

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M-2017-R-01
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
January 17, 2017
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. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez	District I
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Alberto Torres Jr.	District III
Alejandro "Alex" Perez, Jr.	Mayor Pro-Tempore, District III
Norma "Nelly" Vielma	District V
Charlie San Miguel	District VI
George J. Altgelt	District VII
Roberto Balli	District VIII
Heberto "Beto" Ramirez	Acting City Secretary
Jesus Olivares	City Manager
Cynthia Collazo	Deputy City Manager
Horacio De Leon	Assistant City Manager
Robert Eads	Assistant City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	Acting City Attorney

Cm. Vielma joined meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Cm. Balli joined at meeting 5:38 p.m.

Mayor Saenz welcomed Cm. Torres and Cm. Vielma.

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of December 5, 2016, December 12, 2016, December 28, 2016, and January 6, 2017.

Motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2016, December 12, 2016, December 28, 2016, and January 6, 2017 meetings.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

Cm. Balli was not present.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions Communiqués

1. Presentation by Eddie Villarreal, President of the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association (WBCA), regarding the upcoming WBCA events with presentation of the 120th Celebration's Commemorative Poster to the City of Laredo Mayor and City Council.

Eddie Villarreal, President of the WBCA, explained that this year the organization had decided to make this event bigger and greater. They announced that 70,000 copies of the WBCA magazine were published and distributed. He presented the 120th annual commemorative poster of the WBCA and thanked City Council for their continuous support. He recognized all Board Members and volunteers for their support and collaboration.

Mayor Saenz thanked the organization for their diligence and encouraged them to keep up the good work. He invited the community to volunteer and thus help this organization.

Cm. San Miguel echoed Mayor Saenz's position and admired and recognized their amazing work and dedication.

2. Presentation by Streets of Laredo Mall, Inc., DBA Laredo Main Street on the 19th Annual UETA Jamboozie Festival to be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 in downtown Laredo.

Melissa Amichi-Haynes, Executive Director, invited City Council and the public to attend the Annual Jamboozie. She thanked the City of Laredo for their continuous support.

Robert Portillo, UETA General Manager, noted that this is a great event. He invited the public to attend and thanked everyone for their support.

Mayor Saenz expressed the importance of private sector involved and noted that UETA is a perfect example of such collaboration and ties.

3. Presentation by the Laredo Commission for Women to the South Texas Food Bank for their Adopt-A-Family Program. The Commission will adopt 10 families for 1 year.

Diana Rodriguez, President of the LCW, announced their most recent contribution to the South Texas Food Bank.

Alice Herrera, Co-Chair, thanked City Council for the opportunity to come before them. She explained that the Commission hosts an annual Thanksgiving event and gives away 200 bags of food to needy families. In addition, this year, they donated \$1,200.00 to feed 10 families through the South Texas Food Bank.

Alma Boubel, Executive Director, expressed her gratitude on behalf of the organization and the recipients of this donation. She encouraged City Council to donate to this cause. The goal of the organization is to reach 1,000 families. This entity covers 8 counties. She stressed the importance of this program as there are numerous families who desperately need these goods.

Cm. San Miguel thanked them for their positive energy. He noted that there is a big need for organizations like this one.

Cm. Torres commended the commission for their volunteer service and dedication.

Cm. Perez commended Mr. Villarreal for his work. He reassured his commitment through his promotional account and noted that he would like to be a sponsored.

Mayor Saenz applauded them for their hard work and commitment.

Cm. Balli explained that this is a great way to spend their fundraiser monies. He congratulated them and expressed his admiration. He stated that he will be adopting a family with personal funds.

Cm. Gonzalez echoed Cm. Balli's words and stated that he would like to adopt a family by using promotional funds is available, if not he will use personal funds to cover such expense.

4. Presentation by Jose Flores, Laredo Independent School District Theater Director, on Nixon High School Theater Students for being the only High School to be invited to perform in Edinburgh, Scotland, in August of 2017.

Jose Flores, Laredo Independent School District Theater Director, presented a power point presentation illustrating the Edinburgh Festival invitation. He noted that this is the largest festival in the world. He noted that the skills and experiences acquired during these events have helped achieved bigger accomplishmentS. He encouraged City Council members to sponsor a student.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, noted that they will consult with City Counsel to determine if this sponsorship meets the criteria.

Cm. Perez thanked Mr. Flores for all his commitment and dedication. He noted that his children were part of a play and they truly enjoyed participating. He will sponsor a student.

Cm. San Miguel noted that he witnessed numerous performances and applauded them for their work.

Cm. Vilema commended and congratulated this group for cultivating talent and developing such skills.

Cm. Torres noted that it is an honor to have so much talent in the community, especially in his district. He noted that he will support this cause.

Citizen comments

Joyce Currington, explained that her husband failed to place his disabled placard on his vehicle. Consequently, he received a fine of \$500.00. She stated that \$500.00 is a large amount for a disabled individual to pay.

Mayor Saenz noted that he addressed this concern with the City Manager's Office for consideration. He stated that State Representative, Richard Raymond, is currently working on this matter and will amend current statutes pertaining to these type of issues. He encouraged citizens who are currently experiencing this type of problem to go before a Municipal Judge and show them the placard in order to get the fine removed or lowered. He asked City Manager to place this item back on the agenda.

Cm. Altgelt stated that all City Council members have received calls of this nature. He proposed to bring this item back and create an ordinance to exempt disable individuals from getting a \$500.00 fine. He advised Ms. Currington not to pay the ticket.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, noted that at this time, the ticket cannot get dismissed as after two weeks it becomes a final judgment.

Ivan Rodriguez, encouraged and implored City Council not to proceed with a Convention Center in the downtown area. The location of this potential project is not promising as it has many problems. He explained that this project is not cost efficient.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez of Marissa Ramirez to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Marissa Ramirez, to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

2. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of Ana Saenz to the Municipal

Civil Service Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Ana Saenz, to the Municipal Civil Service Commission

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

3. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of Sabas Zapata III to the Ethics Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Sabas Zapata III, to the Ethics Commission.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

4. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of José Luis Castillo to the Board of Adjustments.

Motion to approve the nomination of José Luis Castillo, to the Board of Adjustments.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present.

5. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of Jesus "Chuy" Dominguez to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Jesus "Chuy" Dominguez, to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

6. Re-Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of Carmelita Alaniz to the Library Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Carmelita Alaniz, to the Library Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

7. Re-Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of Juan Salinas to the Technical Review Board and AD-HOC Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Juan Salinas to the Technical Review Board and AD-HOC Committee.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

8. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of Jose M. "Chema" Guevara to the Parks & Recreation Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Jose M. "Chema" Guevara to the Parks & Recreation Board.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

9. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of Johnny Narvaez to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Johnny Narvaez to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.
Cm. Altgelt not present

10. Re-Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres Jr. of Dr. Martha E. Villarreal to the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Dr. Martha E. Villarreal to the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee.

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

Cm. Gonzalez not present.
Cm. Altgelt not present

11. Re-Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres of Rosie Centeno-Hinojosa to the Para Transit Advisory Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Rosie Centeno-Hinojosa to the Para Transit Advisory Board.

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

Cm. Gonzalez not present.
Cm. Altgelt not present

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract with the South Texas Development Council (STDC) through funding from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$132,749.00 for the term period of September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017 and a rebate amount of \$152,498.00 for the term period of September 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 for a total of \$285,247.00 and amending the FY 2016-2017 Full Time Equivalent Position Listing by creating one (1) Administrative Assistant I, R32 position and one (1) Clerk III, R27 position for the continuation of City of Laredo Health Department HIV/Health & Social Services to provide medical care, treatment, case management, testing, social services and supportive care.

Motion to open public hearing.

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

Cm. Gonzalez not present.
Cm. Altgelt not present

No discussion.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

2. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a Bar, on Lot 2, Block 1, North Plantation Plaza Subdivision, located at 9653 McPherson Rd.; providing for publication and effective date. Staff recommends approval subject to parking requirements being met. Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval. District VI

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present

Rodney Roberts, Architect, noted that the family entertainment center is now in accordance with Planning and Zoning requirements.

Cm. San Miguel noted that this is an important project as many citizens are forced to commute to San Antonio, Texas if they want to enjoy the activities that this potential business presumes to offer.

Nathan Bratton, Planning and Zoning Director, recommended for this entity to comply with parking ordinances. In this particular case, this plan requires 272 minimum parking spaces. Also, 20% of surrounding land owners opposed this project, challenging statutory law. This business will generate 30 to 40 fulltime jobs, investing approximately \$9 million dollars. He noted that this business cannot operate in a B3, sale of alcohol, without a conditional permit.

Cm. Vielma thanked this business for their potential investment and job creation. She encouraged City official to support this initiative.

Roque Vela, Sr. stated that he is against the ordinance amendment because of safety concerns. He noted that this land was offered to him before but declined as it was inconsistent with ordinance requirements. He illustrated a video containing a graphic dispute between Mr. Ibarra and a female caused by alcohol. In this video, Mr. Ibarra assaulted a female victim. He stated that it is important for City Council to consider this video as it illustrates Mr. Ibarra's character. He reported that his business will

bring 80 jobs and he will invest \$10 million.

Carlos Ibarra, President of Ibarra Venture, explained that this family entertainment center will be established approximately 90 lanes.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Torres

Cm. Vielma

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Balli

3. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 3.54 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit A, located at SW corner of Del Mar Blvd and John B. Alexander Parkway, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District), providing for publication and effective date.

Staff does not support the proposed zone change only because it does not comply with the Comprehensive Plan designation as low density residential. Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval. District V.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

David Arredondo, CEO Alexander Development, noted that they did not receive the opposition letters until the last day. Therefore, they didn't have an opportunity to be proactive.

Cm. Vielma explained that she received a call from a constituent addressing some concerns pertaining to the buffer. She noted that most Homeowners were in agreement only two individuals were against.

Cm. San Miguel noted that Mr. Arredondo is a very responsible and trustworthy Developer.

Cm. Balli noted that residents would like to have a commercial area to walk to, as North Laredo is not walkable.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Vielma
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt not present.

4. 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 1, 2, and 3, Block 3, Khaledi Heights Subdivision, located at 3910 E Del Mar Blvd., Unit 3, Suite 201; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the proposed Special Use Permit. Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit. District VI

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Eloy Rodriguez, Coffee Shop Owner, invited City Council to the opening. He is in support of this item.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres not present.
Cm. Altgelt not present.

5. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots, 16 and 17, Block 12, Lomas Del Sur Subdivision, Unit V, located at 3618/3704 S Ejido Ave., from R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff does not support the proposed zone change only because it does not comply with Comprehensive Plan designation as medium density residential. Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval.
District I

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present.

Carlos Sandoval, owner, is in favor of this item. He noted that his intention is to develop a commercial area with approximately 20 rental stores.

Nathan Bratton, Planning and Zoning Director, explained that the only reason why they are in disagreement is because it doesn't match the comprehensive plan.

Cm. Gonzalez stated that he understands the City's stand but they must support small business.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. Altgelt not present.

Cm. Balli not present.

6. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 8.1450 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at SE corner of Riata Drive and State Highway 359, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff does not support the proposed zone change only because it does not comply with Comprehensive Plan designation as low density residential.

Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval. District II

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. Balli not present

Cm. Altgelt not present

No discussion.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

7. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately .11 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at south of Aguanieve Dr., and west of Cuatro Vientos Rd., from R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the proposed zone change. Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the proposed zone change. District I
District I

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Nathan Bratton, Planning and Zoning Director, explained that the applicant would like to withdraw such request.

Motion to withdraw.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 4.0462 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located west of Cuatro Vientos Rd. and North of Wormser Rd., from R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

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

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

No discussion.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9. 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 1 and 2, Block 1, Manadas Development, located at 9413 McPherson Rd., Ste.1; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit.

District VI

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Azeneth Arias, Mariscos La Laguna, noted that she in favor of this item.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by repealing Ordinance No.2016-O-122 authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a Pawn Shop, Pay Day and Car Title Loan, on the E 35' of Lot 7, Block 1693 and N 62.4' of Lot 8, Block 1693 and 34.39' of Lot 7, Block 1693, Eastern Division, located at 2305 N Arkansas Ave. and 2816 Clark Blvd.; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Conditional Use Permit. District IV.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. San Miguel not present.

Nathan Bratton, Planning and Zoning Director, noted that this territory is the same lot not two different lots.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.
Cm. San Miguel not present.

11. 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 15,432.35 SQ FT N of Block 1878 and S of Block 1877, Eastern Division as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at 3000 Jaime Zapata Memorial Hwy.; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Special Use Permit. District II.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.
Cm. San Miguel not present.

No discussion.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.
Cm. San Miguel not present.

12. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Salinas Key Subdivision, located at 8526 and 8528 Michigan Ave., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District).; providing for publication and effective date.

Staff does not support the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends denial of the Zone Change. District VII.

Motion to open public hearing.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Jerry Salinas, owner, explained that this proposed amendment is to build an office.

Nathan Bratton, Planning and Zoning Director, explained that the commission had a

concern about this permit. However, he conferred with the owner and he is willing to comply with all recommendations and requirements.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's FY 2017 annual budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$150,025.00 in the Police Trust Fund, for the payment to Sig Sauer for the trade-in service weapons that were purchased by officers. Funding is available in the Police Trust Fund.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. San Miguel not present.

Raymond Gardner, Chief of Police, noted that police officers are allowed to purchase their own guns, this practice has been approved by Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Agency.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. San Miguel not present.

(Recess)

(Press Availability)

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

14. Amending Chapter 7-9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo by adopting the 2015 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), repealing all ordinances and/or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for publication and effective date. This will be effective for all residential, commercial and industrial construction that is not single family residential or a duplex in accordance with House Bill 1736.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

15. Authorizing the City Manager to execute easement documents for the conveyance to Center Point Energy Resources Corp., DBA Center Point Energy Texas Gas Operations, a ten (10) foot easement being 0.128 of an acre (5575.68 sq ft) out of portion of lots one (1), three (3), five (5) and seven (7), block two hundred thirty-nine (239) and lots one (1), three (3), five (5) and seven (7) block two hundred twenty-one (221) in the Western Division of the City of Laredo, Webb County Texas.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

16. Amending Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Departments, Officers, and Employees), Division 5 (Civil Service) by adding and removing language to the Municipal Civil Service Rules and Regulations for City employees not covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement; as recommended by the Municipal Civil Service Commission for improvement of the existing disciplinary procedures and appeal, and grievance process for classified City employees; repealing conflicting ordinances providing that this ordinance is cumulative; providing a severability clause and providing an effective date.

Scott Roberts, Civil Service Commissioner, noted that they are two vacancies in the Commission. Cm. Vielma and Cm. Rodriguez nominations are still pending. Mr. Roberts recommended on behalf of the Commission to revise the following items: the number of Commissioners; revise the City employee appointed commission term to mirror term of Mayor and Council; revising language on replacement of vacant City employees from 10 signatures to 5 signatures; adding language to allow classified employees to sign for more than one petition; revising election process procedure; removing language on trial members hearing appeals and grievances; adding quorum language for Commissioner meetings and hearings; clarifying language that MCS Rules and Regulations are solely for City employees and not outside parties; Re-defining Reassignments, Demotions, Lateral Transfers, and Reinstatements; additional disciplinary violations under Rule VI at the Rules and Regulations were incorporated. In addition, Rule VII, Rule IV, Rule X, and Rule XI were revised.

Jacinto Juarez, Chairman, explained that he was a former City Council member and he recognizes the challenges that are presented to Council.

Alma Martinez, Christy Lara Jimenez, Jose Tellez, and Jerry Paz introduced themselves.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

Motion to pass these revisions as presented.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. An Ordinance Amending the Land Development Code Section 24.65.10 to add “Home Gardens”, “Neighborhood Gardens”, and “District Gardens” as uses to be allowed in all districts as in common practice in many cities of Laredo’s size. This shall be to promote health and wellness in the community and increase food related education. These gardens allows for the cultivation of produce for the purpose of personal consumption or on-site non-profit distribution or off-site for-profit sale. Water conservation practices must be utilized. Allowing for uses as described throughout is not contingent upon changing or establishing zoning or providing conditional or special use permits for each site.

Stephanie Garza noted that she has been very involved with project and introduced Bernon Rivera.

Bernon Rivera, Urban Farming-Gardening, explained that this is an innovating and gratifying project for the community. He is currently helping numerous groups’ plant food for purchasing purposes. This would promote health and sustainable living within the City.

Cm. Balli explained that they were approached by Laredo Main Street because the current ordinance doesn’t allow citizens to garden and sell small crops, therefore, the current ordinance is being examined for potential amendments. Allowing the City of Laredo residents have community gardens at their residence or neighborhoods would help provide produce for personal consumption. He commended them for pursuing this project. He commended the organization for pursuing these changes.

Cm. Perez explained that this amended is important as it will be implemented in the Canseco House. There are numerous Educational and Urban Agriculture benefits.

Cm. Altgelt recommended for the ordinance to include production of dairy and honey.

Cynthia Collazo, Deputy City Manager, requested time to confer and bring the item back in 30 days.

Motion to bring item back in 30 days.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Authorizing the City Manager to grant a non-exclusive franchise to Disposal Services of Laredo, Inc. to use the present and future streets, avenues, alleys, roads, highways, sidewalks, easements and other public right-of-ways of the City of Laredo, Texas for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and operating a commercial container refuse gathering and disposing services setting forth terms and conditions to govern the franchise; providing a severability clause, saving clause and effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

19. Authorizing the City Manager to exercise the third option to extend the lease for a five year renewal option for the lease agreement by and between the City of Laredo (the "Landlord") and Greyhound Lines, Inc. / Valley Transit Company Joint Venture, a Texas Joint Venture (the "Tenant") for a certain premise of 5,000 square feet of commercial area together with a bus parking area containing approximately 18,000 square feet, located at 1301 Farragut Street, Laredo Block Number 49, located in the Western Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The term of the lease shall commence July 1, 2017, and end June 30, 2022, with one (1) additional five (5) year renewal option period remaining. This new lease agreement raises the monthly rate by four percent (4%), from \$9,955.04 per month to \$10,353.24.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive final readings of Ordinances 2016-O-183, 2017-O-003, 2017-O-004, and 2017-O-005.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. San Miguel not present.

20. 2016-O-183 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 7.33 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at the southeast corner of Bob Bullock Loop (Loop 20) and Bayside Boulevard, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District), providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-183.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. San Miguel not present.

21. 2017-O-003 Amending the FY 2016-2017 9-1-1 Regional Administration Budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures provided by the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) in the amount of \$80,953.00 to provide additional funding for Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb and Zapata Counties for the period beginning September 1, 2016 and ending August 31, 2017.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-003.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. San Miguel not present.

22. 2017-O-004 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 4.56 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located south of F.M. 1472 Road and approximately .83 miles north of Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course, from AG (Agricultural District) to B-3 (Community Business District), providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-004.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. 2017-O-005 Amending FY 2017 annual budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$310,104.61 in the General Fund. The revenues are from forfeiture cases involving abandoned and unclaimed money from the Laredo Police Department Property and Evidence Section. Funding will be used to purchase patrol and officer safety equipment, capital outlay equipment and other needed items. Funding is available in the General Fund.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-005.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X. RESOLUTIONS

24. 2017-R-02 Authorizing and approving a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and United States Cold Storage, LP., in accordance with Section 3.9(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. United States Cold Storage, LP. is representing they will invest a total of \$34,500,000 and create thirty (30) New Full Time jobs. The guidelines and criteria for

the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and attachments.

Tim Bridgman, Chief Financial Officer, reported that this is \$34.5 million investment. This investment will generate 50 new jobs with competitive benefit packages.

George Cruz, Senior Regional Vice President, explained that they currently have 37 plants in the United States, and two of those are situated in Laredo. However, they would like to establish a third facility. He expressed his desire to continue with such strong relationship with the City of Laredo.

David M. Harlan, Chief Executive Officer, noted that it was a pleasure to be in Laredo, Texas and thanked the City Manager for his continuous support. He explained that they offered very competitive benefits and applaud City Council for requesting that their employees had competitive benefits available.

Mayor Saenz, thanked the City Manager for bringing this company and working very diligently on this.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, explained that this accomplishment was possible because of the vision that City Council members and the Mayor shared. He thanked City Council members for allowing him to recruit this business and thanked the company for solidifying this deal.

Cm. Perez thanked the City Manager for his hard work and thanked the company for their business

Mayor Saenz echoed Cm. Perez's words.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-02.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. 2017-R-04 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement and accept reimbursement from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection/U.S. Border Patrol FY17 Treasury Forfeiture Fund up to \$95,000.00 for joint operations overtime expenses. The City of Laredo required match will be \$30,400.00 for a total amount of \$125,400.00. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-04.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.
Cm. San Miguel not present.

26. 2017-R-05 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute 85 cooperative working agreements/mutual assistance agreements/memorandums of understanding between the City of Laredo Police Department and various federal, state and local agencies, including but not limited to: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), SCAN, et al., a comprehensive list is attached hereto as "Exhibit A". The Police Department's participation is part of the community service provided to our citizens, with no cost to the City of Laredo.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-05.

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

Cm. Perez not present.
Cm. San Miguel not present

27. 2017-R-06 Authorizing fee waivers and a tax abatement agreement between the City of Laredo and Carlos Rubio for the rehabilitation of residential property located at 1302 Laredo St, Lot 8, Block 726, Eastern Division. The proposed Residential Property eligible for rehabilitation and new construction includes rehabilitation of the existing 1,731 sq. ft. structure in the total amount of \$22,866.00 which is equal to or in excess of 20% of the Base Value of the property in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will consist of an estimated annual tax abatement total of \$145.66 and estimated total fee waiver of \$ 343.05 on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-06.

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

Cm. Perez not present.
Cm. San Miguel not present

28. 2017-R-08 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS) Laredo Metropolitan Planning

Organization (MPO) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in the amount up to \$717,903.00 with \$179,475.00 in matching funds (total of \$897,378.00). Funds will be used for the design and construction of a multi-use hike and bike trail.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-08.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. San Miguel not present

29. 2017-R-09 Authorizing the City Manager to allow the City to follow TxDOT's procurement process for the Traffic Synchronization Project which is federally funded. This special procurement process, which differs from the City of Laredo's procurement process is required by the Federal Highway Administration, 23 CFR Part 172 for this project through an Advance Funding Agreement already authorized by the City Council and TxDOT. The special procurement process is attached herein and incorporated as Exhibit A.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-09.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present.

Cm. San Miguel not present.

XI. MOTIONS

30. Consideration to Adopt the 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda for the 115th Legislative Session.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present

Cm. San Miguel not present.

31. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a LED Sign Lease by and between the City of Laredo and the Laredo Outlet Shoppes, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, c/o CBL & Associates Management, Inc., for the use and operation of the LED sign for the promotion of the retail outlet shoppes located on City property at

700 Zaragoza Street, legally described as lots 1-3 and the W ½ of 4, Block 17, Western Division in accordance with the executed Economic Development Performance and Program Grant previously approved by City Council on September 2, 2014 through Resolution 2014-R-92 between the City of Laredo and the El Portal Center (EPC) LLC, an Illinois Liability Company. The City is responsible for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 in total contribution. This agreement sets out the cost of construction, term, management, revenue sharing, insurance requirements, establishes a repair and replacement fund and other related conditions.

Cynthia Collazo, Deputy City Manager, explained that this item was recently approved by City Council. However, some clarifications needed to be implemented to include electricity and insurance but exclude salaries.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Consideration for approval of Amendment no. 1, an increase of \$440,610.00 to the professional services contract with Structural Engineering Associates, San Antonio, Texas, for the World Trade International Bridge U.S. Customs Exit Booth Expansion to complete the conceptual design of weigh in motion scales in existing exit control lanes, to complete the conceptual design of Fast Lane Donation Acceptance Program project, and for the World Trade International Bridge Expansion Project Preliminary Coordination and Consultation of Amended Presidential Permit. Current engineering contract amount with this amendment is \$552,450.00. Funding is available in the Bridge Construction Fund.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineering, stated that they conducted a feasibility study and this item is the continuation of such.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, noted that most of the improvements are within City properties. He explained that they have executed a license agreement. The application has been completed; the City is waiting on approval/acceptance status. These funds will be used to create fast lanes, execute the expansion, among other things.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present

Cm. San Miguel not present.

33. Consideration to enter into a purchase contract with sole source provider Gaumard, in the amount of \$76,406.13. Gaumard are makers of life-like simulators for Health

Care Education, to be used for Laredo Fire Department Emergency Medical Service Training Program. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund through the Laredo Fire Department- Texas Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present

Cm. San Miguel not present.

34. Consideration to enter into a purchase contract with sole source provider Anatomage, in the amount of \$84,198.00, for an imaging table. Anatomage will provide the most advanced medical visualization technology for Laredo Fire Department Emergency Medical Service Training Program. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund, through the Laredo Fire Department- Texas Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present

Cm. San Miguel not present.

35. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a continuation lease agreement between the City of Laredo and Juan Medina to allow the City of Laredo to continue to operate on the property located on 101 1st Street in Zapata, Texas 78076 for the City of Laredo Health Department Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition, supplemental and health promotion programs. The term of the agreement shall be for \$1,500.00 per month for three (3) years for a total of \$54,000.00 beginning October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2019, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department WIC Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present

Cm. San Miguel not present.

36. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an enhanced contract with Carlos N. Casas, MD, for medical services for the City of Laredo Health Department HIV Ryan

White and Health & Social services in the amount not to exceed \$45,000.00 per year for the term from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2019 for a total of \$135,000.00 for three (3) years, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present

Cm. San Miguel not present.

37. Authorizing the City Manager to ratify the payment of \$64,670.29 for past legal invoice and to authorize an additional amount not to exceed \$150, 000.00 for a total of \$214,670.29, for legal services to the firm of Bracewell, L.L.P. as it relates to the filing of a Petition for Review with the Texas Supreme Court on the validity of the City's Checkout Bag Reduction Ordinance in Case No. 16-0748. Funding is available in General Fund.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, explained that this invoice is past due. A member of the firm of Bracewell, L.L.P will be available to answer and explain any questions.

Motion to go into Executive Session to consult with the city attorney on this matter.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez not present

Cm. San Miguel not present.

Following Executive Session, Mayor Pete Saenz reported that no action was taken.

Cm. Balli stated that the attorneys need to get paid, it is critical that they do an exemplary work as they are litigating against prominent attorneys. In order to do that they must receive a payment.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Consideration to appoint a Mayor Pro Tempore in accordance with Ordinance 2011-R-029 who shall continue to hold the title and office until the nomination and confirmation of his successor or until the expiration of his term as Council Member, whichever sooner occurs.

Cm. Perez thanked his colleagues for such appointment and noted that he will do his best to fulfill his role.

Motion to appoint Cm. Perez as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

39. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City of Laredo and the El Portal Center, LLC (EPC), an Illinois Limited Liability Company. The parties will agree to split the cost of lighting and resurfacing of Lots 2 and 3 located west of Santa Maria Avenue and south of Water Street. Estimates for the costs associated with this project are attached as Exhibits. Funding is available in the 2015 C.O. and 2016 C.O.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

40. Consideration to award a two (2) year operational service contract to the sole source provider IPS GROUP INC., for an estimated annual amount up to \$75,000.00 per year with an option to extend two (2) additional years, upon mutual agreement of both parties, for active parking meters with vehicle detection sensors and associated back office service for the Parking Enforcement Division. This contract will be an estimated annual amount due to possible addition or removal of parking meters as may be necessary. Funding is available in the Parking Meter Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

41. Authorizing the City Manager to waive parking permit fees for parking meters, no parking anytime, and loading zone areas for the 19th annual UETA Jamboozie Festival on Saturday, January 28, 2017. A total of 220 parking meters and 36 loading zones will be utilized at \$7.50 each. The total estimated revenue the City of Laredo is requesting to waive is \$1,920.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

42. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Laredo Independent School District to promote physical fitness at Farias Elementary School by providing playground and exercise equipment, at the City's expense, for use and enjoyment by the students of Farias and the general public. Funding for the purchase of the exercise equipment will be through Community Development Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

43. Consideration to award a software maintenance contract to the sole source provider, Sungard Public Sector, in the amount of \$256,060.30. This maintenance contract provides customer support and service for the OSSI computer software system utilized by the Police and Fire Departments. The term of the contract is for twelve (12) months ending on December 31, 2017. Funding is available in the Police and Fire Departments annual budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

44. Consideration to award purchase contract FY17-019 to the low bidder, Cruising Kitchens, in the amount of \$73,960.00 for the built out and conversion of a 16' Step Van for the Laredo Police Department to use in community outreach events. Best value criteria was considered by the evaluation committee to review bids received. After review, the committee recommended Cruising Kitchens. An initial deposit of 50% for \$36,980.00 is required and a payment of 50% of \$36,980.00 is due upon completion. Funding for this purchase is available in the Laredo Police Department General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

45. Consideration to ratify award of Phase II for contract FY15-063 to Conventions, Sports & Leisure International, LLC. (CLS), Minneapolis, MN for the Convention Center Feasibility Study (Update). Contract amount for Phase II is \$40,000.00 including all related fees and out of pocket expenses; total contract amount is now \$136,500.00. Phase II of study includes: Hotel Market/Financial Analysis; design to fully evaluate the financial performance and relevant implications of a potential hotel/convention center that would operate as a single business unit, which is critical in establishing a beneficial negotiating position for the City should the project involve a public/private partnership framework. Funding for this study is available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Horacio De Leon, Assistant City Manager, stated that this item is an attempt to ratify Council's decision to proceed to phase two of the study.

Cm. Balli noted that the downtown area is the heart of the city. There are numerous qualities associated with the downtown area. He noted that money should be invested in this area and it has the interest of many developers. He explained that the map that was shown to him and/or made public is not a complete illustration of the proposed plan.

Mayor Saenz would like to hear from developers and potential investors. He encouraged discussion and proposals.

Ileana Bernal, Meson de San Agustin, noted that she is very excited to see Laredo thrive. However, she expressed her concerns regarding the land that will be used to build the convention center as her business/property is in the middle of the proposed land.

Cm. Altgelt stated that most consultants are advising them to revitalize and reinvent the downtown area. He echoed Cm. Balli sentiments about downtown.

Ivan Rodriguez advised Council not entertain this project. He claimed that this particular consultant is advising them of what to fear and they are going right at it. He explained that geographically, Laredo's downtown area is not the center of the city. Therefore, Council cannot compare Laredo to other cities.

Cm. Vielma echoed Mr. Rodriguez concerns. She called citizens to get involved. He directed City Staff to communicate effectively with potential affected parties.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt not present.

46. Consideration to renew annual supply contract number FY14-006 with Stanbio Laboratory, San Antonio, Texas in an estimated amount up to \$102,200.00 for the purchase of HemoPoint H2 Microcuvettes for the City of Laredo Health Department. These test strips are used to secure accurate hemoglobin blood tests and will be purchased on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for one (1), additional one (1) year period each upon mutual agreement of the parties. There will be no price increase during this extension period. Funding is available in the Health Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

47. Consideration to award annual contract FY17-014 to the low bidder ROMO Contractors, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$235,000.00 for concrete repairs of sidewalks, driveways, and curbs as a result of water line break repairs made by the Utilities Department. 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 extension periods. If the pricing remains the same or if price adjustment has mutual agreement from both parties and both parties agree to extend the contract, the contract shall automatically renew for another one year period contingent on funding availability. All work will be performed on an as needed basis required due to utility repairs. Funding is available in the Utilities Water and Wastewater Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

48. Consideration to authorize the purchase of two (2) dump trucks from Santex Truck Center, San Antonio, Texas in the amount of \$281,832.00. The purchase of these dump trucks for the Public Works Department shall be made utilizing the HGAC Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding is available in the 2014 Public Property Finance Contractual Obligation Bond and the Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

49. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY14-010 for the purchase of general electrical supplies for all City departments in an estimated amount up to \$150,000.00 to the following vendors:

1. Consolidated Electrical, Laredo, Texas (Primary Vendor)
2. 3-G Electrical Supply, Laredo, Texas (Secondary Vendor)
3. Gateway Electric, Laredo, Texas (Secondary Vendor)

This contract establishes discount percentage pricing for those electrical supplies most commonly utilized by City departments. 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 last extension period for this contract. There will be no price increase during this extension period. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the respective user departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

50. Consideration to award supply contract number FY17-013 to the sole bidder DPC Industries, Corpus Christi, Texas in an amount up to \$100,000.00 for the purchase of liquid chlorine for water and wastewater treatment for the Utilities Department. 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 extension periods. If the pricing remains the same or price adjustment has mutual agreement from both parties, the contract shall automatically renew for another one year period. All chlorine will be purchased on as needed basis. Funding is available in the Water and Wastewater Treatment Division's operating budgets.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

51. Consideration to renew the existing annual contract FY14-043 to Gonzalez Auto Parts, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$75,000.00, for the purchase of automotive batteries for the City's Fleet vehicles. 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 four extension periods. All batteries will be secured on an as needed basis. There will be no price increase during this extension period. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

52. Consideration to authorize the purchase of 350 fire safety gear sets for the Fire Department from Dooley Tackaberry, Deer Park, Texas, through the Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing in the total amount of \$275,362.50. The safety gear set consists of one (1) pair of fire boots, one (1) bunker coat and one (1) bunker pant. This contract is in compliance with current Collective Bargaining Agreement. Funding is available in the Fire Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

53. Consideration to authorize the purchase of three (3) trucks from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, Texas in the amount of \$112,519.80. The purchase of these trucks for the Public Works Department shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding is available in the 2014 Public Property Finance Contractual Obligation Bond proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

54. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of November 2016, represent a decrease of \$8,346.42. These adjustments

are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

55. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of December 2016, represent a decrease of \$15,480.99. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

56. Consideration for acceptance of the 24" EPC Water Main - Jefferson WTP to Bridge I project and approval of change order no. 3, a decrease in the amount of \$182,572.00 to adjust items and quantities of work actually constructed in place. No additional working days were added to the construction contract time for a total construction contract time of 340 working days. Release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$346,654.88 to QRO MEX Construction Co., Inc., Granite Shoals, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$2,666,391.00. Funding is available in the 2015-2016 Water System Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez was not present.

57. Consideration for acceptance of the Water Main from Beltway Parkway to Border Drive crossing IH 35 and UPRR project and approval of change order no. 1, a decrease in the amount of \$14,796.00 to adjust items and quantities of work actually constructed in place with no additional working days. Also, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$86,382.00 to QRO MEX Construction Co., Inc., Granite Shoals, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$1,172,289.00 and the construction time was 120 working days. Funding is available in the 2015-2016 Water System Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

58. Authorizing City Manager to execute the construction contract to the lowest bidder Azar Services, LLC., Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$104,875.00 for the Cielito Lindo Lift Station Elimination Project. Construction time is thirty (30) working days for final completion. Funding is available in the 2012 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

59. Authorizing City Manager to execute a service contract to the sole bidder Ace Pipe Cleaning, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri, in the amount of \$579,324.50 for the 54-inch Sanitary Sewer Cleanup and Assessment. Contract time is forty-five (45) working days for final completion. Funding is available in the 2012 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

60. Authorizing the City Manager to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$186,592.00 to Pump Solutions, Hutto, Texas for the labor and parts to repair a Patterson, 24 RHC 2-Stage Raw Water Pump at El Pico Water Treatment Plant for the Utilities Department. The emergency repairs are essential for the plant to be operating at the required plant capacity. Also, currently only 1 raw water pump is functional and that a backup pump be installed for the rated operating capacity of 20 MGD. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund-Water Operations.

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Perez was not present.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

XII (a) RESOLUTIONS

None.

XII (b) MOTIONS

None.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

- 61. Discussion with possible action of a Veteran Employment Preference Policy for the City of Laredo. This policy would require City Departments to interview at least three (3) qualified veterans from a pool of referred candidates, if possible. This policy would apply to non-Police and non-Fire civil service positions and all candidates must meet position minimum qualifications.

Monica Flores, Human Resources, reported that she was directed by City Council to examine employment policies to interview U.S. Veterans. She recommended that each City department shall be required to interview at least three (qualified) veterans from the pool of referred candidates by the Human Resources Department.

Cm. Balli noted City Council’s directive was not to verify the legality of this but rather to examine the impact of discrimination against females.

Gabriel Lopez, Veterans Advocate, explained that the females are not misrepresented in the military. He thanked the Human Resources office for all the work they have done in relation to this. He congratulated and thanked Cm. Torres for his motion.

Cm. Torres suggested for the City of Laredo to adopt a pilot project to examine the intricacies. He echoed Cm. Balli’s concerns.

Motion to adopt a policy mimicking Texas A&M International University Veteran’s Preference Program and pilot this program for 12 months. Bring this item back in 12 months to make a final determination.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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

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

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

- 62. Authorizing the City Manager to waive the Parking Fees at the El Metro Transit Center Parking Facility located at 1301 Farragut Street, on Saturday, January 28, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. for those persons attending the 19th Annual UETA Jamboozie Festival sponsored by the Streets of Laredo, Inc. DBA, Laredo Main Street.

Motion to approve.

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

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

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

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

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 63.
A. **Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez, Jr.**

- 1. Discussion with possible action on possible improvements to the Santa Rita Express Branch Library.

Maria Solis, Library Director, explained that the Santa Rita Express Branch Library is the smallest Library in our area. It is mainly open to allow students to do their homework. There is a need to improve the aesthetics and security of the

building. She requested \$ 6,800.00 for these improvements.

Motion to withdraw the amount from discretionary funds.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on establishing a local preference ordinance for the procurement process.

Cm. Perez explained that this has been an enormous problem in our City. He noted that it is important to keep money in Laredo and contract local business. He directed staff to conduct research and explore other Cities' ordinances pertaining to this matter.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, stated that they will look into it and will present City Council with research results and potential recommendations.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, explained that in 2011, Chapter 271 of the Local Government Code changed allowing them to establish a local preference without an ordinance.

Motion to direct staff to conduct research on establishing a local preference ordinance for the procurement process.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report on the results of the LED street lamp pilot program in District 3, with possible action.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Department, explained that the pilot program lasted 2 years. At the time the lights were purchased, each light cost \$500.00, now, they cost approximately \$280.00. The City of Laredo can now purchase the LED street lamps. There are approximately 14,000 street lights with a potential cost of approximately \$4 million.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, noted that based on the pilot program results, they noticed that there are existing savings and the lights don't cost as much as they did when they initiated the pilot program.

Cm. Perez stated that this is a good investment but he would like for City Staff to further explore other vendors.

Motion to direct staff to further explore this matter and to expand its coverage to cover the entire City of Laredo.

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

4. Status report on Urban Agriculture Ordinance, with possible action.

Stepahine Garza noted that she has been very involved with the project and introduced Bernon Rivera.

Bernon Rivera, Urban Farming-Gardening, explained that this is an innovating and gratifying project for the community. He is currently helping numerous groups' plant food for purchasing purposes. This would promote health and sustainable living within the City.

Cm. Balli explained that they approached by Laredo Main Stream because the current ordinance doesn't allow citizens to garden and sale small crops; therefore, the current ordinance is being examined for potential amendments. Allowing the City of Laredo residents to have community gardens at their residences or neighborhoods would help provide produce for personal consumption. He commended them for pursuing this project. He commended the organization for pursuing these changes.

Cm. Perez explained that this amended is important as it will be implemented in the Canseco house.

Cm. Altgelt recommended for the ordinance to include production of dairy and honey.

Cynthia Collazo, Deputy City Manager, requested time to confer and bring the item back in 30 days.

Motion to bring item back in 30 days.

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

B. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action on establishing Arts and Culture programming at City Recreation Centers.

Osbaldo Guzman, Parks and Leisure Director, explained that there are certain membership fees and other relevant items that need to be taken into consideration. He noted that there are multiple fees that might be associated with each activity.

Cm. Vielma explained that she has been communicating with the

Presidents of TAMIU and LCC to form a collaboration.

Virgina “Vicky” Garcia, Port of Alliance, noted that they are forming a 501 (c) (3) and extended her organization’s expertise and time to this project. They are available for consultation.

Cm. Rodriguez expressed his passion and support for projects like this.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, encouraged City Council to include Cultural Arts to discuss during the budget project. He noted that it’s important to have projects like these because not every person plays sports. He suggested that this program should not be limited to one district only but to be extended to all districts.

Cm. Torres noted that the City of Laredo should reach out to the School Districts, particularly, Vidal Treviño Magnet School to establish a partnership to benefit this project and decrease the cost.

2. Discussion with possible action on widening the 2600 Block of East Del Mar Blvd. to add a turning lane and sidewalk.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report regarding the traffic analysis for the Calton/Bartlett and Gale/Bartlett intersections to determine the need for a feasibility study of the traffic flow on the Bartlett corridor that will incorporate the Comprehensive Plan.

Roberto Murrillo, Traffic Director, explained that the department has started collecting data and analyzing such. Upon completion, he will report findings to City Council and the Mayor. He stated that his Department lacks expertise and personnel since the round a bout is a specialized field.

Cm. Balli suggested for Mr. Murrillo to consider not stopping the bike lanes implementation for safety purposes.

C. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion with possible action to replace the outdated AS400 accounting systems in current use by the City of Laredo and implement the SAP Business Solutions accounting software or similar systems consistent with other Texas municipalities relevant to the size of Laredo and implementation of other related accounting practices to improve transparency such as posting actual copies of cancelled checks, purchase orders, and invoices related to all City transactions. (Request for presentation by a SAP Business Solutions rep).

Cm. Altgelt stated that it is critical to upgrade and modernize the City of Laredo's accounting software.

Mayor Saenz requested that they take into account the financial aspect of this potential transaction.

Motion to direct staff to comeback within 30 days to report how can they expand upon the software that is currently in use, to add transparency, and to digitized invoices.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on an incentive package for employees who are eligible for retirement if it means saving to the City.

David Rodriguez, Texas Retirement System Representative, explained that in order to retire they need to be eligible. He explained that the City can compensate their employees through any other insurance venue, such as medical insurance and/or through accrued benefits. These are examples of incentive packages used by other cities around Texas. He noted that 7% for the employee's pension must be paid within a month time frame by law.

Monica C. Flores, Human Resources Director, noted that current City policies state that accrued benefits must be paid immediately.

Cm. Torres stated that they have to exercise extreme caution and be financially sensitive when considering this type of retirement programs.

Motion to Direct City Staff to analyze and report findings on whether it is feasible to offer a benefits package.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I Heberto L. "Beto" Ramirez, Acting City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 to 40 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting

held on January 17, 2017.

Heberto L. "Beto" Ramirez
Acting City Secretary