

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M-2014-S-07
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
DECEMBER 1, 2014
5:30 P.M.**

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

I. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Mayor's exercise of Veto Power pursuant to §2.15(4) of the Laredo City Charter regarding City Council award on November 17, 2014 of an Engineering Contract to Dannenbaum Engineering Company – McAllen, L.L.C., of Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$1,016,063.28 for the design of a 24 inch Water Line from El Pico/ Mines Road connection to Hachar Loop northern boundary line, and if deemed advisable by the council, directing the purchasing department to renew the solicitation process for contract award.

Mayor Saenz stated that he brought up this item because he had been approached by constituents who felt that the request for qualification process was not followed.

Eddie Garza stated that the reason he was present was to discuss qualification based selection. He distributed a letter to Mayor Saenz and City Council.

Mayor Saenz, Madam Councilwoman and Councilmen:

Submitted please find a letter from the Texas Board of Professional Engineers describing requirements for Professional Services Procurement.

QBS is the standard procurement method in 46 states for governmental projects and is currently mandated by statute in Texas. QBS is a competitive contract procurement process, whereby professional consulting firms (engineers, architects, and surveyors) submit qualifications to an entity that evaluates and selects the most qualified firm for a given contract, and then negotiates the project scope of work, schedule, budget, and consultant fee.

We, the undersigned Licensed Professional Engineers support the continued use of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) for selection of professional engineers for contracts with the City of Laredo and any entity that the City supports. We respectfully request your support of the Qualification Based Selection (QBS) process for selecting Professional Engineering Services and direct staff to procure all projects utilizing QBS. We have attached more information on this selection method for your review.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Edward D. Garza, P.E., Crane Engineering
JoEmma Sherfey, P.E., Sherfey Engineering
Jeff Puig, P.E., RPLS, Puig/CEC
Tec Engineers*

He asked the Council support the QBS process.

Mayor Saenz announced that he was hereby vetoing the contract.

Motion to override the Mayor's veto.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 6

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garza

Cm. San Miguel

Mayor Pro Tem Rangel

Cm. Perez

Cm. Narvaez

Cm. Vela

Cm. Liendo

Interim City Manager Cindy Collazo stated that regarding an audit of the past five years, the contracts had already been completed and that they could look to the future if there were an error. She added that it was up to Council if they wanted to go ahead, but finance department had a list of all the contracts. They just needed to complete it and they could provide them with the information.

Motion that the Mayor follow the protocol that if a member of Council sponsors an item for a supplemental agenda, they must have two co-sponsors.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 6

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garza
Mayor Pro Tem Rangel
Cm. Perez
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Vela
Cm. Liendo

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. San Miguel commented that the discussion of changing the protocol for co-sponsorship for a supplemental agenda was not on the agenda, and therefore the vote was illegal.

Motion to feature the protocol change on the next agenda.

Moved: Cm. Garza
Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro Tem Rangel and Cm. Liendo were not present.

Motion to combine #2 with #24(A)1.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rangel
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action directing the Internal Auditor, the Purchasing Agent, and any other City staff member or department with relevant information to conduct an investigation and prepare a report for the Mayor and City Council regarding any contracts awarded to any engineering/architectural firms over the past five year period, and any other related matters.

Mayor Saenz reported that this led to complaints he had heard from the engineering community that the bulk of the contracts were going outside of Laredo. He added that his intention was to verify this and added that he felt that administration had too much discretion and authority to grant a million dollar contract. He felt that it merited that the Internal Auditor go back and review the contracts and show what contracts had been awarded, their amounts, and whether or not there had been any impropriety.

Internal Auditor Veronica Baeza reported that she did not have an idea of the amount of resources that would go into it, but the scope would be very broad according to the way the item was written. She added that

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 2
Cm. Perez
Cm. San Miguel

Against: 5
Cm. Garza
Mayor Pro Tem Rangel
Cm. Narvaez
Cm. Vela
Cm. Liendo

Abstain: 0

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Liendo was not present.