mr. Bratton voiced his opinion that this would not be available via an SUP because M1 and warehousing are recognized uses. He noted that to achieve Cm. Altgelt's wishes, Council could rezone this property to a B-3 and a Conditional Use Permit to upscale it to a warehousing facility.

Motion to close public hearing and rezone the property as a B-3.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 22.64 acres out of Porcion 38, Abstract 472, Tadeo Sanchez Tract, located north of Cielito Lindo Blvd. and west of S. Ejido Ave., from R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) to R-1MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District).

Staff does not support the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Zone Change. ZC-52-2018 District I

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, confirmed that staff sent 15 letters of notice; one was returned in favor, and no letters in opposition were returned.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

8. Motion to open public hearing #8.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 and 2, Block 1703, Eastern Division, located at 2803 Corpus Christi St., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District).

Staff supports 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. ZC-51-2018 District III

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

9. Motion to open public hearing #9.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 282, Eastern Division, located at 301 E. Gustavus St., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District).

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Zone Change. ZC-49-2018 District III

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

10. Motion to open public hearing #10.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for Oil and/or Gas Extraction and Production, (plug/abandonment) on approximately 42.98 acres out of Porcion 35, Abstract 546, Jose M. Diaz Tract, known as Maria Lafon Unit #1, located north of Lomas del Sur Blvd. and west of U.S. Highway 83.

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit. ZC-55-2018 District III

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, confirmed that the applicant is plugging and abandoning a well.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

11. Motion to open public hearing #11.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 8.42 Acres out of Agustin Sanchez Tract, Abstract 282, Porcion 26, (as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit A), located east of Bartlett Ave. and north of University Blvd., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) and R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District).

Staff does not support the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Zone Change. ZC-39-2018 District V

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that staff does not support the zone change only because the Future Land Use Plan designates this tract as low residential. Staff operates faithfully to the Comprehensive Plan. There has not been any opposition to this zone change to his knowledge.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

12. Motion to open public hearing #12.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Vielma
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 10.17 Acres out of Agustin Sanchez Tract, Abstract 282, Porcion 26 (as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit A), located east of Barlett Ave. and north of University Blvd., from B-1 (Limited Business District) and R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District).

Staff does not support the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Zone Change ZC-40-2018 District V

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that staff does not support the zone change only because the Future Land Use Plan designates this tract as low residential. Staff operates faithfully to the Comprehensive Plan. There has not been any opposition to this zone change to his knowledge.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Cm. Torres
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

13. Motion to open public hearing #13.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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. ZC-44-2018 District III

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Torres
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

14. Motion to open public hearing #14.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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. ZC-47-2018 District VII

Mr. Caballero, engineer for the project explained that this property has intended development of warehouses. It is not on the river side, so he did not foresee any danger to the river.

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, noted that building warehouses is allowable under a B-4, as it is currently. However, the applicant could not perform manufacturing. Staff has not received any opposition.

Mr. Caballero stated that a B-4 zoning would not satisfy the applicant because he wants to enter into light manufacturing.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

15. Motion to open public hearing #15.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 through 10, Block 276-A, Lots 1 through 10, Block 277-A & an area 30 feet wide between Blocks 277-A & 278-A, Western Division, located at 1600 Water St., from B-3 (Community Business District) to CBD (Central Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. ZC-62-2018 District VIII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Motion to open public hearing #16.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the FY18 City of Laredo's Police Department Financial Task Force Fund annual budget by appropriating additional expenditures and drawing down fund balance in the amount of \$1,400,000.00 for the purpose of funding the Laredo Police Department Real Time Crime Center. Funding is available in the Financial Task Force Fund Balance.

Cm. Torres requested an item on the next Council agenda, co-sponsored by Cm. Balli, for the redirecting of funds from the real-time crime center to SWAT for specialty vehicles.

Miguel Rodriguez, Jr., Deputy Police Chief, explained that the Police Financial Task Force handles forfeiture and confiscated money. He noted that the Police Department has the infrastructure to utilize the real time crime center and will be able to tie in cameras from other locations like the bridge system and parks.

Cm. Rodriguez reminded Council that he will purchase the cameras for his district's parks, noting that if the Police Department is putting forth the fund for the crime center, Council should take the responsibility of ensuring that their districts have the adequate number of cameras.

Mayor Saenz asked for a total cost estimate for the center and all of the cameras that would be needed to ensure that the Police Department is adequately supplied.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reminded Council that this is a work-in-progress and that other camera systems are already in place, such as cameras at traffic intersections and those put up by TxDOT and Border Patrol. He explained that the amount of \$1.4 million was a proposal through Motorola.

Cm. Balli confirmed that he would also use district priority funds to pay for cameras in District VIII.

Cm. San Miguel requested a map of the infrastructure already in place to look for places to implement additional infrastructure in a cost-efficient manner.

Homero Vazquez, Information Services & Telecommunications Director, reported that fiber optic splicing is typically contracted out and not done in-house.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

- 17. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with Endeavors, Inc., for the purpose of administering and providing a veteran services program that offers homelessness prevention and stabilization services to Veterans and their families at 1300 Matamoros, east wing situated on property described as a portion of a 58,819 square foot building consisting of 1,405 square feet, all of BLK 140, ED Post Office, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas for a month to month term beginning August 1, 2018, at a monthly rate of one thousand nine hundred sixty-seven dollars and zero cents (\$1,967.00).

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 18. Authorizing the City Manager to renew the lease agreement with Webb County, for the purposes of the Webb County Head Start Program, for the following parcels at the monthly rate provided below:

Jesus Garcia Head Start	2518 Cedar Avenue	\$928.00
Tatangelo Head Start	2200 Zacatecas Street	\$635.71
Villa Alegre Head Start	3501 Eagle Pass Avenue	\$921.58

Lease renewal expires on May 31, 2019, and provides an option to extend for one (1) additional year, subject to written notice to the City of Laredo and subject to an adjusted rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XI. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2018-O-086, 2018-O-087, 2018-O-088, and 2018-O-089.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 19. 2018-O-086 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and execute a new contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and amending the FY 2017-2018 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Ryan White Part C Outpatient early intervention, diagnosis,

treatment and prevention of HIV in the STDC Region for the term from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-086.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. 2018-O-087 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). District III ZC-41-2017

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-087.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. 2018-O-088 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). District III ZC-42-2017

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-088.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. 2018-O-089 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 18, by adding Article VI to require any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity, to obtain a permit from the Building Services Department prior to operating an amusement ride, including an inflatable bounce house; providing for a \$25.00 fee for each amusement ride; providing for the denial of a permit and providing that this Ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing a penalty clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date. (AS AMENDED).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-089.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

XII (a) RESOLUTIONS

23. 2018-R-72 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Javier De Jesus Jaime for a proposed project located at 419 W. Ash St., Lot 1; Block 171; Eastern Division that consists of a house, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a ten (10) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of Economic Development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$220,200.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$1,402.34 and estimated total fee waivers of \$2,431.00. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-072.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. 2018-R-73 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Luis M. Munoz, Jr. for a proposed project located at 4250 Dorel Dr., Lot 12; Block 3; Emerald Hills Subdivision Phase III that consists of the Hilltop at Dorel Apartment Complex (48 units), in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a ten (10) year period and will abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of Economic Development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$2,465,053.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$15,702.39 and estimated total fee waivers of \$25,051.50. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-073.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. 2018-R-77 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from K9s4COPs for the donation of a canine to be trained and used by the Laredo Police Department for law enforcement purposes. The canine is strictly a donation and will be at no cost to the City of Laredo Police Department.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-077.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. 2018-R-78 Ratifying the execution of a contract with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department to continue targeted evidence-based community systems and environmental change strategies that address one or more of the eight (8) Texas Healthy Communities (TXHC) priorities to improve healthier outcomes for chronic diseases in particular for heart and stroke disease prevention, improve access to health care, promote physical activity, healthier nutrition and injury prevention for the term period from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-078.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. 2018-R-79 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract amendment from the Health and Human Services Commission for Title V Child Health and Dental Services in the amount of \$46,000.00 for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department Child and Dental Preventive Patient Care and Prevention Services for the term period from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-079.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII (b) MOTIONS

28. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for the City of Laredo Pavement Management System; and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. A total of twelve (12) firms responded to the request for qualifications and the top three (3) firms made presentations before the Evaluation Committee on Thursday, June 7, 2018. Funding is available under the Capital Improvement Funds.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, reported that three of 12 RFQ submitters were shortlisted and made presentation to the Evaluation Committee. The scoring results were distributed to Council in the Friday packet. Staff recommends Data Transfer Solutions of San Antonio, Texas.

Cm. Torres clarified that the Friday packet is not a public record, and Council requested that scores be included in the backup of agenda items for public viewing.

Motion to approve the selection of Data Transfer Solutions and to direct staff to

include scores in the background of agenda items.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Authorizing the City Manager to grant a public fireworks permit for the Laredo Country Club located at 1415 Country Club Drive. The fireworks display will take place on the evening of July 4, 2018. The technicians for the display will be Illumination Fireworks, L.L.C.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

30. Authorizing the City Manager to grant public fireworks permits for the City of Laredo at Uni-Trade Stadium located at 6320 Sinatra Pkwy, and Independence Hills Park located at 1102 N. Merida Dr. and the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course located at 27700 FM 1472. The displays for Uni-Trade Stadium and Independence Hills Park will take place on the evening of July 4, 2018. The display for the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course will take place on the evening of July 7, 2018. The technicians for the displays will be Magic in the Sky. Funding for the fireworks display at the Uni-Trade Stadium and Independence Hills Park will be paid for by the Parks and Leisure Services Budget. The fireworks display at the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course will be paid for through sponsorships.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his understanding that the Parks & Leisure Services Department is assisting with the funding for the Uni-Trade Stadium and Independence Hills Park events; he asked management to consider directing staff to assist in funding for the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course event, as well.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reported that staff budgets \$20,000 for the 4th of July event every year, usually using that money for the event at the Uni-Trade Stadium and then another event in town. Last year, the event was Downtown. This year, staff received a request to hold the event at Independence Hills Park for 10 minutes each. The Max Mandel event was initiated as a sponsorship event, but if that is no longer the case, then the City can fund it through district priority promotional funds.

Cm. Altgelt noted that this event will directly benefit Habitat for Humanity's veteran home rehabilitation program. Habitat for Humanity is hosting the tournament that day.

Motion to approve and to shorten the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course display from 10 minutes to five minutes and to pay for it via promotional funds rather than sponsorships.

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

Cm. Vielma was not present.

31. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the current agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School in the amount of \$37,426.00 for a total amount of \$112,426.00 per year to continue to provide dental care for children and pregnant women and enhance Title V dental services by the City of Laredo Health Department through September 30, 2018. Funding is available through the Health Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

32. Ratifying the execution of the existing contract between Pictometry International Corporation and the City of Laredo to provide digital aerial imagery around the City of Laredo and within Webb County for the second and third scheduled projects of the original contract. Three payments remain on the existing contract in the total amount of \$239,355.00 (\$79,785.00 per year). The aerial images will be used by Regional 9-1-1 database and mapping personnel and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) or call centers to update the existing level of service. This contract was previously approved by City Council on January 20, 2015. Funding is available in the Regional 9-1-1 Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

33. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a contract between 911 Datamaster, Inc. and the City of Laredo to provide the 911 Regional Administration with ongoing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services for up to one year through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) Cooperative Buy Contract No. EC07-14, Product Category B, in the total amount of \$68,250.00. This ongoing GIS service is needed in order to continue GIS work in order to meet FY2018-2019 Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 GIS standards put forth by the State of Texas 9-1-1 Commission on State Emergency Communication (CSEC). Funding is available in the Regional 9-1-1 Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

34. Consideration to authorize the purchase of heavy equipment (Ditch Witch SK800 Mini Skid Steer) for maintenance of park trails system in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. Funding is available in the District VII Priority Funds – 2016 C.O. Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Authorizing the approval of the design and construction by the Parks & Leisure Services Department of two (2) sand volleyball courts (30'-0"x60'-0") at the Independence Hills Park with a total cost not to exceed \$65,000.00. Funding is available in the District I Priority Funds – 2017 C.O. Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Armadillo Construction Company, Ltd. wherein Armadillo will provide the City construction funds in the amount of \$172,658.20 (representing 1/2 of road construction costs of a local street) and right-of-way to extend Springfield Avenue along the east side of Shiloh Highland Subdivision Phase 1 (north of International Blvd.) pursuant to 3-2.A of the Laredo Subdivision Ordinance and providing for the placement of the road construction project in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) within two years of the effective date of this agreement. If the road is not constructed within ten years, the funds will be returned to Armadillo Construction Company.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, explained that this motion will set the wheels in motion for the extension of Springfield between International and Shiloh. It allows for the right-of-way and half of the funding for the project.

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reminded Council that a contract was provided for their review in their full packet. It had a ten-year time limitation in which the funding would be returned if the project was not completed in that time period. Amarillo Construction and their attorney have agreed to remove that restriction and make the project delivered in as deliberate speed as possible.

Bob Binson, representing Armadillo Construction Company, noted that the company is happy to work with the City and is available to answer any questions.

Mr. Bratton explained that this project is being performed as such because of Armadillo's limitation in assembling all of the right-of-way for the 90 feet required, which is not possible to do for the greater span of Springfield.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

37. Consideration to amend and renew contract FY15-037 to provide temporary staffing contract services to the City of Laredo by the following vendors:

1. Elite Employment Services, Laredo, TX, as the primary vendor; and
2. At Work Personnel Services, Knoxville, TN, as the secondary vendor.

Currently both vendors provide the City of Laredo with a quality labor pool for those departments that might require temporary staff members throughout the fiscal year. All services will be secured on an as needed basis and the estimated contract annual amount would be approximately \$2,780,000.00. This amendment allows for term of this contract to be extended for a third and final one (1) year period beginning August 2018. There will be no price increase during this extension period. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Consideration to renew contract FY17-067 for the purchase of Ford Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) automotive parts for the City's Fleet vehicles with Sames Motor Company, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$100,000.00. All parts will be secured on an as needed basis. There will be no price increase during this extension period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for one, additional one (1) year upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. Consideration to award contract to Insituform Technologies, LLC, Chesterfield, MO in the amount not to exceed \$253,508.50. This contract is for improvements for North Wastewater Plant Lift Station Wall Coating Replacement Insituform Technologies will furnish all labor, materials, equipment and services to accomplish the referenced project. This contract utilizes BuyBoard Cooperative Program - BuyBoard contract # 555-18. Funding is available in the 2010 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Consideration to extend contract FY14-064 for the following services:

1. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas*
 - a) Third Party Medical Claims, Stop Loss, and COBRA Administration
 - b) Medical Network
 - c) Pharmacy Benefit Management
2. Connect Your Care*
 - a) Section 125 Administration

*Original contract was awarded for three (3) years on July 21, 2014, therefore this would be the second one (1) year extension from two (2) extension periods allowed by the contracts.

Consideration to extend contracts FY15-031 for the following services:

1. Colonial Life Insurance Co.**
 - a) Group Accident plan
 - b) Group Critical Illness plan
 - c) Group Cancer plan
2. Superior Vision **
 - a) Group Vision plan

** Original contracts were awarded for two (2) years on June 15, 2015, therefore this would be the second one (1) year extension from two (2) extension periods allowed by the contracts.

These extensions will be effective October 1, 2018. Agent Services are provided by Laurel Insurance Agency and Associates, Inc.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to authorize the purchase of an Air Unit to the lowest responsive responsible bidder Twist Inc., Jamestown, OH, in the amount of \$80,423.00. This is a pre-conditioned air unit to replace an air unit on passenger boarding bridge #1 for the Laredo International Airport. Funding is available in Airport Operations Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

42. Consideration to renew contract FY15-030 to Core & Main, San Antonio, Texas in amount of up to \$1,395,114.27. This contract is for the purchase of AMR/AMI water meters, meter kits (register/endpoint/antenna) and Unitizing Measuring Elements for the Utilities Department. There will be no price increase during this extension period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is third of six extension periods. All meters and meter kits will be ordered on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the WaterWorks System Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

43. Consideration to award contract FY18-066 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder R&A Construction, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$294,877.00 for the renovations/rehab of Fire Station #5 located at 2601 N Bartlett Ave, Laredo, Texas. The project consists of renovation/remodeling and construction to include all labor, materials, and related appurtenances as per bid specifications. Contractor will be responsible to provide (and maintain current) payment and performance bonds, as well as builder's risk insurance throughout the duration of the project. The estimated time for completion of this project is ninety (90) working days; notice to proceed will be provided upon contract execution so that improvements could commence immediately. Funding is available in the 2017 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

44. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of May 2018 and represents a decrease of \$70,664.19. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

45. Consideration to authorize the approval of Amendment 1 in the amount of \$72,732.00 to Texas Energy Engineering Services, Inc. (TEESI), Austin, Texas, to conduct a Design and Implementation phase of professional services in order to comply with Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) requirements.

With this amendment, the total new contract amount is \$105,607.00. Funding is available in the Water Works Fund - SECO Loan.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

46. Consideration for acceptance of project and release of final payment in the amount of \$38,260.00 to Romo Contractors, LLC. for the construction of a steel deck truck scale in the Utilities Department yard. The final construction cost is \$134,260.00. Funding is available in the 2011 Sewer Revenue Bond and the 2015 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

47. Consideration to ratify the emergency purchase order #294963 issued to United Rentals, San Antonio, Texas by change order amount of \$51,366.93 for the time extension of the rental of two-7500 GPM skid mounted diesel pumps, associated 18" HDPE by-pass pipe, discharge manifold and fittings at the El Pico Water Treatment Plant Intermediate Pump Station. The total rental amount with this change order is \$141,266.93. Funding is available in the Water fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

48. Authorizing the approval of change order #1 for a net decrease of \$34,311.18, acceptance of the project, approval of the final payment including release of retainage in the amount of \$81,207.16, to SAL Construction Management, LLC., Weslaco, Texas for the Sombrettillo Creek Force Main Project. The project is 100% complete and the final total contract amount is \$603,775.62. Funding is available in the 2011 Sewer revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

49. Authorizing City Manager to execute amendment # 1 to the professional services contract with Carollo Engineers Inc., Dallas, Texas in the amount of \$278,986.00 for Phase 2 of El Pico Water Treatment Plant to provide reliability mitigation plans and specifications for bidding the necessary repairs to correct El Pico Water Treatment Plant's operational deficiencies which are preventing the plant

from meeting its 20 MGD rated capacity per regulations. Also to provide filter assessment evaluation and testing services for the 10 identical filters to determine irregular flow patterns and operational inconsistencies between each filter. Total Contract amount with this amendment is \$378,986.00. Funding is available in the 2015 Water revenue Bond

Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, confirmed that this item is to mitigate some deficiencies in the plant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

50. 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.

Mayor Saenz noted that he reviewed the regular audit report and did not notice anything suspicious or irregular.

Cm. Balli reported that recently, the City received an open records request for Council's travel, and he asked that Ms. Baeza coordinate with the Open Records Request system to report the travel to Council once that documentation has been gathered.

Motion to direct the Internal Auditor to present the findings of the Council travel open records request to Council once the documentation has been gathered.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez asked who authorized the purchase of an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) as utilized by Cm. Altgelt, consultants from S&S Trail Services, and Parks Maintenance crew.

Veronica Baeza, Internal Auditor, could not confirm who authorized the purchase but confirmed that she would obtain that information and report to Council. She displayed a photograph of the ATV and confirmed the parties that utilize the vehicle.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that he has never seen Parks employee use this vehicle and asked management to confirm who keeps the keys.

Mrs. Baeza reported that she spoke with the Parks Maintenance Crew Leader, who confirmed that staff does utilize the vehicle out at the trails. The cost of the

vehicle was \$27,489.11. She displayed a photograph of another ATV that was purchased for about \$18,000; she could not compare the features of the two vehicles and noted that one would have to review the specs of each vehicle.

Cm. Rodriguez asked staff to perform that comparison, noting that for \$27,500 the City could have purchase more units or a car; the money could have been put to better use. He asked if S&S Trail Services consultants are able to use the vehicle or if they are a liability.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that the consultants are listed as utilizers and are therefore covered by the City's insurance.

Cm. Torres asked if it is common practice for a consultant or contractor to use the City's vehicles or property. Mr. De Leon stated that it depends on the nature of the work. He clarified that the consultants may not be the ones driving the vehicle; they may simply ride it. Mrs. Baeza reported that when she interviewed the consultants, they confirmed they were using the vehicle.

Cm. Torres requested that staff look into waivers to protect the City in the event that a consultant or contractor utilize a City vehicle; otherwise, they should use their own vehicles. He clarified that the vehicles are for public use and he is not opposed to multiple people using it, but from a liability standpoint, the City should protect itself.

Mr. De Leon added that the City lends vehicles for special events like parades.

Cm. Altgelt asked if Mrs. Baeza determined the specific use for which this vehicle was acquired.

Mrs. Baeza reported that she was told that the ATV was being utilized for the construction of the trails. It was also used for the Father McNaboe Park clean-up.

Cm. Altgelt added that this UTV has a wench, which is used to pull golf carts out of ravines and other uses.

Mrs. Baeza noted that staff conducted a standard inventory audit on the sample to account for all of the units selected. She voiced her understanding that the Fleet Department is responsible for putting the City logo and unit numbers on vehicles. She recalled being told that the keys for this particular unit were kept at the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course, which is also where the unit is kept. She stated that she could confirm when the Parks Maintenance Crew started using the vehicle, but she understood that they had access to the vehicle as soon as they started working there. She could not confirm how many sets of keys exist for this vehicle.

Cm. Rodriguez cautioned Council and management against wasteful spending, noting that other, less expensive, ATVs are capable of pulling or tugging other vehicles, as well. He also asked Mrs. Baeza to confirm when the Parks Maintenance Crew began utilizing the trails ATV and how many keys are available for it.

Cm. Altgelt asked if the cheaper UTVs are designed for going off-road with the proper tires, as the vehicle displayed appeared to be a field maintenance cart. He clarified that these vehicles are UTVs and not ATVs; ATVs are recreational while UTVs are built for work.

Cm. Vielma noted that if the more expensive UTV is used for nature trails and is kept at the Max, then the color and design match its function. She requested a usage report by the crews that utilize the vehicle, noting that Cm. Altgelt and the crews put in a lot of work in those trails. She voiced her opinion that the different usage in a nature trail or baseball field necessitate different vehicle types.

Cm. San Miguel recalled that District VI purchased a UTV because the previous one was breaking down, and staff had to move a lot of equipment across about 80 acres of North Central Park. The storage facility was built with the dimensions of the UTV in mind. The crew needs an efficient vehicle to perform efficiently, so the investment is worthwhile.

Cm. Torres asked Mrs. Baeza if she found any irregularities or disparities in this audit or any instances of concern. Mrs. Baeza confirmed that based on the scope of the audit conducted, all of the units were accounted for and the audit did not present any concerning findings. She only noted that some units had unit number decals which are peeling, which she recommended be taken to the Fleet Department for reapplication. Because the costs of these vehicles are less than \$50,000, they do not need to come to Council for approval prior to purchasing.

Mr. De Leon suggested that if Council has concerns about these purchases, these purchase requests come to Council regardless of the amount. Cm. Torres voiced his opinion that this is a proactive approach that the City Manager can enact moving forward, using his discretion and better judgment.

Mayor Saenz agreed, adding that the City Manager can bring all purchases to Council for ratification as a safeguard and to be sure that he has secured Council's blessing.

51. Report by Olivia Varela, Executive Director for Greater Laredo Development Foundation dba Laredo Economic Development Corporation, for the organization performance in FY 2018.

Olivia Varela reported that the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (EDC) assists companies with data research and demographics information, site selection services, and incentives information and negotiation. In the last 9 months, Laredo EDC facilitated many businesses with retention, expansion, and industrial development in Laredo, including Medline Medical Supply Manufacturing, Yazaki Motors, Delphi Automotive and Distribution, Fuel America Truck Stop, and the FM1472 Industrial Park, among others. Industrial Prospects continue to grow, such as mixed-use development, glass manufacturing, textile manufacturing, and food processing manufacturing. Ms. Varela noted three commercial development projects: a Hwy. 359 project with \$30 million in capital investment and projected to add 50 new jobs; a FM 1472 project with \$10 million in capital investment and projected addition of 20 new jobs; and a Hospitality Group project with \$10 million in capital investment with a projected addition of

50 new jobs.

Laredo EDC has scaled back its print advertising after feedback from the industry and instead pursued in-person meetings and consultations. The organization attended over 10 conferences in the last fiscal year. The MileOne business incubator moved into its new facility in December 2017 and has provided different workshops, networking events, and occasional entrepreneurial competitions. Ms. Varela highlighted the successful approach toward education in Laredo, noting that Laredo students are receiving state and national attention in competitions and academics. This means that Laredo is creating a sustainable workforce that can thrive in the manufacturing and robotics industries. She noted that MileOne is a nonprofit organization operated through the Laredo EDC and receives some financial support from the City via the EDC. However, MileOne is currently pursuing grants to help achieve sustainability.

The Laredo EDC's special projects are geared toward promoting the region. A rebranding event and press conference was held to mark the change in name from Laredo Development Foundation to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation. This name change made the organization more recognizable to others outside of the community. The EDC led an MOU signing between the Port of Laredo and the seaport of Manzanillo, which led to a reciprocal invitation and signing in Manzanillo. She reported that the EDC is preparing for the upcoming annual Logistics and Manufacturing Symposium for the trade industry, September 19-20, 2018, at Texas A&M International University. The second annual Dia de la Maquila showcased the manufacturing industry this year, as well. The EDC participated in the legislative trip to Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the City, raised funds for the Laredo Day reception, and hosted a EDC Board of Directors retreat.

No action taken.

52. Discussion with possible action on the proposed Charter Amendments and propositions for the November 6, 2018 General Election / Special Election with a presentation from the City Attorney's Office, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Balli reported that Council reappointed the Charter Revision Commission to review Council's proposed Charter amendments, and the Commission felt that the pressure of time made them unable to have meaningful public discourse. The Commission asked Council to consider not putting these propositions on the November 2018 election ballot. He noted that while he felt like this task could be done under the time restrictions, there is wisdom in the Commission's decision. He asked Council to respect this decision regarding Charter amendments. However, he noted that three propositions are not related to the Charter, and he voiced his intention to move forward with them. He noted that the three propositions he wished to act upon are as follows, worded and presented by the City Attorney's Office:

Proposition Z – Relocation of the Sports Complex

Authorizing the City of Laredo to not proceed with financing a sports complex venue approved by the voters on November 4, 2014 that originally was expected to be located on the campus of Texas A&M International University, and in its

place finance a sports complex venue located within the corporate limits of the City of Laredo and the related infrastructure and the maintenance and operation thereof, and authorizing the use of the existing venue sales and use tax levied at the rate of one-fourth of one percent (as approved by the voters on August 12, 2000 and re-approved by the voters on November 4, 2008, not being a new tax) for the purpose of financing the sports complex venue in addition to the venue projects previously approved on August 12, 2000 and November 4, 2008, and the sports complex venue if approved by the voters on November 6, 2018.

Proposition AA – Hotel Occupancy Tax for Convention Center

Authorizing the City of Laredo to finance a convention center venue located within the corporate limits of the City of Laredo and the related infrastructure and the maintenance and operation thereof and to impose a new and additional hotel occupancy tax at the rate of two percent (2%) in the City of Laredo, Texas for the purpose of financing the convention center venue project. If approved, the maximum hotel occupancy tax rate in the City of Laredo, Texas, would be sixteen percent (16%) of the price paid for a room in a hotel.

Proposition BB – Motor Vehicle Rental Tax for Convention Center

Authorizing the City of Laredo to finance a convention center venue located within the corporate limits of the City of Laredo and the related infrastructure and the maintenance and operation thereof and to impose a new motor vehicle rental tax at the rate of five percent for the purpose of financing the convention center venue project.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, clarified that if no Charter amendments are placed on the ballot, these three propositions will be renamed to Proposition A, Proposition B, and Proposition C, respectively.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that the language for two of the propositions are found in Resolutions 2018-R-080 and 2018-R-081.

Cm. San Miguel recalled that the December 12, 2017, Council meeting discussed the new location for the sports complex, as noted in Proposition Z. He noted that Council discussed at length using the tool of a 4A/4B tax to reinforce the City's coffers. Council was informed that the state legislature does not allow the City to convert to that tool at this time or to put the question to the voters. He asked that Council add a proposition or language to Proposition Z that allows the public to favor a conversion of the sports venue tax to 4A/4B tax, subject to state legislature.

Cm. Altgelt agreed with Cm. San Miguel, noting that making a separate proposition would likely be more understandable to the voters so that they can clearly distinguish the two matters at hand.

Mrs. Hale informed Council that the City Charter does not allow for non-binding referendums, so adding language that says "subject to legislation" may be problematic. She confirmed that staff can review the matter further. If Council were to bring a drafted proposition to the next Council Meeting (July 16, 2018), then the proposition would be timely. However, July 16, 2018 if the last day in which a proposition could be brought to Council for approval.

Cm. Balli noted that he would support Cm. San Miguel's and Cm. Altgelt's ideas in a separate proposition at the next Council meeting.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, clarified to Council that Proposition Z is for the sports complex venue, not the convention center venue; a typographical error mislabeled the venue in the proposition on the City Attorney's Office presentation.

Cristian Rosas-Grillet, Assistant City Attorney, noted that some of the Charter amendments proposed by Council would be better suited as ordinances rather than being codified into the Charter.

Cm. San Miguel voiced his enthusiasm for this approach, noting that he respects and agrees with the decision made by the Charter Revision Commission. He noted that Council and the City can police itself, as in the example of putting a monetary cap on construction referendums. Rather than codifying the requirement to place a dollar amount on referendums in the City Charter, Council can simply adopt this as a practice moving forward. This may spare the voters from an exhaustive ballot of unnecessary propositions.

Cm. Vielma recalled attending a meeting on economic development and learning of a new economic corporation which many 4A/4B cities are transitioning toward. She asked staff to research that option for the next Council meeting.

Mayor Saenz cautioned Council that propositions all risk denial by the voters.

Cm. San Miguel clarified that Proposition Z does not include an additional tax; it is simply a request for permission to move the venue. The voters already approved the sports complex venue in the first place, but the issue at hand is its location.

Ana Saenz, Charter Revision Commission Member, read a letter from former Mayor Elizabeth "Betty" Flores, Commission Chair, dated June 15, 2018: "First of all, I want to apologize to you and especially to Council Member San Miguel, who appointed me to the Charter Revision Commission, and to my fellow Commission members for missing this very important meeting. I understand that all your meetings are quite important, but nothing is more important than discussing possible change to the City Charter of a city as important as the Laredo we love. That is why the Commission strongly agreed, and subsequently made a motion to ask that you postpone these changes and to keep from putting them on the November 2018 ballot. City Charter Commissions in the past have deliberated several months and in some cases over two years before proposing changes to this important document. We have one member, Mr. Rodriguez, who served those two years and took pride in the discussions led by many in the community. Mr. Gutierrez, our Co-Chair, also served in more recent proposed changes and state at our meeting that it was equally important for him to have had the time to listen to the community's input.

"Besides the motions made to appoint the Chair and Co-Chair and ultimately adjourn the first meeting, there was only one motion and that was to postpone these proposed changes and wait until after the November election to review them and get adequate public comment. We are confident that the members of

the Council strongly believe in transparency and the integrity of actions taken on behalf of our citizens. We also believe that a three-day review of 25 proposed items was not enough time to receive the proper comments from the public you so judiciously serve. In my opinion and in the opinion of the majority of the Commission Members, going forward would damage the very confidence the voters have placed in you to operate in a manner that takes their thoughts and suggestions into consideration.

“All of the Commission Members that you have appointed take their responsibilities seriously. We believe that the citizens of Laredo deserve calm, researched and thorough public discussion about changing a document that governs the business of the City. To neglect the input of the people would be to communicate disrespect for deliberation and not welcome public comment on these issues. On behalf of the members of the Commission, I ask that you respect the majority voice of the City Charter Commission and that you refrain from placing these items on the November ballot.”

Ignacio “Tommy” Gutierrez, Charter Revision Commission Co-Chair, noted that he was one of two members who voted against the Commission’s motion to decline to review the Charter amendment propositions for the 2018 election. He voiced his agreement with most of the Commission’s sentiments regarding this process moving too fast. However, he had been willing to review the propositions, and in doing so, he prepared a minority report that details each proposed amendment explaining why some propositions are prevented from being added to the Charter due to conflicting language. The minority report also notes that some amendments are so minor they could have been easily added to the ballot, and some amendments are worded in such a way that they are acceptable to add to the 2018 election ballot. Mr. Gutierrez distributed copies of the minority report for Council’s review and noted that it is not favorable to any group or individual; it simply points out whether an amendment is stopped by the Charter itself and not the Commission.

Jesus Rodriguez, Charter Revision Commission Member, stated that too many amendments were presented to the Commission, many of which were significant changes to the Charter and how the City conducts business. These amendments require a lengthy study. He also noted no members of the public were present at the Commission meeting, and District VII was not represented by an appointee. He thanked Elizabeth Flores for her service as Chair of this Commission. He asked Council to follow the Commission’s recommendation.

Cm. Vielma thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his service, reminding Council that he served on the City’s original Charter Revision Commission.

David Cardwell commended the recommendation of the Charter Revision Commission, noting that 75% of the Commission voted in favor of this recommendation. It is critical to inform and engage the public on these issues so that they may determine if Charter amendments work for their benefit or not. City Council must work as leaders in a transparent manner letting citizens know their objectives when seeking drastic changes to the City Charter. Laredo citizens are seeking leaders who are accountable and responsive to the community’s needs. He encouraged Council to slow down and listen to the citizens in each member’s district. Mr. Cardwell reminded Council that the December 12, 2017 discussion

should be revisited, as the City Attorney and City Manager clarified several things. He noted that Council must determine a “sunset window” for the sports venue tax; otherwise it will never be retired and will be delayed in perpetuity. He noted that 4A/4B tax can perform the function of a sports venue tax as well as create living wage jobs.

Cynthia Vazquez noted that Council meetings often progress in unanticipated ways. When she addressed Council a month or so ago, she asked why Council was rushing to place Charter amendment propositions on the ballot. However, she was relieved to hear Cm. Balli make a motion to follow the Charter Revision Commission’s recommendation and allow more time before sending amendments to the voters. She commended him for listening to the citizens of the community as well as the Commission. Ms. Vazquez voiced her concern that the sports venue proposition is problematic because so many citizens struggle to afford their basic necessities that they are not expected to spend money frivolously on sports tickets. While she was glad to hear that the sports venue may create jobs and will not tax the citizens, she wondered how the people of Laredo will be able to afford the new venue. She asked what the burden will be on the citizen for the sports venue and how it will benefit the City, as many hotel owners are struggling to attract guests.

Cm. Balli explained to Ms. Vazquez that the events in the sports complex will not be paid events like those in Uni-Trade Stadium; the new sports complex will serve as sites for regional high school and teen tournaments to draw visitors. There may be some tournaments that require a fee to attend, and the construction is paid for by a tax that was approved by the voters years ago, which has already been imposed.

Mayor Saenz emphasized that the questions posed by Ms. Vazquez are a prime example that the City needs to take more time to educate the public and gather feedback from citizens.

Cm. San Miguel noted that other cities have adopted models in which they build the facilities like the City intends to do. Incorporating monthly or regular tournaments would help attract routine visitors and revenue for the City’s hotels and restaurants. He reiterated that converting the sports venue tax will encourage business and economic development in the City, creating living wage jobs.

Bill Skeen of Fasken and Palafox reported that both the Fasken family and Palafox continue to prioritize a convention center venue in Downtown Laredo to serve the community and revitalize the Downtown area. Their contribution will be upwards of \$15 million for the complex.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his opinion that if the City were to operate like a multi-billion-dollar corporation, then it would defease the sports venue tax and convert to a 4A/4B tax. It would be foolish to get further into debt for a sports venue when the City cannot afford this expense. He reminded Council to use the City of Detroit as a cautionary tale, who bought up empty buildings and attempted to tax the citizens and spend money their way out of poverty through new buildings and facilities. Detroit soon found itself in bankruptcy.

Cm. Vielma stated that Cm. Altgelt could potentially affect this defeasement via an ordinance or resolution instead of a ballot proposition. She offered to co-sponsor an agenda item with him. She asked staff to add this matter to the next Council agenda.

Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath stated that this agenda item has too many components, which is why the discussion is becoming so convoluted. He thanked Council for listening to the recommendation of the Charter Revision Commission and encouraged them to vote in favor of foregoing Charter amendment propositions this election year. He cautioned Council that the more commitments the City enters into now will impede its ability to defease its sports venue tax debt and transition to 4A/4B in the future.

Mario Peña of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce recalled expressing serious concerns over the proposed Charter amendments during the May 29, 2018 Council meeting. He commended the Charter Revision Commission for noting the same concerns during their meeting and formulating the recommendation that ultimately was delivered to Council. He clarified that he is not opposed to amending the Charter, as the document is in need of some changes; however, changes must be made after sufficient time for review and input have taken place. He also asked Council to pay down the debt on the sports venue so that the City can transition to a 4A/4B tax.

Motion to not move forward with any Charter amendments in the November 2018 election but move forward with Proposition Z, Proposition AA, and Proposition BB for the November 2018 ballot and that the propositions read as summarized by staff.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres made a motion to bring back a report from staff addressing any proposed Charter amendments that can be enacted via ordinance or resolution as opposed to a Charter amendment.

Mayor Saenz noted that one of the Charter Revision Commission’s reasons for declining to review the propositions was because many propositions included substantial changes to the powers and duties of Council and the City Manager.

Cm. Torres countered that the report would only address actions or items that can be adopted via ordinance without amending the Charter. Staff will not recommend any changes that conflict with the City Charter.

Mrs. Hale confirmed that staff’s report would consist of minor corrections to the language in the ordinances. Cm. Torres added that the ordinance could determine the City Manager’s designee or something similar.

Motion to instruct the City Manager’s Office to bring back a report to Council for action addressing any Charter amendment recommendations that could be passed as ordinances rather than Charter amendments and to bring back an ordinance to add the monetary information to construction referendums as

requested by Cm. San Miguel.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

53. Status report for 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.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

54. Status report on a request by Love's Travel Stop and U. S. Cold Storage to install traffic signals on FM 1472 and North/South World Trade Center Loop.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez 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. Perez was not present.

55. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program for 2018 on funding authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act in the amount of \$250,000.00 for El Metro ADA Bus Stop and Bike Plazas Enhancement Program; committing the City of Laredo and Laredo Transit Management Incorporated to providing the required local match of \$50,000.00; and acknowledging the availability of funds to pay all up front

costs, since the TA Program is a cost reimbursement program as outlined in the MPO Transportation Alternatives Program Guidance and Application Packet for 2018 authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was 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: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

56. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Council Member Roberto Balli

1. Discussion with possible action to create a committee to help form a Community Based Development Corporation to build new housing and refurbish existing housing in Downtown, El Cuatro, and the St. Peter's Neighborhoods and any related matters.

Cm. Balli reported that he met with management and Community Development staff, and he intended to task CD with forming a corporation to receive federal funds to improve housing, which is a great need in the area. The areas have different types of housing problems, which have caused other issues in Laredo. He noted that one reason HEB left Downtown was because of the lack of young people living in the neighborhood. Laredo ISD is consolidating some schools because of declining numbers of children living in the neighborhood. These neighborhoods are divided by natural boundaries. An important assignment for this task force would be to look for new opportunities for housing in the area; he shared his observation of vacant lots or empty homes as well as some homes in such disrepair that they cannot be rehabilitated. These present opportunities to build new housing Downtown. While there are beautiful houses in the St. Peter's neighborhood that could be refurbished, it would not increase the value of the home at this time. Cm. Balli emphasized that a corporation could receive federal funds and refurbish properties and put it on the market at its market value. The corporation could also put empty lots on the market or build apartments.

Mayor Saenz asked if the City already has a committee or corporation that can fill this need. Cm. Balli clarified that the other corporations are focused on other parts of the City, and very few opportunities to buy homes are available in Downtown.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, explained that the need in the Downtown community is great, but the impact is minimal because the City is spread so thin. This corporation will first develop a strategy specific to the Downtown area. There are other corporations, but the Community Based Development Corporation would be a combined community housing organization and community business/economic development organization. Staff is currently focusing on CDBG funds, which are allowable for new construction under a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO).

Mr. Garcia noted that the comprehensive plan goals are to revitalize downtown by creating new housing opportunities, develop an infill strategy in existing neighborhoods, develop a "Legacy Neighborhoods Program" to ensure that historic and culturally significant communities thrive, create walkable neighborhoods, create a comprehensive social model, and review existing development codes and modify them as needed. He reported that very few home loans are being made in the Downtown area; most are being given to homes in North Laredo and South Laredo. Downtown is missing investment opportunities for homeownership. He explained that the next steps are to identify the Downtown neighborhood revitalization area, establish combined CHDO/CBDO, develop a neighborhood revitalization plan, and implement and fund that plan in the identified area.

Mr. Garcia explained that CDBG funds may be provided to CBDOs to carry out certain activities in connection with neighborhood revitalization and community economic development. A neighborhood revitalization project must include activities that will have an impact on the decline of a particular neighborhood. The neighborhood must be designated in a local comprehensive plan or other local planning document or designated by ordinance. It is important to note that CDBG funds cannot generally be used for new construction except when done through a CBDO. The key elements of a CBDO must include the following:

- Must be an association or corporation engaged in community development activities within an identified geographic area
- Has a primary purpose of improvement of the physical, economic, or social environment of its geographic area of operation with particular attention to the needs of persons of low/moderate income
- Maintains at least 51% of its governing body's membership for low and moderate income residents
- May be either a non-profit or for-profit
- Is not an agency of the recipient and does not permit more than 1/3 of the membership of its governing body to be appointed by or to consist of elected or other public officials/employees of an ineligible

entity

- Requires the members of its governing body to be nominated and approved by the general membership of the organization or by its permanent governing body

Mr. Garcia clarified that this corporation would research investment opportunities and will not focus solely on low-income housing or funding. The corporation will want to provide opportunities for mixed-income homeownership and property value increases. The NEX and TIRZ #1 overlap this area, which could potentially lead to a program to develop police officers, firefighters, and medical care organizations to invest in Downtown. He displayed several photos of empty buildings in the area that have maintained their structural integrity and historical and aesthetic quality, citing many more in similar conditions. Mr. Garcia explained that the corporation would need to be a separate board appointed through an ad-hoc committee. The committee would define the organization's charge and timeline. Currently, the funding source has not been identified, but the organization's operations could be supported through HOME Program funds as the needs are identified. In response to Mayor Saenz's question whether NeighborWorks could absorb this committee's function, Mr. Garcia explained that NeighborWorks could technically serve this purpose, but they would need to reorganize their board. Any currently-existing committee or board that could take on this role would need to reorganize its board. He clarified that this board would address the needs of residential properties and business/economic development; however, economic development is not geared toward a particular business but instead geared toward the development of low-income jobs. To qualify for this type of assistance, a business applicant would have to have an element of creating jobs in the low-income area.

Motion to establish an ad-hoc committee to help form the Community Based Development Corporation in the Downtown, El Cuatro, and the St. Peter's neighborhoods between San Ignacio and Santa Ursula and between Water Street and the rail line south of Scott Street.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

B. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to waive user fees at Independence Pool for the 4th of July City Sponsored Event taking place on July 4, 2018 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., and any matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez)

Motion to waive the user fees.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

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

Cm. Vielma was not present.

C. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action to direct the Technical Review Board and the City Manager to direct city staff to review and recommend changes to the Laredo Development Code for the purpose of revising the dimensional standards setback requirements; and any matters incident thereto.

Victor Linares, Acting Building Director, noted that there is an opportunity to provide more flexibility for a homeowner to build a little more on the front and rear setbacks. Staff will present this item to the Technical Review Board.

Cm. San Miguel noted that his sister-in-law lives in a neighborhood with zero-lot-lines, which has been very successful because the homeowners are able to maximize the land for their homes.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to revert Bartlett Avenue back to its original traffic pattern in light of all the traffic accidents, traffic safety issues, and the petition that was generated through social media with more than a thousand signatures and comments for concerns; and any matters incident thereto.

Motion to discuss this item at the July 16, 2018 Council meeting.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to create an informative plan for releasing information on the various programs/projects from all different departments through the use of email and/or text messaging available to all residents who have signed up to receive the notification, and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Rodriguez clarified that this notification system would be optional and would be used for special issues like power outages or water line

breaks. The users would have to provide their own email or phone numbers to participate.

Cm. Balli noted that this technology is being used by school districts for changes or updates, which has been successful.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

D. Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez

1. Status update on possible Secondary Water Source and progress of the Secondary Water Source Ad Hoc Committee.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, informed Council that Howard Ivy was sent a cease and desist letter and email from the City; she cautioned Mr. Ivy to limit his comments to the scope to statements relevant to the agenda item.

Howard Ivy of Dimmitt Utility made reference to a frozen RFQ that is years-old. He noted that he had a meeting with City staff and brought his financial consultants as requested. Access to the 42,000 acres with about 200,000 acre feet of arsenic-free water is available for the City's use. He suggested that Council meet with him in executive session as there is sensitive information surrounding this topic.

Cm. Torres clarified that this agenda item is meant to be a status update on the Secondary Water Source Ad Hoc Committee; he noted that Mr. Ivy is not part of that committee and asked for the report.

Mr. Ivy requested again to address Council in executive session.

Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, noted that the ad hoc committee still has two vacancies; a meeting was scheduled last month but the committee did not meet quorum and therefore was unable to meet. Another meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 20. Cm. Rodriguez appointed his representative at this meeting.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reported that Council had directed him to meet with Mr. Ivy. He added that they have met and Mr. Ivy gave his presentation. He advised Mr. Ivy that the presentation needed to be given to the ad hoc committee now that Council appointed it for their recommendation.

Mayor Saenz noted that Mr. Ivy has made repeated references to a frozen RFQ or RFP and asked if he had been notified that the RFP/RFQ is cancelled.

Mr. De Leon clarified that staff has asked the City Attorney's Office to make a legal opinion on the issue and may soon be able to take a position on the matter.

Cm. Vielma asked if Council is allowed to meet with or speak to Mr. Ivy, particularly asking if it is considered lobbying since Mr. Ivy continually solicits his company and seeking the old RFP/RFQ. She clarified that Council Members receive emails and lengthy Facebook messages, and most do not respond because it appears to be lobbying.

Mrs. Hale stated that the opinion on the RFP is that there is no longer an RFP to award. She advised Council not to engage with Mr. Ivy on that matter and reminded Council that a letter was issued to Mr. Ivy and his attorney.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action on the placing of the Welcome to Laredo, Texas art structure to be built by Martin High School welding class at the corner of South Zapata Hwy and South Meadow TXDOT Right of Way; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve and to include the hiring of a structural engineer using District III priority funding as arranged between Cm. Perez and the City Manager, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

3. 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 III Priority Funds will be used for this project. Total cost \$8,000.00.
 - a. (1) Speed hump on 100 block of Malaga Dr. between Castro Urdiales Ave. and Burgos \$2,000.00;
 - b. (1) Speed hump on 100 block of Segovia Dr. between Salamanca Ave. and Prada Machin Dr. \$2,000.00;
 - c. (1) Speed hump on 100 block of Avila Dr. between Castro Urdiales Ave. and Burgos \$2,000.00 and
 - d. (1) Speed hump on 100 block of Pamplona Loop between Burgos and Castro Urdiales Ave \$2,000.00.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

E. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to re-name the K. Tarver Recreation Center as the Margarito Benavides Recreation Center and dedicating the following city buildings/parks contingent to the review of the Facility Naming and Recognitions Commission; and any other matters incident thereto.
 - a. Laredo Police Substation on Springfield Avenue in memory of fallen Police Officer and lifelong District IV resident Pedro Ayala(+).
 - b. Eastwoods Park in memory of the late Arturo N. Benavides, Sr.(+) for his philanthropic contributions to the Laredo community.

Cm. Torres reported that the K. Tarver Recreation Center's renaming nomination was reviewed by the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission, who agreed that Margarito Benavides merited a namesake in Laredo. However, the Commission questioned whether the property was donated by Katherine Tarver or her family, which was perhaps the reason for naming the recreation center after her.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, explained that the Commission has a criterion not to rename a facility or property if that facility or property was donated by someone, and it was the Commission's understanding that the recreation center property was donated by the Tarver family. Through research with the Community Development Real Estate division, it was confirmed that the property was never donated by the Tarver family.

Cm. Torres added that the City's historic practice was to name parks and recreation centers after the neighborhoods or adjacent schools in the area, which was the case with the Tarver Recreation Center. He recognized Mr. Benavides for his community service and hard work, particularly bringing paved streets to District IV.

Margarito Benavides noted that he is humbled by this honor. He recognized his family. He ran for City Council at a young age because he cared about his community, noting that the decisions made by Council have a long-lasting effect on the city. He recalled his mother instilling in him the drive to serve the people.

Motion to rename the K. Tarver Recreation Center to the Margarito Benavides Recreation Center.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to send the nomination to rename the Laredo Police Substation on Springfield Avenue in memory of fallen Police Officer and lifelong District IV resident Pedro Ayala.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

Anna B. Galo, daughter of the late Arturo N. Benavides, Sr., noted that her father loved Laredo and did what he could for anyone who asked. She stated that he would be thrilled to receive this nomination and thanked Council on behalf of herself and her family.

Motion to send the nomination to rename the Eastwoods Parks in memory of the late Arturo N. Benavides, Sr.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez was not present.

2. Status Report on the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program for current City employees; and any other matters incident thereto.

F. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to initiate Debarment procedures against Antonio "Tony" Ayala, Sunset pools, and any of his agents, subsidiary or joint venture names due to the continuous breaches of contract and non-compliance at the Bartlett and Lazy River pool projects and any matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member George Altgelt)

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to establish a Capital Improvements Advisory Committee and any items incident thereto.

Motion to discuss this item at the July 16, 2018 Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to re-name the Taylor Ball Park located at 400 W. Taylor to Dr. Ike's Ball Park, contingent on approval by the Facility and Naming Recognition Commission with presentation by Mr. Conrado Cruz, and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres commended Cm. Vielma for bringing this item before Council. He noted that Conrado Cruz, Jr., and other District IV residents have approached him several times to rename Taylor Ball Park, which is in Cm. Vielma's district. He thanked her for her initiative on this matter. Cm. Torres also explained that Mr. Cruz put together a 12-minute presentation, which he recommended go the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission to assist in their recommendation.

Cm. Balli recalled that this ball park was a garbage dump in his youth. The development in the area has greatly improved over time.

Motion to send the nomination to rename the Taylor Ball Park to Dr. Ike's Ball Park.

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

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Rodriguez were not present.

G. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlie San Miguel

1. Discussion with possible action to have staff report on the recent World Trade Bridge closure and include representatives from Nuevo Laredo to provide options on how to prevent such closures from occurring in the future, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. San Miguel reported that he received several concerning phone calls during the World Trade Bridge closure and asked for a report of the events and measures that can prevent future occurrences.

Mario Maldonado, Executive Director of Transportation, reported that an incident occurred several weeks ago which resulted in the World Trade Bridge closure. He assured Council that there are procedures in place to prevent bridge closures and traffic backup onto Loop 20. These procedures have already been coordinated with the trade industry and Bridge system, and the US Customs agency will inform the industry that an event has occurred and advise the industry not to submit any more traffic to World Trade Bridge if the incident is going to take significant time to remedy. As of this fiscal year, the bridge has Port Police to assist with traffic control.

Edgar Parra of the City of Nuevo Laredo noted that a similar procedure is in place on the Mexico side of the bridge, in which the Mexican Customs Association communicates with all parties and transfers the operations if the delay will be longer than two hours. On the day in question, Customs made the decision to transfer all operations to Colombia. He explained that a group of citizens protested against one of the Mexican authorities, La Marina. Since the demonstration occurred on federal property, federal agencies are the ones with the authority to make decisions or control responses. In this specific area, the Federal Highway Patrol is the only entity that has jurisdiction to intervene.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reported that he directed Mr. Maldonado to compile a list of all of the City's customers to encourage them to purchase the AVI system. This will allow the City to send a mass message to all customers alerting them to incidents that cause considerable delays at the bridge so that the customers can make alternative arrangements. The City can also utilize the AVI system to inform customers when the delays have been alleviated.

Cm. Altgelt noted his understanding that the US is essentially powerless to prevent or intervene in the event of a significant delay on the Mexico side of the bridge.

Mr. Maldonado explained that Port Police will be able to divert traffic out of the port. He added that the City coordinates with TxDOT in addition to the entities mentioned previously. TxDOT will add signage on their message boards informing truck drivers that the bridges will be closed for a significant amount of time. The protocol in place is the result of meetings with the industry and both customs associations. All parties agreed to the protocol and are familiar with it.

Miguel Rodriguez, Jr., Deputy Police Chief, confirmed that Police is informed of situations at the bridge from Port Police and will dispatch units to the area. The Department's intelligence unit also determines the situation happening at the bridge via Mexican authorities for informed Police action.

Mr. Parra stated that the Mexican Customs Brokers Association owns 98% of the freight warehousing in the United States. If the bridge system goes down, officials are aware immediately.

Deputy Chief Rodriguez explained that Police go to certain areas to ensure that traffic keeps flowing. Social media announcements are made, and a new app platform is in beta testing currently to provide notifications or recommendations on traffic situations. He assured Council that Police also engages truck drivers that may not have smartphones or social media alerts to divert them back to their warehouses or different locations to wait for the incident to be alleviated.

Mr. Parra noted that truck drivers will not go back to their warehouses because they want to keep their spots in line at the port. Truck drivers are paid by crossings, so they often disregard the recommendation of

Police or bridge authorities. When the traffic has been backed up for multiple miles, this equates to thousands of vehicles, who often have to use the shoulder of the road.

Cm. Altgelt noted that this highlights the need for a dedicated non-commercial river road to help alleviate the traffic issues at the port. He asked staff to consider a blue ribbon committee of stakeholders and key citizens that can meet and provide a report to Council at the next Council meeting.

Cm. Vielma asked for a meeting with bridge and customs officials on both sides to discuss collaboration and preventive plans.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action on the need for behavioral and mental health and substance use detox, treatment, and prevention services, teaming with AAMA, and other stakeholders, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to discuss this item at the July 16, 2018 Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

H. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion and possible action to review practices at the Building Department for the purpose of permitting and construction on the downtown area; and any related matters incident thereto.

Motion to discuss this item at the July 16, 2018 Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to provide the necessary leave time and funding for all planners at the Planning Department to become accredited by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Motion to discuss this item at the July 16, 2018 Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to pursue the Charter Revision Commission by selecting one of the two conflicting documents for creation, guidelines and procedures to follow.
 - a. The Priority Procedures for the Mayor and the City Council (second edition updated 2011) states that there shall be nine members and the Mayor shall nominate the chair and vice chair approved by the Council (I A 3 and 5).
 - b. The Code of Ordinances (current version dated Dec. 20, 2017) states that the commission would consist of 18 members appointed by City Council and 2 by the County and they select their own chair and vice chair (sec 2-171 (a)).

Motion to discuss this item at the July 16, 2018 Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.