

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2018-R-19
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
November 19, 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
Alberto Torres, Jr.	District IV
Norma "Nelly" Vielma	District V
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. Perez joined at 5:50 p.m.

Motion to excuse Cm. San Miguel and Cm. Altgelt's absence.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of November 5, 2018 and November 14, 2018.

Motion to approve the November 5, 2018 and November 14, 2018, minutes.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

Citizen comments

None

VI. VETERAN RECOGNITION

- a. Honoring Veteran Ramiro Hernandez for his service as a member of the United States Army National Guard and recognizing his distinguished service to our Country.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, informed Council that Ramiro Hernandez started his military service in 1987 in the Infantry, including several overseas deployments. He served a combined 24 years of service in the Army and Texas Armed National Guard, achieving the rank of First Sergeant before retiring in January 2011. He is now employed with the Webb County Veteran Services office under the Veteran Treatment program. Mr. Garcia played a video presentation highlighting Mr. Hernandez's career and achievements. In the video, Mr. Hernandez stated that it was an honor to be Veteran of the Month as a way to holding the torch for all Laredo veterans.

Mr. Hernandez received a standing ovation in Council Chambers. He thanked the City for the recognition and noted that working with the County to serve the veterans' need in the community has been eye-opening. He noted that the Vietnam veterans did not receive the help that they needed or the welcome home that they deserved, which may explain why such a large population of Vietnam veterans are homeless in Laredo. He encouraged the City and the public to return the honor and integrity to individuals who have served their country.

Mayor Saenz presented Mr. Hernandez with a certificate of recognition, thanking him for his service. Mr. Garcia reminded the public that the Veteran Recognition program and nomination form are available online at the City of Laredo's website.

VII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

None

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 5.66 acres, as further described by Metes and Bounds Exhibit A, located at East of Piedmont St. from RSM (Residential Suburban Multi-Family District) to R-1 (Single Family Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff **supports** and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended **approval** of the proposed zone change. ZC-84-2018 District VI

Edward Garza, on behalf of the applicant, informed Council that the goal is to revise this zone from RSM to R-1 in order to develop the property into a single-family development.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

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 11, Block 1, Sierra Vista Unit IV-A, located at 4619 U.S. Highway 83, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date.

Planning & Zoning Commission recommended **approval** of the zone change, and Staff **does not support** the application. ZC-85-2018 District I

Vanessa Guerra of the Planning Department reported that staff sent out nine letters regarding this application; no letters, either in favor or against the zone change, were received. Staff did not approve of the application because it is not in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. The biggest area of concern is that the B-4 will be abutting a R-1 zoned property. The proposed use is a commercial billboard;

however, the applicant is attempting to rezone the entire lot.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 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 7 and 8, Block 1764, Eastern Division, located at 2918 and 2920 Pine St., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff **supports** the application and **Planning & Zoning recommends approval of the Zone Change.** ZC-87-2018 District II

Zaffirino Izaguirre spoke in favor of the zone change.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5 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 a Restaurant Serving Alcohol on Lots 7, 8 and 9, Block 71, Eastern Division, located at 2020 Corpus Christi St.; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff **supports** the application and **Planning & Zoning recommends approval of the Special Use Permit.** ZC-89-2018 District III

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding three (3) Nutrition Aide, R23 positions for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program to continue to provide nutrition education and food supplemental services to women and children with nutrition and health risks and improve customer services and program performance. Funding is available through the Health Department Budget through grant funds from Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

6. Authorizing the City Manager to execute supplemental lease agreement no. 5 to Lease GS-07B-15259 approved by Ordinance 2002-O-325 dated December 16, 2002 with General Services Administration for approximately 1,533 square feet constituting office space occupied by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) located at 5210 Bob Bullock Loop at the Laredo International Airport.

Said supplemental lease agreement extends the lease term (2) years until November 17, 2020. The monthly rent amount is \$5,171.87 and shall be adjusted annually according to changes in the Consumer Price Index. All other terms and conditions of the lease agreement remain unchanged and in effect; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Article II, Chapter 28, Sign Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances by amending Section 28-23(98) to provide for subdivision signs within city right-of-way under certain conditions; providing for time place, and manner regulations for such subdivision signs; providing a cumulative and repealer clause; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo Texas establishing a Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Policy with new and expanded safeguards for protected characteristics; to prohibit discrimination in places of public accommodation, employment practices, housing transactions, and city contracting practices; to provide exemptions for enforcement of this ordinance; to create a complaint procedure; to adopt an amended Non-Discrimination Statement as required under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes; to provide for a repealer clause, a severability clause, a savings clause, a penalty clause, a publication clause, and an effective date.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, informed Council that this introductory ordinance is a drafted non-discrimination ordinance that expands upon the City's current policies applicable to protected characteristics like race, color, religion, national origin, disability, and age. Staff expanded this ordinance to be consistent with other cities to also provide protection irrespective of gender or sexual orientation. These protections would prohibit discrimination for employment for the City as well as public accommodations including businesses around the City and housing. Staff included exceptions in response to litigation issues that other comparable cities are facing with regards to religious organizations. In this ordinance draft, religious, educational, and political organizations would be completely exempted from the ordinances. There are affirmable defenses that an individual can assert under this ordinance, which would exempt them from the ordinance requirements as well. These affirmable defenses are enacted in other cities and allowable under the law.

Jorge Tovar of Jordan River Church voiced his church's concern over the ordinance, even with exemptions. He noted that his church has pastored people from all different kinds of lifestyles and has welcomed everyone. The church has never discriminated against anyone, but

regarding enforcing an ordinance that will affect the church's religious stance would violate the church's rights. The church would feel better to block the ordinance. Mr. Tovar added that the City has cited many cities that have a similar anti-discrimination ordinance, but there are hundreds of cities that do not. He voiced his opinion that the ordinance should not be enforced since there has not been any previous instances of discrimination. The community relies more on the Bible than modern-day cultural fads for their moral guidance. For that reason, his church will not employ someone who has a psychological problem with their sexual orientation or gender identity as it is against the church's belief system and principles.

Tonie Gamboa, pastor of Women of Destiny Ministries, reported that the ministry has been active for years providing services and counsel to the community. She asked Council not to move forward with this ordinance or not to include religious organizations.

Jonathan Saenz, attorney specializing in Constitutional law, reported that Texas Values is a statewide organization that works on faith, family, and freedom issues. This organization is suing the City of Austin for a similar ordinance. He noted that this introductory ordinance is a bad ordinance based on bad law. It relies on inaccurate, short-lived interpretation of federal law that the current Department of Justice has rejected. There are ongoing lawsuits regarding this issue. He added that sexual orientation and gender identity are not recognized in federal law. Mr. Saenz also noted the it is not true that religious entities are exempt except in cases of City contracting. Religious entities contracting with the City to provide a service would have to sign away their religious beliefs in order to provide a needed service. He voiced his opinion that this ordinance would harm free enterprise and punish people and businesses, and relevant litigation is already before the Supreme Court. He asked why the City would subject itself to litigation that the Supreme Court has already ruled upon. He also pointed out that listed in the exemptions is the State of Texas and any of its political subdivisions, which includes the City of Laredo. The language of the ordinance exempts itself from being applied by the City. The timing is not right for this issue, which pits the City against its own citizens. He encouraged Council to abandon this ordinance introduction.

Cm. Perez voiced his opinion that this is a very involved issue and needs more time and attention before action is taken.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Rodriguez

Against: 1

Cm. Vielma

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez
Cm. Torres
Cm. Balli

9. Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant and amend the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget with a supplemental award in the amount of \$109,214.00 to fund the Laredo Police Department HIDTA Task Force. This grant is funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) at no cost to the City. Funding will be used to pay fringe benefits, overtime, equipment and operational expenses from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 for the LPD HIDTA Task Force.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2018-O-170, 2018-O-171, 2018-O-172, 2018-O-173, 2018-O-174, and 2018-O-175.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

10. 2018-O-170 Amending Article VI [Investment Policy] of Chapter 2 [Administration] of the Code of Ordinances in order to:
1. Update Investment Officers Titles to include the Executive Director of Finance & Technology;
 2. Adjust / Update the current Broker / Dealer List and;
 3. Provide for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-170.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

11. 2018-O-171 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 10, Block 1260, Eastern Division, located at 2202 E. Plum St., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District). ZC-79-2018 District IV

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-171.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

12. 2018-O-172 Authorizing the City Manager to convey an Easement and Right of Way to AEP TEXAS, INC., to serve the walking trails in the area known as Cheyenne Park. One (1) conveyance over a tract of land containing 15,971 square feet, more or less, situated in Porcion 30, and out of a smaller 142.87 Acre Tract of land being a part of Partition E-J and being out of Lot 1, Block 7 (8.3233 Acres), Cheyenne Subdivision Phase II as recorded in Volume 18, Page 100, Webb County Deed Records, Webb County, Texas, as Described in the Survey and Metes and Bounds Description attached hereto as Exhibits "A" and "B"; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-172.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

13. 2018-O-173 Authorizing the City Manager to convey an Easement and Right -Of-Way to AEP TEXAS INC., consisting of two tracts of land. One tract containing 36 square feet and the other containing 72 square feet. Both tracts being out of Porcion 23, Leonardo Garcia, Original Grantee, Abstract 283 and Porcion 22 Doña M. J. Sanchez, Original Grantee, Abstract 277, Webb County, Texas, and being out of Lot 1, Block 2 (6.88 Acres), Shiloh Crossings Subdivision Phase 1, as recorded in Volume 29, pages 34-36, Webb County map records, said tracts being more particularly described in Exhibits "A", "B", "A-1", and "B-1"; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-173.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

14. 2018-O-174 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a First Amendment to Equipment Premises Temporary License Agreement between the City of Laredo and Sprint Spectrum Realty Company, LLC, for equipment space at 1501 Water Street, Laredo, Webb County, Texas and subject to an existing License Agreement between the Parties for use of the existing communications tower. Term of the Temporary License Agreement is six (6) months commencing October 7, 2018 and ending April 6, 2019; with a six (6) month renewal option. The license fee will be \$7,000.00 and the license fee for the renewal term will be \$7,500.00, if exercised.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-174.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

15. 2018-O-175 An ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Administration, by adding Article IX, Local Preference Program, of the Code of Ordinances to set forth the guidelines for granting a local preference in city procurements; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date (AS AMENDED).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-O-175.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

XI (a) RESOLUTIONS

16. 2018-R-160 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant in the amount of \$45,856.25 from the Texas Department of Transportation to fund the STEP Impaired Driving Mobilization program. The City of Laredo will match \$14,674.00 for a total grant amount of \$60,530.25. This grant is to pay overtime for officers in order to

increase enforcement to arrest individuals driving under the influence of a controlled substance. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-160.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

17. 2018-R-162 A Resolution of the City of Laredo, Texas adopting a program under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 380 and authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement made pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 380 with Azure Investments, LLC relating to the development of a dual brand hotel to be located at 7120 Rosson Lane on approximately 3 acres of land and representing an investment of approximately thirteen million nine hundred and eighty thousand and twenty three dollars (\$13,980,023).

Cynthia Collazo, Deputy City Manager, reported that the total amount of investment is \$13,980,023; the resolution only included the construction investment of \$10 million. The estimated permit fee amount should be \$10,282 rather than the \$14,735 reported.

Cm. Balli noted that there seem to be a lot of hotels in this area and asked why the City is offering a tax incentive to a hotel in an area that already has much growth.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, clarified that Resolution 2018-R-163 is a 312 agreement, which is offered to any investment in the City by ordinance.

Cm. Balli asked again why the City needs to incentivize right now as there are already many hotels and growth in the area. It does not make sense to offer abatements to an area that is already prospering. He voiced his opinion that he cannot support an incentive where it is not needed. Cm. Torres noted his agreement with Cm. Balli's sentiments.

Cm. Torres added that he shares the same concerns that he voiced with the Coves at Winfield project. This is an area that already very valuable. Providing a tax

incentive for an area that is already growing on its own and attracting investment does not need the City's incentive programs. The programs are meant for areas that are otherwise underdeveloped, landlocked, and unsupported. He noted that he does not see the value in giving tax dollars to an area with no need for incentive.

A representative of the hotel, who did not name herself, explained that this hotel was one of the first ones in the area before the area began to grow and no one was interested in investing. The owners have invested much hard work and resources into the area without ever coming to the City for help. This hotel has 4,500 square footage of meeting room and breakout space which she worked hard to secure. It is also going to be the first dual brand hotel in the state and the first in the Hilton franchise, making it a one-of-a-kind hotel.

Another representative of the hotel, who did not name herself, added that this hotel will bring 50 jobs to the area, which cannot be said about the other hotels in the area.

Mr. De Leon explained that the hotel representatives met with City Management; to his knowledge, the District V Council Member was not approached directly.

Motion to deny Resolution 2018-R-160.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

18. 2018-R-163 Authorizing and approving a Chapter 312 Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Azure Investments, LLC in accordance with Section 3.11(b) of the "Guidelines & Criteria Governing Tax Abatements by the City of Laredo" for the establishment of a reinvestment zone. This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will abate taxes at 100% on new improvements for the purpose of economic development and the creation of jobs. Azure Investments, LLC is representing they will invest a total of \$13,980,023 and create thirty (30) new full time jobs within one (1) year of completion of improvements and a total of fifty (50) full time jobs by

year five (5). The guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and attachments.

Motion to deny Resolution 2018-R-163.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

19. 2018-O-164 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Doctors Hospital of Laredo for a proposed project located at 1301 Olive St, lot 1-8; block 751; eastern division that consists of new construction, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a 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 \$5,100,000.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$26,200.75 and estimated total fee waivers of \$5,278.00. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-164.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Vielma were not present.

XI (b) MOTIONS

20. Consideration to ratify an emergency contract with Top Line World Construction, LLC, Laredo, TX in the amount of \$128,829.27. Recent rain storms have required emergency roof repairs for Hangar 1309 located at 4207 N. Jarvis Ave at the Laredo International Airport. City Manager authorized the emergency repairs to be performed by Top Line World Construction, LLC through the use of GSA CONTRACT NUMBER: #GS-07F-026AA. Funding is available in the Airport Operations Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

21. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to Castle Engineering & Testing, LLC., Laredo, Texas, for an amount of \$25,015.00 to provide laboratory, sampling and testing services of materials for quality assurance for the Upper Zacate Creek Hike and Bike Trail (Project No. CSJ: 0922-33-142) contingent upon TxDot approval. Contract time is for the duration of the project. Completion date is scheduled for June 2019. Funding is available in the Environmental Operating Fund - Consultant Fees Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

22. Consideration for approval of amendment No. 2, an increase of \$546,762.86 to the professional services contract with RS&H, San Antonio, Texas, to provide construction administration, full time resident project representative (RPR) services and construction materials testing services and direct expenses for the Laredo International Airport Cargo Apron Phase 11 Reconstruction and to provide additional design and construction administration services for the Cargo Apron Phase 12 due to additional discretionary FAA funding. Total current contract amount with this amendment is \$1,026,518.63. Total project is estimated at approximately \$12.9 Million. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund FAA Grants 85 and 87.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

23. Consideration for approval of the CDBG Ponderosa Park Improvements Shade Structure – District V as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$7,989.00 to Romo Contractor, LLC., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$79,890.00. Funding is available in the 2017 CDBG Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

24. Consideration for approval of change order No. 6 an increase of \$6,800.00 to the construction contract with Romo Contractor, LLC., Laredo, Texas for the Transitional Housing located at 1517 Washington. This change order is required by Building Department for final inspections and project acceptance, and to meet ADA requirements for issuance of Certificate of Occupancy and to add twelve (12) calendar days to the construction contract time. Current construction contract amount with this change order is \$162,520.88. Completion date for the project is scheduled for December 2018. Funding is available in the CDBG 40th Action Year Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

25. Consideration for approval of the Renovations/Rehab of Fire Station No. 5 located at 2601 N. Bartlett Avenue as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$29,838.49 to R&A Construction, LLC., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$298,384.90. Funding is available in the 2017 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

26. Authorizing the City Manager to approve a contract with RS&H, San Antonio, Texas for professional services to prepare a Noise Exposure Map (NEM) Update for the Laredo International Airport in accordance with federal guidelines and standards in the amount not to exceed \$251,256.00. The Laredo International Airport needs to periodically update the Noise Exposure Map (NEM) to identify the areas around the airport that are significantly impacted by aircraft noise. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund/Engineering Fees.

Cm. Torres reported calls from constituents living east of Arkansas Avenue outside of the noise map area. He asked that Council direct the consultant to evaluate the area which has raised concerns over the noise existent until midnight. He noted that he lives in the area and also has experienced noise at late hours.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, informed Council that this contract is an opportunity to reevaluate the contours of the noise and include any areas where the noise decibels have risen.

Mario Maldonado, Acting Airport Director, added that bigger cargo planes are coming to the airport, which will be taken into consideration.

Cm. Torres asked if the contract includes any public meetings where members of the public can voice their concerns or complaints. Mr. Maldonado confirmed that the study will be conducted, and the consultant will be required to have public hearings on the findings for property owners to dispute any of the study findings.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

27. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the current contracts with Maurice Click, MD, MPH for two grant programs to provide medical services for the City of Laredo Health Department HIV Ryan White Part B and C, Health & Social Services and Primary Care, Women's Health, and Chronic Disease patient care improving the continuum and quality of care and adhering to grant performance measures and standards of care. The total amount of this contract for two grant programs is \$61,000 per year (over 24 months is \$122,000.00) for the term from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020 and renewable for an additional one (1) year, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

28. Authorizing the City Manager to accept the agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental

School in the amount of \$123,574.00 to continue to provide dental care for children and pregnant women and enhance Title V dental services by the City of Laredo Health Department for the term from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2021. Funding is available through the Health Department budget and is contingent on funding availability.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

29. Consideration to award contract number FY19-009 to the following bidder for Independent Employee Benefit Consultant Services:

1. HUB International, Inc., El Paso, TX for an annual amount of \$48,000.00

This contract will provide the City of Laredo with employee benefit consulting services. The services include assistance in all phases of RFP process for medical plan, dental plan, vision plan, flexible spending accounts, basic life, dependent life, term life, personal insurances, contract compliance, and budgetary reports.

Contract amount will be \$48,000.00 on an annual basis, for three (3) years, subject to future appropriations, with an option for two (2) additional one (1) year extensions. Contract will be effective January 1, 2019.

The funding is available in the respective departmental budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

30. Consideration to renew the six-month (6) supply contract FY18-001 with Arguindegui Oil Company, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$80,000.00 for the purchase of lubricants for the Fleet Department. All lubricants will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of six (6) months beginning as of the date of its execution. There was no price increase during this extension period. This is the second of six extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

31. Consideration to renew annual contract FY17-003 for the repair and replacement of hydraulic cylinders for the City's heavy equipment fleet with the following vendors:

1. Laredo Mechanical, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$65,000.00, and;
2. ROCA Equipment, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$40,000.00.

These hydraulic cylinders are found on many of the heavy equipment such as backhoes and loaders and on the refuse trucks. This contract establishes two vendors that can repair these cylinders. All repair services will be secured on an as needed basis. There was no price increase during this extension period. This is the second of four extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

32. Consideration to renew contract FY17-017 for Lawn Services to the Laredo Municipal Housing to Nick Benavides Laredo, TX in an annual amount of \$20,319.60. The term of this contract shall be for an initial period of two years with the option to extend this contract for one additional two year period upon performance approval by the City and Laredo Municipal Housing. This is the last extension period. There was no price increase during their last extension period. Funding is available in the Municipal Housing Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

33. Consideration to ratify an emergency purchase order issued to MOVAC Environmental, McAllen, Texas, in the total amount of \$217,431.00 for the removal of leachate water at the landfill. Due to the heavy rain during the month of October, MOVAC had to drain the leachate water from the landfill. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Services Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

34. Consideration to award contract number FY19-007 to the low bidder SCC Pure Materials for the disposal of concrete for varies City departments. This concrete with and without rebar will be picked up by the vendor and disposed from Public Works construction and repair projects. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract has four (4) extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. There will be no charge to the City for the pickup and disposal of these materials.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

35. Consideration to award contract FY19-005 to the sole bidder Holt Caterpillar, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$1,158,568.05 for the purchase of one (1) landfill compactor and the purchase of an extended warranty of \$14,380.00 for a total amount of \$1,172,948.05 for the Solid Waste Services Department. This compactor will be replacing unit # 4253 (2008 826H Compactor) which has already reached its useful life. Funding is available in the 2019 Capital Outlay Fund, 2016 PPCO Capital Outlay Fund, and the 2019 Vehicle Maintenance Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

36. Consideration to renew service contract number FY14-085 with WCD Enterprises, Scottsdale, Arizona, in an amount up to \$56,700.00 for landscaping and maintenance services for the North Laredo & Zacate Creek Wastewater Treatment Plants, and Vidal Cantu Boulevard. The vendor shall provide all the labor, supervision, equipment, and materials needed for the mowing, collection of trash and debris, collection of rubbish, the cutting and trimming of all trees and vegetation along fence lines and the removal of any foreign waste materials. There was no price increase during the last extension period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the fourth of six extension periods. Funding is available in the Water and Sewer Operating Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

37. Consideration to award the purchase and installation of a new chiller at City of Laredo International Bridge #1 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Temprite Mechanical Inc., Laredo, TX in the amount of \$74,340.00. This new chiller will replace an old chiller unit which has reached its service limit. Funding is available in the Bridge System fund under Building and Improvements.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

38. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2019 Ford F-550 Reg Cab 4x2 and installation of one (1) Non-insulated end mounted 40 ft. (12.2 m) telescopic aerial platform lift in the total amount of \$104,632.54 from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, Texas through the GoodBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing. The aerial platform lift is to be installed onto the Ford F-550. The vehicle along with the platform lift is a replacement vehicle used by Bridge for operations which has already reached its useful life. Funding is available in the 2019 Bridge Systems Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

39. Consideration to authorize the final renewal of contract FY15-035 to Stericycle Environmental Solutions, Inc., Houston, Texas in an annual estimated amount of \$50,000.00, for Household Hazardous Waste/CESQG Collection Services. This final renewal for this contract is for an additional two (2) year term, subject to budget appropriations and upon mutual agreement. Funding is available in the Environmental Services Department's Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

40. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of October 2018, represent a decrease of \$44,260.05. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

41. Authorizing City Manager to execute the construction contract to the lowest bidder Johnston Technical Services, Inc. dba JTS, from Dallas, Texas, in the amount of \$290,605.00, for the AMI Communication System Improvements Installation of Three Antenna-Tower Systems. Construction time is one hundred and twenty (120) working days for final completion. Funding is available in the 2014 Sewer Revenue Bond and 2016 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XII. STAFF REPORTS

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

Motion to approve the Auditor's report.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

43. Discussion with possible action to consider a fourth request for an extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073(b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Alfredo Rodriguez.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

44. Staff report with possible action regarding the 2019 State Legislative Agenda.

Blasita Lopez, Executive Director of Marketing, Tourism, and Communications, reported that Council received a copy of the legislative agenda to-date. The agenda topics were reported as follows:

Transportation & Infrastructure

- I-69 widening project
- Funding for U.S. 59/Future I-69 W Corridor (US 59/I-69 Business to Havana Drive)
- World Trade Bridge Enhancements: (a) Development and construction of additional bridge lanes; (b) Relocation and construction of the FAST lanes; and (c) a Northbound Weigh-In-Motion system in all exit lanes
- *NEW ITEM: Dedication of Aviation Tax*

Mr. De Leon explained that the aviation tax dedication was added to the agenda because the aviation tax that is currently collected through fuel is funding other transportation projects rather than airport projects. This dedication is an advocacy for smaller airports. Mr. Maldonado confirmed that this is not a new tax, simply a rededication of a portion of the current aviation tax.

Mrs. Lopez continued with the 2019 state legislative agenda as follows:

Homeland, Hometown Security

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) – Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) – South Texas Development Council
- Increased funding of Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABPTA) to support City of Laredo Auto Theft Task Force (ATTF)
- Texas Ant-Gang (TAG) Program
- Virtual Wall: Preferred means to enhance border security

Health & Wellness

- Substance abuse and mental health programs
- Law enforcement partnership with Border Region Behavioral Health Center
- Designation of a public health regional fund to support public health, surveillance and security for the Texas-Mexico border
- Laboratory response network certification
- Promote health food choices in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and require nutrition and wellness education to reduce obesity

Environmental

- Re-initiate tire remediation program
- Legislation to allow municipalities to regulate single-use plastic bag

Governance

- Waiving the cost of state IDs and birth certificates for homeless individuals to reduce housing barriers
- Seeking authorization to convert sports venue tax for economic development use through public referendum
- Maintain property revenue tax cap at 8%

Cm. Perez asked that the City add state funds for trails on the legislative agenda.

Motion to approve the 2019 legislative agenda as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

Mrs. Lopez reminded Council that the 2019 Legislative Session starts January 8, 2019. The City's legislative trip is planned for January 27-31, 2019; Laredo Day will be on Wednesday, January 30. Staff has already advised its two representatives and senator of the pending arrival.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

No action taken.

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

No action taken.

45. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Status report on recent cold weather challenges to the City's Animal Shelter and any other private pet shelters.

Mayor Saenz reported that Council received multiple messages about the Laredo animal shelter and a private shelter during the recent cold snap.

Clarissa Rangel, Laredo Animal Care Services Director, displayed photographs depicting the animal shelter in which staff boarded up the north side of the facility to insulate the animals from the cold. This has been a great help in blocking the wind; tarps were also brought in to block wind and cold along the side of the facility as well. Heaters were set up to warm the animals, and kennel workers were scheduled every 4-6 hours to make sure that the heaters are running efficiently continuously.

Dr. Sandra Leyendecker, veterinarian assisting the LACS Department, reported that about 50 animals were fostered in personal homes and thanked those families for their assistance. She encouraged more people to foster animals and provide homes.

Ms. Rangel assured Council that the Animal Care Services Department has plenty of food for the animals at the shelter. The

shelter has never run out of food; no animal has ever skipped a meal. If the shelter receives an abundance of donations, they share those resources with the local non-profit shelter as well after reaching out and determining if the shelter has a need for the items. She clarified that a recent social media plead for food came from the non-profit animal shelter and not the City's shelter.

No action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action on the recent border caravan - migration matters, its impact and/or potential misperception of safety about the City of Laredo, and any other matters incident thereto.

Mayor Saenz reported that the US Customs Brokers organization postponed their meeting in Laredo due to the perceived danger or risk of the migrant caravan that may engage the City. He reminded the public that Laredo has had border issues in the past, but safety have never been a cause for concern. He clarified that he added this item to the agenda in order to clear up any misconceptions and ensure that safety and international trade are not jeopardized.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, reported that the Police Department has been proactively preparing for caravans traveling north. The Department has been in constant communication with law enforcement partners like Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection. The City Manager has coordinated several meetings to discuss the potential impact of a caravan border crossing on the city. Partners have discussed the impact of border-crossers who spent the past week in the United States and the resulting traffic conditions on the interstate and at the bridge. He noted that there are no foreseeable expenditures to the City as Operation Stone Garden funds have already been earmarked if the need arises.

Cm. Balli noted that a popular park in District VIII recently had razor wire installed. He asked who authorized this installation. Chief Treviño confirmed that the razor wire was the decision of management and the City Attorney's Office after a thorough discussion. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, clarified that there was no paperwork regarding the installation; it was an executive order from the Department of Defense. Horacio De Leon, City Manager, added that there is no license agreement.

Greg Burwell, Customs and Border Protection Acting Deputy Chief and Laredo Division Chief, reiterated that law enforcement collaboration has been good, and all partners are prepared. His research shows that the caravan will most likely not come to Laredo. He explained that the Department of Defense installed razor wire at some sites along the border and are no longer present. As soon as local law enforcement informs them that the razor wire is no longer in need, they will return to uninstall it. He reiterated that the razor wire

is only temporary. He also reminded Council that the path of the caravan may change courses at several points along the way.

Cm. Perez cited a few parks in his district and reported that he has not seen any extra law enforcement activity there in anticipation of a potential caravan. He asked if those areas are a priority.

Deputy Chief Burwell noted that approximately 70 agents have been sent to the California/San Diego area, but the law enforcement presence in Laredo and specifically District III has not changed at all.

Michael Smith, pastor of Holding Institute, informed Council that Holding currently has 45 people from West Africa, Angola, and the Congo since he last addressed Council. The City's Health Department has assisted the church in providing health checks and screenings. There are no public health concerns other than common colds among the groups. The Holding Institute has partnered with the American Red Cross to provide basic hygiene kits to the visitors.

Mr. De Leon reminded Council that in the past, the City has partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and the Convention & Visitors Bureau to distribute information and data relaying how safe the border actually is. Since that advertising funding is for the promotion of the City as a destination, the scope of the messaging would have to be amended to ensure that the funding is used appropriately.

Blasita Lopez, Executive Director of Tourism, Marketing, and Communications, added that because the image of border towns as unsafe is proliferated through mainstream media, she suggests that the City considers pursuing a Public Relations route as part of a media pitch so that the local testimony and subject matter experts is quoted by the mainstream media.

Cm. Torres that while he likes Mrs. Lopez's thought process, he has reservations about implementing another budgetary allocation. He suggested alternatively that the City approach the factual advertising rather than a PR campaign. If the City determines that they need to instead determine a budget for a PR campaign, that decision can be made at that time.

Mr. De Leon confirmed that staff can bring a plan back to Council for approval.

Cm. Vielma noted that Council should take action now, as this week is a big shopping week for the City; the message should be made as soon as possible that Laredo is safe. She asked for a short-term deadline for this advertising.

Mr. De Leon reminded Council that every time staff or Council is

interviewed by the media is an opportunity to plug the safety and livability of the City.

Mrs. Lopez asked for clarification as to the audience of this advertising, be it on the Mexican or States side. Mayor Saenz clarified that both audiences should be a concern. Cm. Torres agreed but stipulated that the Mexican shopper traveling into the United States and staying in Laredo's hotels are a bigger priority.

No action taken.

B. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

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

- a. 400 Almeja Dr.
- b. 400 Marlin Dr. (between Larga Vista and Almeja)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Balli was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on the status of the wage increases for CDL drivers and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Rodriguez recalled approving the wage increase for CDL drivers during the budget workshop and asked for a status update.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that it was discussed during the budget workshop, and staff committed to working on these positions on a Department-basis, evaluating the number of applications.

Martin Aleman, Executive Director of Finance & Technology, reported that the first department participating in this evaluation was the Solid Waste Services Department. Changes made as of October 1, 2018, include changing the title of Heavy Truck Drivers to Route Specialists with pay rate increases of 16.86-21.95%. Heavy Equipment Operators had a pay rate increase of 1.36-7.01%. These changes resulted in a cost increase of \$250,389.40.

Mr. De Leon noted that the financial impact is significant. To the Enterprise Funds, this is not necessarily a hardship given the fee revenues that can absorb those costs. However, this kind of financial impact is more of a challenge to the General Fund.

Cm. Rodriguez asked how much time is needed for staff to look at all departments on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Aleman estimated that staff could finalize its evaluation of the Utilities Department in the next 30 days. He reminded Council that staff asked Council to allow them to evaluate each Department on a case-by-case basis, starting with the Enterprise Funds.

Cm. Torres voiced his understanding that this was factored into the minimum wage being raised for all employees, which included CDL drivers. Mr. Aleman explained that the raise of minimum wage to \$11.00 was performed across the board, which was budgeted and implemented. Regarding CDL driver raises, staff requested time to evaluate one Department at a time. Cm. Torres stated that Council wanted to offer competitive wages to CDL drivers so that local drivers would not leave the City for the oil field industry.

Mr. De Leon clarified that the City is not losing qualified drivers to the oil field industry, given the numbers of applications that come in for CDL drivers and the amount of drivers that leave the City. This matter presents issues for other employees, like Heavy Equipment Operators who do not require CDL drivers' licenses as they do not drive on roads. Cm. Torres disagreed.

Motion to direct staff to bring an evaluation on the Utilities Department at the next Council meeting and to direct staff to next evaluate the Public Works Department and include a review of the minutes by the City Secretary to confirm if directive was given during the budget workshop, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez

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 III Priority Funds will be used for this project.

- a. One (1) Speed Hump on the 1900 block Chacon
- b. Speed Humps between the 2400 and 2700 Fremont

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2. Discussion with possible action on amending the sign ordinance to remove the franchise and permit requirements for mobile advertisement signs.

Cm. Perez reported receiving calls from investors regarding their mobile advertisement signs. These investors have been told that they need to be a franchise in order to post mobile advertisement signs; he voiced his doubt that such a requirement is legal. He asked for more information.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, explained that this requirement is something that was passed by the Technical Review Board. The City did not use to have a franchise requirement; there is no process in place and therefore no way to enforce it. Council can take action on this, but there is not currently a system in place to provide franchises. The City Charter only makes reference to franchises with regards to utilities and cable franchises.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that there is no loss on amending the sign ordinance; staff is concerned about regulating mobile advertisement signs with regards to safety and towing. Staff also has concerns that mobile advertising signs is essentially conducting business in a right-of-way. The City could simply charge a permit fee as a means of controlling how many operators are driving mobile advertisement signs on City roads. He noted that staff would like to bring a recommendation back to Council.

Motion to bring this item back at the next City Council meeting with staff's recommendation.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 3. Discussion with possible action to resurface 10 City blocks in District III.

Cm. Perez clarified that District III Priority Funds will be used for this project.

Motion to approve and use District III Priority Funds as the funding

source.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

D. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action requesting an analysis of results evidenced by action or funding granted from the Legislative Agenda items for Federal and state legislative agendas for 2017 and 2018 as far as what requests have been funded and what will be our focus for the next session to include any early submissions of proposed bills and any items incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pete Saenz)

Blasita Lopez, Executive Director of Marketing, Tourism, and Communications, informed Council that staff reviewed the 2017 and 2018 listings for the federal agenda. Based on that data compilation, the City has \$195.5 million of reinvestment from state and federal programs and grants.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reminded Council that the amount of reinvestment is an example of the importance of Council and City officials attending these legislative trips.

Blasita Lopez, Executive Director of Marketing, Tourism, and Communications, reported that Council received a copy of the legislative agenda to-date. The agenda topics were reported as follows:

Transportation & Infrastructure

- I-69 widening project
- Funding for U.S. 59/Future I-69 W Corridor (US 59/I-69 Business to Havana Drive)
- World Trade Bridge Enhancements: (a) Development and construction of additional bridge lanes; (b) Relocation and construction of the FAST lanes; and (c) a Northbound Weigh-In-Motion system in all exit lanes
- *NEW ITEM: Dedication of Aviation Tax*

Mr. De Leon explained that the aviation tax dedication was added to the agenda because the aviation tax that is currently collected through fuel is funding other transportation projects rather than airport projects. This dedication is an advocacy for smaller airports. Mr. Maldonado confirmed that this is not a new tax, simply a rededication of a portion of the current aviation tax.

Mrs. Lopez continued with the 2019 state legislative agenda as follows:

Homeland, Hometown Security

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) – Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) – South Texas Development Council
- Increased funding of Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABPTA) to support City of Laredo Auto Theft Task Force (ATTF)
- Texas Ant-Gang (TAG) Program
- Virtual Wall: Preferred means to enhance border security

Health & Wellness

- Substance abuse and mental health programs
- Law enforcement partnership with Border Region Behavioral Health Center
- Designation of a public health regional fund to support public health, surveillance and security for the Texas-Mexico border
- Laboratory response network certification
- Promote health food choices in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and require nutrition and wellness education to reduce obesity

Environmental

- Re-initiate tire remediation program
- Legislation to allow municipalities to regulate single-use plastic bag

Governance

- Waiving the cost of state IDs and birth certificates for homeless individuals to reduce housing barriers
- Seeking authorization to convert sports venue tax for economic development use through public referendum
- Maintain property revenue tax cap at 8%

Cm. Perez asked that the City add state funds for trails on the legislative agenda.

Motion to approve the 2019 legislative agenda as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

Mrs. Lopez reminded Council that the 2019 Legislative Session starts January 8, 2019. The City's legislative trip is planned for January 27-31, 2019; Laredo Day will be on Wednesday, January 30. Staff has already advised its two representatives and senator of the pending arrival.

2. Discussion with possible action to propose legislation to amend TXDOT's funding formula to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) for infrastructure from a formula that is based on population, to a formula that is based on volume of commercial traffic and/or value of goods transported and any items incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member George Altgelt)

Cm. Vielma reported that at the last Austin legislative trip, this action was requested but Cm. Vielma never saw a subsequent bill. It seemed to have fallen on deaf ears, and more money is needed for infrastructure. If the formula continues to be based on population, then Laredo will not be able to compete with larger cities like Houston.

Blasita Lopez, Executive Director of Tourism, Marketing, & Communications, informed Council that TxDOT has undergone changes to the formula for funding that they used. Therefore, staff needs more time to learn what changes have been implemented and how those changes will impact the City's standing.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action regarding proposed legislation to request funding for Mental Health and dual diagnosis treatment due to the increased needs for services in our community and any items incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pete Saenz)

Cm. Vielma recalled meetings with the Mental Health Coalition and the Health and Police Departments. A problem in Laredo is that it is underfunded in mental health services, resulting in law enforcement having to intervene with individuals having a mental health crisis or episode. Sometimes officers are with the individuals for a whole weekend while waiting for mental health services.

Blasita Lopez, Executive Director of Tourism, Marketing, & Communications, reported that staff has already added an item to the legislative agenda.

Cm. Torres stated that he does not wish to push responsibilities onto other governing bodies, but the County handles all mental health issues. Indirectly, the issue that Cm. Vielma has addressed is managed by the County. He asked if the County should take the responsibility of staying with individuals who are having a mental health episode at hospital facilities. This would not only prevent a burden on the City's budget, but it would also free up the officer to

return to duty.

Mayor Saenz voiced his understanding that the County is supposed to allocate 8% of its budget for mental health responses. Cm. Torres responded that they do, but the County should also take the responsibility for transporting the patients to the hospital facilities and stay with them rather than burdening the municipality.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, noted that the Department has been dealing with this issue for years now. Once law enforcement makes contact with an individual who needs a mental health diagnosis and care, it is the Police Department's responsibility to transport the individual to the hospital. However, police often have to stay with the individual because there is not enough hospital staff to watch over the patient until a diagnosis is available. The process between transportation and a diagnosis is taking too long. Once the individual is diagnosed and recognized as having a need for treatment, they are transported to San Antonio or the valley and local law enforcement is no longer needed. He clarified that the Police Department is asking for more resources so that these individuals may be processed more quickly.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, reiterated that this issue has existed for years because the local mental health authority does not have the resources to meet the needs of the community. There is not a detox area or transitional rehabilitation process, causing these individuals to clog hospital facilities. The individual may also have a crisis that is not necessarily mental illness, such as substance abuse.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if now would be the time to ask for a medical district with the County. He recalled initiating the idea recently, and it seems to address the issues brought up in this discussion. Dr. Gonzalez agreed that a medical district is an excellent recommendation, noting that staff has discussed the concept as well with the Mayor.

Mayor Saenz added that the idea of a medical district is not very popular among citizens because of the taxes associated with it. However, he voiced his opinion that it is worth exploring. Cm. Rodriguez reiterated the need for a medical district as it saves lives in Laredo. Mayor Saenz recommended exploring a regional medical district rather than a local one to share the load.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that staff can send a letter to the County Judge and follow up with a phone call to explore initiating a medical district.

Cm. Torres countered that the County should be allocating their budget towards this matter, and the City should not continue to undertake the responsibility of another governing body, especially in

ways that impacts the City's budget and the safety of the taxpaying community. He asked Council to consider setting up a meeting between the City and the County to discuss the responsibilities of law enforcement as it relates to law enforcement presence at a medical facility and to include discussions regarding the funding responsibility of the County.

Motion to direct staff to explore as many grant and funding sources as possible to add to the City's resources for addressing mental health crises and to include a mental health crisis team to the 2019 legislative agenda and to direct staff to meet with the County regarding law enforcement responsibilities for presence at a medical facility, expanding their mental health facility hours to include the weekends, and the funding responsibility of the County, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

E. Request by Council Member Roberto Balli

1. Discussion with possible action to add lighting along San Bernardo Ave., Santa Maria Ave., and other Parks; and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Balli reported that he has been meeting with staff on lighting projects and asked for their suggestions. He clarified that District VIII Priority Funds would be the funding source.

Mayor Saenz added that the Downtown area can be assisted by the TIRZ No. 1 Board. Horacio De Leon, City Manager, confirmed that lighting is part of the Board's scope. However, the City would need the Board to implement that project plan.

Cm. Balli explained that there are a lot of residences along Santa Maria, and recently there have been two fatalities at night due to the dark, poorly-lit conditions. He asked Parks staff to continue the meeting process and to bring back a plan for lighting the area along San Bernardo, Santa Maria, Park Street, and Scott Street to Chicago, skipping the Four Corners area since that has already been addressed. He asked staff to look for lights that are currently inoperable and to consider the cost savings of adding lights to existing poles.

Robert Eads, Traffic Director, reported that when the City performs a conversion to LED lighting, adding it to an existing pole would cost about \$1,000 or less. Adding a new pole would cost \$3,000 to \$5,000 per pole.

Cm. Balli noted that the downside to LED lighting is that the light is

more directional, meaning that it illuminates a smaller area but more efficiently. While traditional lighting is less cost-effective, it illuminates a wider area. He also requested that staff consider areas where a larger arm is needed due to trees. He asked staff to attempt to light the center of each block.

Mayor Saenz asked Council to consider another route exiting the Outlet Shoppes at night.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if there is a point of contact on staff to check blind spots and lighting situations, as there are some areas in District II that need attention. Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that part of the issue may be overgrown trees around the lights that block their ability to illuminate the area. He suggested assigning one or two people per district to evaluate the lights. Cm. Rodriguez confirmed that he would be willing to use his District II Priority Funds to help address this issue, as it is causing problems.

Mr. Eads noted that staff will ask Management for assistance in securing available staff during nighttime, possibly police officers.

Mr. De Leon added that AEP is initiating a system in which any outages are reported to AEP electronically in real time automatically. AEP would add those outages automatically to their work orders. He added that in the last five years that the LED pilot program has been in effect suffered no outages, which is a benefit of LED lighting. Another benefit is the reduction of light pollution.

Motion to direct staff to budget \$100,000 to lighting in the San Bernardo Avenue, Santa Maria Avenue, and Park Street, using District VIII Priority Funds as the funding source and to direct staff to move forward with evaluating the lighting situation City-wide as discussed by Council, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to install security equipment in the Four Corners by Martin High School, Christen Middle School and Leyendecker Elementary; and any matters incident thereto.

Cm. Balli clarified that District VIII Priority Funds will be the funding source. He explained that at a Four Corners meeting, new camera technology was discussed.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, reported that the Department has been working on its real time crime center and to use the Four Corners area as a pilot program for camera and phone system installation. Police will work with Laredo ISD to find the best network

to utilize. There are now cameras that operate on a Wifi system similar to Mifi, but those have a large cost associated with them. He reported that the crime center system is already being built in Illinois; it should be ready in the first quarter of next year. Furniture is also being built; once it is ready, the Department will set up the facility.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that cameras in his district would be funded by District II Priority Funds. Cm. Vielma asked if there is a survey of the businesses or schools that already have a camera system that could be incorporated into the real time crime center. Chief Treviño confirmed that Laredo ISD and United ISD have systems that are online. Staff is creating MOUs to bring those camera systems into the crime center.

Motion to direct staff to bring a proposal for cameras at the Four Corners area at the next Council meeting for budget approval.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with school districts, universities, colleges, hospitals, Webb County and private entities, for access to security cameras at the Real Time Crime Center; and any matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez)

Cm. Vielma asked if there is a survey of the businesses or schools that already have a camera system that could be incorporated into the real time crime center.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, confirmed that Laredo ISD and United ISD have systems that are online. Staff is creating MOUs to bring those camera systems into the crime center. The Department would only be able to incorporate local entities' cameras into the crime center; incorporating state or federal entities will not be possible.

Motion to authorize the City Manager to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding with any school districts, universities, colleges, hospitals, Webb County, and private entities to access their camera systems as part of the real time crime center.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: CM. Gonzales

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

F. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to authorize the City Manager to instruct staff to install Speed Radar Units at the 400 block of Sierra Vista near Perez Elementary School and Nuestra Senora Del Rosario Church. District I priority funds will be used for this project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVI. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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 37 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on November 19, 2018.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
City Secretary