

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2018-R-12  
CITY COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS 1110  
HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
August 6, 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, Jr.	District I
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Alejandro "Alex" Perez, Jr.	District III
Norma "Nelly" Vielma	District V
Charlie San Miguel	Mayor Pro-Tempore, District VI
George J. Altgelt	District VII
Roberto Balli	District VIII
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Horacio De Leon	City Manager
Cynthia Collazo	Deputy City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	City Attorney

Cm. San Miguel joined at 5:32 p.m.

Cm. Altgelt joined at 5:45 p.m.

Motion to excuse Cm. Torres's absence.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

**V. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of July 16, 2018 and July 20, 2018

Motion to approve the July 16, 2018 and July 20, 2018 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

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

### **Citizen comments**

Jesus Quiroz displayed a slide of the City Fire Department budget for the last four years. He reported that the Fire Department consists of 383 firefighters with 14 stations throughout the City. The Fire Department receives 31,000 annual incident calls or reports. Last year, the City had to cover \$1.5 million to cover a 3% raise to the firefighters along with their benefits. He noted that Council will again vote on their proposed raise for the next four years and asked where that extra money will come from. There is much confusion and sniping regarding this issue, which will be a financial hit to the City's resources for the next several years. The Fire budget has increased every year since 2014, and Mr. Quiroz voiced his understanding that this is not sustainable. He reported that after the appraisal district performs its valuations, his property taxes increased about \$6,000, and he has heard that some residents' property taxes were increased \$15,000-\$20,000 in the last year. The tax valuation and bridge tolls can only do so much to supplement the City's budget, and Mr. Quiroz asked what entitles the Fire Department to receive all of that money when the whole City depends on that money.

David Gonzalez, Laredo Fire Captain and Laredo Fire Fighters Association President, noted that the fire organization has been attacked by multiple individuals and entities recently. If he were a City Council Member, he would be very angry at the misleading comments and outright lies coming from the City's Finance Department and an out-of-town law firm regarding the Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement. He noted that the City will likely pay a high fee for an out-of-town attorney to negotiate the collective bargaining agreement when the in-house attorney could have performed the same function. He stated that Laredo's fire fighters are first citizens of the City with families and children making a life in Laredo. The attorney from out-of-town misrepresented the numbers in previous statements. He noted that the fire fighters' political action committee (PAC) was created to counter unfair practices in the election process and allow any citizen to become involved in the organization and the political process.

Ricardo Quijano reminded Council that he speaks about transparency whenever he addresses Council. He questioned Cm. Perez's motion to accept the Fire Fighters' collective bargaining agreement at the last regular City Council meeting, which was very detailed and technical. He asked him if he wrote the motion himself, as he stated at the time, or if someone else prepared it for him. He asked Cm. Perez to disclose the individual, if any, who guided him in preparing the motion. If the Council Member was involved in a discussion that led to the preparation of this motion, Mr. Quijano voiced his understanding that Cm. Perez is in violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA). If Cm. Perez worked with the Fire Fighters' Association, then he negotiated on behalf of the union and not on behalf of the taxpayers who he swore to represent. He asked Cm. Perez if anyone else had a copy of the motion that he read into the

record. Mr. Quijano claimed that he knew for a fact that someone else had a copy of the motion that Cm. Perez read at the previous City Council meeting, because he saw it in Council Chambers immediately after executive session. He reminded Council that the people want transparency on Council's actions and motives.

Mellie Hereford asked if there are only four Council Members who truly care about the City's solvency. The proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Laredo Fire Fighters' Association will only jeopardize the City's financial stability. She clarified that she greatly and sincerely appreciates the work of Laredo's fire fighters, but the City's debt of over \$1 billion and status and the city with the most people living in poverty leaves the question of who will pay this extra \$15 million. She asked how many times the City can take from bridge revenues to offset its debt before disastrous consequences take place. A wide variety of risks and uncertainties can spiral the City of Laredo into bankruptcy. She voiced her belief that the Fire Department's personnel are true heroes and would not want to jeopardize the financial security of the City or their jobs and benefits. The people of Laredo need tax relief. She stated that Council must work on a plan to lower the tax rate so that the people have more money to stimulate the economy. Laredo, one of the poorest cities in the South Texas area, also has the highest tax rate. Although all departments are undergoing budget cuts, she encouraged the City Manager to consider all employees that need to retire to save the City sorely needed funds. She stated her belief that Council is not being fiscally responsible and noted that Cm. San Miguel should not have voted on the collective bargaining agreement item because of his conflict of interest; Cm. Rodriguez took a hefty donation from the Laredo Fire Fighters' Association, which is an ethical violation. She asked why the fire union would support a candidate who was convicted in a court of law of moral turpitude if not to buy his vote. She requested a roll call vote on the agenda item regarding the collective bargaining agreement so that the people may clearly see which members of Council are willing to jeopardize the solvency of the City. She also requested that the Mayor veto the vote if it is approved tonight.

Joe Saldaña Cortes stated that he is a DACA recipient and a member of the Laredo Immigrant Alliance, which is a group led by immigrant and allies fighting for immigrant rights by engaging, educating, and organizing the community. He informed the public of three teams of the Laredo Immigrant Alliance: Dreamers Resource, which will start at TAMIU; the Deportation Defense Team; and an outreach team. The Alliance has conducted DACA clinics to help DACA recipients apply for renewal. The organization has also held public sessions to inform immigrant of their rights, and volunteers have gone door-to-door to inform the public of the organization and its platforms. He informed Council that the Alliance is holding a vigil for an 18 year-old DACA recipient, Sergio Salazar, who is currently detained in the Webb County Detention Center. The vigil will occur from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the detention center; Mr. Saldaña invited all to attend the vigil.

Roberto Delgado informed Council that he is in the process of bringing the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) to Laredo. The organization is planning a White Cane Awareness Day for October 19, 2018, coordinating with the Mayor. The White Cane Awareness Day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a walk that spans from City Hall to Jarvis Plaza. He shared his goal to bring the NFB to Laredo because it will benefit Laredoans who are blind. Mr. Delgado will soon travel to Austin for a free training hosted by NFB, and he hopes to bring training and projects to Laredo to promote respect for the white cane and share resources for people are not coping well with blindness. He asked Mayor Saenz to proclaim October 19, 2018 as White Cane Awareness Day.

Cm. Balli asked for City staff to visit with Mr. Delgado and to keep the Council Member informed of their discussions, as he would be interested in sponsoring the event described by Mr. Delgado.

## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Recognizing Laredo Police Department Officers Noemi Cienfuegos and Tycola Moses for their law enforcement lip sync battle participation.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, thanked Council for the recognition of Officers Cienfuegos and Moses.

Joe Baeza, Laredo Police Public Information Officer, reported that the officers' video received national attention, particularly on Good Morning America, and even as far as German television. He noted that the video can be viewed on the Laredo Police Department's Facebook page.

Mayor Saenz presented the officers with certificates of recognition for their achievement.

Officer Baeza reported that Officer Tycola Moses, a 13-year veteran of the Police Department, was recognized in 2014 with a Lifesaving Award for her response to a call of a child choking on a zipcord; Officer Moses's intervention saved the child's life. Officer Cienfuegos is a four-year veteran of the Laredo Police Department and has also shown exceptional valor in her field. She has been awarded with two Outstanding Performance Awards and one Meritorious Award. She was also selected as Officer of the Month September 2015, July 2016, and November 2017.

2. Presentation on Operation Crackdown 2018 scheduled for August 6 - 17, 2018. This year 15 properties are scheduled to be demolished.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, reported that this year is the fifth year in which dangerous structures that reflect criminal or drug activity are targeted for destruction. Demolishing these buildings save an estimated \$150,000 for the City and taxpayers. In the past four years, the City has demolished over 135 structures. He displayed several photographs showing the positive impact of demolishing these structures in which the appearance and value of the area improved as a direct result. In many instances, new homes, parks, or businesses were constructed in place of the demolished buildings. Mr. Garcia reported that of the 15 structures targeted for demolition, four are located in District II, four in District III, four in District IV, and three in District VIII. The demolitions will begin on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, in the morning.

Cm. Balli thanked all participants in Operation Crackdown, noting that this project changes neighborhoods for the better. Cm. Perez also voiced his gratitude for the project, adding that it makes a significant positive impact in District III.

Mr. Garcia encouraged the public to continue reporting problematic buildings and structures to 3-1-1 so that the City may address them and potentially add more demolitions in 2019.

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

1. Appointment by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez to replace Cristobal Rodriguez on the Ethics Commission.

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Re-appointment by Council Member George Altgelt of Scott Roberts to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Scott Roberts to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by repealing Ordinance No. 2018-O-017 and authorizing a Special Use Permit for Townhouses on Lot 1, Block 1, Hilltop Subdivision, Phase 1, located at 7406 Hilltop Rd; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff does not support the application and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit. ZC-63-2018 District VII

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that staff does not support the application because the purpose of the SUP amendment is to remove some additional parking that was being provided. Staff is still of the opinion that additional parking is beneficial in this area. The parking in question could be utilized by the whole development, which is high-density. There is not on-street parking available that does not obstruct residential driveways.

Cm. Altgelt noted that the Comprehensive Plan advocates for providing green spaces if possible in high-density development. He voiced concerns of people pulling out of driveways on an already busy street.

Mr. Bratton noted that Hillside is not as heavily traversed as Michigan, and the

driveway is located on Hillside.

Jerry Saldana, developer, noted that the parking was intended to be left off of the SUP application but was left on inadvertently. He intended to add green space, bike racks, or a bus stop to that area and believed that there was already sufficient parking in the development. The plan was to move forward without the visitor parking lot. The development would be enhanced by removing the parking and replacing it with a streetscape. The Planning & Zoning Commission approved this plan.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

## **IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

2. An ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Article II, section 2-17, of the Code of Ordinances by incorporating the duties and responsibilities of the City Attorney into the Code of Ordinances; providing that the City Attorney shall report directly to the City Manager or Deputy City Manager; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. An ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 12, Article II, sections 12-17 and 12-36, of the Code of Ordinances by providing that the Fire Chief shall report directly to the City Manager or Deputy City Manager; providing a repealer clause; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. An ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 26, Article II, Division I, section 26-22, of the Code of Ordinances by providing that the Police Chief shall report directly to the City Manager or Deputy City Manager; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

5. Authorizing the City Manager to convey an easement and right of way to AEP Texas INC., located at, and to serve, the new blower building of the South Laredo Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion, one (1) conveyance over a tract of land containing 0.09 acres, more or less, situated in Porcion 36, Webb County, Texas being out of a 84.794 acre tract conveyed to the City of Laredo, Texas, a municipality domiciled in Laredo, Webb County, Texas recorded in Vol. 709, pages 724-726, Webb County Deed Records, Webb County, Texas, as described in the easement conveyance attached as Exhibit A; and providing for

an effective date. Transaction to be accounted for in the Fixed Assets System and Sewer Fund.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

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

Motion to waive the final readings of Ordinances 2018-O-112, 2018-O-106, 2018-O-107, 2018-O-108, 2018-O-109, and 2018-O-110.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

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

6.      2018-O-105    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. ZC-54-2018 District V

Jose Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, informed Council that this ordinance needs to be renumbered to 2018-O-112, as there is already an ordinance on file with the number 2018-O-105.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-112, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

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

7.      2018-O-106    Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 4 & 5, Block 208, and 3,858.36 SF, part of former Malinche Ave., Eastern Division, located at 2019 Santa Clara St., and 1619 Meadow Ave., from B-1 (Limited Commercial District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-61-2018 District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-106.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

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

8. 2018-O-107 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol on Lots 3 and 4, Block 660, Eastern Division, located at 4220 McPherson Ave; providing for publication and effective date. ZC-59-2018 District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-107.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

9. 2018-O-108 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 7, Block 1, Garza Cantu Subdivision, located at 4119 Blue Quail Rd., from B-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-57-2018 District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-108.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

10. 2018-O-109 Amending a Conditional Use Permit, C.U.P. for an amusement redemption machine establishment issued on Lot 1, Block 1, Anil and Associates Subdivision Phase 1, located at 9110 McPherson Road, Suite 2, by repealing Ordinance No. 2016-O-129 authorizing the original C.U.P. and authorizing the issuance of a revised C.U.P. changing the tenant; providing for publication and effective date. ZC-64-2018 District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-109.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

11. 2018-O-110 Authorizing the City Manager to amend the Lease Agreement approved by Ordinance No. 2009-O-220 with Rz Communications – Laredo, Inc., as Lessee, and the City of Laredo as Lessor, to assign Lease Agreement to MPL Wireless Solutions, LLC dba Rz Communications Laredo, as Assignee for



Building No. 146 consisting of approximately 5,632 square feet and situated on approximately 21,217 square feet of land located at 4601 Maher Avenue at the Laredo International Airport. Assigned lease will expire November 30, 2019 at \$1,128.29 per month as amended by CPI. All other terms and conditions remain the same in effect; providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-110.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

12. 2018-O-111 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, Chapter 19, motor vehicles and traffic, Article VIII, stopping, standing or parking, by specifically adding Subsection 19-364 (25) which establishes a section of the east side of Main St., from Matamoros to Zaragoza St. as a "No Parking /Tow-Away" zone, providing for severability, effective date and publication.

Robert Eads, Traffic Director, informed Council that the City has metered parking directly across from an area where the City wants to convert to a no-parking area, which has caused the street to narrow because of people parking on the opposite side of the street. This ordinance would require drivers to park on the metered side of the street.

Cm. Balli noted his concern that some residents in the area do not have driveways, so this would force them to pay for parking at their homes. While Downtown employees are likely causing this narrowing of the street, he did not want to create a hardship on residents in the area.

Motion to table until the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

## **XI. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **XI (a) RESOLUTIONS**

13. 2018-R-97 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration in an amount not to exceed \$9,200,000.00 for the Laredo International Airport and authorizing

the City Manager to execute all necessary documents resulting from the award offer. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for the reconstruction of Cargo Apron Phase 11. The City's local match in the amount of \$1,022,222.00 (10%) is available in the Airport Construction Fund. Total estimated project cost is \$10,222,222.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-097.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

14. 2018-R-98 Ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 for the Noise Abatement Program at the Laredo International Airport and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents resulting from the award. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for acquisition, soundproofing of residential structures and for the acquisition of aviation easements. The City's local match in the amount of \$222,222.00 (10%) is available in the Airport Construction Fund Budget. Total estimated project cost is \$2,222,222.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-098.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

15. 2018-R-99 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation – Aviation Division under the Routine Airport Maintenance Program in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purpose of airside and landside maintenance at the Laredo International Airport and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents resulting from the award. The local match in the amount of \$50,000.00 is available in the Airport Construction Fund. Total estimated project cost is \$100,000.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-099.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

16. 2018-R-100 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a Memorandum of Understanding between the Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo and The City of Laredo Health Department for the continuation of the “Ventanilla de Salud” Program, a bicultural health care education, advocacy and assistance program that has been conducted since 2010 for the term beginning January 1, 2018 with no expiration but reviewed each year for continuation.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-100.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

17. 2018-R-101 Authorizing the City Manager to accept the contract amendment with the Texas Department of State Health Services through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the amount of \$121,737.00 for a total award of \$201,076.00 for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department’s Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids Project (HOPWA) to assist with housing and utilities for the term of February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-101.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Balli

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

18. 2018-R-102 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into contract with the Texas Department of State Health Services through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the amount of \$416,367.00 for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department Ryan White Program to provide health care and medical case management for person with HIV/AIDS for the term of April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-102.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Rodriguez  
Cm. Perez  
Cm. Vielma  
Cm. Balli

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

19. 2018-R-103 Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Planning Agreement between the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the City of Laredo, which serves as the MPO's fiscal agent, and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-103.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

20. 2018-R-104 Authorizing the City Manager's submission of a grant application to the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the amount of \$20,000.00 with no matching funds. Funds will be used to promote the "Love Laredo, Bag It Green" campaign to reduce the impact of single-use plastic bags and to continue beautification efforts for the city.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-104.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Balli

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

21. 2018-R-107 Ordering and proclaiming a general city election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018; designating polling places; providing for publication; and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Webb County Elections Administrator for the purpose of conducting a joint election with the County of Webb, City of Rio Bravo, City of El Cenizo, Laredo Community College District, Laredo Independent School District, United Independent School District, and the Webb Consolidated Independent School District.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-107.



25. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for the Skate Park for John Valls Park (at North Central Park); and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. A total of seven (7) firms responded to the request for qualifications and the top three (3) firms made presentations before the Evaluation Committee on Friday, August 3, 2018. There is no financial impact at this time.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, reported that following three presentations by bidders, staff recommends SPA Skate Parks out of Austin based on score evaluations. SPA seems eager to begin and made a special trip to Laredo to meet with staff.

Ramon Chavez, Executive Director of Public Services, recalled that SPA Skate Parks can finish this project in November 2018. He stated that he will confirm the date and provide it in Council's Friday packet.

Cm. San Miguel asked if there is anything that would delay SPA's progress or the construction. Mr. Chavez noted that staff will need to bring a contract back to Council for approval, which will be done before SPA can begin work. This contract will come to Council at the next Council meeting. Cm. San Miguel asked staff to include this project in the budget workshop.

Motion to approve the selection of SPA Skate Parks.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for the Santa Maria Avenue Bicycle Lane Project; and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. A total of three (3) firms responded to the request for qualifications and the three (3) firms made presentations before the Evaluation Committee on Thursday, July 26, 2018. There is no financial impact at this time.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, reported that the score was provided in Council's Friday packet. Three vendors responded to this bid, and staff recommends LNV, Inc.

Motion to approve the selection of LNV, Inc.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for an Art Sculpture to be built by the Martin High School welding class to be located at the corner of South Zapata Hwy. and South Meadow (TxDot Right-of-Way); and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. One (1) firm responded to the request for qualifications. There was a presentation and a interview with the consultant and staff recommendation is to select LNV, Inc., Laredo, Texas. There is no financial impact at this time.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, reported that there was only one bid response, submitted by LNV, Inc.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reminded Council that this item is just to select the recipient of the contract. Staff will meet with LNV, Inc., to negotiate the contract terms and will bring that contract back to Council for approval. Staff could not provide an estimated budget at this time.

Cm. Rodriguez asked why Council is not receiving the score sheets in their Friday packet.

Mr. De Leon noted that Council requested that the score sheets be presented at Council meetings. However, if Council would prefer to have the score sheets submitted in their Friday packet, staff will accommodate that request. The score sheets are already available online in the full packet agendas.

Cm. Rodriguez requested a paper copy of the score sheets in his Friday packet.

Motion to approve the selection of LNV, Inc.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for the City of Laredo Solid Waste Department Truck Wash Facility; and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. A total of two (2) firms responded to the request for qualifications. The two firms were evaluated and based on the scoring of both firms and a difference of one (1) point, staff concurred in recommending LNV, Inc., Laredo, Texas since they received most of the first place scores. There is no financial impact at this time.

Rogelio Rivera, Engineering Director, noted that staff recommends LNV, Inc. based on the scores. Cm. Balli noted that the score sheet shows Frank Architects scoring higher than LNV.

Ramon Chavez, Executive Director of Public Services, explained that the raw score contributed to LNV, Inc. scoring higher.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, explained that the categories and scores are weighted. Because of that, LNV, Inc. had a higher score.

Motion to approve the selection of Frank Architects.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a renewal contract with Dr. Arturo Garza-Gongora, M.D. to serve as Medical Director / Supervisor of Pre-Hospital care for the City of Laredo Fire Department. Request for Qualifications (RFQ's)

were posted with only one (1) submission received, Dr. Garza-Gongora, thus staff is recommending Dr. Garza-Gongora for this contract. Contract would be for an amount of sixty-five thousand (\$65,000.00) dollars for the 1 st year to be adjusted annually in an amount of no more than seventy-five thousand (\$75,000.00) dollars per year. The initial term of the contract is three (3) years with two (2) one (1) year options to renew and shall commence upon the execution of a mutually agreed services contract. This agreement shall be renewable at the expiration of said term by the mutual consent of both parties, and as needed may be extended on a month to month basis. Funding is available in the General Fund - Fire Department operating budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Authorizing the drafting of Annexation Agreements and Service Plans for the following voluntary annexation requests and refer to Planning and Zoning Commission and further authorizing the City Manager to enter into Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer Service and Controlled Development Contracts with the owners of the eligible proposed annexation tracts:

Tract 17: Martinez Tract - 84.47 acres, more or less, located east of Bob Bullock Lp. and north of SH 359.

Tract 18: Killam #1 Tract - 298.26 acres, more or less, located east of I-35 and north of Union Pacific Railroad Yard (west of Port Drive Extension).

Tract 19: Killam #2 Tract - 140.95 acres, more or less, located east of I-35 and north of Union Pacific Railroad Yard (east of Port Drive Extension).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Consideration to ratify the purchase order in the amount of \$8,900.00 for an ADA Caboose with ramp and ADA approved tied down system to be added to the Bella Tori Diesel Train previously purchased for Parks & Leisure Service Department. The total purchase amount of the entire train equipment is \$58,675.00. Funding is available in the 2017 CO.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Authorization to select and negotiate a contract with consulting firm based on



Request For Qualifications FY18-048 for the Master Plan of the City of Laredo International Bridge System. Two submittals were received from firms LNV Inc, Laredo, TX and Arup Texas Inc, Houston TX. This master plan scope of services include but are not limited to: current and projected traffic trends, including capacity ratios and wait times, for the four (4) existing and future international bridges of the Laredo Bridge System in order to forecast and prepare the needed infrastructure to efficiently process pedestrian, non-commercial and commercial traffic traveling to and from Mexico and the United States. The master plan will also include a toll rate study to address future revenue projections, including toll rate adjustments based on traffic projections, operational expenses, debt service and required infrastructure improvements. There is no financial impact with this motion.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reminded Council that this item is for a master plan for the Bridge system.

Mario Maldonado, Executive Director of Transportation, reported that the City requested qualifications for a Bridge system master plan. Two companies submitted their qualifications, and scores were tabulated by both City staff and local stakeholders.

Cm. Altgelt stated that he had visited with some stakeholders in the transportation industry, and they voiced their recommendation for Arup Texas.

Cm. San Miguel asked who Arup Texas is. Mr. Maldonado answered that Arup is a company out of Houston, Texas. He noted that both groups are present. The evaluation consisted of review of the proposals, live interviews, and stakeholder feedback.

Mario Peña, representing Arup Texas, voiced concerns about addressing Council before the decision has been made. He was assured that answering Council questions at this time would not be a violation of the statute. Mr. Peña noted that Arup Texas is an engineering firm that has partnered with local architects for this project. The firm is multi-faceted, and its strong suit is revenue forecasting-driven data upon which to base a master plan. Given the multi-billion dollar implications of the Bridge system, the small local architectural firm thought it would be more responsible to team with a larger engineering firm with greater resources. Frank Architects and Hickey-Peña, two local architectural firms partnering with Arup Texas, represent 22 local employees but will take on a role as the face of the project and public outreach.

Mr. De Leon noted that the scores from staff and stakeholders are separately represented on the score sheets.

A representative from LNV, Inc., who did not provide his name, noted that the firm has five local employees.

Cm. San Miguel voiced his opinion that the number of local representation in this master plan is an important factor of this project.

Frank Rotnofsky of Arup Texas and representing Arup Texas noted that Arup has worked on hundreds of ports all over the world. Hickey-Peña and Frank

Architects tried to gather the best team in the country to serve Laredo for this master plan and use their local presence and advocacy to have a successful project.

Mr. Peña added that getting a public buy-in during the planning process is vital to a successful program. The Arup team is dedicated to ensuring public feedback and support.

Enrique Valdez of LNV, Inc., reported that LNV, Inc., participated in the traffic signal synchronization project, which is City-wide but was broken up into phases. He noted that the team's capability as a whole resulted in their score.

James Dawson, project manager with LNV, Inc., noted his specialty and experience in border-crossing transportation studies and international transportation policy. He noticed that this master plan is not just an engineering study. It is a policy, operation, efficiency, and a toll and revenue study. LNV has on its team the individual who has performed the most toll and revenue studies. He assured Council that LNV is prepared and willing to work closely with local entities, adding that the firm has already met with local stakeholders for information. He voiced his intent to meet with TxDOT to assist in connecting the dots for the Bridge system and the rest of the City.

Mr. Rotnofsky noted that Arup Texas also has experience with border-crossing bridges along the Mexican and Canadian borders. Mr. Peña added that Arup Texas has reason to believe that it is the only firm that can perform investment-grade revenue forecasting.

Cm. Altgelt informed Council that his appointee to the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA), who also happens to be an industry leader who lives and drives in the district, has vehemently voiced his recommendation for Arup Texas. From that perspective, Cm. Altgelt urged Council to consider Arup Texas for this project.

Cm. Perez asked about the possibility of the two firms working together. Mr. Peña answered that Hickey-Peña and Frank Architects invited LNV to their team, but ultimately the two firms did not collaborate.

Cm. Vielma agreed that the opinion of the stakeholders should be carefully considered since they are the ones that will utilize the bridge system in the future. In a situation in which the two bidders have such close scores, then the preference of the stakeholders should be the guiding voice.

Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Director, reported that LNV, Inc. received a total raw score of 977, and Arup Texas received a score of 971. It was a very close tabulation for this project. He stated that staff recommends going with the highest-scoring firm, LNV, Inc.

Motion to approve the selection of LNV, Inc.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Mayor Saenz

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Gonzalez  
Cm. Perez  
Cm. Vielma  
Cm. Balli

Cm. San Miguel  
Cm. Altgelt

33. Consideration to award contract FY18-072 to the low bidder Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas in the total amount \$167,737.50 for the purchase of one front wheel loader for the Utilities Department. This front wheel loader will be replacing unit # 14147 which has already reached its useful life. Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli  
Second: Cm. Perez  
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Consideration to renew annual supply contract number FY15-052 with the following bidders:

1. Emperor Services LLC, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$281,090.00 for the purchase of the following paving, and construction materials:

- a. Sand delivered to Public Works and Utilities Job Site - \$14.58/ton;  
b. Sand picked up by City Trucks - \$7.50/ton;

2. Vulcan Materials, San Antonio, Texas in an amount up to \$246,440.00 for the purchase of the following paving, and construction materials:

- a. Asphalt Cold Laid delivered to Public Works and Utilities Job Site - \$61.61/ton.

This contract is for the purchase of materials required for all city paving and construction projects. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the third of five extension periods. There was a price increase in the delivery of sand of \$1.33 per ton by Emperor Services during the last extension period. If the pricing remains the same or price adjustment has mutual agreement from both parties and the City agrees to extend the contract, the contract shall automatically renew for another one-year period. All materials are purchased on an as needed basis and funding is available in the Public Works Department, Utilities Department and various construction project budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli  
Second: Cm. Perez  
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY17-049 to the low bidder, Anderson Columbia, Lake City, Florida, in an amount up to \$3,000,000.00 for the purchase of black base and asphalt hot mix used for street paving projects. Any

price changes to this contract will be governed by an index made up of the composite posted prices in the Laredo area of those companies published in the daily publication of Oil Price Information Service (OPIS). All materials are purchased on an as needed basis utilizing the construction project budgets. This is the first of four extension periods. There was a price increase during the last extension period. Funding is available in the Public Works construction project budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Consideration to renew existing contract FY13-054 to Rotex Truck Center, Laredo, Texas for an amount up to \$60,000.00 for the purchase of International Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) automotive parts for the City's medium size trucks. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. There was no price increase during the last extension period but the vendor is offering new contract pricing for this extension period. This is the last extension period for this contract. All parts will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. Consideration to renew existing contract FY14-070 to Gutierrez Machine Shop, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$750,000.00 for professional welding services for the Utilities Department. The services requested include site repairs to various water and wastewater treatment plants, lift stations, and other municipal utility facilities. 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. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the fourth of six extension periods. All services will be requested on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Consideration to renew existing contract FY17-002 with Family Chevrolet, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$65,000.00 for the purchase of (OEM) Original Equipment Manufacturer parts for the City's fleet vehicle repairs. There was no price increase during the last extension period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the second of four extension periods. If pricing remains the same or price adjustment

has mutual agreement from both parties and the City agrees to extend the contract, the contract shall automatically renew for another one year period. All parts will be requested on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Management Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. Consideration to renew contract FY16-060 with La Flecha Materials, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$152,000.00 for the purchase of red top soil and fill dirt for the Parks & Leisure Department. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the second of four extension periods. There was no price increase during the last extension period. If the pricing remains the same or price adjustment has mutual agreement from both parties and the City agrees to extend the contract, the contract shall automatically renew for another one year period. All soils will be purchased on an as needed basis. The Parks & Leisure Department will use these soils for the maintenance of its Parks. Funding is available in the Parks & Leisure Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Consideration to renew supply contract number FY16-059 with the following bidders:

- 1) City Ready Mix, Inc., Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$2,300,000.00 (Primary Vendor);
- 2) Mobile-Crete, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$ 1,000,000.00 (Secondary Vendor),

for the purchase of ready mix cement (job site delivered) for various City Departments. This is the second of three extension periods. There was no price increase during the last extension period. If the pricing remains the same or price adjustment has mutual agreement from both parties and the City agrees to extend the contract, the contract shall automatically renew for another one year period. All materials shall be purchased on an as needed basis utilizing the Utilities, Parks and Leisure Services and Public Works Departments - construction projects budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to award contract FY18-076 to the low bidder CSJ Group (Caslee Investments), Edinburgh, Texas in the amount of \$77,056.00 for the remodeling of City of ROMA's 911 Center located in ROMA, Texas. The project consists of remodeling and construction to include all insurance, payment bond, labor, materials, and related appurtenances as per bid specifications. The estimated time for completion of this project is ninety (90) working days. This project shall commence on October 1, 2018. Funding is available in the 911 Regional Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Consideration to renew contract FY14-076 for one (1) year between the City of Laredo and ComPsych Corporation, to continue providing an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). This program allows employees to receive confidential assistance in many areas without having to access their medical benefits. The City of Laredo provides EAP coverage to approximately 2,500 employees plus their dependents. Eligibility for a dependent is anyone living at home including but not limited to: spouse, child, and any other family member living in the same household. The types of services provided are: confidential counseling (stress, anxiety, depression, relationships, etc.), financial planning, legal support, smoking cessation to name a few. The program has a cost of \$43,992.00 per year; original contract was awarded for two (2) years on 08/18/2014 with option to renew for three (3) additional one (1) year periods. This is the last one (1) year extension period allowed by the contract. There is no price increase for this final extension period and this extension will be effective October 1, 2018. Funding is available in the Risk Management Fund - Human Resources Employee Health and Wellness Division.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Consideration to award an annual contract FY18-067 Health Stations to sole bidder Texas Medical Screening for an amount of \$32,000.00 per year. Texas Medical Screening is providing a minimum of ten blood pressure stations at various City of Laredo Departments. This is a one (1) year contract, subject to future appropriations and can be automatically renewed for four (4) additional one (1) year periods and upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding for this contract is available in the Risk Management Fund - Employee Health and Wellness Division.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. Consideration to award the purchase and installation of a diesel generator set to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Romo Contractors, Laredo, TX in the amount of \$74,500.00 for the Telecommunications Building, 1101 Garden Street. This new generator will replace old generator unit which has reached its service limit; generator provides backup service for the entire fiber network, 3-1-1 and PAC operations. Funding is available in the Public Access-PEG fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

45. Consideration to ratify the existing annual service contract FY16-002, currently awarded to Cantu Electric, Laredo, TX, by increasing the amount by \$60,000.00, for a total contract amount of \$461,951.00. This contract is currently utilized for the maintenance of the illumination systems along IH 35, Loop 20, FM 1472 and US Hwy 83/SH 359 interchange as well as to provide electrical operational needs for various city departments and related electrical improvement/services for city related projects.

Due to an increase in electrical service needs, this contract has reached contract amount limit and the City of Laredo is currently out on new bid solicitations to secure a new electrical service provider promptly. Funding is available in the respective department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

46. Approval of the 2018 Certified Appraisal Roll from the Webb County Appraisal District for the development of the City's tax roll; acceptance of the Effective and Rollback Tax Rate Calculations for Tax Year 2018; and setting of the Public Hearing dates of August 20th and September 4th, of 2018 for the proposed tax rate of \$0.637000/\$100 value. This will be the fifteenth year that the City adopts the same tax rate.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. Authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 1, an increase of \$111,112.50 to the original contract of \$163,560.00, to the professional architecture and engineering services contract with Sepulveda Associates Architects, Inc., for the Utilities Department Administration Building Expansion. This amendment includes HVAC test and balance audit to existing building, remodeling to existing restrooms/reception workstation at north entrance lobby,

enclosing of the warehouse with HVAC system, and improvements to west side open air metal canopy-storage. The total new contract amount including this amendment is \$274,672.50. Funding is available in the 2011 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

48. Consideration for approval of the selection of engineering consultant, Garver USA for the Sierra Vista Pump Improvements Project and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate a contract to provide turnkey design services including site civil, hydraulic, mechanical, and electrical engineering, pump selection, and instrumentation and controls. There is no financial impact at this time.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

49. Authorizing the approval of Change Order #1 for a net decrease of (\$7,332.34) from the original contract sum of \$305,595.00, to a final total contract sum of \$298,262.66 and an extension of time of 81 calendar days from 28 to 109 calendar days, acceptance of the project, release of final payment including retainage in the amount of \$52,744.66 for the South Meadow Sewer Line Replacement project to Insituform Technologies LLC. Funding is available in the 2014 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

50. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the 2003 LUE Participation Agreement term of annexation from 15 years to 25 years between the City of Laredo and 1.- Jesse Martinez, 2.- Francisco Guerra, Sr., 3.- Francisco Guerra, Jr., 4.- Vinateria Ranch Co. Ltd. and 5.- Pedro I. Saenz, Jr., respective owners of five parcels of the eight parcels of land described in the agreement for provisions of water and sewer capacity in the form of Living Unit Equivalency (LUEs). The provisions for water and sewer are made available though the oversizing of both the water and wastewater line extensions for the Colonias Project on SH 359 and the Texas Mexican Rail Road Right of Way.

Mayor Saenz recused himself from this item as he is a party to the agreement.

Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, asked Council to exclude #5, Mr. Pedro Saenz. Mr. Saenz sent Mr. Mia a letter noting that he is no longer interested. Mr. Mia asked that Council approve this item with the exclusion of #5.



Mayor Pro-Tempore San Miguel noted that the Mayor recused himself from this item and that the annexation is a longstanding issue from before the Mayor began his term in office and did not see the need to exclude him from the agreement.

Mr. Mia reiterated that the Mayor sent him a letter asking to be excluded from the agreement.

Motion to approve with an option for Pedro Saenz to stay in or out of the agreement as he wishes.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

#### END OF CONSENT AGENDA

## **XII. STAFF REPORTS**

51. 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.

Council had no questions regarding the audit reports.

No action taken.

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

No discussion or action taken.

53. Staff report regarding the 2018 PONY Softball South Zone World Series Tournament that was hosted from July 17-21, 2018.

No discussion or action taken.

54. Discussion with possible action to consider a first request for an extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Jesus A. Garcia Perez.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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

No business.

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

No business.

**55. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz**

1. Discussion with possible action to prioritize the repair and/or construction of sidewalks particularly around schools, clinics, public places and downtown; and related costs.

Mayor Saenz noted that he has received multiple calls about places that are prone to tripping and accidents, which has legal risks for the City. He asked staff and Council to consider this item at the budget workshop.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action on directing staff to work with Workforce Solutions of South Texas on an initiative to promote the employment of people with disabilities within the City of Laredo departments.

Mayor Saenz stated that Laredo has a large community of people with disabilities who are willing and trying to work. Local government should take on the role of advocating for their inclusion in the workforce. Veterans receive partiality when applying for jobs, and he voiced his opinion that disabled citizens should be incentivized or piloted for employment with the City.

No action taken.

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

1. Status report on the creation of 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.

No discussion or action taken.

**C. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.**

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

Motion to table until the budget workshop.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

2. Discussion with possible action to define the duties and purpose of the Secondary Water Source Ad Hoc Committee, and renaming the committee as the City Utilities Advisory Commission and charging the Commission with additional tasks; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table until the budget workshop.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

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

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

Cm. Vielma noted that the City passed a resolution in 1992 in which the Planning & Zoning Commission was appointed to serve as a capital improvements advisory committee. She added noted for the record Texas Local Government Code § 395.058 and the 1992 resolution so that the City can comply with the intentions of the resolution.

Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, explained that the Capital Improvement Plan is presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission every year for review of the projects. The Commission has a discussion regarding the proposed projects and any other projects that the Commission deems worthwhile. The Commission typically submits those suggestions to Council via recommendations. The Commission does not typically hold public hearings, but their meetings welcome public comments regardless. Mr. Bratton noted that the Commission can include public hearings as part of the process if Council wishes.

Cm. Vielma cited the resolution which states that the Commission shall hold at least one public hearing and as many public hearings as they deem necessary for the public. She stated that the City has not been complying with its 1992 resolution.

Mr. Bratton confirmed that moving forward, the Commission will provide notice of public hearings as such to comply with the resolution. The

Commission will make formal recommendations to Council following those public hearings. He agreed that returning to the 1992 resolution is completely appropriate for the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Motion to revive the 1992 resolution that gives direction for the Planning & Zoning Commission in its capital improvement advisory capacity.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to develop a Safety Assessment Plan and Protocol for access at City Hall.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, reported that the Department conducted a security survey at City Hall last week. He explained that Laredo City Hall is the workplace establishment for our local City leaders, their administrative staff, and departmental personnel which they oversee. The Laredo City Hall building is located in Central Laredo at 1110 Houston Street, Laredo, Texas. The local community is always welcome to visit the many departments located inside City Hall, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Business is also conducted afterhours in Council Chambers and conference rooms for Council and committee meetings. Based on the security survey, Chief Treviño proposed the following recommendations:

- a. Secure the North Side (Victoria Street) entrance and use this as the only entrance for the public to access City Hall.
- b. Secure the South Side (Houston Street) entrance and make this one of two entrances for the public to access City Hall.
  - Other entrances will become emergency exit only.
- c. Armed security should be present during operating hours when available.
- d. Implement an "Approved Bag Policy" to enter City Hall.
- e. Law enforcement will continue to patrol the building perimeter during non-operating hours and be available for Council Meetings inside Council Chambers.

Chief Treviño continued that City Hall visitors should walk through metal detectors, which are a common and accepted form of security within schools, universities, event venues, and government buildings throughout the nation. Metal detectors add an additional level of security to whatever system may be in place. Portable or permanent models are available. He explained that the "Approved Bag Policy" is a policy which has been gaining both approval and momentum by businesses and governmental agencies in our nation. It is meant to deter the concealment of large devices which may pose a threat to the safety of others within an immediate area. The decision to implement this policy is usually done at the discretion of a governing board, director, or head administrator of the specific business or organization. Chief Treviño reported the cost of implementing metals

detectors would be about \$4,000 at each entrance for a total of \$8,000 at City Hall. The cost of two armed security guards (at a rate of \$19 per hours) to supplement the existing guards at City Hall would be a yearly cost of \$39,520 per guard, or \$79,040 total.

Cm. Balli voiced his concern that people should be able to walk in freely at City Hall, especially those who are coming in solely to pay their water bill.

Chief Treviño noted that this proposal is to harden security at City Hall. He added that the cost estimate does not take into account any overtime pay. Security screenings would delay entry to Council meetings.

Cm. Balli stated that while he likes security, he does not think this is a necessary expense for this particular building.

Mayor Saenz noted that this could be further evaluated during the budget workshop.

Chief Treviño confirmed that City Hall is equipped with security cameras, and staff monitors the cameras at the entrances. The cameras can also be monitored at the real-time crime center in the future.

Mayor Saenz noted that he is present at City Hall often along with management. These staff members are vulnerable. Currently, there is nothing stopping someone with extreme intentions. Cm. Balli noted that Council parks in parking spaces that show who is present at City Hall; Mayor Saenz countered that many mass shooters do not care who they shoot but are only focused on shooting large numbers of people.

Motion to include staff's recommendations at the upcoming budget workshop.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt 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 V Priority Funds will be used for this project.
  - a. Two (2) speed humps on Colorado Street., between Hawaii Circle and Nevada Circle \$4,000.00
  - b. One (1) speed hump on Hemlock Dr., between Poinsetta Dr. and Post Oak Dr. \$2,000.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vielma  
Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

**E. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Charlie San Miguel**

1. Discussion with possible action on the need for behavioral and mental health and substance use detox, treatment, and prevention services, teaming with Association for the advancement of Mexican Americans, (AAMA) and other stakeholders, and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, reported that the Drug & Alcohol Commission created by Council has been very active over the last seven months. The board commissioned a survey of all the stakeholders for what type of services are offered in the community, what is needed, and what is the priority. The top priority of the stakeholders is a detox center and transitional rehabilitation center. In addition to AAMA, WestCare is a group that has been in contact with staff Dr. Gonzalez noted that staff has a draft proposal for a 20-30 bed unit with staff, 24-hour service, triage, a psychiatrist, and other elements for a cost of about \$1.7 million; however, the draft proposal does not include the building itself. This plan address both adolescent and adult behavioral health services.

Cm. San Miguel noted that this issue is a high priority but is often forgotten during budget time. Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that this item can be considered at the budget workshop.

Motion to present this item at the budget workshop.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel  
Second: Cm. Rodriguez  
For: 5                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

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

2. Discussion with possible action to allow for the phrase "Answer your call to Greatness" to be included with the City logo on the new San Isidro water tower, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel  
Second: Cm. Gonzalez  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

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

1. 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).

No discussion or action taken.

2. Discussion and possible action to have Chief Landin explain to the public why the Former Laredo Fire Department Union President and current Fire Fighter is allowed to remain on paid leave and attend St. Mary's School of Law and whether/how/what policies and/or collective bargaining contracts allow for taxpayers to subsidize someone's private education, impact to the current collective bargaining negotiations and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Balli noted that this is a personnel issue and asked for the City Attorney's advice on whether this matter should be discussed in open session.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, clarified that this is part of the collective bargaining, which allows exchanges. If Council wishes to speak about the exchange policy in general terms, that is allowable in open session.

Steve Landin, Laredo Fire Chief, noted that this practice has been explained to the Council Member already by the Deputy City Manager and City Attorney that nothing inappropriate or illegal is taking place. The agenda item was poorly written as an attack on a Fire Department employee. Chief Landin noted that he and Cm. Altgelt have had conversations in the past in which the Council Member was asked to show more respect to the people who stand at the podium to address Council. He added that Cm. Altgelt showed disrespect for the Budget Director during his previous presentation and has made many remarks in an uncivilized manner. Chief Landin apologized for speaking emotionally but reiterated that Cm. Altgelt has already been told that there is nothing untoward with the current practice taking place. Everything is being done by the book absent of special favors. Placing an agenda item like this one gives the public the opinion that the Fire Chief is corrupted or inappropriate.

Cm. Altgelt countered that he has not been told how the policy works and how the practice of donating leave and granting authority has worked throughout this year. He asked Chief Landin to refrain from preaching from his soapbox and instead explain to the public on the mechanics of how the leave system works and how it is possible that a full time employee can also go to law school full time.

Chief Landin explained that the process works via an exchange practice in which one employee works a shift for another employee, who will repay him or her by working his or her shift at another time. The collective bargaining agreement has five exchanges allowable for each employee per month. The employee in question works on the weekends and during breaks from law school. He also utilizes his exchanges for the rest of his schedule. An audit was conducted and it was found that the employee has not done anything inappropriate. Employees are often given 60 vacation days as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Cm. Altgelt countered that he has not suggested that the employee has behaved inappropriately.

David Gonzalez stated that he has attempted to contact Cm. Altgelt several times to discuss this matter but has not heard back from the Council Member. He explained that he uses his vacation days, exchanges shifts with his coworkers, and utilizes avenues allowed by the law and the collective bargaining agreement to attend law school during the school year. He added that he never agreed for Council to discuss his personal employee matter in open session.

Mrs. Hale reiterated that the policy allows Council to discuss this matter generally in open session, even if Mr. Gonzalez did not give his consent.

Mayor Saenz suggested that discussion cease if Mr. Gonzalez is noting his objection. He asked Mr. Gonzalez if he consented to further discussion. Mr. Gonzalez refused to answer that question without his attorney present. Based on that response, Mayor Saenz restated that discussion should not continue.

Mrs. Hale recommended that Council allow Chief Landin to explain the general policy without specific or particular details about this individual.

Chief Landin continued that when two fire fighters make an exchange to cover each other's shifts, they have four months to complete the exchange and pay back the covered shift. Exchanges are approved at the station captain level or the district chief level, depending on who is available at the station. Exchanges are a normal practice in the fire service. Exchanges do not exist in the civilian sector.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, explained that a civilian City employee would not receive a raise simply for going to get an advanced degree and then returning to work. The employee would have to apply for another position.

Chief Landin confirmed that the audit documentation will be sent to Council. The audit is subject to the Open Information Act and can be requested by the public as well. He informed Council that there are no discrepancies in the audit.

Cm. Balli stated that going to law school was one of the most difficult things that he ever did. He noted his admiration for anyone who could attend law school and then come home and work at a fire station all weekend. Anyone able to do both should be praised and encouraged. Cm. Gonzalez voiced his agreement. He noted that it is unfortunate that this situation came to the point of targeting individuals and stated that Cm. Altgelt hopefully received the information that he was seeking.

Mr. Gonzalez noted that employees typically work one day on and two days off. If an employee's day on is a Wednesday, then they are off Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. If the employee performs an exchange with another fire fighter for his or her Wednesday shift, then that fire fighter



essentially has the entire week off and only has to make up one day in the exchange. He stated that many other fire fighters have been able to go to school while also employed because of the exchange, vacation, and work schedules at the Fire Department. It is not as difficult to arrange as one may think.

Cm. Altgelt how able a fire fighter is to cover two full weekend days of work after five days of law school with no apparent rest in between.

Paul Rodriguez, Laredo Fire District Chief, noted that like Chief Landin, he takes an issue with any criticisms of his employees, adding that if any members of his crew are not doing their job he is sure to correct the behavior as their supervisor. He has the upmost respect for his job, as does the employee in question.

Chief Landin confirmed that his administrative staff performed the audit. It was submitted to Monica Flores. Cm. Altgelt asked for the audit in Council's Friday packet. Chief Landin clarified that he did not want to single out the employee, so the audit is a department-wide exchange audit. He apologized for offending anyone and for getting emotional during his testimony and speaking abruptly.

No action taken.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the adjustment and programming of the City of Laredo's budget to incorporate \$300,000.00 to be distributed over the next three years (\$100k installments per year) in order for the Ruth B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center to hire and enhance their physical therapy services to those who cannot afford them and who are most in need and any other matters incident thereto.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that he had not spoken to Cm. Altgelt on this issue. There is no funding for this, but Council can consider it as part of the budget workshop.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, informed Council that the Ruthe B. Cowle currently receives third party funding in the amount of \$34,750. They have submitted an application for continued funding, which is being considered.

Cm. Perez stated that he will push for the approval of this item and will try to secure funding in the event that it is voted down at the budget workshop.

Jackie Rodriguez, Ruthe B. Cowl Executive Director, noted that this past year, the center had to replace its entire roof, which cost \$80,000, and repair two AC units which cost \$20,000. These expenses were not included in the center's budget for the upcoming year. Paying for these repairs takes away from the funding available for patient care. The center had its county financial support reduced by half as well, so the center is in great financial need to continue its services to the public.

Motion to consider this item at the budget workshop, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

#### **G. Request by Council Member Roberto Balli**

1. Discussion with possible action to provide an emergency service elevator at the Hamilton Apartments that is large enough for a stretcher to allow emergency services personnel to provide proper service in case of emergencies and any matters incident thereto.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, informed Council that staff met with the Laredo Housing Finance Corporation who is responsible for the Hamilton. LHFC advised staff to coordinate with the Fire Department on this issue. Staff received a complaint from the Fire Department that the ambulance stretcher did not fit in one of the elevators of the Hamilton. One of the two elevators fits a stretcher with no problems; the second one is smaller. There are two types of stretchers utilized by staff; an older model only fits on the larger elevator. The newer model fits in both. While there is not always an issue when the Fire Department responds to the Hamilton, there is always the potential that one of the stretchers will not fit in one of the elevators, which would cause a significant delay in the services that the Fire Department provides. He explained that staff developed a plan with Hamilton management and the Fire Marshall to conduct a forum with the residents to advise them on fire safety, Fire response procedures, and to perform a fire drill to augment the residents' safety and understanding.

Steve Landin, Laredo Fire Chief, reported that the elevators are old, and he did not believe that they have access to a key that send the elevator straight to a floor without stopping on any other floors. He noted that it is a better solution to get a stretcher that stays at the Hamilton than going through a retrofitting of the elevators with the aforementioned key or installing a new elevator.

Cm. Balli asked if staff could inquire with the elevator company about the key feature. He asked for staff to report back in 30 days.

Motion to instruct staff to report back in 30 days the results of inquiring with the elevator company about retrofitting the elevator with a key feature.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For:

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

#### **H. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.**

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to authorize

staff to install speed humps at the following locations, under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy, and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps, instead of speed cushions, which is currently required under the policy: and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District I Priority Funds will be used for this project.

- a. Three (3) Speed humps on Santos Morales Drive between South Ejido Avenue and Fidel Padilla Drive \$6,000.00

Cm. Gonzalez noted a correction to this item. Instead of Santos Morales Drive, the actual street is Armando Peña. He asked if he needed to repost this item or if Council could approve it with the correction.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that Council can approve the item with the correction. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, confirmed as well.

Motion to approve with the correction of Armando Peña replacing Santos Morales Drive.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to authorize staff to install two (2) additional stop signs to make it a four (4) way stop on Santos Morales Drive and Unknown Hero Drive.

Cm. Gonzalez noted a correction to this item. Instead of Santos Morales Drive, the actual street is Armando Peña. He asked if he needed to repost this item or if Council could approve it with the correction.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that Council can approve the item with the correction. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, confirmed as well.

Motion to approve with the correction of Armando Peña replacing Santos Morales Drive.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

## **XVI. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

I, Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 through 36 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on August 6, 2018.

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Jose A. Valdez, Jr.  
City Secretary