

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2016-R-10
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 1110
HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
June 6, 2016
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pete Saenz | Mayor |
| Rudy Gonzalez | District I |
| Vidal Rodriguez | District II |
| Alejandro Perez, Jr. | District III |
| Juan Narvaez | Mayor Pro-Tempore, District IV |
| Roque Vela, Jr. | District V |
| George J. Altgelt | District VII |
| Heberto L. Ramirez | Acting City Secretary |
| Jesus Olivares | City Manager |
| Cynthia Collazo | Deputy City Manager |
| Horacio De Leon | Assistant City Manager |
| Robert A. Eads | Assistant City Manager |
| Raul Casso | City Attorney |

Motion to excuse Cm. San Miguel and Cm. Balli.

Moved: Cm. Narvaez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

Cm. Gonzalez joined at 5:37 pm.

Cm. Perez joined at 5:41 pm.

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of May 16, 2016 and May 31, 2016

Motion to approve the May 16 and May 31, 2016 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Narvaez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
Communiqués

None

Recognitions

- a. Recognizing the United South High School Tennis Team for being District 29-6A Spring Tennis Champions.

Coach Roxanne Robledo noted that the Lady Panthers has been District Champions twice in the past three years. She introduced the tennis team.

Mayor Saenz presented the team with certificates of recognition for their accomplishment.

- b. Recognizing the Laredo Heat Girls Soccer Team for winning State at Super 2 Division in Fall 2014, received 4th place in Presidents Cup at the State Final 2015 Spring Season and also won State Champions in Division 2 in Fall of 2015. The Laredo Heat Soccer Team has been one of the best girls soccer team in the State the last two years.

Daniel Perez stated that Laredo Heat Girls Soccer Team has only lost five games in three years. He introduced the players and their accolades. He thanked Cm. Perez for making him President of the Laredo Soccer League in Chacon. Since becoming President, Mr. Perez reported that over 50 girls have received collegiate soccer scholarships. He also thanked Osbaldo Guzman at Parks.

Cm. Perez congratulated the players on their achievement. Mayor Saenz presented the team with certificates of recognition.

- c. Recognizing Karen Tarango, the recently crowned and current reigning Miss Teen Laredo Latina; and also Alejandra Hernandez Jasso, the recently crowned and current reigning Miss Laredo Latina for their accomplishments in winning their respective pageant competitions.

Alejandra Hernandez Jasso stated that she is proud to represent Laredo. Her competition will be in January in Houston, Texas.

Karen Tarango noted that her competition will be in July where she will run for Miss Teen USA.

Mayor Saenz presented them with certificates of recognition for their accomplishments.

Citizen comments

Armando Cisneros noted that Cm. Vela spoke in a previous meeting in support of raising taxes for street improvements. Since the street improvements would affect the entire City of Laredo and each district, he stated that if each Council Member allocates half of their discretionary funds, it will provide the \$2 million needed for this improvement. This would prevent an additional burden on the tax payers. He also stated that on the City's list of expenses, \$511,000.00 are listed for Code Enforcement CDBG. He asked if that is for the whole City, because only some areas qualify.

Frank Retnofsky, local consultant for the upcoming comprehensive plan for the City of Laredo, invited Council and the public to their first public meeting on Tuesday, June 14, at the McKendrick, Ochoa, and Salinas Branch Library in South Laredo. This meeting is an opportunity for Laredoans to tell consultants and the City of Laredo what they want their city to be.

Mario Peña stated that the comprehensive plan is built upon public approval and input. He revealed the website www.vivalaredo.org and invited citizens to visit it. He introduced the schedule on the website as well as an educational video detailing the purpose of the comprehensive plan.

Rolando Piña, Austin resident, noted that he decided to invest in Laredo over 10 years. The neighbors around 4017 Juarez, which is a block away from the final reading of item 16 (4103 Santa Maria), are also senior citizens. He provided comments on behalf of the neighbors in opposition to the paint and body shop, which is on a very small lot. After Council approved the ordinance, he reached out to Cm. Balli about discrepancies and hasn't heard back. He asked Council to refer this item back to the Planning Commission and start over. The man wanting to paint cars at this location will not live there, but the neighbors will and do not wish to.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Appointment by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez of Nathan Chu to the Ethics Commission.

Motion to approve the appointment of Nathan Chu to the Ethics Commission.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- b. Appointment by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez of Jerry Palizo to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Jerry Palizo to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo's FY 2016 Budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$301,641.00 for the Max Mandel Golf Course Operating Fund. The revenues are from lease purchase proceeds related to the financing of maintenance equipment for the Golf Course. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vela confirmed that this amount is coming from a collection that was already approved previously.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Vela
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Public hearing allowing interested persons to comment on the 2016-2017 One Year Action Plan which identifies the projects proposed to be funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City anticipates receiving \$3,436,805.00 in 42nd Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$854,378.00 through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and \$311,462.00 through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). An additional \$4,128.00 is anticipated to be received through CDBG program income, \$95,192.00 in Section 108 Loan Repayment, \$72,000.00 in Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan funds, and \$160,000.00 in HOME program income. The following projects are proposed to be funded:

42nd AY Community Development Block Grant

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Community Development Administration | \$661,072 |
| Housing Rehabilitation Administration | \$293,475 |
| Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (PI) | \$450,000 |
| Code Enforcement | \$511,214 |
| Graffiti Removal Program | \$57,741 |
| Section 108 Loan Repayment | \$95,192 |
| Transitional Housing Development | \$200,000 |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Downtown Senior Recreational Program | \$156,084 |
| Demolition of Substandard Structures | \$111,847 |
| Canseco Park | \$400,000 |
| Slaughter Park Improvements | \$100,000 |
| St. Vincent de Paul Section 202 Housing Improvements | \$166,500 |
| Farias Recreational Area | \$166,500 |
| District VII Sidewalks | \$166,500 |
| Total | \$3,536,125 |
| | |
| Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Administration | \$8,753 |
| Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program | \$63,247 |
| Total | \$72,000 |

HOME Investment Partnership Grant

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| HOME Program Administration | \$77,768 |
| Downpayment Assistance Program (PI) | \$160,000 |
| Tenant-Based Rental Assistance | \$390,050 |
| 15% CHDO Set-Aside | \$128,157 |
| Purchase of Lots | \$258,403 |
| Total | \$1,014,378 |

Emergency Solutions Grant

| | |
|---|------------------|
| ESG Program Administration | \$23,062 |
| Emergency Shelter - Shelter Operations | \$85,000 |
| Emergency Shelter - Essential Operations | \$45,000 |
| Street Outreach | \$10,000 |
| Rapid Re-Housing | \$80,400 |
| Homeless Prevention | \$60,000 |
| Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) | \$8,000 |
| Total | \$311,462 |

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Armando Cisneros said that CDBG grants are meant to help impoverished individuals, but there seems to be a lot of administrative costs. This list does not seem

to contribute to more affordable housing. He stated that Community Development should make more of an attempt to involve the public.

Arturo Garcia, Acting Community Development Director, stated that the purpose of this agenda item is to get public input on the proposed budget. Community Development went through the process to obtain public comment by taking over 173 surveys in several different locations. Telephone and email surveys were also distributed. Input is received from management and City Council in evaluating these programs. The Code Enforcement expense only applies to the CDBG area-identified map. Currently, five officers serve this area.

Jose Ovando stated that this feels like déjà vu given the weatherization program. That program started similarly but the City now struggles from it.

Mr. Garcia noted that the weatherization program was funded through the Texas Department of Housing-Community Affairs and was very different from the current item. All funding spent was in compliance with the requirements of the grant, and it helped over 200 people.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo Municipal Housing Fund FY 2015-2016 Annual Budget by increasing revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$14,956.00 for the Downtown Elderly Duplexes located at 1901 Farragut Street. Funds are to be used for operating expenses such as salaries, maintenance repairs, lighting, water and other related improvements.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Public hearing authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into contract with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Office of Border Health, to conduct disease self management and chronic disease prevention and amending the FY 2015-2016 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$60,000.00, and amending the FY 2015-2016 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

listing by adding one (1) Nutritionist, R36 position for the term from May 1, 2016 through August 31, 2016 and renewable three (3) more years contingent on funding availability. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to amend the 2016 Transit Capital Budget by increasing revenues and expenses in the amount of \$390,888.00 in order to appropriate FTA Capital Grant TX-2016-009-00 for the purchase of rolling stock. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

6. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the lease renewals for the Webb County, Head Start Program for the following parcels at their current rate for a one (1) year term, as referenced below:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|--|
| Jesus Garcia Head Start | 2518 Cedar Avenue | \$900.00 | |
| Tatangelo Head Start | 2200 Zacatecas Street | \$616.00 | |
| Villa Alegre Head Start | 3501 Eagle Pass Avenue | \$893.00 | |

Leases will be renewed for one (1) year with an additional one (1) year option to extend at a new adjusted rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

IX. SECOND READING

7. An ordinance granting a Non-Exclusive Electric Franchise to AEP Texas Central Company for the transmission and distribution of electricity; and providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:0

X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive final reading of ordinances 2016-O-056, 2016-O-057, 2016-O-058, 2016-O-059, 2016-O-060, 2016-O-061, 2016-O-062, 2016-O-063, 2016-O-065, and 2016-O-068.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Vela

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Narvaez

Cm. Altgelt

8. 2016-O-056 Amending the City of Laredo Municipal Housing Fund FY 2016 Annual Budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$220,000.00 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents related to the Weatherization Grant Program. This grant is being provided to the city by AEP and AEP's consulting firm, Frontier Associates. There is no match requirement - it is based on a reimbursement basis. The program will provide for the replacement of complete central air conditioning and heating units, insulation and other weatherization items at the Tomas Flores Apartments located at 2301 & 2302 Lafayette St. The grant will provide up to \$6,500.00 per unit based on an assessment to determine the applicability and Savings -to-Investment (SIR) ratio and to include an eight percent (8%) administrative fee paid to Laredo Municipal Housing.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-056.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
Cm. Gonzalez Cm. Vela
Cm. Rodriguez
Cm. Perez
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Altgelt

9. 2016-O-057 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a Restaurant Serving Alcohol, on Lot 1, Block 1, Winfield Commercial Subdivision, Phase 13, located at 3402 Del Mar Blvd., Suite 220; providing for publication and effective date. District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-057.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
Cm. Gonzalez Cm. Vela
Cm. Rodriguez
Cm. Perez
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Altgelt

10. 2016-O-058 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a Restaurant Serving Alcohol, on Lot 1, Block 1, Winfield Commercial Subdivision, Phase 13, located at 3402 Del Mar Blvd., Suite 100; providing for publication and effective date. District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-058.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
Cm. Gonzalez Cm. Vela
Cm. Rodriguez
Cm. Perez
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Altgelt

11. 2016-O-059 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant selling alcohol on Lot 1, Block 1, Winfield Commercial Subdivision, Phase 13 located at 3402 Del Mar Boulevard, Suite 300; providing for publication and effective date. District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-059.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5 Against: 0

Abstain: 1
Cm. Vela

Cm. Gonzalez
Cm. Rodriguez
Cm. Perez
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Altgelt

12. 2016-O-060 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 7.62 acres as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at NE Bob Bullock Loop North of Crepusculo Drive, from B-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date. District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-060.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5 Against: 0

Abstain: 1
Cm. Vela

Cm. Gonzalez
Cm. Rodriguez
Cm. Perez
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Altgelt

13. 2016-O-061 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a pool hall/snack bar on Lots 9 and 10 less the North six feet of Lot 9, Block 86, Western Division, located at 318 and 320 Iturbide Street; providing for publication and effective date. District VIII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-061.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5 Against: 0

Abstain: 1
Cm. Vela

Cm. Gonzalez
Cm. Rodriguez
Cm. Perez
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Altgelt

14. 2016-O-062 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a welding shop on Lot 7, Block 1330, Eastern Division, located at 906 S. Zapata Highway; providing for publication and effective date. (AS AMENDED) District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-062.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
 Cm. Gonzalez Cm. Vela
 Cm. Rodriguez
 Cm. Perez
 Cm. Narvaez
 Cm. Altgelt

15. 2016-O-063 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a bus terminal on Lots 6 and 7, Block 120, Western Division, located at 801, 803 and 805 Victoria Street; providing for publication and effective date. District VIII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-063.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
 Cm. Gonzalez Cm. Vela
 Cm. Rodriguez
 Cm. Perez
 Cm. Narvaez
 Cm. Altgelt

16. 2016-O-064 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for an auto body and paint shop on the middle 1/3 of Lots 7 and 8, Block 1029, Western Division, located at 4103 Santa Maria Avenue; providing for publication and effective date. District VIII

Motion to table.

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

17. 2016-O-065 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 10, 11 and 12; the South 10 feet of Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 793, Eastern Division, located at 1402 Market Street, from R-O (Residential/Office District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date. District III

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-065.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
 Cm. Gonzalez Cm. Vela
 Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Altgelt

18. 2016-O-068 Authorizing owner Mr. Antonio Ayala, sole bidder in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Tract is located adjacent to Borchers Elementary and is legally described as an unimproved 5.23 acre tract of land more or less, situated in Porcion 22, Abstract 277, Dona Maria Jesus Sanchez, original grantee, same being out of a called 8.55 acre tract conveyed to the City of Laredo as recorded in Volume 2952, Pages 134-139, Webb County Official Public Records and more particularly described on attached, Exhibit "A". Funds will be deposited into 2008 C.O. and Waterworks System Fund. Waterworks System funds will be used to purchase needed equipment.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-O-068.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5 Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Vela

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Narvaez

Cm. Altgelt

XI. RESOLUTIONS

19. 2016-R-68 Accepting the conveyance of the following fifteen (15) foot Public Utility and Utility Access Easement, for the right to install, construct, reconstruct, repair and perpetually maintain utility improvements from:

CBA Laredo Escon, LP By: Paul C. Arthur, President - Utility easement as follows:

A tract of land containing 10,344 square feet, more or less out of a 21.0948 acre tract of land in Webb County, Texas, situated in Porcion 28, Abstract 241, a copy of which conveyance is attached as Exhibits A & B:

And directing that said Easement be filed of record in official property records of Webb County, Texas. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to adopt Resolution 2016-R-068.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. 2016-R-74 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in the total amount of \$140,000.00 over 5 years (\$20,000.00 for year one; \$30,000.00 for years 2 through 5) for the City of Laredo Health Department to address Chronic Disease Health Disparities in particular diabetes and heart and stroke prevention providing disease self management and access to primary health care for the term period from May 1, 2016 through July 31, 2020, contingent on funding availability.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2016-R-074.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. MOTIONS

21. Authorizing the City Manager to accept a dedication of 6.21 acres for park land from Laredo Four Winds, LTD, Richard Hachar.

Horacio Lopez, Assistant City Manager, requested that this item be tabled so that it may be amended.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to award contract FY16-030 to Community Development Strategies (CDS), Houston, TX for the creation of a Downtown TIRZ. Contract amount is not to exceed \$140,600.00 and includes the Downtown study, creation and out-of-pocket expenses (travel, postage, reimbursables and related costs). Study includes: conducting a market and economic feasibility study for the city's Downtown area, and should also determine if findings/conditions which exist in the Downtown TIRZ area meet the criteria of the Tax Code of the State of Texas. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Cm. Altgelt noted that securing the increment immediately is a top priority. This will ensure reliable infrastructure investment to help with flow to and from the mall .

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract to pay Killam Development, Ltd. for \$396,903.42 for the oversizing of a waterline from 12" to 24" along Inspiration Parkway (formally Windfield Parkway). Funding is available in the 2015 Water

Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda without discussion except for Resolution 2016-R-73.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII (a) RESOLUTIONS

24. 2016-R-70 Authorizing the City of Laredo to enter into Inter-Local Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the City of Rowlett and authorizing the City Manager to execute the membership agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to facilitate compliance with the State of Texas bidding requirements, to identify qualified vendors of commodities, goods and services, and to realize potential cost savings for the City of Laredo.
25. 2016-R-71 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$81,341.00 to the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance for funding the 2016 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019. This funding will be used for support staff, equipment and supplies for police operations. The Bureau of Justice Assistance mandates that this grant be divided equally between the City of Laredo and Webb County.
26. 2016-R-72 Ratifying the submittal of a grant application to the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the amount of \$53,190.61 with no matching funds required. Funds will be used to purchase a glass pulverizer to decrease the amount of glass waste that enters the landfill and to continue beautification efforts for the city.
27. 2016-R-73 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract with the Texas Department of State Health Services through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department's Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids Project (HOPWA) to assist with housing and utilities in the amount of \$76,507.00 for the term of February 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Narvaez

Cm. Vela

28. 2016-R-75 Consideration to grant fee waivers and a tax abatement agreement between the City of Laredo and Roberto Carranza for the residential property located at 219 Victoria St., being N ½ of Lot 10, Block 114 Western Division. The proposed residential property eligible for property tax abatement includes the new construction of a 1,286 sq. ft. structure in the total amount of \$19,427.77 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 \$123.75 and estimated total fee waiver of \$696.00 based on capital investment for the purpose of economic development. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

XIII (b) MOTIONS

29. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for the World Trade Bridge U.S. Customs Exit Booth Expansion for design, preparation of plans and specifications, and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. Structural Engineering Associates Inc., (SEA) was the sole responder and is recommended for selection. Item will be presented to Council again once consultant is selected and fee is negotiated.
30. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant Sepulveda Associates Architects, Inc., for the Roof Replacement and Building Improvements for Fire Station No. 1 (One Guadalupe Street) and Fire Station No. 5 (2601 Bartlett Avenue) for design, preparation of plans and specifications, and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract.
31. Consideration for approval of the Roof Replacement of the City of Laredo Environmental Services Building located at 619 Reynolds Street as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$4,750.00 to Aftermath Roofing Construction and Renovation, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$47,505.00. Funding is available in the Environmental Services Storm Water Fund.
32. Consideration to authorize a lease purchase contract of one (1) aerator, two (2) fairway mowers, three (3) greens mower trailers, three (3) walk greens mowers, four (4) gator utility vehicles, one (1) bunker and field rake utility vehicle, one (1) progator vehicle, one (1) selectspray attachment for the progator vehicle, and one (1) trim and surrounds mower from John Deere Government & National Sales, Cary, North

Carolina in the total amount \$285,060.96 for the Max Mandel Golf Course. The purchase of this equipment shall be made utilizing a BuyBoard lease purchase contract. The lease purchase shall be 60 months. The estimated monthly payment shall be \$ 5,214.79. Funding is available in the Max Mandel Golf Course Fund.

33. Consideration to award an annual supply and service contract FY16-045 to the sole bidder, The Brandt Companies LLC., Carrollton, TX in an amount up to \$100,000.00 to provide HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) repair services for various departments. This contract establishes an hourly service rate and cost percentage for parts. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for six, additional one (1) year periods. Funding for the additional extensions are subject to future budget appropriations. All services will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the respective user departmental budgets.
34. Consideration to award a two (2) year supply contract to the sole source provider Xylem Water Solutions, Carrollton, Texas for the purchase of replacement submersible water and drainage pumps, parts, and service for the Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plants and lift stations for the Utilities Department. This contract will be for an estimated annual amount of \$650,000.00 and is subject to future appropriations. All pumps, parts, and services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department budget.
35. Consideration to renew annual supply contracts FY15-044 for the purchase of automotive parts for the Fleet Department to the following vendors:
 - 1) Gonzalez Auto Parts, Laredo, TX, for an amount up to \$200,000.00 (Primary Vendor); and
 - 2) Vehicle Maintenance Program, Boca Raton, FL, for an amount up to \$15,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

The replacement parts will be purchased on an as needed basis for all City fleet vehicles. The contract items include: oil/fuel filters, front end parts, hoses, clamps, belts, lamp/bulbs service lubricants and brakes. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. There will be no increase during this extension period. This is the first of two extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

36. Consideration to award contract FY16-047 to the low Bidder Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corporation, Corpus Christi, Texas in an amount of up to \$211,680.00 for a three year elevator and escalator maintenance service contract. This contract will provide for monthly maintenance on the elevators and escalators at the following locations: Airport Terminal, Bridges III & IV, City Hall (Downtown), City Hall Annex, Police Department, Public Library, Fire Administration Building, El Mercado, Parking Division, Federal Courthouse, Parks & Leisure Recreation Centers, El Pico Water Treatment Plant, Max Mandel Golf Course, and Uni-Trade Stadium. The term of this contract shall be for a period of three (3) years beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for two, additional three (3) year periods. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

37. Consideration to award contract FY16-050 to the low bidder, Aluminum Lamps & Patio Furniture, Laredo, Texas for the purchase of estimated one hundred (100) ornamental sign poles in the amount total amount of \$94,220.00 for the Traffic Safety Department. Funding is available in the 2009 CO funds.
38. Consideration for acceptance, release of retainage, approval of change order No. 3, a credit in the amount of \$55,331.29 for a total final contract amount of \$1,742,297.21, and final payment in the amount of \$120,731.57 to MTZ Construction Inc.; Laredo Texas for the Lift Station, Booster Station and Force Main for the Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course. The construction contract time is extended for an additional one hundred and sixty (160) working days. The new construction time including this change order will be three hundred forty-seven (347) working days. Funding is available in the 2012 Sewer Revenue Bond.
39. Authorizing the City Manager to cancel the BuyBoard contract with Fuquay, Inc, of New Braunfels, Texas, for the repairs required at the McPherson Lift Station in the amount of \$138,100.00. Fuquay (Contractor) made several attempts to by-pass pump raw sewage but was unsuccessful. They requested additional funding to perform the work. City staff felt this was not justified due to scope of work had not changed. City staff and contractor held several meetings to bring this to a resolution but neither could reach an agreement. City staff reached out to BuyBoard Cooperative staff to act as non-partisan third party. BuyBoard Cooperative staff evaluated information provided by both the City and Contractor and ruled in favor of the City.
40. Authorizing the City Manager to award a professional services contract in the amount of \$95,000.00 to JBS Water, Inc. of Houston, Texas for the Comprehensive Water Distribution & Meter Management Audit. Funding is available in the Waterworks Operations Fund.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIV. STAFF REPORTS

41. Presentation of the independent audit report of First Recycling, LLC at the City of Laredo Municipal Recycling Facility by the independent CPA firm of Mejia & Company, PLLC, with possible action.

Gerardo Mejia of Mejia & Co., PLLC, stated there is no distinction in the report between significant findings, nonsignificant findings, and simple results. He summarized that the firm was engaged on November 17, 2015, to determine whether First Recycling met its reporting responsibilities with respect to the contract with the City of Laredo. The operating schedule was Mr. Mejia's main focus. From March 2012 through September 2015, total net sales were \$2,615,594.00 and total expenses were \$2,443,988.00, which yields a net income of \$171,606.00 for that period. Mr. Mejia provided a quarterly breakdown for this period. First Recycling requested credits for equipment such as forklifts, back haul, payroll expenses, and back pay. Mejia & Co. did not grant them the requested credit but leaves that decision for the City to make. The amended contract noted an income sharing of 70/30 to begin the second year after the first year of the contract. Because that

amendment was signed on November 21, 2014, the net income sharing was to begin November 21, 2015. However, that sharing period begins after the end of the period covered by this engagement, meaning there is no sharing of income between the City of Laredo and First Recycling until the quarter of December 2015 to February 2016. Mejia's interpretation of the 70/30 split means that the City gets 70% of the net income while First Recycling gets 30%. However, First Recycling disagreed and believes that First Recycling gets the 70%. Steve Geiss, Solid Waste Director, is of the same opinion as First Recycling. Mr. Mejia noted that this should be clarified.

Mr. Mejia also stated that sales were tested in three different ways: sample testing, in which 30 sales transactions were randomly selected per year for a total of 120 transactions and no exceptions were noted; positive confirmations with customers, in which 21 confirmations were mailed to customers who bought recycled materials from First Recycling during the engagement period and all respondents showed no exceptions; and tonnage analysis, in which the City of Laredo Landfill maintains a running balance of inventory equivalent of the recycling material and was found to be reasonable with no unreasonable accumulation. Mr. Mejia noted that a sampling approach was not useful to test expenses of operations. First Recycling does not have a dedicated bank account in which to contain only activity related to its recycling contract with the City. Although Excel spreadsheets were always used in the preparation of the financial reports submitted to the City, a file was not kept and the trail was lost as to which specific transactions were included in the reports. The detail in the original reports had to be reconstructed. Mejia & Co. eventually concluded that even if they were able to complete the tests, the sample would not be representative of the population and the results could not be projected to all of the expenses; therefore, the sample approach was abandoned. The firm instead tested from the reports back to the documentation, which was an enormous task and required 100% of all supporting documentation for every expense in the quarterly reports.

Although First Recycling made every attempt to gather all documentary support from their files and contact vendors, 170 disbursements totaling \$32,143.50 for which no receipts were found. Mr. Mejia noted that while current monthly reports submitted by First Recycling are in compliance with the requirements set in the contract, reports during the first year were not. After substantiating all expenses and revenues, Mejia & Co. compared the net income of the original reports with their reconstructed reports and found a large discrepancy between First Recycling's \$17,928.56 loss and Mejia & Co.'s \$171,605.50 profit. Because of the lack of availability of reports given to the firm by the City, the quarterly differences are not exact on a quarter by quarter basis, but they are correct in the aggregate. The aggregate total of all the original reports from First Recycling compared to the adjusted reports from Mejia & Co. showed increased total net sales of \$65,467.76, a decrease in total expenses of \$124,066.30, and an increased total net income of \$189,534.06.

Mr. Mejia noted that only the first amendment to the contract contained a budget. Therefore the firm could not make comparisons of actual expenses to corresponding budgets. However, the firm showed increased revenues from 2012 to 2014 and then a decrease in revenue in 2015. Expenses followed the same trend. Mr. Mejia stated that the City has the responsibility of oversight and the duty to appoint someone who

receives these reports and challenges them. He also stated that First Recycling is not excused from submitting erroneous or unverifiable reports.

Saul Villarreal, Managing Member of First Recycling, reported that while the City managed the recycling operation, it experienced a net loss of \$115,774.00. In 2012, the budget created by the Solid Waste Department caused First Recycling to experience a loss, which they did not ask the City to reimburse. Mr. Villarreal stated that the communication between the City and First Recycling was always open and collaborative. First Recycling did not hide any information from their reports to the City despite criticisms to the contrary. He recognized the First Recycling staff and thanked them for their work.

City Manager Jesus Olivares stated that staff will bring forward some recommendations to strengthen the contract, correct some of the problems identified by the audit team, create a budget that is agreeable to the contractor and the City, and create a fund that will be set aside from revenues to fix equipment and buy materials. He noted that this audit was very thorough and the work of Mejia & Co. was a great benefit to the City. The recommendations will be brought back to Council for review and approval. He confirmed that there is no money owed by the City at this time.

Cm. Vela emphasized that recycling education is vital to enhance the lifespan of the landfill.

Mr. Villarreal stated that First Recycling hosts monthly educational campaigns with schools and the community, but the commercial outreach can always be improved.

Armando Cisneros noted that there was no formal process at the commencement of First Recycling's service. However, he is encouraged by Mr. Mejia's report and recommendations.

Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath thanked Mejia & Co. for their report. For years, the First Recycling expenses have continued to increase. He stated the auditing report proves that First Recycling increased expenses so that they would not have to share profits with the City. Several statements during the expense audit did not match and needed to be reconstructed. If First Recycling reported inflated expenses deliberately, that is a criminal act. He and several other citizens are now convinced that First Recycling manipulated their reports to make themselves look better.

Motion to direct staff to follow recommendations as stated in page 10 of Mejia & Co.'s summary wherein allowable expenses are specified and clearly defined in the contract, guidelines be established as to maximum expense limit, define contingencies if allowable expenses exceed actual operation-related expenses, provide mechanisms for adjusting the budget as the year progresses, require First Recycling to use best accounting practices including using one account for City business, include Exhibit B in the revised contract with a defined budget, require that returns and profits be proportional pursuant to equity, perform a feasibility study to determine whether collection of commercial and government recycling is possible, and appoint a named City official to be responsible for accepting monthly reports.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Motion died for lack of second.

Motion to direct City Manager's Office to bring a revised contract to Council for approval by the end of the summer.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

42. Discussion with possible action to consider a request for a fourth extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Sergio R. Reyes, Jr.

Monica Flores, Human Resources Director, requested 30 work days for Officer Reyes.

Motion to approve.

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

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

Monica Flores, Human Resources Director, requested 40 work days for Officer Cisneros.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

44. Discussion with possible action to consider a request for a second extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Gilbert Vazquez, III.

Monica Flores, Human Resources Director, requested 32 work days for Officer Vazquez.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Vela
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

45. Status Report on an Internship Program with TAMIU to allow students and/or

graduates of various disciplines to provide students with opportunities to learn programs, services, regulations and knowledge in various city programs.

Monica Flores, Human Resources Director, stated that City staff is preparing to meet with TAMIU and are reviewing positions that are currently available for internships. She confirmed that she will follow up with Mr. Francisco Castillo regarding this item.

No action taken.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

46. Request for executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the value of real property pertaining to a potential purchase of parcels within the Central Business District for municipal purposes, in order to avoid any detrimental effects that a discussion in an open forum would have on the City's ability to negotiate.

Motion to go into executive session to deliberate the value of real property pertaining to a potential purchase of parcels within the Central Business District for municipal purposes, in order to avoid any detrimental effects that a discussion in an open forum would have on the City's ability to negotiate.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Narvaez were not present.

After executive session, Mayor Pete Saenz report that no action was taken.

XVI. 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. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. 2016-RT-05 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and execute a grant award no. TX-2016-009-00 with the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, in the amount of \$312,710.00 for fiscal year 2016 Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program authorized under the new Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to adopt Resolution 2016-RT-05.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

48. 2016-RT-06 Authorizing the City Manager to execute the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant no. TX-2016-011, Section 5307 in the amount of \$3,260,305.00 authorized under the new Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Transportation Bill. Funding will be for Operating and Capital Assistance to the El Metro Bus Operations. The required local match for this grant will be funded with the Transit's Local Sales Tax. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to adopt Resolution 2016-RT-06.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

49. Consideration to renew contract FY13-037 for the period of one year to Andy's Auto Air & Supply, Laredo, Texas in the estimated amount of \$60,000.00. This will be the second and final option to extend this contract for providing air conditioning services for the Transit System Fleet. There will be no price increase and contract will be used on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Laredo Transit Management Inc. - Operations Budget. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

50. Consideration to authorize the purchase of (1) 40ft. low-floor Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus in the amount of \$463,866.00 for Gillig L.L.C ("Gillig") Hayward, California, through a joint procurement with Corpus Christi Regional Transit Authority, Request for Proposal (RFP) No.:2013-V-20. The City of Laredo will execute the provision under the RFP Option 1 for the additional purchase of one (1) CNG bus. Funding is available through the Transit's Sales Tax fund and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities grant. FTA Grant # TX-2016-009-00 in the amount of \$312,710.00 with local match in the amount of \$78,178.00 (20%) from Transit Sales Tax. The remaining balance of \$72,978.00 will be funded by local Transit Sales Tax. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

51. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1, an increase of \$54,298.25 to the construction contract with ALC Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for the El Metro

Operations and Maintenance Facility – 401 Scott Street Repair/Reconstruction and/or Replacement of Concrete Slabs and Construction Joints for additional concrete removal and concrete replacement of concrete slabs. Current construction contract amount with this change order is \$525,502.00. Completion date for the project is scheduled for August 2016. Funding is available in the Transit Capital Grants Fund/FTA Grant. (Approved by the Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVII. 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. Vela

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

52.

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

- a. A Resolution Adopting and Supporting Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization Resolution 2016-16 Requesting the Texas Transportation Commission ALLOCATE Additional Funds, including but not limited to discretionary funding, to the Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization and to the Texas Department of Transportation Laredo District to complete mobility projects within the Laredo MPO Boundary.

Nathan Bratton, Acting MPO Director, stated this resolution follows a previous resolution and asks TxDOT to supplement the monies available through the normal process to the MPO and to the TxDOT district office for mobility projects.

City Manager Jesus Olivares reported that City staff attended a meeting in San Antonio regarding a highspeed rail from Monterey to San Antonio. The MPO has approved the document, and once it is approved by Council and the Commissioners' Court, it will be sent to the Chairman of the TxDOT office. This resolution will set the tone for a July presentation regarding a TxDOT meeting in Austin.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt was not present.

B. Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez

- a. Discussion with possible action to Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a consultant to retrofit all waste water treatment programs with reverse osmosis and/or similar filtration systems to capture and recycle all effluent to make a 100% contained system for the City of Laredo.

Cm. Perez reported that Laredo discards over 18 million gallons of effluent into the river, which is equivalent to 28 Olympic pools 50-meters long each. He stated that we should recycle that water, which is being done in California and West Texas.

Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, reported that in the summertime, 37-40 million gallons of drinking water are used each day. He clarified that effluent water is not all thrown away into the river but instead supplied to the Laredo Country Club golf course, Casablanca Golf Course, and North Central Park. Soon the City will build the Manadas wastewater treatment plant. The country club uses about 500,000 gallons of the effluent water, the Casablanca courses uses about 200,000-300,000 gallons per day. About 15 million gallons of effluent water are returned to the river. If the Council wishes, the effluent can be placed on Jefferson, mixed with raw water, and treated again without the expense of the proposed process.

Cm. Vela noted that while this is a noble idea, it has a lot of hurdles and utilized by cities mainly as a worst-case scenario.

City Manager Olivares noted that the amount of treatment performed on effluent water may be subject to credits by TCEQ. The permit with TCEQ needs to be amended before negotiating this process. He recommended allowing staff to visit other cities to observe their water recycling programs and systems to properly craft an RFQ or develop a plan.

Cm. Altgelt stated that having a secondary water source combined with a desalinization process for Laredo groundwater would be a long-term solution rather than the short-term solution of pumping water in from another county. He voiced his agreement with Cm. Perez.

Motion to direct City Manager's Office to research treatment and storage processes of other cities to report to Council for further action.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Motion died for lack of second

- b. Discussion with possible action on the status of the Old Mercy Hospital property.

Cm. Perez stated that while the Old Mercy Hospital served the community for many years, it has been abandoned for 15 years and turned into a blighted area. It has led to a gradual decline of the surrounding area, drug houses nearby, and decreased property values. The structure is privately owned and needs to be remediated for asbestos. The first option is to demolish the structure and build a park as the land is valued at \$2.2-2.5 million. The second option is to form a committee to help the owner find a buyer. The third option is to persuade the owner to donate the area to the City. The final option is to condemn the structure, in which case the City would have to pay appraised market value. It is currently appraised at about \$7.2 million. Cm. Perez asked Council to seriously consider solutions for this property and begin negotiations with the owner, Mr. Carranco.

Mayor Saenz noted that the City has tried to cooperate with the owner for some time and understands that Mr. Carranco has struggled with this property.

Cm. Altgelt stated that the blight has spread over the area, and the City should respond quickly to maintain the integrity of the area.

City Manager Olivares stated that staff discussed the demolition of this facility with the National Guard and were told that the hospital was built to last, making demolition too difficult. There is too much rebar and concrete in the structure to be easily knocked down. The building will need to be recycled or retrofitted for use to the community.

Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath noted that the private owner did not want to buy this property, nor did LCC or LISD. He thanked Council for cooperating so readily to make a decision on this longstanding issue.

Motion to direct management to explore all options as presented by Cm. Perez with the caveat that other taxing entities participate proportionately as per their tax bases in exploring a way to make the Old Mercy Hospital a functioning property.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- c. Discussion with possible action on the recruitment of a full-time veterinarian for the Laredo Animal Care Facility.

Cm. Perez stated that it is imperative to have a veterinarian on staff. It is difficult for pet owners to spay and neuter their animals otherwise.

Homero Garcia with the Laredo Animal Care Services reported that since 2012, the City of Laredo has been working with the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine to bring fourth year veterinary students for externships. Since that time, one student has come to Laredo for four weeks. The program is still ongoing. Currently contracts with the City charge the public \$50 to

neuter male animals and \$60 to spay females.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, clarified that if a dog is collected by Animal Control who has an owner, the owner must allow the dog to be spayed or neutered or agree to take it to a veterinarian for spaying or neutering in order for the dog to be released.

Cm. Altgelt stated that if the City increased its impoundment fees, the revenue could be used to hire a veterinarian. He also suggested a foreign exchange program with Nuevo Laredo in which their veterinarians may work under a United States licensed veterinarian.

C. Request by Council Member Roque Vela, Jr.

- a. Status Report on the Laredo Housing Authority's Casa Verde Apartment Development tax credit application, with possible action.

Cm. Vela stated that he had met with the Chairman of the Laredo Housing Authority. There are a lot of concerns surrounding this development. Affordable housing in Laredo is obsolete, and this tax credit, which was meant to provide a solution, has been stalled. The City is at risk of losing \$16 million in tax credits. This stall also puts the Laredo Housing Authority in a precarious situation. He urged Council to ensure that this development comes to fruition to avoid loss of credits. He also stated that there is a timeline in which action must be taken by the end of this month, unless an extension is granted. If the extension is not granted or the required steps taken by the end of the month, the \$16 million will be lost.

Mayor Saenz agreed that this issue greatly affects the City. He noted that he believed an audit was conducted, and some potential irregularities stalled the development.

No action taken.

- b. Discussion with possible action directing staff to televise the Charter Review Committee via Public Access Channel (PAC).

Cm. Vela stated that in the spirit of transparency, individuals can see exactly who is on the Charter Review Commission and what agenda they are pushing.

Motion direct staff to televise the Charter Review Commission via Public Access Channel (PAC).

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

D. Request by Council Member Charlie San Miguel

- a. Discussion with possible action to implement a requirement that all structures 5,000 square feet or more need to be designed by an architect.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

E. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding the implementation of a xeriscaping ordinance and charging the city environmental advisory committee and the technical review board to recommend to council a proposed ordinance.

John Porter, Assistant Environmental Services Director, stated that the xeriscaping ordinance stands in the water conservation ordinance and is only a recommendation at this time. He recommended including the Utilities, Planning and Zoning, and Building Departments in a discussion to develop ways to incentivize the ordinance.

Ramon Chavez, Building Director, clarified that there are certain trees that are included in the Land Development Code, and a landscaping requirement exists under the water conservation ordinance. This ordinance has an extended list of tree and shrub species native to the area that do not require much watering.

Jesus Ruiz, Technical Review Board member, noted that at Shiloh Crossing some xeriscaping was conducted. Xeriscaping has more upfront expense that takes time to recuperate. He stated that the Technical Review Board is willing to review this item if Council wishes to task them with it.

Motion to task the Technical Review Board to recommend to Council a proposed ordinance that incorporates an incentives package that allows the xeriscaping ordinance to go into effect.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- b. Discussion and possible action to require all commercial and industrial structures built in Laredo to be designed by an architect and to be at least LEED "certified" and for all neighborhood developments to be a minimum of LEED "certified".

Cm. Altgelt referred to the Supplemental Agenda item which supplants this item.

- c. Presentation by GSA regarding the LEED "gold" standard to be used at both

the Convent and Lincoln JUAREZ bridges.

No action taken.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Narvaez and Cm. Vela were not present.

I, Heberto L. 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 through 28 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on June 6, 2016.

Heberto L. Ramirez
Acting City Secretary