

**CITY OF LAREDO
RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATION NOTICE M2017-
R-18
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
November 6, 2017
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor presented the following:

1. Recognizing Stereo 91 FM on the occasion of their 50 years of broadcasting on-air and serving the communities of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. Known for its on-air signal letters, XHNOE, it was the first radio station in "los dos Laredos" having initiated broadcasting in February of 1967. Originally owned by Fidel Cuellar Gonzalez, it is now owned by Josefina Gonzalez Vda. de Cuellar.

Mayor Saenz read a brief biography of the radio station and presented Mr. Gonzalez with a certificate of recognition.

2. Honoring Vicente Garza with a special posthumous recognition for his lifetime dedication to the Laredo Community.

Mayor Saenz read a biography of Mr. Garza and present his family with a certificate of recognition.

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2017-R-18
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
November 6, 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. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in a moment of silence.

IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

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

Cm. Altgelt joined at 5:36 p.m.

Cm. San Miguel joined at 6:27 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of October 16, 2017

Motion to approve the October 16, 2017 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Citizen comments

Antonio Sarmiento, Jr., spoke in opposition of the proposal to build a veterans' museum in North Central Park. He wanted his voice heard and added to the other individuals who oppose the park location.

Alyce McCain, Friends of North Central Park Facebook group founder, created the group to keep local residents informed of threats to the park's green space. She noted that she wants the park to stay as is and not add concrete or disrupt its current features. She started a petition in opposition to the park as a location for the museum, and the petition already has over 400 signatures. She read several comments from the petition from the local residents highlighting the deficit of green space in the park.

Mayra Ramos stated that as an avid supporter of Laredo veterans, she is opposed to construction in North Central Park. She urged Council to find a better location for the museum, which she would gladly visit.

Emily Ramos added that a building should not be built at the park as it might scare away animals, cause pollution, and destroy trees and vegetation in the park.

Gene Belmares noted that he had partnered with Felix Velasquez to bring North Central Park to fruition. Bringing a construction project to the project is inconsistent with the original vision of the park by its founders. It is also inconsistent with the City's master plan, planning and zoning provisions, and the wishes of local residents who want lush, green landscapes and natural preservation.

Felix Velasquez voiced the same sentiments as Mr. Belmares, noting that the original vision for North Central Park was trails and natural vegetation. He opposed the park as a location for the veterans' museum.

Francisco "Frank" Castillo voiced his support of the Friends of North Central Park. He stated that the veterans of Laredo have more imperative needs than a museum at this time, like a veterans' cemetery. He asked Council to preserve the integrity of the park as it is. He reminded Council that we are limited in the green space available to us and can not destroy it.

Cm. Balli noted that since Council took a vote on the veterans' museum matter, the City heard back from Laredo Community College. The College is willing to build a museum on campus, and given the history of the fort, it is a good fit. He asked staff to set up a meeting with the college to determine the best combination of resources.

Gertrude Julie Rodriguez voiced her belief that there are already taxes imposed on citizens that are to be used for street maintenance. Therefore, a street maintenance fee is further taxation. Salaries are low and taxes are high in Laredo, making it a very expensive place to live for middle class individuals.

Mellie Hereford stated that during the previous Council meeting, Cm. Rodriguez's father-in-law made false allegations on behalf of the Council Member about Our Laredo and Mayor

Saenz when he displayed a photograph of their meeting. She noted that the picture proves nothing and is another example of Cm. Rodriguez (or a party acting on his behalf) taking an unauthorized picture and invading other people's privacy, which caused him to be convicted in a court of law. She voiced her opinion that Cm. Rodriguez's statement after Council's vote was full of arrogance and defiance. In spite of the arguments made for moral turpitude, the four Council Members who voted to keep Cm. Rodriguez on Council decided that his deceit and unlawfulness is tolerable. Those Council Members violated the trust of their constituents. She warned Council that when election time comes, the voters will not forget that Council silenced democracy. Ms. Hereford requested an Attorney General opinion on this matter and the Secretary of State's and Election Commission's opinions as to whether this election was tainted.

Juan Ramirez, Jr. of Emerald Subdivision and Construction reminded Council of a project designed to relieve traffic on Mines Road near the Villas San Agustin Subdivision implementing the proposed "River Bend Road." However, he voiced his confusion as to why this project is not moving forward. When the construction of this road is finished, Mr. Ramirez plans to donate approximately \$1 million to the City to continue the project and about 65 acres in parkland for the City, valued at \$800,000. Cm. Altgelt asked staff to add a relevant agenda item to the next Council meeting agenda to discuss this item further.

Jaime Alvarez read from a letter he composed: "I have no confidence in your ability to effectively lead our community as a result of your failure to unanimously reach a decision in the removal of Cm. Vidal Rodriguez. Therefore, your own moral and ethical standards should be called into question. This city, already stained by the stigma of corruption when the FBI invaded our municipality, has a great deal to shake off these iron chains of dishonesty. To exacerbate the situation, we now have the issue of the Rodriguez dilemma before us. The City Council already has a history of immoral and dishonest acts of its members within the last couple of years. As a Council committee, you represent Laredo. As a Council committee, you should be held to a higher standard. As a Council committee, you lead us into the future. Moreover, what kind of future are you leading us to if, by your failure to act on good morals and judgment, you set a precedent of moral turpitude? Moral turpitude as defined by the Webster's dictionary reads 'an act or behavior that gravely violates the sentiment and accepted standard of the community.' By setting this precedent, you in fact tell the country and the world that the people of this great city have no moral or ethical standards. This Council announced that the City not only allows vile moral conduct of its representatives, but that the people of Laredo allow these individuals to lead us. And this is an intolerable act that, the people of Laredo, will not tolerate. By allowing Cm. Vidal Rodriguez to stay in office is to condone his action. Therefore, by condoning his actions, your own morals and ethics should be questioned. You all as our city's leadership are accountable to us, the people of Laredo. If the government fails to uphold the will of the people, then we have a right to remove that government. Cm. Rodriguez, do the honorable thing and resign from your position. Show the people of Laredo and the world that you can be a man of integrity. Because the true question that faces this Council is how historians will view our city's representatives 20 years from now. Will they say our government is as corrupt as the machines that ran Laredo in the '30s and '40s up through the '70s, or will they say that the City and its leadership had enough and made the right decision?"

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Maria de los Angeles Osterman to the Historic District/Landmark Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Maria de los Angeles Osterman to the Historic District/Landmark Board.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Appointment by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alejandro "Alex" Perez of to the Secondary Water Source Ad-Hoc Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Chano Aldarete to the Secondary Water Source Ad-Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Presentation on the 2nd Annual National Stand Down for Homeless Veterans Event scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to be held at the Jarvis Plaza located at 1300 Farragut.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, announced that this event will focus on housing services for homeless veterans. Any homeless individuals may also attend to receive support and assistance.

Dr. Jennifer Roby of Veterans Affairs noted that while citizens sleep peacefully at night, there are troops on guard prepared to give their lives for the cause of freedom. She displayed photographs and reported that of 144 veterans identified as being homeless, Laredo has reduced that number to only seven. Not all veterans are VA eligible, but VA still works with them. Currently, 10 homeless individuals have over 20 children combined, a reminder that homelessness affects families with children. Last year's Stand Down event provided 785 services to 76 veterans and 10 civilians.

This year, the Stand Down event is expected to host 300 attendees. Ms. Roby noted that the VA is still pending some legal services that they hope to offer. She asked the attorneys on Council to consider offering their services. She reminded Council that using their discretionary funds towards helping the people of Laredo is a great use of the resources as homelessness impacts every district of the city.

Mr. Garcia recognized the Department of Labor, who provided a grant for \$7,000, and the Walmart Foundation, who provided a grant for \$2,500. Diana Fullerton was also able to secure an additional \$1,000 from Sam's and \$1,000 from AEP. Mr. Garcia asked Council to approve the item on the agenda accepting these contributions.

Mayor Saenz presented AEP a certificate of recognition for their contribution, thanking

them for their assistance to the community. He also expressed his gratitude to Sam's and Walmart.

Cm. San Miguel recalled a previous list of homeless individuals for the purpose of knowing if they go missing or notifying the next of kin in case of a death. Ms. Roby confirmed that there is a list for veterans that is maintained continually.

Claudio Treviño, Laredo Police Chief, noted that Sgt. Baker may have a list, but it is not in PD's database at this time. Police has an active Downtown presence. Ms. Roby added that the veterans list has a confidentiality release signed by each individual on the list. Chief Treviño noted that no such release exists for the civilians involved, which is likely why the list is not in the Department's database.

Ms. Roby stated that a mobile service vehicle is a great idea, but the resources currently available are needed to meet the immediate needs of the veterans.

Cm. San Miguel asked City staff to research potential mobile units to be purchased with Council discretionary funds.

2. Announcing the City of Laredo's upcoming Cit-E-Bid Vendor Orientation/Registration Seminar November 14th & 15th, 2017 at the Main Laredo Public Library located at 1120 Calton Rd. The City of Laredo is launching a time-saving, safe and fully transparent procurement system; Cit-E-Bid will greatly enhance customer service and improve communications between the City of Laredo and its vendors.

Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Agent, invited all City vendors to the upcoming orientation launch the new Cit-E-Bid electronic bidding system. This is a bilingual vendor orientation and registration event at the following times:

Tuesday, November 14, 2017:

English Session 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Spanish Session 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

English Session 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Spanish Session 10:00-11:00 a.m.

The orientation will introduce contract ordinances, policies, insurance requirements, and other necessary information to help vendors submit their bids electronically. Mr. Pescador reported that the vendors should begin registering with the City next week until the end of the year. Starting in January 2018, the City will stop accepting mailed or couriered bids and will only accept hand-delivered or electronic bid submissions. He noted that once a vendor registers, the system will ask the company what type of commodity or service they offer. Given the company's response, it will receive notifications inviting them to submit bids for projects as they are created.

Mr. Pescador explained that once the bid is submitted electronically, the bid information is encrypted and locked until the time of the bid opening. The system will not accept electronic bids past the due date and time. The system will also log the vendors who submitted the bid or viewed the invitation to bid. The system overall will be highly transparent and convenient.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2018 Airport Operations Fund budget to appropriate revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$396,489.00. These funds will cover the expenditure to replace all obsolete 800MHz radios and hardware/software due to the City's 800MHz recent system upgrade, as per attached quote. The project will be funded through a capital lease purchase agreement from 2017 – 2024.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

- Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Street Name Map of the City of Laredo by renaming the following street, located within the PG Alpha Subdivision Phase I Plat, from Palos Garza Road to P.G. Sports Road and providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

- Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the street name map of the City of Laredo by renaming the following street, located within the Killam Charco Middle School Plat, as follows: From HILLCROFT ROAD To HOOK EM HORNS AVENUE

and providing for effective date.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

6. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents to convey the "Surface Only" of 3002 Anna Street in the amount of \$126,818.00 to Pedro Venegas, the sole bidder through recently published public land sale. The vacant tract of land contains 69,440 square feet (1.594 acres) more or less, and identified as all of block number seven hundred twelve (712), in the Western Division, of the City of Laredo, recorded in the map records of Webb County.

Arturo Garcia, Community Development Director, confirmed that this amount is fair market value from the appraiser Texas Land Services.

Cm. Altgelt stated that this location lies within the hundred year floodplain and therefore merits preservation. He asked if the City can sell the portion that is not within the floodplain and keep the rest.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, stated that the City could sell that portion with an easement, which would not be buildable or usable.

Mr. Garcia noted that the buyer currently has a port-a-potty business and intends to use the property for that business, though he could not confirm definitely.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 2 Against: 5 Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Torres

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Balli

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Motion failed.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents to purchase the "Surface Only" of a tract of land containing more or less 23.291 acres, described in the attached Exhibit "A" which is incorporated herein for all purposes and together with the access easement which is described in the attached Exhibit "B" which is incorporated herein for all purposes, for the appraised amount of \$1,093,000.00. City Manager's authorization is subject to receipt of a satisfactory title commitment, release of all pending liens and subject to ensuring access to the property. Funding for the purchase of this tract of land is available in the 2010 Sewer Revenue Bond. This property will act as a buffer for the Manadas Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. Authorizing the City Manager to transfer a total of \$5,168,429.00 to the Airport Fund from various departments in FY 2017. General Fund will transfer \$4,630,156.00 from unencumbered balances for the purpose of a land transaction that occurred in 2011 for the 2800 Saunders Street property. Utilities Fund and Fleet Departments will transfer to the Airport unencumbered balances of \$367,815.00 and \$170,458.00 respectively for the purpose of correctly reflecting fair market value leases at said locations.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

9. Setting the new speed limits on IH-35 frontage roads, San Dario Ave./Santa Ursula Ave., within the city limits of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, to 40 MPH, from just North of Victoria St. to just prior to Chicago St., Mile Point 1.106 to Mile Point 3.073, as defined in the Texas Department of Transportation control section map CS 0086-16 providing for the installation of appropriate signs to indicate new speed change in the designated area and providing for publication and effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FIRST AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final readings of Ordinances 2017-O-146, 2017-O-147, 2017-O-148, and 2017-O-150.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

10. 2017-O-146 Discuss and approve an ordinance authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of approximately \$17,500,000.00 of "City Of Laredo, Texas Combination Tax And Revenue Certificates Of Obligation, Series

2017" for paying all or a portion of the city's contractual obligations incurred for the purpose of;

- (1) planning, constructing, improving and repairing city streets and sidewalks, together with right-of-ways acquisition, and drainage, traffic and street signalization, street lighting, railroad crossing and lighting improvements;
- (2) constructing, renovating and improving city-owned buildings and parking lots;
- (3) acquiring municipal equipment and municipal vehicles for various city departments, to wit: city administration, health and welfare department, engineering department, parks and leisure department, public safety department, and public works department;
- (4) acquiring, constructing and improving municipal parks and recreational facilities;
- (5) purchasing land near or adjacent to the Rio Grande River for recreational, environmental or drainage projects; and
- (6) paying legal, fiscal, and engineering fees in connection with such projects; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual ad valorem tax; approving and authorizing the execution of all instruments and procedures related thereto including a paying agent/registrar agreement and a purchase contract; approving the form of an official statement; delegating to certain city officials the authority to approve all final terms of the certificates of obligation; authorizing amendment to the city's budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; and declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-146.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

11. 2017-O-147 Discuss and approve an ordinance authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of approximately \$4,740,000.00 "City Of Laredo, Texas Public Property Finance Contractual Obligations, Series 2017" for the purchase of personal property; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual ad valorem tax; approving and authorizing the execution of all instruments and procedures related thereto including a paying agent/registrar agreement and a purchase contract; approving the form of an official statement; delegating to certain city officials the authority to approve all final terms of the

contractual obligations; authorizing amendment to the city's budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; and declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-147.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

12. 2017-O-148 Discuss and approve an ordinance by the City Council of the City of Laredo, Texas authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of approximately \$13,500,000.00 City of Laredo, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2017; approving and authorizing a purchase contract, an escrow agreement, and a paying agent/registrar agreement; approving and authorizing all other instruments and procedures related thereto; delegating authority to the mayor and/or the city manager to select outstanding bonds to be refunded and approve all final terms of the bonds; and authorizing amendment to the city's budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; and ordaining other matters relating to the subject.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, explained that this item will refinance the existing debt for a lower interest rate.

Noel Valdez explained that this ordinance, like the other three ordinances of this section, is an ordinance of delegation, meaning that Council is approving the bonds that won't price until tomorrow. The savings will be calculated at that time.

Mr. De Leon reported the estimated savings as \$909,914.00.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-148.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

13. 2017-O-150 Discuss and approve an ordinance authorizing the issuance of approximately \$22,300,000.00 City of Laredo, Texas Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, New Series 2017, for the purpose of improving and extending the city's combined waterworks system and sewer system, approving an official statement, authorizing the execution of a purchase contract, making provisions for the security thereof; delegating to certain city officials the authority to approve all final terms of the bonds; authorizing amendment to the city's budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; and

ordaining other matters relating to the subject.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-150.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XI. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final readings of Ordinances 2017-O-153, 2017-O-154, 2017-O-155, 2017-O-156, and 2017-O-157.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

14. 2017-O-153 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, Suites 306 & 307; providing for publication and effective date. ZC-76-2017 District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-153.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

15. 2017-O-154 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 304; providing for publication and effective date. ZC-80-2017 District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-154.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

16. 2017-O-155 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 4.6907 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located North of Pita Mangana

Rd. and west of Exodus Dr., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) providing for publication and effective date. ZC-77-2017 District I

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-155.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

17. 2017-O-156 Amending Chapter 14, Garbage, Trash and Refuse, Article II- Rates for Garbage and Refuse Collection and Landfill Operations Section 14-9 by adding Section 14-9 (m) authorizing and adding fees for the collection of brush exceeding the size set forth in chapter 14 section 14-2 (d); authorizing the charging of fees for the collection of debris; authorizing the charging of fees for the collection of bulky items; providing for severability, providing for publication, and providing an effective date. (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-156.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

18. 2017-O-157 Authorizing the City Manager to grant a Bridge License Extension, attached hereto as Exhibit A, to the License Agreement by and between The City of Laredo, Texas and AT&T Corp., a New York Corporation, hereinafter designated as "Licensee," dated July 2, 2012, attached hereto as Exhibit B, for the use of one (1) innerduct in the Juarez Lincoln Bridge and 555.5 linear feet of right-of-way.

1. Term of the License Extension shall be for five (5) years commencing on September 30, 2017 and terminating on September 30, 2022.
2. Annual duct fee shall be \$27,691.20 and will increase by five percent (5%) every year the License Extension is in place. In addition to the duct fee, Licensee shall pay a \$9.77 linear foot right-of-way fee, and will increase by five percent (5%) every year.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-157.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items #19-26.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items #29-52 with the exception of #28, 31, 34, and 51.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XII (a) RESOLUTIONS

19. 2017-R-114 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding, attached hereto as exhibit A, between the South Texas Development Council ("STDC") and the City of Laredo for the Management of the South Texas Regional Interoperable P-25 VHF Radio Communications trunked system and advance system key for a one (1) year term beginning October 1, 2017 at an annual fee of \$40,000.00; payable quarterly in four equal payments of \$10,000.00.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-114.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
Cm. Rodriguez Cm. Altgelt
Cm. Perez
Cm. Torres
Cm. Vielma
Cm. San Miguel
Cm. Balli

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

20. 2017-R-120 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$83,183.00 from the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2017 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)-Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA). This funding will be used to replace one fully equipped bomb vehicle that is essential and necessary in the

prevention of terrorism events. No local match is required.

21. 2017-R-121 Supporting the City of Laredo's participation in the South Texas Development Council; authorizing payment of \$36,255.84 for the City's Membership Assessment for the period covering October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018; and confirming the appointment of representatives from the City of Laredo to serve on the Board of Directors of the South Texas Development Council. Funding is available in the General Fund.
22. 2017-R-123 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,830,333.00 from the Commission on State Emergency Communications to fund the 9-1-1 program and equipment budgets for the South Texas region, including Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb and Zapata Counties, for the period beginning September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2019.
23. 2017-R-124 Casting 991 votes for Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr., the City of Laredo's candidate to the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 Term as per Section 6.03 of the Texas Property Tax Code; and directing the City Secretary to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Chief Appraiser of the Webb County Appraisal District before December 15, 2017.
24. 2017-R-125 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a continuation contract with the United States Health and Human Services (HHS) Department Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department Erasing Barriers HIV & Behavioral Health program demonstration that collocates City of Laredo Health Department HIV and Hepatitis prevention and medical care with behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, prevention and counseling services for the term from September 30, 2017 through September 29, 2018.
25. 2017-R-126 Authorizing the City Manager to approve the amendment to an existing Tax Abatement Agreement previously executed on June 16, 2014 between the City of Laredo and BACH Development-San Isidro, LLC and Reed Dinner Partners-Laredo, LLC, to reflect the assignment of the rights and obligations contained therein to the new property owner, 30 West Pershing, LLC., as approved by the City Council on August 21, 2017. All other stipulation and guidelines and criteria in the existing original Agreement are preserved.
26. 2017-R-127 Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a License Agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for controlling vegetation (Carrizo Cane removal) along the banks of the Rio Grande at Father McNaboe park; said License Agreement will allow the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's contractor to control vegetation (including, but not limited to, visually inspecting, marking, mowing, cutting, clipping, trimming, topping, pruning and/or shredding vegetation; removing cut vegetation and/or other debris; and/or

implementing erosion control measures); there is no financial impact to the City of Laredo.

27. 2017-R-128 Accepting contributions and grant funds for the 2nd Annual Stand Down For Homeless Veterans event from the U. S. Department of Labor (\$7,000.00), the Walmart Foundation/ SAMS (\$3,500.00), American Electric Power (\$1,000.00) and proceeds from Max Mandel Golf Course 4th of July event (\$1,589.08) for a total of \$13,089.08. Funds are appropriated under City of Laredo General Fund FY 2017-18 budget for Stand Down event and related homeless veterans activities. Further authorizing, the City Manager to execute all related documents in support of the same.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-128.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII (b) MOTIONS

28. Authorizing the City Manager to execute Addendum No 1 for the Toll Collection System Maintenance Service Contract between the City of Laredo and TransCore, L.P., for the hardware and software maintenance of the Laredo Bridge System Electronic Toll Collection equipment. This addendum to the maintenance service contract is for a term not to exceed six (6) months effective October 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018 and will not exceed \$106,938.48 (\$17,823.08 per month). Funding is available in the Bridge Fund budget.

Yvette Limon, Bridge Director, explained that when the Bridge System “goes down,” it is usually on the Mexico side and impacts the United States’ side. When the US side’s system goes down, staff can continue to perform its functions manually. There is not currently any mitigation or coordination between US and Mexicans Customs for hardware or software maintenance. This service contract offers assistance to the Bridge System for maintenance. There is a company technician onsite to help troubleshoot.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

29. Consideration to award a contract to sole source provider, TransCore L.P., for the purchase of 10,000 Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI) sticker tags in the amount of \$125,000.00. These AVI sticker tags are eGo® Plus sticker tags; have a protocol of 915Mhz radio frequency; are programmable beam powered; are windshield dash mounted tags and used for the Laredo Bridge System Electronic Toll Collection System. Funding is available in the Bridge System Fund.

30. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Laredo and United Independent School District involving the design, construction, maintenance and operation of a joint use natatorium, executed May 20, 2015, to allow either party to terminate the agreement at any time for any reason by giving at least thirty (30) days written notice. All other terms and conditions remain in full force and effect.
31. Ratification of consulting services by Best, Best & Krieger, P.L.L.C. for state and federal government advocacy services provided to the City of Laredo from October 2016 through July 2017, invoiced monthly and authorization to approve payments totaling \$22,074.58 for services provided between April 2017 and July 2017 to close out the service agreement for a total of \$66,933.49. Funding is available in Telecommunications, Environmental Services and General Fund.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his opinion that the Washington, DC, trip was an expensive trip with no advocate for the City, as most of the legwork was done by the City staff and officials themselves.

Cynthia Collazo, Deputy City Manager, confirmed that the City previously used Best, Best & Krieger on a month-by-month basis with plans to review those services. However, with administration changes, staff opted not to proceed with Requests for Qualifications. On July 1, 2017, a termination letter was issued to BBK, but there remain some pending payments for services rendered. The total amount exceeded \$50,000.

Mayor Saenz reminded staff that the City belongs to multiple memberships, which should be utilized for Washington connections.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm.

Second: Cm.

For:

Against:

Abstain:

32. Amending the HOME Investment Partnership Program Policy and Procedures Manual pertaining to the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program. Staff is recommending to add the following:

Application Requirements

- Applicant(s) must have resided within the city limits at least six (6) months immediately prior to being assisted with HOME funds. If prospective applicant(s) is (are) not renting, but are living with family members, a notarized letter from the family member attesting to the fact that the prospective applicant has been living with them is required. This letter should include the relationship between the applicant(s) and the family member, any monetary contribution made by the applicant(s), and the length of period the applicant(s) has (have) been living there. A copy of the family members' current utility bills is also required to be on file.
- Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen or Resident Alien.
- Applicant must have a total household income at or below 60% HAMFI as per

HUD Section 8 Program Income Guidelines (updated annually).

- Applicants must re-certify income on a yearly basis.

33. Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute contracts with U.S. and Mexico billboard, print, and electronic media vendors listed in the enclosed attachments. Media plan advertisements for the Laredo Convention & Visitors Bureau will be placed beginning December 2017. The total amount is not to exceed \$1,052,318.00. Funding is available in the CVB FY 2017-2018 budget.
34. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for the Downtown Elderly Affordable Rental Housing Located at 820 Convent Avenue for design, preparation of plans and specifications, and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. Funding is available in the Community Development Block Grant Fund. The final ranking of the top three firms is as follows:
1. Sepulveda Associates Architects, Inc., Laredo, Texas
 2. Frank Architects, Inc., Laredo, Texas
 3. Cavazos Architects, Laredo, Texas

Motion to approve Sepulveda Associates Architects.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

35. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 1, an increase not to exceed \$363,524.36 to the professional services contract with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Dallas, 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 Taxiway E and General Aviation Apron Phase 10 Reconstruction. Current contract amount with this amendment is \$535,243.36. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund FAA Grant No. 84, 90% is paid by Federal and 10% by local funding.
36. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 1, an increase not to exceed \$104,335.31 to the professional services contract with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Dallas, 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 Runway Re-Designation. Current contract amount with this amendment is \$196,862.31. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund FAA Grant No. 84, 90% is paid by Federal and 10% by local funding.
37. Consideration to extend contract number FY14-064 to United American for the Retiree Medicare Supplement & Rx Plan. The term of this contract is for three (3) years with two (2) additional one (1) year extension periods. This is the first (1) of two (2) extension periods allowed by contract and it will be effective January 1, 2018. There is a 3.03% rate increase. Funding is available in the Health & Benefits Fund (Medical Contribution Retirees account).

38. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a services agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc., in the amount of \$168,600.00 for the maintenance of the City of Laredo's 800mhz trunked radio communications system, as attached hereto. The services agreement provides annual maintenance for the infrastructure equipment, subscriber equipment, and support. Funding is available in the Information Technology Fund.
39. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute contract payments with vendors (AT&T, CenturyLink and Sprint Wireless) for providing the existing 9-1-1 telephone network, database services, and wireless/equipment maintenance for the South Texas region, including Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb and Zapata counties, in the amount of \$254,360.00 payments are for the period of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. Funding is available in the 9-1-1 Regional Fund.
40. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a contract between GEO IS and the City of Laredo for the purchase of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Network Maintenance and GIS Network Consulting through a Sole Source contract in the total amount of \$120,000.00 for a period of one (1) year with option for renewal up to five (5) years. This GIS Network Maintenance and Consulting will be provided to the 9-1-1 Regional Administration and will enable the most current 9-1-1 data to be available throughout the South Texas Region. Funding is available in the Regional 9-1-1 Fund.
41. Consideration to renew the maintenance contract with Antares Development Corporation not to exceed \$84,471.75 (.5% increase) for annual maintenance and system upgrades for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Environmental Health Services Food Inspection Automation system, Vital Statistics Data Management (VSDM) system, and Laboratory systems for the term beginning October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.
42. Consideration to award a continuation contract to PST Services, Inc. (McKesson), based on their proposal for support of a cost reimbursement analysis to submit appropriate reports to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (TASPP) to generate revenue for uncompensated ambulance costs for emergency services. It is estimated that over \$1.2 million will be generated, of which the company will be paid 5.9% of the total reimbursement to the City of Laredo for the term from November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018 and is subject to renewal for another three (3) one year terms contingent on program availability, mutual agreement and future budget appropriation.
43. Consideration to authorize the purchase of two (2) patrol units from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee Texas in the amount of \$75,228.50. The purchase of these vehicles shall be made utilizing the Goodbuy Contract Pricing Program. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund - 2016 Operation Stonegarden Grant.
44. Consideration to award contract FY17-066 to Eye View Investigations & Security, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$670,800.00 for providing city wide security guard services at various municipal buildings/locations. This vendor is being recommended for a contract award based on best value evaluation criteria. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years, subject to future

appropriations, beginning as of the date of its execution. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

45. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to approve payment for the fees assessed by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the Solid Waste operation. Annual TCEQ fee amount is approximately \$375,000.00; TCEQ assesses a \$1.25/ton fee for all refuse land filled. This authorization shall renew annually if the assessment fee does not exceed \$1.25/ton. Funding is available in the Solid Waste fund.
46. Consideration to renew contract FY16-074 with Arguindegui Oil, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$5,000,000.00 for the purchase of unleaded and diesel fuel for the City's automotive fleet. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The OPIS markup will remain the same during this extension period . This is the first of four extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Management Fund.
47. 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 last extension period for this contract. 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.
48. Consideration to award annual supply contract number FY17-065 to low bidder Al & Rob Sales, Laredo, TX for the purchase of uniform items for the Laredo Bridge System employees. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year for an estimated amount of \$27,791.15, beginning as of the date of execution. The contract may be extended for two (2) additional one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement of the parties. All materials are purchased on an as needed basis and funding is available in the Laredo Bridge System Operations Fund.
49. Consideration to award contract FY18-004 for the purchase of asphalt pot hole patch materials to the low bidder meeting specifications Metropolitan Compounds, Pembroke Pines, Florida, in an amount up to \$80,000.00. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. All the asphalt material will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Water Works Fund.
50. Consideration to award a six-month (6) supply contract FY18-001 to the low bidder 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. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.
51. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Park Place Recreation Designs, Inc., for the purchase and installation of playground equipment amenities for Cigarroa/Freddy Benavides Park in the amount of \$92,874.00. This purchase is utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program; contract pricing, contract 423-13. Funding is available in the Community Development Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

52. Consideration to authorize the installation of one (1) speed hump each on Gandara Dr. and Valnera Dr., between Moncayo Rd. and Moncayo Rd., and one (1) speed hump on Ocean Dr., between Cisneros St. and De La Garza Ln. , under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy, and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps, instead of a speed cushion, which is currently required under the policy. Funding is available in District II Priority Fund in the amount of \$6,000.00.
53. Motion to reallocate all cost savings from the Gale/Bartlett and Calton/Bartlett new Traffic Signal projects, to the construction of eastbound right turn lane on Calton Road at Bartlett.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, clarified that the original scope was not followed, which resulted in a savings.

Cm. Balli noted that this intersection was one which received multiple complaints from citizens who asked that it be returned to its previous condition.

Robert Eads, Traffic Director, reported that a cost savings was realized for this project. Cm. Vielma had requested an additional right turn lane southbound at Bartlett. This change will relieve stacking traffic at that intersection.

Cm. Balli countered that there were no complaints about this intersection until the City began making changes to it. He asked for the savings. Mr. Eads reported that the cost of the turn lane would be about \$85,000, and the cost savings realized at this point is about \$60,000 from both intersections. The Bartlett and Gale intersection is a temporary traffic signal, a savings of about \$40,000. The Bartlett/Calton project has about \$20,000 left over. This lane is a recommendation from the Traffic engineer.

Mr. De Leon clarified that normally, bond money is distributed evenly throughout all districts. However, these savings were realized within District 5, and that information was not brought before Council during the previous administration. He made the decision to bring the item before Council for full disclosure.

Motion to approve the savings reallocation.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

54. Authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract in an amount not to exceed \$83,626.00 to the Owner/Developer, Detcen Holdings, LLC., which will replace the contract awarded on August 7, 2017 under previous company name KCOM Managers LTD. This contract is to upsize the 12-inch waterline to a 16-inch waterline at Khaledi Industrial Park along IH- 35. Funding is available in the 2012 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

55. 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. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

56. Presentation by City Manager, Horacio A. De Leon Jr. on the Re-Organization of City Departments, and Management Structure.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, noted that since being appointed as City Manager, he has reviewed and assessed staff and the City's organizational structure. He displayed a chart of the City organizational structure in the past, which placed 8-10 departments under each Assistant City Manager. This prevented the Assistant City Manager from giving deep and detailed attention to each department. Mr. De Leon considered increasing the management team by adding the level of Executive Directors, which gives each member 4-5 departments. This lessens the load on each City Management team and also brings up Department Directors with 10-20 years of experience. One result of this restructuring is to make each department more accessible to Council and the public.

Five Executive Director positions were established with the following directors and designations: Personnel and Civil Services with Monica C. Flores overseeing Human Resources, Legal, Police, and Fire; Finance and Technology with Martin Aleman overseeing Finance, Budget, Information Services & Telecommunication, Municipal Court, Utilities, and Solid Waste; Tourism, Marketing, and Communications with Blasita J. Lopez overseeing Convention & Visitors Bureau, Public Information Office, Public Access Channel, and Legislative Affairs; Transportation with Mario Maldonado, Jr., overseeing Airport, Bridge, Transit, and Fleet, and; Public Services with Ramon Chavez overseeing Parks & Leisure Services, Public Works, Traffic, and

Engineering.

Mr. De Leon reported that this week will be the first week for this new management team to meet to define goals and objectives to serve the City. He confirmed that the restructuring will result in significant savings to the City of about \$354,000, after vacancies are filled. He clarified that the City will not fill the Finance Director position, as Martin Aleman will serve as both the Finance Director and Financial Services Executive Director. The five Executive Director positions will not cost more than the two vacant Assistant City Manager positions. The Executive Directors already held positions as part of the budget brought to Council. In being named as Executive Directors, they were given promotions in title.

Cm. Balli voiced his opinion that this restructuring is creating more bureaucracy, and he hoped that the Executive Directors would report directly to the City Manager. Mr. De Leon clarified that the departments organized under each Executive Director were done so because they are coordinate closely with each other, logically. There is direct communication with the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager at all times.

Cm. Balli stated that while he agrees with Mr. De Leon's justifications, he believes that creating positions and restructuring the City's organization requires Council approval before implementation.

Mr. De Leon clarified that the savings of \$354,000 already accounts for any salary increases for the employees who have been promoted accordingly. He also noted that the positions were reclassifications rather than position or department creations.

Cm. Vielma voiced her opinion that Council should respect Mr. De Leon's vision and decision, which is allowable under the City Charter. Under the previous structure, Assistant City Managers had too many departments to oversee. She commended Mr. De Leon for his diligence in improving the City's efficiency while also finding a cost savings method to accomplish this goal.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, confirmed that she will verify whether the restructuring is allowable under the City Charter, noting that it appears to be completely allowable as is now. Other cities have similar structures.

Motion to approve the City department reorganization with the exception of Legal, Police, and Fire remaining directly under the City Manager's Office.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Rodriguez

For: 2

Against: 5

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Balli

Cm. Torres

Cm. Vielma

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Motion failed.

Motion to approve the reorganization as presented.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

57. Discussion with possible action regarding the status of the Xeriscape ordinance, and any matters incident thereto.

Victor Linares, Acting Building Director, summarized that the xeriscape ordinance was directed to the Technical Review Board on June 6, 2016, who hosted meetings including local landscapers and irrigators. The Board recommended a list of incentives on October 4, 2017 and hosted a meeting with the Utilities Department on November 1, 2017. A final recommendation is expected on December 4, 2017.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

58. Discussion with possible action regarding the proposed Street Maintenance Fee with a recommendation that this proposed fee NOT be implemented at this time.

Cm. Rodriguez voiced his opinion that the citizens should not be burdened with an extra fee. The City should find \$2.5 million in the budget to allocate towards street maintenance.

Cm. Altgelt noted that the consensus of District 7 is that the district greatly needs street repairs, but the City can not continue to burden the citizens and businesses with the cost. If the City will continue with its current street maintenance regime, it will cost about \$5 million.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, voiced gratitude for the public input on this issue and agreed that the street maintenance funding source should not come from utility fees. He disagreed with staff's estimate of the street maintenance cost. He cautioned Council from setting a cost amount until after an assessment has been conducted.

Cm. Altgelt stated his desire to task the Chief Innovation Officer to find the \$2.5-\$5 million in savings to fund street maintenance in-house. Mr. De Leon clarified that Council's previous action directed staff to find a 5% savings from the existing budget. When staff brings the 5% or more of savings to Council, Council can allocate some to street maintenance. There is money to get through this year. Staff will bring a plan to Council for future years. Buying 20-year bonds for street maintenance is irresponsible as the street lives will only be extended for 7-10 years.

Cm. Gonzalez asked for a paving report history from 2012-2017 for all districts.

Mr. De Leon clarified that while streets can last 20-25 years, they need maintenance within 7-10 years.

Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath thanked John Orfila and Robert Eads for speaking to the Our Laredo group and voiced the group’s opposition to the street maintenance fee despite the need for street maintenance. While the City continually claims that tax rates have not been increased for many years, the appraisal values of all properties have increased, which indeed results in more taxes. This year, the City will bring in an extra \$68 million due to increased property values. He recommended allocating some of that revenue for the street maintenance rather than taxing the citizens.

David Cardwell thanked the City Manager and staff who recommend that the street maintenance fee not be imposed at this time. Council has \$7.5 million in total district discretionary funds that Council has control over. Mr. Cardwell’s research found large transactions in the last year among different districts for projects that do not greatly contribute to the City, like a lazy river and decorative lighting poles. There should be a mechanism in place to ensure that the citizens are receiving the best value for their tax dollars. He recommended that the City follow the City of Los Angeles’s example and create a Discretionary Funds Task Force. This group would focus on how the discretionary funds should be used with criteria and public input opportunities.

Ivan Rodriguez noted that past Laredo leaders spent money based on “wants” and emotions, resulting in foolish spending. He commended Mr. De Leon and his management organization as they pursue responsible spending. He urged Council to spend wisely and protect the limited and hard-earned dollars of the taxpayers.

Motion to direct staff to find \$2.5 million of savings during the next Capital Improvement Plan for resurfacing City streets and perform a cost assessment for repaving streets and request a 2012-2017 paving report history for all districts, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

Cm. Vielma reported that the City of Houston has a pay-as-you-go policy to finance some capital improvement projects rather than pursuing bonds.

Mayor Saenz noted that the Chief Innovation Officer will likely need to listen to public input for certain items of business.

Motion to task City staff to research pay-as-you go financing for street maintenance repairs.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

It was noted that this motion is out of order following Cm. Rodriguez’s motion which passed with direction to staff.

Motion withdrawn.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Items #59-62.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

59. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to consult with attorney on contemplated litigation related to the property located at 1806 Barrios; and return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

No action taken.

60. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to consult with attorney on contemplated litigation related to the property located at 317 West Maple Loop; and return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

No action taken.

61. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 551.071(1)(A) to consult with attorney on pending litigation in Cause No. 2017CVK002349-D2; City of Laredo v. Laredo Lomas Properties, Ltd. and the Premises located at 1500 Logan Street, Laredo, Webb County, Texas 78040; In the 111th District Court, Webb Texas, Laredo Division; and return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

No action taken.

62. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to consult with attorney on pending litigation in Cause No. 2015EDA000004-C3, City of Laredo v. Jose C. Resendez, in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Webb County, Texas, related to the property located at 8801 Mines Road; and return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

Motion to proceed with the settlement agreement.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

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. Torres

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

63. Consideration to award annual contract, FY17-062 to Andy's Auto Air and Bus Air, Inc., Laredo, Texas for providing fleet air conditioning services for the Transit System Fleet, in the estimated amount of \$65,000.00 per year. The term of this contract will be for a period of two (2) years with an option to renew for an additional two (2) year period. This contract will be automatically renewed for two years if the contract pricing does not exceed the current pricing structure. Funding is available in the Laredo Transit Management Inc. - Operations Budget.

Cm. Vielma noted that this contract exceeded the approved amount. Claudia San Miguel, Transit Director, could not confirm that statement at this time.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Perez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Torres

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Balli

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

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

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

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

64.

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Status of structural conditions and repairs of Bridge #1 Gateway to the Americas.

Mario Maldonado, Executive Director of Transportation, reported that staff attended a meeting at Texas A&M International University with Mexican officials and was expecting an inspection report, which was delayed to an emergency on the part of the inspector. However, staff was assured that there is no risk on the Mexican side of the bridge. Damage is only superficial at this time.

Mayor Saenz asked the media to make note and to contact Mr. Maldonado with any additional questions.

2. Discussion with possible action suspending collection of parking fees on public parking meters on weekends during the coming holiday season.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to formally create a Veterans Organization Commission and have each recognized veterans group each appoint a representative to the commission and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

B. Request by Council Member Roberto Balli

1. Discussion with possible action to consider the following facility name changes:

1. Renaming of Tres Laredo Parks to John Peter & Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo Tres Laredos Park
2. Renaming of the Northwest Boys & Girls Club to Hector J. Noyola Boys & Girls Club

The name changes have been reviewed and approved by the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission.

Cm. Balli reported that both of these recommendations were passed by the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission, and the next step involves meeting with the Parks & Leisure Services Department to set a date for a ceremony. He asked staff to contact the Montalvos to assist in setting a date.

Mayor Saenz congratulated the namesakes for the reputations that led to their recommendation for facility names.

Consuelo “Chelo” Montalvo thanked Cm. Balli for recommending her husband and herself as namesakes for the Tres Laredos Park, a distinction that makes her feel honored. The Montalvos eagerly await the ceremony.

Cm. Balli added that Hector Noyola’s service to the community is very honorable. The Northwest Boys & Girls Club is a City-owned building, and the facility’s board will soon come before Council with requests for improvements. He asked Council to consider providing funding for those improvements. He asked staff to add an agenda item to the next Council agenda regarding improvements to the facility.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to consider the implementation of a student bus service program in partnership with the Laredo Community College that incentivizes school attendance by reducing or eliminating the fare cost to eligible students and for those students determined to be eligible by LCC.

Pola Hannan Kuri, Student Body President of Laredo Community College, noted that one of the biggest struggles students face is transportation. The average student rides over two busses per day, and the approval of this item would greatly improve their chances of safety and success during their educational time at LCC.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit Manager, reported that a group of LCC students approached the department to provide transportation services to the student body to make it easier for them to attend school and related programs. While the current Transit technology does not allow for a bus pass system, she proposed a fare structure (which has been approved by LCC) that allows students to use unlimited trips with their valid student IDs. The Transportation Service will become a part of the students’ tuition, and financial aid will be available for eligible students. Costs will be handled by the LCC Admissions Office with the El Metro Customer Service Coordinator.

Cm. Balli noted that the City has a real need for a bus or transportation card system that can separate fares. He congratulated the LCC students for their perseverance and voiced his hope that this proposed fare structure will help them achieve their academic and professional goals.

Cm. Torres reported that he was contacted by Texas A&M International University's Student Services asking to be included as well. He asked staff to consider offering this service to TAMIU.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his disappointment that Transit is not up to date on its services and online presence. Mrs. San Miguel clarified that Council chose not to fund the bus pass proposals that Transit presented. Transit is currently working on activating the ability to track busses via Google Transit. Cm. Altgelt asked staff to bring a staff report to Council to address these issues.

Motion to implement student bus pass service with Laredo Community College and research the opportunity to offer services to TAMIU.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma asked for wifi for the busses to aid the students doing homework en route to and from school. Mrs. San Miguel confirmed that the department is working on installing wifi in the LCC busses as a priority. TAMIU did not approach Transit. She added that LCC is willing to pay for the wifi service.

D. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action regarding the Public Right-of-Way ordinance as it relates to permit requirements for residential driveways, sidewalks and any other items incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to amend the 2001-2002 Second Edition (updated 2011), Priority Procedures for the Mayor and City Council, Priority II., Council Meetings, Sec. III., D. I to amend the number of agenda items placed by the Mayor or by a Council Member from four (4) to three (3), and any items incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 3

Against: 4

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Perez

Cm. Balli

Cm. Torres

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

Motion fails.

Cm. Vielma noted her concern that Council often has to rush at the end of Council meetings to address all of the issues that Council Members wish to address. Sometimes items need to be tabled because the people who need to present to Council are not available. Limiting items will cause a bigger backlog. Therefore, she opposed limiting the number of agenda items on the agenda as it will slow Council's progress.

Mayor Saenz noted that the public has criticized Council for increasing their salaries. This item gives the impression that now Council wants to work less by bringing fewer issues to Council meetings.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Perez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Torres

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Balli

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. Presentation by Solar One on providing solar services to the City of Laredo.

Terry Miller, Solar One President, reported 15 years of experience in solar energy. As costs of solar installations have dropped, more cities are able to afford solar projects. He proposed a solar installation project in which Solar One would own, insure, maintain, and monitor the solar asset using City rooftop space and sell the power back to the City, which is usually 10-30% cheaper than what the City pays its current energy supplier. As a tax exempt entity, there are subsidies and rebates available to the City for solar energy consumption. The model is flexible, allowing Solar One to work with the City's needs and value preferences.

Cm. Altgelt clarified that the City provides rooftop space rent free to Solar One in exchange for a discount in power. Mr. Miller confirmed that if the City were to acquire the system, it would do so at a fraction of the cost. Solar One typically finances for 12 years, at which point their debt would mature. Solar One has not yet reviewed the energy consumption of the City.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, reported that several solar companies have approached the City and performed audits. From those audits, the City found that even at a reduced rate per kilowatt hour, it is not very cost effective to install solar panels.

Mr. Miller clarified that Solar One is different in that the company does not ask the customer to purchase the equipment but instead offer to utilize the customer's rooftop space and sell back energy. The City would not have to pay its AEP transmission distribution costs as it does currently.

Cm. Rodriguez requested that staff meet with Solar One and release any information that will help the company perform a cost analysis.

No action taken.

E. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alejandro "Alex" Perez

1. Discussion with possible action on installing/upgrading seven (7) bus stops in District III.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on installing ten (10) sidewalks in District III.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

3. Presentation by Canseco House Committee on the community supported agriculture (CSA), with possible action.

Viviana Frank of CSA reported that local food sustainability is an issue of quality of life and economic development.

Karen Gaytan explained that local food sustainability is defined as food that is grown within a reasonable distance from where it is eaten, ensuring social, economic, and environmental sustainability. It ensures that agricultural profits stay in the local economy and reduces waste by being ecologically responsible. Local food sustainability reduces the risk of genetically modified produce. She reported that the US Department of Agriculture considers most of Laredo to be a food desert.

Ms. Gaytan noted that CSA is promoting a community supported agricultural system, which is a membership-driven, long-term economic arrangement between farmers and consumers. Potential members include the City's Environmental, Health, Parks, and City Manager's departments, restaurateurs, livestock advocates, urban agriculture advocates, beekeepers, philanthropists,

and the academic community. She asked Council to allow Mark Winne, consultant for such endeavors, to come present to the City on his expertise in solving community hunger issues.

MPT Perez asked if the City can call on Mr. Winne directly, or if the RFQ and procurement process must be followed.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, clarified that staff already met with Mr. Winne, and he can be hired through the non-profit Keep Laredo Beautiful for \$3,000-\$5,000.

Cm. San Miguel encouraged the Health Department to allow permitting for CSA to function at the farmers' market.

Cm. Vielma noted that the Holden Institute has a community garden underway and encouraged CSA to collaborate with them to ensure awareness.

Mayor Saenz asked if a cost analysis has been performed, as his experience with growing produce proved to be expensive.

A man, who did not provide his name for the record, clarified that growing one's own produce has some initial costs that may be considered expensive, depending on the scale of production. However, once the process is learned, it is very sustainable.

Cm. Perez noted that with the closing of the Downtown HEB and the District 4 Super S, this item is time-sensitive.

Mrs. Frank introduced the members involved in the presentation group.

Cm. Vielma asked that the consultant's presentation be televised on the Public Access Channel for public education.

Motion to hire Mark Winne as a consultant, televising his presentation, and move the community supported agriculture project forward, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Balli were not present.

F. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Status report on the construction of the Laredo Animal Care Services Administration Building and any other matters incident thereto.

No discussion or action taken.

G. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action to assist the official City of Laredo Mountain

Biking Team with support and any items incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member George Altgelt)

Cm. Altgelt reported that last year, the City supported the middle and high school mountain biking teams, who went on to win a first place state championship.

Luis Dominguez, cycling coach for the team, highlighted the team's achievements from 2012 to-date, including 16 top 5 athletes, 5 individual champions, 2016 3rd place middle school team, and the 2017 middle school state champions. There are currently 20 kids involved with the team. Since the team has been made the official cycling team of Laredo, the 2018 uniforms will include the City logo.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, confirmed that the team meets the criteria of sponsorship and receiving financial support from the City. Horacio De Leon, City Manager, added that the team also meets the criteria of Council promotional funds for financial support.

Cm. Vielma and Cm. Rodriguez requested the team to conduct promotional events or clinics in their districts. Cm. Vielma also asked the team to place their events in the community calendar to spread the word.

Cm. Perez noted that he will not donate at this time, but he would like to meet with the team to discuss opportunities in District 3. Mayor Saenz noted that he will also refrain from donation at this time.

Motion to donate \$500 each from the promotional funds of Districts 6, 1, 2, 5, and 8, along with \$1,000 from the Convention and Visitors Bureau and \$1,000 from the District 7 promotional funds, to the City of Laredo Mountain Biking Team, as amended.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Balli was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to establish a Non-Profit to raise money for the mission and objectives of the Cultural Arts Committee allowing for per-district fundraiser accounts and any items incident thereto.

Gabriel Castillo of the Fine Arts & Culture Commission reported that the Commission is an active group led by Arturo Garcia and Diana Fullerton. There are a lot of projects and ideas in mind. If the Commission were to set up a 501(c)(3), it would be a benefit to the Commission and the City. Grant moneys could be made available to help fund these projects, which would increase tourism to Laredo.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, clarified that the Commission would qualify for a 501(c)(4) and not a (c)(3). This was done similarly for Keep Laredo Beautiful and is independent.

Motion to form a 501(c)(4) for the Fine Arts & Culture Commission.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

3. Discussion with possible action to modify our City Ordinance to improve compliance with legislative updates and case law in reference to prohibitions and restrictions regarding registered sex offenders and any items incident thereto.

No discussion or action taken.

4. Discussion with possible action to establish a Veterans Welcome Center at the Airport and any items incident thereto.

No discussion or action taken.

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

1. Discussion and possible action to include additional language to the City's Resolution in support of the Paris Climate Accord. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. and Council Member Nelly Vielma)

No discussion or action taken.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the timing of euthanization of dogs by the City of Laredo Animal Care Services.

Lourdes Aviña reported an incident that occurred a few weeks ago at the Laredo Animal Care Facility. Ms. Aviña was there to rescue a dog that had been picked up earlier that day; her husband had been feeding the dog at his place of employment for about a month. She was told that she would need to adopt the dog for \$140, and she did not object. She was told that the facility's policy states if a person feeds a dog for more than 24 hours, the dog is technically that person's, which means that Ms. Aviña did not have to pay the adoption fee for the dog. Rodolfo Gonzalez of the facility explained that the dog needed to stay in the facility for 3 days for observation and to give its previous owner time to come collect him, even though the dog had been outside Ms. Aviña's brother's place of employment for over a month. She had to leave the dog at the facility over the weekend since the facility would not release him to her, but after the weekend the receptionist at the front desk would not release the dog because it was late in the afternoon.

The next day, the Aviñas arrived to pick up the dog, and the dog was not there. Mr. Gonzalez, who had the dog's paperwork throughout this ordeal, left for 20 minutes to check on the dog, and when he returned he reported that the dog had been euthanized that morning. Despite his assurances that the dog would be fine and the steps he took to ensure the dog would be protected, Mr.

Gonzalez could not explain or understand why the dog was euthanized. Mr. Gonzalez apologized to Ms. Aviña, but she voiced her disappointment that this dog, who had a loving family making multiple attempts to adopt him, was killed after Animal Care Facility employees did not follow procedure.

Cm. Torres, as Council's appointee to the Animal Services Advisory Committee, reported that the committee is improving every day. He reported that the committee and City management were notified immediately of the incident as reported by Ms. Aviña, which troubled him. He asked that the facility waive adoption fees for the family to adopt another dog and posed the question to management and Council what is being done to make sure that a situation like this never occurs again.

Ms. Aviña continued that although Mr. Gonzalez offered her another dog to adopt that day, it is not that easy to replace the dog that was euthanized.

Cm. Torres noted that Council is continually trying to improve its Animal Care Facility, and the City needs to establish procedures and policies that will ensure this does not happen again. It is a necessity for the City to have a professional who is experienced in the care of animals. The City now has a licensed veterinarian to ensure the care of the animals at the facility as well as new leadership in the department "getting her feet wet" with the procedures and needs of the facility.

Cm. Perez noted that this issue should have been addressed at the staff level rather than at a Council meeting. The Aviñas countered that they demanded to bring this to Council's attention. Cm. Altgelt added that had Cm. Perez lost a pet to the negligence of a City department, he would also want justice.

Cm. San Miguel offered his condolences to the Aviñas for their loss and expressed that even though the facility has a new director, the employees that have been there for a while should have known better than to let this happen.

Ramon Aviña asked about the current processes that led to this incident. He asked who has the final say when an animal is euthanized and expressed his opinion that the Animal Care Facility is not user-friendly. It is too difficult for people to rescue animals. The staff needs training in customer service, and the hours of operation and the procedure for pet adoption needs to be reviewed. He asked Council to donate some of their funds to assist the Animal Care Facility to spread the awareness and education of their services.

Clarissa Rangel, Animal Care Services Director, confirmed that the department waits 72 hours before euthanasia is considered. There are about 600 animals that go through the facility per month with only 220 kennels to hold them. 170 of those kennels are for dogs. There is insufficient space to hold every animal that needs shelter. The facility prioritizes zoonotic disease prevention. Ms. Rangel reported that in light of this incident, she developed a color-coding system that tags animals as a family interested in adoption: green for rescues, pink for foster/adoption, blue for return to owners, and red for animal bite cases. The color codes are placed on the kennel as well as on the computer system. The veterinarian has a lot of input for operations and the euthanasia approvals.

Ms. Rangel reported that a lack of communication amongst staff led to the Aviña's situation. However, despite that lack of communication, the facility's procedures were followed. It was not communicated to the clinic staff that a family was interested in the dog and were visiting him daily. She could not confirm why these facts were not communicated to the clinic staff, but as a result, she implemented corrective action. She also reported that staff is stressing the importance microchipping and registering pets so that owners may quickly recover their pets. The facility takes pictures of each animal that comes in and updates the department's Facebook page every day. The list of animals to be euthanized was approved after 5:00 p.m. the day before the incident occurred. From her research, Ms. Rangel found that the Aviñas were told to come to the shelter at 8:00 a.m. to retrieve the dog and did not. The clinic staff has to receive communication in order to avoid this incident from happening again, as the vet on-site is the one that approves the euthanasia list. She reiterated that better communication is needed between the front office staff and the clinical staff.

Mrs. Aviña clarified that she was never told that she needed to be at the facility at 8:00 a.m.; she was there the day before at 4:20 p.m. and was told that it was too late to take the dog home and she would have to come back the next day. Since she works, she arrived at the facility the next day at 3:00 p.m. She noted that the corrective action described by Ms. Rangel sound like good measures to prevent another incident.

Mr. Aviña disagreed that color coding is a remedy, because the facility staff can still fail to follow the procedures. He voiced his wish that responsible parties receive a reprimand or be fired and ensure that management holds employees responsible for following the proper procedures.

Cm. Rodriguez stated that this incident was one time too many. That being said, he voiced his opinion that "crucifying" the City employees is unnecessary as the new Director has implemented corrective action to repair the multiple problems of the Animal Care Facility. He assured the public that the issue is being addressed, and the facility will improve.

No action taken.

3. Status Report on all District 7 storm damages that occurred on May 21, 2017 maintenance/repairs costs and TML insurance reimbursements, with possible action.

No discussion or action taken.

4. Discussion and possible action to direct the city auditor to ascertain the amount of money that Public Works will need to keep up with street maintenance repairs and to identify savings from the Parks Department to pay for them.

Cm. Rodriguez voiced his opinion that the citizens should not be burdened with an extra fee. The City should find \$2.5 million in the budget to allocate towards street maintenance.

Cm. Altgelt noted that the consensus of District 7 is that the district greatly needs

street repairs, but the City can not continue to burden the citizens and businesses with the cost. If the City will continue with its current street maintenance regime, it will cost about \$5 million.

Horacio De Leon, City Manager, voiced gratitude for the public input on this issue and agreed that the street maintenance funding source should not come from utility fees. He voiced disagreement with staff's estimate of the street maintenance cost. He cautioned Council from setting a cost amount until after an assessment has been conducted.

Cm. Altgelt stated his desire to see the Chief Innovation Officer to find the \$2.5-\$5 million in savings to fund street maintenance in-house. Mr. De Leon clarified that Council's previous action directed staff to find a 5% savings from the existing budget. When staff brings the 5% or more of savings to Council, Council can allocate some to street maintenance. There is money to get through this year. Staff will bring a plan to Council for future years. Buying 20-year bonds for street maintenance is irresponsible as the street lives will only be extended for 7-10 years.

Cm. Gonzalez asked for a paving report history from 2012-2017 for all districts.

Mr. De Leon clarified that while streets can last 20-25 years, they need maintenance within 7-10 years.

Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath thanked John Orfila and Robert Eads for speaking to the Our Laredo group and voiced the group's opposition to the street maintenance fee despite the need for street maintenance. While the City continually claims that tax rates have not been increased for many years, the appraisal values of all properties have increased, which indeed results in more taxes. This year, the City will bring in an extra \$68 million due to increased property values. He recommended allocating some of that revenue for the street maintenance rather than taxing the citizens.

David Cardwell thanked the City Manager and staff who recommend that the street maintenance fee not be imposed at this time. Council has \$7.5 million in total district discretionary funds that Council has control over. Mr. Cardwell's research found large transactions in the last year among different districts for projects that do not greatly contribute to the City, like a lazy river and decorating lighting poles. There should be a mechanism in place to ensure that the citizens are receiving the best value for their tax dollars. He recommended that the City follow the City of Los Angeles's example and create a Discretionary Funds Task Force. This model will focus on how the discretionary funds should be used with criteria and public input opportunities.

Ivan Rodriguez noted that past Laredo leaders spent money based on "wants" and emotions, resulting in foolish spending. He commended Mr. De Leon and his management organization as they pursue responsible spending. He urged Council to spend wisely and creating to protect the limited and hard-earned dollars of the taxpayers.

Motion to direct staff to find \$2.5 million of savings during the next Capital Improvement Plan for resurfacing City streets and perform a cost assessment for

repaving streets and request a 2012-2017 paving report history for all districts, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

Cm. Vielma reported that the City of Houston has a pay-as-you-go policy to finance some capital improvement projects rather than pursuing bonds.

Mayor Saenz noted that the Chief Innovation Officer will likely need to listen to public input for certain items of business.

Motion to task City staff to research pay-as-you go financing for street maintenance repairs.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

It was noted that this motion is out of order following Cm. Rodriguez's motion which passed with direction to staff.

Motion withdrawn.

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.