

**CITY OF LAREDO  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M-2016-SC-01  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
JANUARY 4, 2016  
12:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Mayor Pro-Tempore Juan Narvaez called the meeting to order.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro-Tempore Juan Narvaez led in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

In attendance:

Rudy Gonzalez,	District I
Esteban Rangel,	District II
Alejandro Perez, Jr.,	District III
Juan Narvaez,	Mayor Pro-Tempore, District IV
Roque Vela, Jr.,	District V
Charlie San Miguel,	District VI
George J. Altgelt,	District VII
Roberto Balli,	District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.	City Secretary
Jesus Olivares,	City Manager
Cynthia Collazo,	Deputy City Manager
Horacio De Leon,	Assistant City Manager
Raul Casso,	City Attorney

Cm. San Miguel joined at 12:23 pm.

**IV. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

1. An Ordinance amending Chapter 19 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) of the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances by repealing and replacing the language in Section 19-224 (Regulating the use of hand-held mobile communication devices while driving) to ensure the enforceability of the provisions contained therein; and providing for the following: findings of fact, savings, severability, repealer, and an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

**V. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES**

- 2. 2016-O-001 Amending the City of Laredo Water Availability Fund FY 2016 Annual Budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$3,500,000.00 by appropriating from the Utility System Fund Balance to be used for the purchase of water rights.

Motion to waive and adopt Ordinance 2016-O-001.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Cm. Rangel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

**VI. MOTION**

- 3. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to negotiate a Consulting Contract with Judith Zaffirini, PHD D/B/A Zaffirini Communications, for purposes of advising the City on the proposed Charter Amendments that have been presented to City Council for submission to the voters in accordance with §9.004 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Mario Peña, the Chairman of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Laredo Chamber of Commerce doesn't know what specific Charter Amendments were presented to Council and by whom.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Narvaez clarified that nobody has presented Charter Amendments to Council at this time, but that the intention is to execute a contract so that at the time Charter Amendments are recommended and under review, Judith Zaffirini may serve as a consultant on the final language of the City Charter.

Cm. Altgelt stated that during a Robert's Rules of Procedure presentation by Judith Zaffirini, she noted that many ambiguities existed in the current wording of the City Charter. He also stated that the intent of this item is to correct the form of the City Charter, not necessarily the content.

Mr. Peña asked if this type of service typically goes out for bids.

City Attorney Casso stated that this process is a Request for Qualifications process.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

4. Consideration for approval of change order No. 1, an increase of \$794,018.50, to the construction contract with Reim Construction, Inc., Mission, Texas for: the Laredo International Airport Taxiway G Reconstruction, for additional reconstruction of Taxiway G pavement north of the south edge of runway 14/32, and to add ninety (90) calendar days to the construction contract time. Completion date for the project is scheduled for January 2017. Current construction contract amount with this change order is \$8,312,029.50. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund – Subject to Federal Aviation Administration future grant funding within Fiscal Year 2016.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel  
Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

5. Consideration for approval of amendment No. 1, an increase of \$6,000.00, to the professional services contract with Seca Engineering, L.L.C., Laredo, Texas, for additional design services for the Repairs/Reconstruction and or Replacement of Concrete Slabs and Construction Joints at El Metro Operations and Maintenance Facility – 401 Scott Street. Funding is available in the Grant# TX-04-0055-01.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel  
Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

6. Consideration for approval to ratify amendment No. 2, an increase of \$3,310.00, to the professional services contract with Sepulveda Associates Architects, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for the Roof Replacement of El Metro Operations and Maintenance Facility Located at 401 Scott Street Project for: modifications and additional clarifications of the FTA specifications, check list, required procurement documents, and re-printing of the modified plans and specifications to re-bid the project. Current engineering contract amount with this amendment is \$57,255.00. Funding is available in the Transit

System Fund – FTA Grant TX-03-0274.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

7. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for CDBG Freddy Benavides Recreational Water Feature adjacent to the City of Laredo Cigarroa Recreation Center Swimming Pool at 2201 Zacatecas Street and authorization to negotiate a design/build contract. Funding is available in the Community Development Fund - 41st Action Year Grant.

City Engineer Rogelio Rivera stated that only one bid was submitted for this bid request, and the bidder is a Laredo business.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

8. Consideration for approval of the City Streets Connections – Cielito Lindo Ave. (CSJ: 0922-33-133), Los Presidentes Blvd. (CSJ: 0922-33-134) and Lomas Del Sur (Southgate Blvd.) (CSJ: 0922-33-135) as complete; approval of change order no. 3 to add twenty-three (23) working days to the construction contract time; approval of change order no. 4, a decrease of \$14,978.31, for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place; release of retainage; and approval of final payment in the amount of \$265,001.56 to Reim Construction Co., Inc., Mission, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$5,300,031.20. This item is contingent upon Texas Department of Transportation approval. Funding is available in the Environmental Services 2012 C.O. & Capital Grants Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

9. Consideration to authorize the award of a one (1) year contract to La Familia Consulting and Counseling Services for Consulting and Evaluation Services required under the City's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant. Despite the potential or existence of any prohibited financial interest, the contract should be allowed pursuant to §2.09(d) of the Ethics Code, as the bidder is the sole source provider. Contract is from October 01, 2015 to September 30, 2016 for up to \$37,000.00 annually and could be renewed for another (2) years pending funding availability. The scope of work is attached to the contract agreement. Funding is available in the Health Department's HIV and Mental Health Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

10. Consideration to award contract FY15-063 to Conventions, Sports & Leisure International, LLC. (CLS), Minneapolis, MN for the Convention Center Feasibility Study (Update) - Phase I. Contract amount is not to exceed \$96,500.00 and includes the Convention Center Feasibility Study and out-of-pocket expenses (travel, postage, copies and related costs). Study includes: an updated market analysis, market condition, community/regional facilities, market potential, suggested building design/specifications, economic and fiscal impact analysis. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

## **VII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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

- a. Discussion with possible action to install lighting fixtures at the new basketball courts and future beach volleyball courts at Independence Hills Regional Park.

Osbaldo Guzman, Parks and Leisure Services Director, stated that the Parks

and Leisure Services Department has already begun looking for spaces for the beach volleyball courts. He also confirmed that the Department has already begun working on lighting.

No action taken.

**Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez**

- a. Discussion with possible action on entering into a private partnership for an indoor Mini Football Field.

Motion to instruct staff to start negotiations for a private partnership for an indoor Mini Football Field.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

**Request by Council Member Roque Vela, Jr.**

- a. Discussion with possible action on the Open-Carry Handgun Law in City Facilities.

Police Chief Ray Gardner stated that police officers must have reasonable suspicion in order to ask an individual to display his or her concealed handgun license. It is the officer's responsibility to articulate his interpretation of reasonable suspicion. The Laredo Police Department's Facebook page has rules and regulations posted regarding the new gun law. Citizens may make mistakes by walking into business armed where firearms are prohibited. Businesses wishing to prohibit firearms will need to properly post signs according to state law.

Cm. Vela stated that he is concerned with what the City of Laredo can do in their City facilities and parks regarding firearms.

City Attorney Raul Casso stated that the City can post signs at entrance of City Council Chambers because a person is not allowed to carry an open or concealed gun in a room where governing bodies are holding a meeting that's governed by the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA). Any multipurpose governmental building may not turn anybody away carrying a firearm as it is lawful for that person to carry a firearm. Therefore, signs prohibiting concealed or open carry of a firearm cannot be posted at the entrances of the City Hall building. There are many exceptions where someone cannot have a gun in a public place, such as schools, airport secured areas, courtrooms, racetracks, and establishments that make 51% or more of their revenues by the sale of

alcohol.

Chief Gardner stated that while individuals may carry firearms into the public Police Department building, in order to enter secured areas, the Police Department offers gun lockers for individuals to store their firearms. He offered as an example that unless a bank posts a sign prohibiting firearms, individuals are allowed to carry a firearm either concealed or openly.

Cm. Altgelt stated that according to the law, there is a presumption that a person carrying a firearm is doing so lawfully with a license. The presumption is that the individual is a law-abiding citizen without criminal history. He also stated that national statistics show that gun violence is at the hands of individuals who are not law-abiding citizens. The statistics of lawful handgun-licensed individuals have proven to stop crimes, and more than 40 other states have already passed this law without descending into uncontrolled gun crime. He has a concern regarding law enforcement's response to this law -- to avoid provoking difficult individuals.

No action taken.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I, Doanh "Zone" T. Nguyen, Acting City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 to 07 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on January 4, 2016.

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Doanh "Zone" T. Nguyen  
Acting City Secretary