I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Pete Saenz               Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez           District I
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
Doanh “Zone” T. Nguyen 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. Narvaez and Cm. Rangel’s absences.

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

Cm. Rangel joined at 5:40 pm.

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of March 21, 2016

Motion to approve the March 21, 2016 minutes.

Moved:  Cm. Vela
V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Communiqués

None

Recognitions

None

Citizen comments

Petra Morales of Let the People Decide asked why Council is opposing the people's right to freedom of speech and democracy. Council was elected to represent the people, not to force their views on citizens. She recalled a time in which Council made a decision on a women’s issue without hearing public comment. She asked Council to be open-minded and work together with each other and public citizens.

Francisco Castillo, District VI resident, voiced his concern for the selection of the new Assistant City Manager Robert A. Eads. Despite an excellent Master of Public Administration program at TAMIU, Mr. Eads does not have any public administration education. He does not have the educational background to work in the public sector. He asked Council not to disregard individuals most qualified to operate government programs. He also asked Council to create a paid internship program with TAMIU’s MPA program.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

a. Appointment by Council Member Roque Vela Jr. of a commissioner to the Ethics Commission.

Cm. Altgelt requested that Cm. Vela consider posting the name of his recommendation. City Attorney Raul Casso agreed that prior notice of nominees will aid in determining whether the candidate is qualified to serve.

Motion to table.

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

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

b. Appointment by Council Member Charlie San Miguel of Johnny Herrera to the Historic/Landmark Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Johnny Herrera to the Historic
c. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Cecilia Gutierrez to the Mayors Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities.

Motion to approve the nomination of Cecilia Gutierrez to the Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel
Second: Cm. Rangel
For: 7    Against: 0    Abstain: 0

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing providing community residents an opportunity to comment on their housing and community needs and the projects that they wish to see funded. Comments received will be made part of the City’s 2016 One Year Action Plan that will outline how funding from the programs listed below, made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will be utilized.

42nd Action Year Community Development Block Grant $3,436,805.00
(CDBG) 2016 HOME Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) $849,850.00
2016 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) $311,462.00

Also for discussion and comment is the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) regarding the City’s administration of HUD Programs.

Motion to open public hearing.

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

Arturo Garcia, Acting Community Development Director, invited public input on this item. CD has already conducted public surveys at nine sites. Written or oral survey responses can be given at 1301 Farragut, Third Floor. Citizens may also email responses to cdcomments@ci.laredo.tx.us. He also reported that following the City’s CAPER, HUD determined that the City’s overall program compliance was satisfactory in terms of meeting priorities, timely expenditure of funds, delivery of services, and total benefit to low and moderate-income families.

Armando Cisneros asked what kind of methods CD uses to advertise public surveys, because he did not hear of them.

Mr. Garcia clarified that the City did advertise the survey sites and schedule in the
Laredo Morning Times on Sunday, March 20, 2016.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli  
Second: Cm. Gonzalez  
For: 4    Against: 0    Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel, Cm. Vela, and Cm. San Miguel were not present.

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

2. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement, with (SCAN) Serving Children and Adults In Need, Inc., to manage and operate a transitional housing project located on 1517 Washington St. Laredo Texas. The lease agreement term will be for an initial 15 years with a renewal option. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 33, Article VII entitled “Illegal Dumping.” Adding and deleting definitions in §33-453, adding environmental services director to §33-455, updating state agency in §33-474 (4), changing maximum penalty from two thousand dollars ($2,000.00) to four thousand dollars ($4,000.00) to reflect state law in §33-475 (a), updating contact department and hotline in §33-477 and providing for severability, publication, and an effective date. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES


Moved: Cm. Balli  
Second: Cm. Gonzalez  
For: 45    Against: 0    Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Vela were not present.

4. 2016-O-038 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by amending Ordinance 2014-O-110 authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant selling alcohol on Lot 6A, Block 1, Vista Hermosa Subdivision, Unit III, located at 5511 McPherson Road by changing the permit holder; providing for publication and effective date. (AS AMENDED) District V

Motion to approve 2016-O-038.

Moved: Cm. Balli  
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 5   Against: 0   Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Gonzalez were not present.

5. **2016-O-039** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 7, Block 562, Eastern Division, located at 610 Hendricks Avenue, from M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District); providing for publication and effective date. District III

Motion to approve 2016-O-039.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 5   Against: 0   Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Gonzalez were not present.

6. **2016-O-040** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 9, 10 and 11, Block 2132, Eastern Division, less 625’ right-of-way, located at 619 S. Meadow Avenue from B-1 (Limited Commercial District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date. District III

Motion to approve 2016-O-040.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 5   Against: 0   Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Gonzalez were not present.

7. **2016-O-041** Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 1; and Lot 5, Block 2, Santa Rita Commercial Subdivision, located at 5601, 5609, 5617 and 5618 Doc Sigi Perez Loop, from B-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date. District III

Motion to approve 2016-O-041.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 5   Against: 0   Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Gonzalez were not present.

8. **2016-O-042** Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the lease agreement between the City of Laredo, as LESSOR and M&M Air Cargo and Delivery Service, Inc., as LESSEE, approved by Ordinance No. 2015-O-035 dated March 16, 2015 to allow M&M Air Cargo and
Delivery Service, Inc., to sublease 2,646 square feet constituting Section No. 2 of Building No. 170 located at 5103 Maher Avenue at the Laredo International Airport and providing for a rent increase / adjustment on the sublease portion; all other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in effect; providing for an effective date.

Motion to approve 2016-O-042.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 5   Against: 0   Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Gonzalez were not present.

9. 2016-O-043 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement renewal with Securitas Security Services USA, Inc., for approximately 120 square feet of office space and an exclusive office entry lane of approximately 1,020 square feet at Bridge II.

1. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing April 1, 2016 and ending on March 31, 2017.

2. Monthly rent will be $3,500.00 for approximately 120 square feet of office space and an exclusive office entry lane of approximately 1,020 square feet at Bridge II.

3. The lease may be terminated by either party with a thirty (30) day written notice.

Motion to approve 2016-O-043.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 5   Against: 0   Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Gonzalez were not present.

10. 2016-O-044 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into contract with Texas A&M International University (TAMIU), amending the FY 2015-2016 budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of $479,656.00, and amending the FY 2015-2016 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) listing by adding the five (5) positions:

1. One (1) RN, Nurse Practitioner Supervisor, R40
2. One (1) Licensed Professional Counselor, R37
3. One (1) Public Health Promotion Program Supervisor, R35
4. One (1) Caseworker, R34
5. One (1) Licensed Vocational Nurse III, R33

Funding is from Methodists Health Care Ministries through TAMIU, and will allow us to provide early detection health and care services for
diabetes and to integrate behavioral health screenings. The project is called *Sí Texas – Juntos For Better Health* Program and has several partners. The term period is from May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016 but can be extended another five years.

Motion to approve 2016-O-044.

Moved: Cm. Balli  
Second: Cm. Altgelt  
For: 5  Against: 0  Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Gonzalez were not present.

11. **2016-O-045** Amending the classification of a vacant temporary captain position that was created for Gabriel E. Martinez Jr. in accordance with Article 22 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Laredo and the Laredo Police Officer's Association and Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code to a Sergeant FTE position, and to add an additional Sergeant FTE position to the existing manpower in the Laredo Police Department. Funding is available in the Police Department General Fund Budget.

Motion to approve 2016-O-045.

Moved: Cm. Balli  
Second: Cm. Altgelt  
For: 5  Against: 0  Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Gonzalez were not present.

X. RESOLUTIONS

12. **2016-R-40** Requesting the State of Texas, acting by and through its Texas Transportation Commission, to declare certain areas of land used by the State of Texas as state right of way be declared surplus to the department’s needs and be removed from the State highway system and that portion of property owned by the State, located in the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas and be conveyed to the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas and agreeing to the transfer, jurisdiction and control of said area.

Motion to approve 2016-R-40.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

13. **2016-R-41** Authorizing the City Manager to submit a loan application to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in the amount of $5,000,000 to
purchase water rights.

Motion to approve 2016-R-41.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

14. 2016-R-42 Providing for a Minor Encroachment Agreement between the City of Laredo, (“City”) and United States General Services Administration (“GSA”) to construct improvements for the modernization of the Convent Avenue Port of Entry expected to ease pedestrian and vehicular traffic and greatly enhance security at the International Bridge I. GSA is requesting a Minor Encroachment license on a 4½" bore to connect an internal fiber network to the facilities adjacent to the Convent Port of Entry International Bridge I and a waiver of the minor encroachment license fees and one-time application fee.

Motion to approve 2016-R-42.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

15. 2016-R-44 Opposing a new proposal from State and Federal authorities calling for aerial spraying of herbicides onto the banks of the Rio Grande for the eradication of Arundo Donax, aka Carrizo Cane that can be harmful to the environment and and human health.

Motion to approve 2016-R-44.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

16. 2016-R-45 Accepting the conveyance of the following twenty (20) foot Public Utility and Utility Access Easement, for the right to install, construct, reconstruct, repair and perpetually maintain an 8" water line from:

United Independent School District (UISD) By: Ricardo Rodriguez, Board President - Utility easement as follows:

A tract of land containing 0.97 Acres, more or less in Webb County, Texas, situated in Porcion 19, Abstract 47, being out of Lot 1, Block 1, 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.

Motion to approve 2016-R-45.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

17. 2016-R-46 Opposing at-large member districts and opposing the expansion of the powers and duties of the Mayor in addition to those accorded by the Laredo City Charter.

Ivan Rodriguez noted that in order for Laredo to be its very best, the City Charter needs some changes. Poverty has remained at 30% of the city for the past 30 years, despite Laredo’s growth. He asked South Laredo district residents if they are truly happy with the current operations of their districts. While he believes women should be represented on City Council, there has been very little female representation over the past 30 years. In order to improve this, he believes that there should be at-large campaigns in Laredo.

Mario Peña of Moving Laredo Forward expressed his severe disappointment in this resolution. It is full of inaccuracies. Moving Laredo Forward is not proposing all at-large districts as the document implies. He also noted that the Webb County Democratic Party has not already voted, as the resolution implies. The document uses the term “powers” very loosely and leaves out the at-large and single member hybrid system. He believes this is nothing more than an attempt to prevent people from being allowed to sign the petition.

Jon Melendez stated the petition, whether prudent or not, is a symptom of a much large issue, which is mistrust in our local government. He has seen disenfranchisement around Laredo and wonders if Council is really thinking about the people. Laredo is diminished with this behavior.

David James, Our Laredo member, said that these groups are simply looking out for good government. He invited Moving Laredo Forward and any interested parties to a civilized open debate.

Cesar Cantu voiced his opposition to the resolution proposed by Cm. Vela. He believes it resembles the Patrón system, intimidating people from voicing their opinion and voting. He likened Laredo’s Patrón system to organized crime. He urged Council to let the people vote on changes to the Charter.

Sandra Rocha Taylor noted that the community was invited to propose Charter changes to the Charter Review Commission. Moving Laredo
Forward presented changes which were voted down by the Commission except for the number of votes required to overturn the Mayor’s veto. This petition was initiated by a group of citizens, and the accusation that these changes would revert Laredo to a Patrón system is insulting. She specified that the Webb County Democratic Party convention only presented one side of the argument and was voted on by 100 or so people in attendance. That does not accurately represent the 200,000 Democratic voters in Webb County. She believes what more accurately reflects a Patrón system is Council passing resolutions that influence City employees, vendors, and people conducting business with the City.

Dennis Nixon also voiced his opposition to this resolution. The petition being brought forward by the Moving Laredo Forward group is simply an opportunity for people to vote and express their opinions. He believes that the Charter Review Commission is not accessible or open. He asked Council not to pass this resolution.

Eva Delgado questioned City Council about their opposition to a change in which citizens would be allowed to freely vote at-large. She explained that if this does not provide any advancement to the City of Laredo, then there must be different options to adopt. Also, Mrs. Delgado mentioned that young citizens are no longer interested in voting because they do not see any progress. She encouraged Council to move forward.

Nelly Vielma stated that this process was started because the community saw a need for change. She reiterated that this petition is not a return to the Patrón system but in fact the opposite. The right to petition is a fundamental right in the United States. She asked Council why they are interfering with citizens' freedom of speech.

Cm. San Miguel noted that Council should not silence the people. The City should remain neutral on this issue, and he opposes this resolution. There is a lot of misleading information and fear-mongering surrounding the petition. He thinks the main issues being addressed by the petition are to increase accountability and to increase representation. He asked the Moving Laredo Forward group to consider some compromises to meet the opposing arguments to their petition. He reiterated that at-large districts increase citizens' representation.

Cm. Vela does not believe this resolution is stopping anyone from exercising their freedom of speech. As an elected official, he thinks Council should express their opinion on public issues such as this. He thinks going back to at-large districts is the wrong thing to do. He also does not understand how moving to at-large district would change the poverty rate in Laredo. He clarified that the Webb County Democratic Party convention used an executive committee.

Cm. Altgelt opposed the resolution because it gives the message that
the Laredo City Council wants to save the people from themselves. He reiterated that the opinion that matters on this issue is that of the people.

Cm. Balli stated that despite public opinion, Webb County has some of the highest voter turn-out in the state of Texas. While he believes the petition process is democratic, he believes that some of the proposed changes in the Moving Laredo Forward petition are not democratic.

Mayor Saenz voiced his opposition to the resolution. He encouraged citizens to exercise their rights by signing or refusing to sign the petition.

Cm. Rangel stated that Council Members take care of every district, not just their own. He thinks that at-large districts would lose a sense of connection with their Council Member.

Motion to approve 2016-R-46.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 5   Against: 2   Abstain: 0
   Cm. Gonzalez   Cm. San Miguel
   Cm. Rangel     Cm. Altgelt
   Cm. Perez
   Cm. Vela
   Cm. Balli

XI. MOTIONS

18. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant for the Design Plan for a Dedicated Noncommercial Route from the Max Mandel Golf Course to IH-35 for a feasibility study, alternative alignments and right-of-way requirements with cost estimates, and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract. No financial impact. (Not approved by Operations Committee; however the item was tabled at the Finance Committee pending the donation of land by all property owners affected.)

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 6   Against: 0   Abstain: 0
   Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

19. Authorizing the City Manager to submit the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Storm Water Permit renewal application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The City of Laredo's Municipal Separate Storm Water Permit will expire on November 21, 2016 and is required to submit the permit application before May 25, 2016 or 180 days before the expiration of the permit in order to discharge to the Waters of the United States. TPDES permit is a
comprehensive Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) for the City of Laredo to comply with the state and federal storm water regulations. The SWMP includes, but is not limited to, ways of controlling pollution from various activities such as structural controls, areas of new development and significant redevelopment, roadways, flood management projects, pesticides/herbicides/fertilizers, illicit discharges and improper disposal of chemicals, industrial and high risk runoff, construction sites and site planning, public education, and field screening. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

20. Consideration to renew the existing annual service contract FY14-052 to Delta House Electric & Motor, Freer, Texas in an amount up to $350,000.00 to provide electric motor repair services for the Utilities Department. Repairs are for motors with horsepower ratings from 1/8 HP to 400 HP that are used in water and wastewater operations. There will be no price increase during this extension period. 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 second of five extension periods. All services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

Cm. Gonzalez was not present.

XII (a) RESOLUTIONS

21. 2016-R-38 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of $810,795.00 to fund the Laredo Police Department HIDTA Task Force and the Rio Grande Valley Financial HIDTA Task Force. This grant is funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office of the National
22. **2016-R-39** Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement and accept reimbursement from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection/U.S. Border Patrol Treasury Forfeiture Fund in the amount of $80,000.00 for joint operations overtime expenses. The City of Laredo required match will be $25,600.00 for a total amount of $105,600.00. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund. The performance period will end on July 31, 2016.

23. **2016-R-43** Consideration to grant fee waivers and a tax abatement agreement between the City of Laredo and HEI Realty LLP for the commercial property located at 1209 Victoria St., being Lots 7-8 Block 128 Western Division. The proposed commercial property eligible for property tax abatement includes a paved parking lot of 12,100 sq. ft. in the total amount of $136,000.00 which is equal to or in excess of 20% of the Base Value of the property in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a five (5) year period and will consist of an estimated annual tax abatement total of $866.32 and estimated total fee waiver of $754.00 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.

**XII (b) MOTIONS**

24. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract and award $200,000.00 in 2014, 40th AY Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to (SCAN) Serving Children and Adults In Need, Inc. in support of the rehabilitation of 1517 Washington St. Laredo Texas 78040, for the use as transitional housing for homeless youth. CDBG award to SCAN is contingent on Council approval of the lease agreement.

25. Authorizing the City Manager to purchase the surface only of the following tracts of land from Disa Homes, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $157,000.00 plus incidental closing costs for the purpose of constructing an elevated storage tank in the North Laredo, San Isidro area. The property is legally described as Lots 1 and 2, Block 5, San Isidro Northeast Subdivision, Phase XI and physically located at 106 and 108 Calma Drive. Funding for this purchase is available through 2015 Water Revenue Bond funds.

26. Consideration for approval of the CDBG El Eden Recreational Swimming Pool (Design/Build Project) as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of $24,474.00 to Ayala Pools, Inc., dba/Sunset Pools, Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is $489,480.00. Funding is available in the Community Development 39th Action Year, 2014 C.O. Bond Issue, 2008 C.O. Bond Issue and the Capital Improvements Fund.
27. Approval to appoint Maurice A. Click, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., to continue to serve as the City of Laredo Health Authority under Section 121.033 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, for the period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2018 and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Dr. Click for professional services in the amount not to exceed $12,720.00 per year. Funding is available through the Health Department budget. The contract is subject to funding availability and can be renewed for an additional year.

28. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a contract between AT&T and the City of Laredo to cover the cost of monthly service fees for ECaTS, Information into Insights Management Information System (MIS) Services for Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb and Zapata Counties for two years, and the installation of the ECaTS software at an additional remote host site through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) Cooperative Purchasing Contract No. EC07-14 in the total amount of $72,000. Funding is available in the 9-1-1 Regional Fund.

29. Consideration to renew the existing annual contract FY14-048 to Southern Sanitation, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to $73,627.44, to provide trash collection services for large volume containers. These services will be required for various city operations such as the Airport, Bridge System, Parks and Leisure, Public Access, Fleet Management, Traffic, Transit, Municipal Housing, Environmental Engineering, Utilities, and Solid Waste Departments. The contract vendor is also required to provide these containers for special events such as the Household Collection Event. There will be no price increase during this extension period. 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 second of five extension periods. Funding for these services is available in various departmental funds.

30. Consideration to renew an existing annual contract FY14-046 to McNeilus Truck & Manufacturing, Dodge Center, Minnesota in an amount not to exceed $160,000.00, for the purchase of McNeilus Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) equipment repair parts and service for the City’s refuse trucks. There will be no price increase during this extension period. 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 second of four extension periods. All parts and services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

31. Consideration to renew the existing annual contracts FY14-053 with the following vendors:

1. Laredo Cycle Sports, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to $20,000.00; and

2. Corpus Christi Cycles, South Padre Island, Texas in an amount up to $15,000.00,

for the purchase of motorcycle Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts/services for the City’s Police motorcycles. The term of these contracts shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the second of five extension periods. All parts and services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.
32. Consideration to renew the existing annual service contracts FY14-051 to the following vendors:

1. LED Electric and Lighting Contractor (Primary Vendor), Laredo, Texas in an amount up to $150,000.00; and

2. Castillo Electric & Facility Services (Secondary Vendor), Laredo, Texas in an amount up to $50,000.00,

for electrical repair services to include, but not limited to: minor repairs, maintenance of various systems, subsystems, and/or equipment devices for various City Departments. There will be no price increase during this extension period. The term of these contracts shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the second of four extension periods. All services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in respective departmental budget.

33. Authorizing the City Manager to select a consulting firm and negotiate contract FY16-030 for the creation of a Downtown TIRZ. After review and interviews, the committee's top recommended firm was Community Development Strategies (CDS), Houston, TX. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Armando Cisneros noted that he was once on the Economic Development Committee. He asked Council to be careful regarding abatements and TIRZ agreements.

Cm. Balli clarified that this particular TIRZ serves to revitalize Downtown, not give any private businesses incentives.

34. Ratification of a contract to Siddons-Martin Emergency Group, Denton, Texas in the amount of $431,081.00 through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC) - Cooperative Purchasing Program, for the purchase of one (1) custom pumper replacement truck that was damaged in a rear-end collision on IH-35 and declared a total loss. This truck will be assigned to Fire Station #1 located on Guadalupe Street. The anticipated delivery is expected within 1 to 2 months of order date. Funding is available in the General Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund.

35. Authorizing the City Manager to award a contract to Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. (LAN) for the Phase 1 Asset Management Plan Development in the amount of $197,400.00. The Utilities Department will be undertaking a phased approach to establish its Asset Management Program (ASM) as required by the Texas Water Development Board over the next several years. Consulting services are needed for Phase 1 of the Asset Management Program to provide a road map for the implementation phase(Phase-2). Funding is available in the 2010 Sewer Revenue Bond.

36. Authorizing the City Manager to approve & accept the project and to release the remaining 2% retainage in the amount of $877,272.44 to Pepper-Lawson Waterworks, L.L.C., Houston, Texas for the South Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant 6 MGD Expansion Project. The plant is 100% complete. The total contract
amount remains the same at $43,863,622.00. Funding is available in the 2012 TWDB Loan, and is subject to approval by Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

37. Consideration of Amendment #1 for Gilpin Engineering in the amount of $2,225,000.00 for the Manadas Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant project. The initial contract in the amount of $1,354,000.00 for the 3MGD plant was awarded to Gilpin Engineering in 2009. The amendment is for an increase in capacity for the Proposed Treatment Plant capacity from 3.0 MGD Average Daily Flow to 9.5 MGD Average Daily Flow. Phase 1 Start-up Equipment Capacity of 4.75 MGD Average Daily Flow Capacity of 9.5 MGD Average Daily Flow for All Structures, Piping and Conduits and Master Plan for Staged Future Equipment Upgrades to achieve 9.5 MGD Ultimate Capacity. The total contract amount with this amendment is $3,579,000.00. The contract time is 270 calendar days. Funding is available in the 2011 Sewer revenue Bond.

Ron Rodriguez stated that this item is financially irresponsible and illegal. Gilpin Engineering is seeking an increase of $2.25 million, almost a 200% increase. That is a violation of Texas law. Since there is no specific exception to the bidding process, the Texas Local Government Code Section 252.048(d) applies. It states, “The original contract price may not be increased under this section by more than 25 percent. The original contract price may not be decreased under this section by more than 25 percent without the consent of the contractor.” In this case, the contractor is violating Texas law. Mr. Rodriguez clarified that he did not submit a bid for this project but believes this is an attempt to avoid going out for bids again. He asked that Council table, pending further evaluation.

Riazul Mia, Utilities Director, clarified that this project was not a bidded project. It is a provisional services contract, so this increase is not a change order and is not governed by the Code aforementioned by Mr. Rodriguez. City Attorney Casso confirmed that provisional contracts awarded through RFQs are covered under the Professional Services Act and not the Procurement Act. This increase is due to unforeseen pressure issues.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

38. Presentation with possible action regarding Operation Crackdown, an initiative of the Texas National Guard, that will provide the demolition of abandoned and neglected structures that serve as a nuisance and drug haven within the community. Currently there are 20 properties with 26 structures identified and cleared for demolition.

Arturo Garcia, Acting Community Development Director, reported that 26 structures will be demolished in order to alleviate criminal and drug activities in Laredo. He presented a case study in which a similar structure was demolished in 2014 and now has a new, beautiful home built in its place with landscaping. He thanked City staff who have helped in the activity of Operation Crackdown.

Xochitl Mora, Public Information Officer, stated that a press conference will be held tomorrow, April 5, to announce the Operation Crackdown initiative in May. The press
conference will be at 10:00 am.

No action

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

Monica Flores, Human Resources Director, requested 124 work days retroactively from November 3, 2015, to April 22, 2016, for Officer Reyes. She noted that HR waits to extend Injury Leave with pay to ensure the officer provides the required medical information.

Motion to approve.

Moved:  Cm. San Miguel
Second:  Cm. Gonzalez
For:  7    Against:  0    Abstain:  0

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

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

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

40. 2016-RT-04 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a resolution approving the Laredo Transit Management Inc. (LTMI) Title VI Program and authorizing the City Manager to submit the plan to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region Office. FTA requires that every three (3) years, transit systems receiving Federal financial assistance must update their Title VI Program. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to authorize the City Manager to accept a resolution approving the Laredo Transit Management Inc. Title VI Program and to submit the plan to the Federal Transit Administration Region Office.

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

41. Approval of the Third Party Advisory Committee selection of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 applications for the Laredo Urbanized Area Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Funding Program. The
FY 2015 Call for Projects received four (4) applications and only two (2) were complete. The Third Party Committee and staff recommends that the Mass Transit Board approve the scoring Committee’s selection of Laredo Transit and Ruth B. Cowl and authorize the City Manager to proceed with all necessary contractual documentation and FTA applications as mentioned in the LTMI Section 5310 Program Management Plan. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve the Third Party Advisory Committee selection for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 applications for the Laredo Urbanized Area Enhancement Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Funding Program.

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

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

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

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

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

42. A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

   a. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Non-Construction Advance Funding Agreement (CSJ:#0922-33-105) to accept funding from the Texas Department of Transportation to produce a railroad grade separation feasibility study which addresses the KCS rail-line and the Union Pacific rail-line within the Scott/Sanchez street area with the City to provide a match of up to ten percent of the total estimated amount of $405,740. (Funds available in the Capital Improvements Fund)

   Nathan Bratton, Planning Director, reported that this funding was an earmark provided several years ago. A study should yield two possible grade separations. He reiterated that this is only to fund a feasibility study, not construction at this point.

   Cm. Balli noted the impact this study will have on Downtown, making it more accessible for residents and increasing its potential for development. With the outlet mall coming, this study is important as it will help address road blockage and alternative routing for trains in Downtown.

   Motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Non-Construction Advance Funding Agreement to accept funding from the Texas Department of
Transportation to produce a railroad grade separation feasibility study which addresses the KCS rail-line and the Union Pacific rail-line within the Scott/Sanchez street area with the City to provide a match of up to ten percent of the total estimated amount of $405,740.

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

B. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

a. Discussion with possible action to conduct a pilot program regarding how to incentivize crossings at the World Trade Bridge from 8 a.m. - 12 noon. Request from staff regarding costs to operate World Trade Bridge (WTB) during those same hours and whether a congestion fee would be feasible during peak hours and directive to staff to coordinate with our Nuevo Laredo counterparts.

Cm. Altgelt noted that this item affects virtually all individuals involved in international trade, such as freight forwarders, customs brokers on the U.S. and Mexico side, transportistas, warehousing staff, bridge operators, and more. After attending the Department of Transportation Freight Summit in Washington, DC, it was quickly realized that Laredo’s infrastructure is underdeveloped and in need of renovation for future business.

Arturo Dominguez spoke in favor of the pilot program. He hopes that this program will begin quickly.

Mario Maldonado, Bridge Manager, reported daily crossings of about 6,500 to 7,000 trucks in each direction across the border. There is a lack of transfer vehicles in Laredo, and it is a lengthy process moving a shipment into Mexico. Traffic is heavily congested in the afternoon, but very few vehicles cross in the mornings. He specified that the City’s general fund is dependent on bridge revenue.

City Manager Olivares clarified that south-bound traffic is not an issue. Mexican customs checking empty trailers returning to the United States or computer system crashes are slowing the process.

Motion to form an ad hoc committee appointed by Council and City employees of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, to develop a pilot program to assess the feasibility of the World Trade Bridge operations during non-peak hours.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt
Second: San Miguel
For: 7    Against: 0    Abstain: 0

b. Discussion with possible action to implement a tree preservation Ordinance.

Cm. Altgelt reported that most major municipality have tree preservation ordinances. Cutting down ancient trees in Laredo should be avoided.
Motion to task Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee and the Technical Review Board with vetting a tree preservation ordinance and present to Council for a vote.

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

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

c. Discussion with possible action to select a paid governmental affairs specialists (lobbyists) to advocate for the City of Laredo in Austin, Texas and Washington, D.C. and request for proposals and qualifications regarding the same.

Cm. Altgelt stated that Laredo has been with the same consultants in D.C. for a long time. He believes that the City should consider providing for competitive bidding to ensure the best lobbyist representation. He proposed a reevaluation of Laredo’s lobbyist relationship through an RFQ process.

Motion to go out for RFQs for paid governmental affairs specialists (lobbyists) to advocate for the City of Laredo in Austin, Texas and Washington, D.C.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt  
Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 6   Against: 1   Abstain: 0  
Cm. Gonzalez   Cm. Vela  
Cm. Rangel  
Cm. Perez  
Cm. San Miguel  
Cm. Altgelt  
Cm. Balli

C. Request by Council Member Esteban Rangel

a. Discussion with possible action on proposals received for the Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for a design-build, permitting, equipment system supply, facility installation, startup, testing, and long-term operation of a Scrap Tire Processing Plant for the City of Laredo’s Landfill.

John Porter, Assistant Environmental Services Director, reported that the City went out for RFQs on January 4, 2016, closing on February 19. Two firms submitted qualifications. Sustech was ranked highest. He confirmed that conducting a feasibility study prior to selecting the firm would be wise.

Armando Cisneros noted that Cm. Rangel is on his way out of Council and is advocating a study and hiring of a firm to operate a tire processing plant. He thinks it is odd for Cm. Rangel to push an expensive project when he will not be on Council to see it through. He asked where the money will come from.

Cm. Altgelt supported Cm. Rangel’s sentiment to explore improvement projects regardless of his term end.
Motion to select Sustech’s proposal in accordance with staff recommendations and to direct City Manager’s Office to conduct a feasibility study.

Moved: Cm. Rangel  
Second: Cm. Altgelt  
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

b. Discussion with possible action on considering bringing back the City's Leadership Development and Tuition Assistance Programs.

After speaking with several department Directors, Cm. Rangel iterated the need for Laredo to breed its own leaders. He asked Council to consider bringing back these programs which would help Laredo employees earn their degrees and use their education in service to the City.

City Manager Olivares noted one problem with these programs was Laredo losing employees as soon as they earned their degrees. Many employees left the City upon completion of their degree programs. The programs were suspended as a result. In order to ensure successful reestablishment of these programs, Mr. Olivares suggested implementing rules in which the candidate earns a degree in the field related to his or her City position to benefit the City of Laredo.

Cm. Balli agreed that it is important for the City of Laredo to be a good employer and maintain employee retention through incentive programs such as leadership development and tuition assistance.

Cm. San Miguel suggested instituting a commitment agreement for those utilizing the degree programs.

Motion to direct City Manager’s Office to look into Leadership Development and Tuition Assistance Programs considering factors of degree programs serving the employee’s City position and commitment agreements.

Moved: Cm. Rangel  
Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

c. Discussion with possible action regarding increasing the salary for Mayor and City Council Members.

Cm. Rangel noted that throughout their years of service on Council, the Mayor and Council Members work very long days and weekends. Considering the number of hours worked, Council’s salary reflects a rate of about $4.00 per hour. He understands that there will be scrutiny to this item, but given the numerous meetings, calls, events, and instances keeping Council from their families, he believes an adjustment of salaries is fair. He suggests salary increases knowing that he will not benefit from the increase.

City Attorney Raul Casso confirmed that the Council sets the salary for Mayor and Council Members, according to the City Charter. He does not know of any
other laws that would prohibit a salary adjustment. However, the Charter indicates that the salary adjustment would not be effective until after the start of the Mayor’s and Council Member’s respective new terms, which must be three months or more after the passage of the ordinance to increase the salaries.

Cm. San Miguel noted that this increase would not affect his salary, since he is in his second term. However, he still believes that Council should be fairly compensated, especially since the nature of Council work takes them away from their family and businesses. This increase would encourage competent candidates. He voiced his support of this item.

Cm. Gonzalez noted that he will not benefit from the increase either, but he thinks that the proposed increase is a reasonable amount. He also congratulated Cm. Rangel on his service and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

Cm. Balli stated that no one runs for City Council for the pay, because the pay is bad. However, if incentivizing the position increases the pool of competent candidates vying for the position, then he is in support.

Rosario Cabello, Finance Director, clarified that Council Members currently receive a base pay of $12,000 per year. They also receive a home office allowance of $9,000 per year, a cell phone allowance of $1,800 per year, and a transportation allowance of $9,000 per year for a total of $31,800 annual compensation. This amount does not reflect insurance coverage. The Mayor currently receives a base total compensation of $61,200 per year.

Monica Flores, Human Resources Director, noted that all City employees receive insurance coverage at no cost but can purchase dependent coverage.

Motion to increase the salary of Council Members to $50,000 per year and the salary of the Mayor to $75,000 per year, including allowances, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rangel
Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 5 Against: 2 Abstain: 0
  Cm. Gonzalez  Cm. Vela
  Cm. Rangel  Cm. Altgelt
  Cm. Perez
  Cm. San Miguel
  Cm. Balli

Cm. Vela stated that, if reelected to City Council, he will donate a portion of his increased salary to scholarships.

D. Request by Council Member Roque Vela, Jr.

a. Status report on the tennis and baseball complex, with possible action.

Armando Cisneros asked what happened to the $10 million dollars from the Civic Center sale. City Manager Olivares specified that none of the proceeds from that sale will be applied to the tennis and baseball complex. It is all coming
from the sports venue. This was approved by the voters.

Motion to table.

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

Cm. Balli was out.

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Vela
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

I, Doanh “Zone” T. Nguyen, City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 through 23 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on April 4, 2016.

Doanh “Zone” T. Nguyen
City Secretary