

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M-2017-R-02
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
February 6, 2017
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Pete Saenz | Mayor |
| Rudy Gonzalez | District I |
| Vidal Rodriguez | District II |
| Alberto Torres, Jr. | District IV |
| Norma "Nelly" Vielma | District V |
| Charlie San Miguel | District VI |
| George J. Altgelt | District VII |
| Roberto Balli | District VIII |
| Heberto "Beto" Ramirez | Acting City Secretary |
| Jesus Olivares | City Manager |
| Cynthia Collazo | Deputy City Manager |
| Horacio De Leon | Assistant City Manager |
| Robert Eads | Assistant City Manager |
| Kristina L. Hale | Acting City Attorney |

Cm. San Miguel arrived joined at 5:39 p.m.

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of January 17, 2017

Motion to approve the January 17, 2017 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel not present.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Invitations

1. Invitation to officially invite the Mayor and City Council to the 85th Annual Border Olympics Event by Gabriel Goldaracena, President of Border Olympics and Border Olympics Board of Directors.

Rene Gonzalez, Board of Directors, invited the Mayor, City Council members, and the public to attend all scheduled events under the 85th Annual Border Olympics. They presented a token of appreciation to City Council and the Mayor. He thanked them for their support.

Cm. Rodriguez commended the organization for their work and dedication. He thanked them for allowing Scouts to visit and observe players. He noted that many players have been discovered through these tournaments.

Recognitions

1. Recognizing the Trautmann Middle School Cheerleaders for all of their accomplishments and especially winning NCA National Champions for 2017.

Elia Cardenas, Coach, explained that they have received numerous awards. She expressed her satisfaction with the members' performance and dedication.

Mayor Saenz congratulated them for their accomplishments and thanked them for presenting this before City Council.

2. Recognizing the J.B. Alexander High School Cheerleaders, their coach Elizabeth Torres Guerrero, and their principal Ernesto Sandoval, for winning the largest and most competitive NCA National Championship Title and for being named the Herkie High Point Winner for having the highest overall score of more than 100 teams from all across the country.

Elizabeth Torres Guerrero stated that it's not easy to get to where they did. People failed to recognize all the efforts and sacrifices that each member makes. She expressed her love and admiration for her team.

Cm. San Miguel recognized the parents for their dedication and support. He noted that these members are real athletes. He verbalized his admiration.

Citizen comments

Rosie Centeno-Hinojosa, Para-Transit Advisory Board Member, stressed the importance of having such committee. She thanked the City of Laredo for providing these services. She recommended Council to appoint responsible individuals as many appointees failed to attend the meetings. She thanked Cm. Torres for reappointing her.

Heberto L. Ramirez, Acting City Secretary, explained that committees, boards, and

commissions are responsible for submitting a biannual report illustrating attendance rerecords. He advised Council that he will submit a report to them with this information.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, explained that the Procedures Manual dictates that Council should be notified when members fail to attend a certain numbers of meetings.

Mayor Saenz suggested that attendance requirements and policies pertaining to appointee attendance can be implemented in the future as they are currently amending policies through the Charter Review Committee.

Cm. Altgelt requested for the City Manager to implement an order indicating that when a member is absent twice, his/her Council Member should be notified.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, noted the Para-Transit Advisory Board is an important board and stated that they have the opportunity to reevaluate their appointments to authenticate their commitment.

Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath, stated that Sunset Pools doesn't have insurance, therefore, the City has the responsibility to terminate the contract until they are in full compliance. He requested proof of the insurance.

Miguel Conchas, Laredo Chamber of Commerce, thanked CM. Balli for taking a position in support of NAFTA and free trade between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. He noted that this agreement is extremely important to the City of Laredo. He encouraged City Council to support this agreement.

Juan Jose Avila discouraged Cm. Altgelt from hiring dedicated City staff member to assist with any and all constituent concerns and Council Member related responsibilities. He noted that this is not the right time to hire individual assistants, and if he wishes to support this item, to obtain the funds from his salary.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Judith G. Gutierrez to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Judith G. Gutierrez to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Estela Quintanilla to the Drug & Alcohol Commission.

Motion to approve the appointment of Estela Quintanilla to the Drug & Alcohol Commission.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 3. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Christina Davila Villarreal to the Historic District/Landmark Board.

Motion to approve Christina Davila Villarreal to the Historic District/Landmark Board.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 4. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Mercurio Martinez to the Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Motion to appoint Mercurio Martinez to the Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 5. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Rodolfo Rodriguez to the Airport Advisory Board.

Motion to appoint Rodolfo Rodriguez to the Airport Advisory Board.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the City of Laredo FY 2017-2018 Capital Grant Fund annual budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$615,000.00, which includes \$480,000.00 awarded by Texas Department of Transportation and a local participation of \$135,000.00, to initiate the City Wide Traffic Signal Synchronization Project and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget. Local participation requirement will be funded through the 2016 C.O.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Recess)

(Press Availability)

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

2. An ordinance amending Chapter 21, Article XII, Section 21-256 of the Laredo Code of Ordinance regarding Aggressive Solicitation to prohibit handing over of money or other goods from a vehicle that is not legally parked. Providing for a penalty; providing for publication; providing for effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: Refer to Supplemental Agenda, M-2017-S-01, Item.

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3. Amending Chapter 19, Motor Vehicle and Traffic, Article VIII, Stopping, Standing or Parking, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Laredo, specifically adding Sub-Section 19-364 (20) which establishes the East and West side of the 2300 Block of Martin Avenue, between Clark Boulevard and O'kane Street, as a "No Parking Anytime/Tow Away" Zone; providing severability and for an effective date and publication.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

IX. SECOND READING

4. Authorizing the City Manager to grant a non-exclusive franchise to Disposal Services of Laredo, Inc. to use the present and future streets, avenues, alleys, roads, highways, sidewalks, easements and other public right-of-ways of the City of Laredo, Texas for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and operating a commercial container refuse gathering and disposing services setting forth terms and conditions to govern the franchise; providing a severability clause, savings clause and an effective date.

Motion to open public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive final reading of Ordinances 2017-O-001, 2017-O-006, 2017-O-007,

2017-O-008, 2017-O-009, 2017-O-010, 2017-O-011, 2017-O-012, 2017-O-013, 2017-O-014, 2017-O-015, 2017-O-016, 2017-O-017, 2017-O-018, 2017-O-020, and 2017-O-022.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. 2017-O-001 Designating a geographic area within the City of Laredo as Reinvestment Zone Number One, City of Laredo, Texas, for Tax Increment Financing purposes pursuant to Chapter 311 of the Texas Tax Code; creating a board of directors for such zone; containing findings and provisions related to the foregoing subject; and providing a severability clause.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-001.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 2017-O-006 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract with the South Texas Development Council (STDC) through funding from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to provide HIV preventive services in the amount of \$132,749.00 for the term period of September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017 and a rebate amount of \$152,498.00 for the term period of September 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 for a total of \$285,247.00 and amending the FY 2016-2017 Full Time Equivalent Position Listing by creating one (1) Administrative Assistant I, R32 position and one (1) Clerk III, R27 position for the continuation of City of Laredo Health Department HIV/Health & Social Services to provide medical care, treatment, case management, testing, social services and supportive care.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-006.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Torres

Cm. Vielma

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Balli

7. 2017-O-007 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a Bar, on Lot 2, Block 1,

North Plantation Plaza Subdivision, located at 9653 McPherson Rd.; providing for publication and effective date. District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-007.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. 2017-O-008 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 3.54 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit A, located at SW corner of Del Mar Blvd. and John B. Alexander Parkway, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date. District V

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-008.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9. 2017-O-009 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a Restaurant Serving Alcohol, on Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 3, Khaledi Heights Subdivision, located at 3910 E Del Mar Blvd., Unit 3, Suite 201; providing for publication and effective date. District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-009.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. 2017-O-010 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots, 16 and 17, Block 12, Lomas Del Sur Subdivision, Unit V, located at 3618/3704 S Ejido Ave., from R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date. District I

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-010.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. 2017-O-011 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 8.1450 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at SE corner of Riata Drive and State Highway 359, from R-1 (Single Family

Residential District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date. District II

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-009.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. 2017-O-012 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 4.0462 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located west of Cuatro Vientos Rd. and North of Wormser Rd., from R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-012.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. 2017-O-013 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol on Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Manadas Development, located at 9413 McPherson Rd., Ste.1; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-013.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. 2017-O-014 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by repealing Ordinance No. 2016-O-122 authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a Pawn Shop, Pay Day and Car Title Loan, on the E 35' of Lot 7, Block 1693 and N 62.4' of Lot 8, Block 1693 and 34.39' of Lot 7, Block 1693, Eastern Division, located at 2305 N Arkansas Ave. and 2816 Clark Blvd.; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-014.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. 2017-O-015 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a restaurant serving alcohol on 15,432.35 SQ FT N of Block 1878 and S of Block 1877, Eastern

Division as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at 3000 Jaime Zapata Memorial Hwy.; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-015.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. 2017-O-016 Amending the zoning ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Salinas Key Subdivision, located at 8526 and 8528 Michigan Ave., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District).; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-016.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. 2017-O-017 Amending the City of Laredo's FY 2017 annual budget by appropriating additional revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$150,025.00 in the Police Trust Fund, for the payment to Sig Sauer for the trade-in service weapons that were purchased by officers. Funding is available in the Police Trust Fund.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-017.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. 2017-O-018 Amending Chapter 7-9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo by adopting the 2015 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), repealing all ordinances and/or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for publication and effective date. This will be effective for all residential, commercial and industrial construction that is not single family residential or a duplex in accordance with House Bill 1736.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-018.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. 2017-O-020 Amending Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Departments,

Officers, and Employees), Division 5 (Civil Service) by adding and removing language to the Municipal Civil Service Rules and Regulations for City employees not covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement; as recommended by the Municipal Civil Service Commission for improvement of the existing disciplinary procedures and appeal, and grievance process for classified City employees; repealing conflicting ordinances providing that this ordinance is cumulative; providing a severability clause and providing an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-O-020.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. 2017-O-022 Authorizing the City Manager to exercise the third option to extend the lease for a five year renewal option for the lease agreement by and between the City of Laredo (the "Landlord") and Greyhound Lines, Inc. / Valley Transit Company Joint Venture, a Texas Joint Venture (the "Tenant") for a certain premise of 5,000 square feet of commercial area together with a bus parking area containing approximately 18,000 square feet, located at 1301 Farragut Street, Laredo Block Number 49, located in the Western Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The term of the lease shall commence July 1, 2017, and end June 30, 2022, with one (1) additional five (5) year renewal option period remaining. This new lease agreement raises the monthly rate by four percent (4%), from \$9,955.04 per month to \$10,353.24.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. RESOLUTIONS

21. 2017-R-03 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a non-financial agreement between the Laredo Community College - Adult Education & Literacy and the City of Laredo - Laredo Public Libraries to provide ESL (English as a Second Language), El Civic and GED instructions to improve literacy levels in surrounding communities.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-03.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. 2017-R-07 Authorizing City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$50,575.48 to the Texas Department of Transportation

for Traffic Safety Community Outreach Program. The grant period will begin October 1, 2017 and runs through September 30, 2018. This grant is for salaries and travel expenditures. The City of Laredo will need to match 20% of the grant funds.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-07.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. 2017-R-12 Authorizing the City manager to sign a water rights agreement, between the City of Laredo and Brownsville Irrigation District whereby the City agrees to purchase the right to divert and use 1013.15 acre feet per annum of Class B Irrigation water rights to the Rio Grande River at \$1,200.00 per A/F for a purchase price of \$1,215,780.00 and further authorizing the City Manager to sign and file necessary application(s) with Texas Commission of Environmental Quality on behalf of the City requesting that said water rights be severed from Certificate of Adjudication no. 23-843 of the seller and combined with Certificate of Adjudication no. 23-3997 as amended by the City and that the point of diversion, purpose and place of use of said water rights be changed as required by the City. Funding is available in the Water Availability Fund and the Water Operating Construction Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-12.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. 2017-R-13 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract amendment from the Women's Health and Family Planning Association of Texas (WHFPT) in the amount of \$9,200.00 for a total of \$112,203.00 for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department Title X Family Planning Women's Preventive Health Programs as well as an additional \$10,000.00 in funds for Zika data collection for the term through March 31, 2017.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-13.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. 2017-R-14 Authorizing the City Manager to rescind Resolution No. 2013-R-017 which was to provide a loan in the amount of \$1,710,000.00 thru the City of Laredo's subsidiary corporation (Laredo Housing Finance Corporation) to the Laredo Housing Authority (LHA)/ River

Bank Village, LTD., in order to assist in the development of an affordable housing development. LHA has advised the City the loan will no longer be needed.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-14.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. 2017-R-15 Amending Resolution #2017-R-05 by adding one (1) additional Memorandum of Understanding (Webb County District Attorney's Office - Traffic Safety Program) to the list of cooperative working agreements/mutual assistance agreements/memorandums of understanding between the City of Laredo Police Department and various federal, state and local agencies, including but not limited to: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), SCAN, et al., a comprehensive list is attached hereto as "Exhibit A". The Police Department's participation is part of the community service provided to our citizens, with no cost to the City of Laredo.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-15.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. 2017-R-18 Authorizing fee waivers and a tax abatement agreement between the City of Laredo and Frank Group Ltd. for the commercial property located at 1302 Houston St. & 1312 Houston St. being Lots 3, 4 & 5, Block 127 Western Division respectively. The proposed commercial property eligible for property tax abatement includes rehabilitation of the existing structure of approximately 6,160 sq. ft. in the total amount of \$269,066.75 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 ten (10) year period and will consist of an estimated annual tax abatement total of \$1,713.96 and estimated total fee waivers of \$1,765.00 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.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-18.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. 2017-R-19 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a continuation grant application and execute any award granted to the City of Laredo Health Department to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$165,000.00 for surveillance and epidemiology activities for all notifiable, infectious conditions especially for highly infectious diseases, new and emerging diseases for the term from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2019 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from this award.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-19.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. 2017-R-20 Authorizing the City Manager to submit continuation grant applications in the estimated amount of \$1,215,455.00 to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to continue the City of Laredo Health Department Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), Office of Public Health Practices (OPHP), Immunization, and Tuberculosis-State programs in order to provide public health prevention, detection, treatment and education, disease control, food safety, and local public health system support and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of these grants.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-20.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. 2017-R-21 Accepting the conveyance of a platted tract of land located within the San Isidro Northeast Subdivision by Special Warranty Deed from San Isidro Northeast Ltd., to the City of Laredo for municipal purposes in partial fulfillment of subdivision development obligations.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-21.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. 2017-R-22 Adopting a program under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 380 and authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement made pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 380 with Laredo Town Center LP, relating to the development of approximately 88.970 acres located across from the main entry to

the Laredo International Airport as a Retail-Mixed Use, Multi-Family Development.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, reported that program encompasses approximately 88.970 acres located across from the main entry to the Laredo International Airport. The 380 agreement is designated to offset some of the costs of this necessary public infrastructure. The 380 agreement is for \$5.5 million dollars to be paid for out of sales tax revenue generated by retail development over a 15-year period. The 380 agreement is for \$5,500,000.00 to be paid for out of the 1% sales tax generated by the retail development over 15-year period. This project will create hundreds of jobs.

Carlos Flores, Laredo Town Center LP, introduced his colleagues.

Kim Wise, Developer described the property and noted that it will have approximately 75 to 76 multifamily units. In 2013, the property was acquired from the City of Laredo. The City retains a certain interest percentage. He announced that they are ready to proceed with Phase I of this project- Retail. This will open by the end of 2017. However, the period of development will take a couple of years to complete. He explained that the improvements were beneficial not only to the development but to the City of Laredo.

Matt Johnson, Engineer, explained that certain safety and public improvements were performed. There are approximately 6.4 acres of preservation land. The budget for the pound is approximately \$2 million.

Cm. Vielma thanked them for investing in the City of Laredo and for protecting the environment.

Armando Cisneros noted that this agreement is not as bad as other agreements. He recommended for City Council to be careful and diligent when entering into these type of agreements.

Cm. San Miguel applauded their diligence and commitment to their development project.

Nathan Bratton, Planning and Zoning Director, recommended this item.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-R-22.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez not present.

XII. MOTIONS

32. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the proposed Amendment to the Management Agreement between First Transit, Inc. and the City of Laredo. This contract is to provide automobile liability coverage and general liability coverage for Laredo Transit Management, Inc., its employees and volunteers with a combined single limit of \$10,000,000.00 per occurrence, that will name the City of Laredo as an additional insured and waiver of subrogation endorsements in both general liability and automobile liability. Estimated annual premium not to exceed \$500,000.00 depending on actual miles realized. The above mentioned insurance terms will be for a period of one (1) year with a two (2) one (1) year options to renew and with a sixty (60) day cancelation notice.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Authorizing staff to advertise the sale of "The Surface Only" of a surplus tract of land containing 9,375 sq ft more or less, identified as Lot 8 in Block 10 of Belmont Plaza Subdivision Plat, Unit I, recorded in page 195, volume 2, in the map records of Webb County in the City of Laredo, Texas and located at 109 Sage Drive.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Consideration for approval of the Chacon Creek Pedestrian Trail: Phase 2 CSJ – 0922-33-142 as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$57,800.00 to Davila Construction, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, pending concurrence from Texas Department of Transportation. Final construction contract amount is \$1,156,000.00. Funding is available in the Parks Capital Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Consideration for approval of the CDBG Sidewalk Project District VII (12 Blocks) as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$18,677.49 to ALC Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$186,773.50. Funding is available in the Community Development Block Grant/Sidewalks District VII.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1, per staff request of an increase of \$34,135.29 to the construction contract with Altus Construction, Laredo, Texas, for the Zacate Creek Channel Improvements to include additional channel excavation (\$7,575.29) for the purpose of adding a gravel base below the concrete surface to expedite dewatering process and construction progress, adding filter fabric (\$11,680.00) between the gravel base and fabric form material to prevent possible rupture from the gravel during concrete pours, additional temporary sediment control fencing (\$1,586.91) to minimize erosion and protect surrounding private property fences and walls, addition of weep holes (\$5,625.00) to improve on concrete base functionality and stability, and extra concrete and structure removals (\$7,668.09) for collapsed existing storm system removal and disposal. This change order is also to add forty-six (46) working days to the construction contract time. Current contract amount with this change order is \$1,332,497.75. Completion time for the project is scheduled for May 2017. Funding is available in the 2016 Environmental Services CO.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. Consideration for approval of the Santo Nino Community Center Roof Structure as complete, approval of change order no. 2, a decrease of \$15,000.00 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$26,200.00 to Davila Construction LLC., San Antonio, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$524,000.00. Funding is available in the Santo Nino Community Center 40 th Action Year/2014 Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Consideration for approval of the CDBG Maryland Toddler Park Shade Structure as complete, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$6,390.00 to ALC Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$63,900.00. Funding is available in the CDBG 39 th Action Year/2013.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. Authorizing the City Manager to select a consulting firm and negotiate contract FY17-010 for the Telecommunication Consulting and Related Services. Best value criteria was considered by the evaluation committee to review all submittals. After review, the committee's top recommendation was Best Best & Krieger LLP, Washington D.C. Telecommunication Consulting and Related Services include, but not limited to:

Advise and assist on the city's current reconfiguration (re-banding) of its 800 MHz Public Safety Radio System contract with Sprint/Nextel.

- Advise and assist the city in negotiation and preparation of franchise agreements, telecommunications license agreements, small cell agreements and contracts to ensure the most remunerative and best use of the city's public rights-of-way.
- Advise and assist the city in the preparation/development of Wireless Ordinances/Standards.
- Advise and assist the city in preparation/development of Wireless Site Zoning and Planning.
- Advise and assist the city on any video and cable television issues and transactions.
- Advise and assist the city on cable franchise and PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) issues.
- Advise and assist the city on any and all telecommunications issues as necessary and requested by the city.

Funding is available in the Information Services and Telecommunications Department.

Heberto L. Ramirez, Acting City Secretary, explained that a Request for Qualification was appropriate for this selection process. Subsequently, two offers were received. He expressed the need to outsource and obtain such expertise from a nonlocal company as local companies do not possess the expertise and experience that this company offers.

Cm. San Miguel stated that the City of Laredo doesn't do enough to reach out to local companies. He encouraged City Council and City Administration to include language addressing a budget limit on this item.

Cm. Torres noted that if the City adhered to proper procedures and protocol when selecting an award, and no local entity submitted a proposal, then, they were not interested. He questioned if it would be ethical directly asking a company to submit a bid proposal.

Mayor Saenz stated that as Public Servants, they must protect the interest of the City. Therefore, they must hire the best qualified entity.

Motion to establish a budget not to exceed \$40,000.00

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Consideration to renew existing annual contract FY15-048 for the purchase of automotive parts for the Fire Department to the following vendors:

1.) Gonzalez Auto Parts, Laredo, Texas for an amount up to \$73,581.55 (Primary Vendor)

2.) O'Reilly Auto Parts, Laredo, Texas for an amount up to \$54,000.00 (Secondary Vendor)

3.) Andy's Auto Air, Laredo, Texas for an amount up to \$40,000.00 (Secondary Vendor)

4.) Napa Auto Parts, Laredo, Texas for an amount up to \$20,000.00 (Secondary Vendor)

5.) Interstate Battery, Corpus Christi, Texas for an amount up to \$7,556.00 (Secondary Vendor)

6.) Rotex Truck Auto Parts, Laredo, Texas for an amount up to \$4,854.30 (Secondary Vendor)

These repair/replacement parts will be purchased on an as needed basis for all Fire Department fleet operations. This contract for approximately \$200,000.00 includes: oil/fuel filters, front end parts, hoses, clamps, belts, lamp/bulbs service lubricants and brakes for one (1) year, beginning the date of execution. The contract may be extended for one additional one (1) year period upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fire Department's Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to renew the existing annual supply contract FY14-024 with Hesselbein Tire Southwest, San Antonio, Texas in an amount up to \$230,000.00, for the purchase of police pursuit tires and regular passenger tires for all city vehicles. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract may be extended for one, additional one (1) year period each upon mutual agreement of the parties. This is the third of four extension periods. All tires will be purchased on an as needed basis. There will be no price increase during this extension period. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Consideration to renew contract FY14-038 to Industrial Disposal Supply, San Antonio, Texas, in an amount up to \$75,000.00 for the purchase of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts/service for the City's street sweepers. All parts and services will be secured on an as needed basis. 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 one, additional one (1) year period upon mutual agreement of the parties. This is the third of four extension periods. There will be no price increase during this extension period. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Consideration to renew supply contract FY14-001 for the purchase of general office supplies for all City departments to the following vendors:

1. Executive Office Supply, Laredo, Texas (Primary Vendor)

2. Patria Office Supply, Laredo, Texas (Secondary Vendor)

This contract establishes discount percentage pricing for those office supplies most commonly utilized by City departments. Approximately \$500,000.00 is spent on office supplies and copy paper on an annual basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This the last extension period for this contract. Funding for the additional extensions are subject to future budget appropriations. There will be no price increase during this extension period. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the user departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) 6120E Cab Tractor, one HX20 Flex-Wing Rotary Cutter and one (1) Z960M Commercial ZTrak from John Deere Government & National Sales, Cary, North Carolina in the total amount \$97,903.87 for the Airport Department. The purchase of this equipment shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding is available in the International Airport Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

45. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) Broce self propelled sweeper from Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$69,511.05. The purchase of this sweeper for the Solid Waste Services Department shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program. This sweeper is new a piece of equipment and shall sweep all asphalt and concrete areas at the landfill. Funding is available in the 2016 Public Property Finance Contractual Obligation Bond proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

46. Consideration to renew contract number FY16-026 to Holguin Cleaners, Laredo, Texas in an amount of up to \$62,880.00 to provide laundry and dry cleaning services. The term of this contract shall be for a one (1) year period. This is the first of two extension periods for this contract. There will be no price increase during this extension period. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. Consideration to renew the existing annual contract FY13-019 for the purchase of truck tires currently awarded to Southern Tire Mart, LLC, Dallas, Texas, in an amount up to \$250,000.00. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the last extension period for this contract. There will be no price increase during this extension period. All tires will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

48. Consideration to authorize the purchase of two (2) trucks from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, Texas in the amount of \$83,938.00. The purchase of these trucks for the Solid Waste Services Department shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program. These trucks will be replacing units# 2414 and 2415 due to deterioration from every day use. Funding is available in the 2016 Public Property Finance Contractual Obligation Bond proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

49. Authorizing City Manager to sign a professional services contract with Terracon Consultants, Inc. of Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$177,030.00 for the Laboratory Testing Services for South Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant (SLWWTP) Expansion Project pending approval from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Funding is available in the 2012 Sewer Revenue Bond TWDB.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

50. Authorizing the City Manager to award construction materials and engineering testing services contract in the amount of \$67,100.00 to Howland Engineering and Surveying Co., Inc. during the construction of the 3 Million Gallon (MG) San Isidro Subdivision Elevated Storage Tank (EST). Funding is available in the 2015 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

None

XIII (a) RESOLUTIONS

None

XIII (b) MOTIONS

None

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIV. STAFF REPORTS

51. Report by Monica Flores, Human Resources Director on the Mayor and Council

Member Salaries, with possible action.

Monica C. Flores, Human Resources Director, reported that Cm. Gonzalez, Cm. Rodriguez, Cm. Perez, and Cm. San Miguel are under the old salary chart, earning \$12,000.00 per year; Cm. Torres, Cm. Vielma, Cm. Altgelt, and Cm Balli are under the new salary chart, earning \$30,200.00 per year; and Mayor Saenz is under the old salary chart, earning \$36,000.00 per year.

Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath illustrated an opinion from the Attorney General’s Office addressing the question of a state employee’s ability to serve as a member of a local governing body.

Cm. Torres stated that neither he nor Cm. Gonzalez are State employees. Therefore, such opinion doesn’t apply to them. Similarly, he stated that for accountability and transparency purposes he authorizes the City Attorney’s Office to release corresponding documents.

Cm. Altgelt explained that his understanding and interpretation of the law indicates that there is “no double dipping”. He clarified that Cm. Torres and Cm. Gonzalez are not in violation of any laws.

52. Discussion with possible action regarding the funding options for the upcoming March 2017 Federal Legislative Trip to Washington, D.C.

Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath noted that his concern is not the trip but rather the lack of transparency. He suggested to lower the number of people who will be attending this trip, and discouraged them from receiving donations.

Cm. Torres stated that integrity and transparency are critical. Therefore, he challenged City Council members who opposed current funding practices to not go, fund their own way, or find a way of paying for the trip. They often make City Management seem like if they are conducting illegal activities when it comes to funding for this trip when they are simply adhering to protocol. He recommended for City Council members who would like to participate to include their name on the donation request letter for accountability purposes.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, explained that this item was placed in the agenda as he wanted for City Council to instruct him on the next appropriate action as there has been many negative comments pertaining to the funding of this trip. He explained that a financial expenditures report is created for accountability purposes.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, explained that the Ethics Code allows the opportunity to receive donations based on the importance of attending this trip.

Mayor Saenz explained that there are rumors surrounding the solicitation of funds to pay for this trip. He echoed Cm. Torres sentiments.

Cm. Rodriguez stated that individuals donate money not because of their desire to get a contract awarded but rather because they want City Officials to advocate for

their constituents and their corresponding districts in Washington, D.C.

Cm. Altgelt noted that City Council has the responsibility to represent their constituents in this type of trips. Therefore, their attendance is necessary.

Cm. San Miguel expressed the concerns of his constituents regarding funding for these trips. He directed staff to bring this item back for next year's trip.

Cm. Vielma expressed her concerns pertaining to transparency. She noted that this trip is important but the City should lower the expenses of the trip.

Cm. Gonzalez invited Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath to attend the Washington trip in order for him to witness the dynamics and logistics this trip.

Motion to instruct staff and City management to continue with current funding procedures for this trip and upon return to initiate discussion to establish a policy in the future.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez Cm. Vielma
Cm. Rodriguez
Cm. Torres
Cm. San Miguel
Cm. Altgelt
Cm. Balli

53. Discussion with possible action to consider a first request for an extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Jorge Leven.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma not present.

54. Progress Update on Sludge to Energy Project by Andrew Carranco from Laredo Renewable Energy.

Andrew L. Carranco, Laredo Renewable Energy, explained that the objective is to convert sewage to energy. This will lead to the production of clean, organic, liquid fertilizer; significant reduction odor issues at South Laredo Water Waste Treatment Plant; renewable energy- electricity, and production of grey water. In return, the City will reduce capital for current and future sludge handling cost, over \$1 million of annual reduction of Sludge disposal costs, reduction of operational costs and

projected capital costs, and significant reduction of odor. He requested for City Council to approve and authorize the City Manager, City Attorney, and Utilities Director to enter into contract negotiations.

Motion to authorize the City Manager, City Attorney, and Utilities Director to enter into contract negotiations subject to City Council approval

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres not present.

Cm. Vielma not present.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

55. 2017-RT-01 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$247,069.00 to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 MAP-21 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Formula grant program for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. These funds will be used for the purchase of Capital for the Laredo Transit (El Lift) Paratransit Van Operations and Webb County Rural Transportation (El Aguila). The required local match for this grant is funded by Transit's Sales Tax and Grant funds from Webb County Rural Transportation.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

56. Consideration to award a contract for the purchase of two (2) ADA Paratransit Vans for the El Lift Department in the amount of \$197,912.82 utilizing the TXSMARTBUY Cooperative Contract Pricing with Creative Bus Sales from Irving, Texas. Funding is available in the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant #TX-2016-052-00.

Motion to approve.

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

57. Consideration for approval of the El Metro Sidewalk Improvements as complete, approval of change order no. 1, an increase of \$11,052.00 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place and to add ten (10) working days to the construction contract time, release of retainage, and approval of final payment in the amount of \$5,526.00 to ALC Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$55,260.00. Funding is available in the Transit Capital Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

58.
A. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action to initiate the development of guidelines, rules & regulations to consider allowing the consumption and/or sale of alcohol at the M.E. Benavides Sports Complex. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alex Perez)

Sandra Rocha Taylor spoke against this item. She explained that alcohol should not be allowed in any local parks. She stated that this can be potential issue because parks and alcohol shouldn't be mixed. Parks should be preserved as a family oriented environment. Individuals will not be safe if there are people under the influence drinking at the park.

Cm. Rodriguez acknowledged her concern and explained that the City Manager's Office will provide rules and regulations governing alcohol consumption at the parks in order to create a sense of safety and control. He noted that the M.E. Benavides Sports Complex is a softball park, 95 % of the individuals who use this premises are adults. He reported that this item only applies to this particular park, and it doesn't apply to the rest of the City. He explained that this can be a Pilot program to promote sports tourism in our City. Some of the proceedings will be going back to the Parks and Leisure Department. The liability would be transferred to the owner of the concession stand.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, recommended to submit this concern to the Parks Board in order to further explore safety concerns, policies, regulations, and public opinion. He explained that there are certain requirements that need to be made in order to sell and thus consume alcohol in city owned establishments. He noted that this type of practices do occur in other cities as Softball Parks are by nature easy to control as they have one entrance and one exit.

Cm. San Miguel noted that most North Central Park event attendees often ask if alcohol consumption is allowed. They have expressed their interest in the sale of alcohol in such premises. He suggested for City Staff to conduct research on how other municipalities manage this type of operations.

Cm. Torres explained that at this point, City Council is not voting on the actual implementation of this item but rather to direct staff to further review and develop guidelines for security and protection measures.

Cm. Vielma noted that the premises are open to the public including underage individuals and children. She expressed her concerns pertaining to underage drinking, alcohol abuse, and driving while intoxicated.

Cm. Balli stated that these concerns are legitimate. However, there is a way of creating a secure and control environment. This is not different from other premises such as golf courses, restaurants, etc. He supported sending this item to the Parks Board for further review and policy development.

Cm. Altgelt noted that there is a responsible way to accomplish this without jeopardizing safety. He explained that a non-profit organization has asked about the possibility of having something like this in order to be able to host events and sell alcohol.

Cm. Gonzalez stated that it's going to come down to self-control and responsibility.

Directed City Manager to send to the Park Board for development and come back with recommendation.

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

1. Discussion with possible action to construct speed humps at 2100 Aldama Street,

400 N India Avenue, and 2100 Pine Street, under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Ordinance. Funding is available in District III/Bond Projects.

Cm. Perez absent.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel not present.

C. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action on the much needed sidewalks in District 4; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres explained that there is an immense need for sidewalks and sidewalk repairs in District IV.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, reported that they are currently working on this project. City Staff will produced a cost analysis report for review and consideration.

Motion to address staff to develop a plan to address the much needed sidewalks in District 4 and to identify the appropriate funding and come back with a report.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on establishing a Facility Naming and Recognition Commission to serve the purpose of adequately naming and dedicating city facilities including but not limited to parks, buildings, and offices; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres explained that the City should have a Commission whose primary goal is to serve the purpose of adequately naming and dedicating city facilities including but not limited to parks, buildings, and offices. This Commission should be established to give the public an opportunity to have an input in this process. He suggested for City Council to appoint one representative.

Mayor Saenz noted that the Procedures Manual has an existent provision governing this item.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, explained that they will review and integrate such provision with the creation of this commission.

Cm. Altgelt noted that he strongly supports this item as is long overdue.

Motion to create this Commission.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel not present.

3. Discussion with possible action on establishing an Animal Shelter Advisory Committee as required under Chapter 823.005 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres explained that there is a need to establish a Committee governed by this statute to oversee the Animal Shelter. The Committee should be composed of a Veterinarian, a Member of Council, a volunteer that is directly involved with a non-profit organization, and a person who is involved directly with the operations of the Animal Shelter. He noted that it is important that each City Council representative and the mayor has an appointee.

Motion to establish an Animal Shelter Advisory Committee as required under Chapter 823.005 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, to include one representative for each City Council, to allow Dr. Sandra Leyendeker to serve as the Veterinarian for this Committee, and to allow Dr. Leyendeker to identify a member of Critter House to serve as representative of a non-profit organization.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel not present.

4. Status report regarding the City's Para Transit Advisory Committee; and any other matters incident thereto, with possible action.

Cm. Torres explained that he reappointed Mrs. Rosie Centeno-Hinojosa because she has a direct association with this committee in a personal and professional capacity. He was shocked to know that the committee has not met in the last two years. He noted that this was unacceptable as this committee is extremely important. He called for City Council members to reevaluate their appointments.

Motion to reestablish the City's Para Transit Advisory Committee and for staff to start scheduling the meetings and advised City Council of any absentees.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel not present.

D. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma

1. Discussion with possible action regarding the availability of water line insurance provided by HomeServe USA covering connecting waterlines between individual meters and frontage property lines.

Cm. Vielma reminded City Council that during her campaign she conducted some research and provided City Council with several facts pertaining to the deceptive and unreliable practices of this entity. She noted that 11 Attorney Generals are currently pending litigation against this institution and reiterated the importance of protecting the consumers. She recommended for City Council to suspend all negotiations and contract considerations with this company. She provided newspaper articles illustrating the lack of reliability of this company. She noted that establishing this partnership will deprive local plumbers from conducting business.

Larry Burn, HomeServe USA Representative, acknowledged that there are pending complaints focusing on marketing practices. He clarified that these complaints were not associated with any of their partners but rather with HomeServe USA. Secondly, he rebutted Cm. Vielma's concern regarding elderly abuse and noted that this company has a very strong partnership with American Association of Retired People. Thirdly, he explained that citizens are not required to enroll in this program, they have the option to opt-out and if they decide to enroll they have the right to cancel at any time with no penalties. He explained that the money that is awarded to the City goes back to their constituents as it is allocated to public programs. He stressed that this is not a mandatory program. There are approximately 40 municipalities in Texas that have partnered with HomeServe USA.

Cm. Balli stated that the business partnership between the AARP and HomeServe USA speaks volumes on how respected the program is. He explained that one of the reasons why this council decided to enter into negotiations with this company was because the money obtained from such transaction was going to allow the City to provide emergency plumbing services for the elderly and veteran. He stressed the importance of understanding that some constituents cannot afford to pay for these plumbing problems. He noted that this company uses local plumbers to execute these plumbing jobs.

Cm. Altgelt noted that using the City of Laredo's logo might be misleading. He further explored the differences between an insurance company and the internal practices of this company.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, specified that City Staff was directed to produce recommendation governed by the Procurement Act. This report is still pending.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, reported that since the City of Laredo is not allocating any funds to this program they don't need to adhere to the Procurement Act. This is not an exclusive partnership.

Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath questioned the integrity and reliability of this company. He noted that using the City of Laredo's logo is misleading.

Cm. San Miguel expressed that his lack of support derives from not going through and Request For Qualifications.

Motion to rescind further negotiations with this company.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Balli

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Gonzalez

2. Discussion with possible action to modify the policy regarding audiovisual materials to be presented at meetings requiring prior submissions to IT to verify content relevancy & appropriateness.

Cm. Vielma explained that this item was included in response to Mr. Roque Vela Sr. incident pertaining to defamation of character in the previous Council meeting. She noted that there is a liability on the City of Laredo, therefore, it is important to prevent this from happening again.

Cm. Torres stated that City Council members should refrain from singling out specific occurrences. This practice might not be time efficient and it might interfere with the objective of the open meetings act. He discouraged for IT to determine whether or not the submission is admissible. He encouraged for the City Manager's Office, the City Secretary's Office or City Attorney's Office to make the determination.

Cm. Altgelt noted that City Council should not police their freedom of speech as this is a public meeting. He encouraged Mayor Saenz to impose control.

Cm. Balli and Cm. Rodriguez echoed Cm. Altgelt's position.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, stated that City Council had explicitly adhered to City business comments. She recommended for City Council to consider a second motion illustrating the wishes of Council.

Heberto L. Ramirez, IST Director, explained that IT staff uploads the videos and that they have no control over what it is presented during the citizens' comments section.

Motion to modify the policy regarding audiovisual materials to be presented at meetings requiring prior submissions to IT to verify content relevancy & appropriateness.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 3

Against: 4

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Torres

Cm. Balli

Motion fails.

3. Discussion with possible action to create an online message board for Council messaging.

Cm. Vielma explained that she would like to create an online message board for Council messaging mirroring the City of Austin's model.

Motion to direct staff to provide information as to whether or not they can proceed with the creation of an online message board.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

E. Request by Council Member Charlie San Miguel

1. Discussion with possible action regarding the Public's Health and Safety specific to the issuing and enforcement of plumbing permits. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member George Altgelt and Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.)

Cm. San Miguel noted that many individuals do not adhere to appropriate policies and regulations concerning plumbing permits.

Ramon Chavez, Building Director, noted that master plumbers with the Texas State Board are regulated by Chapter 1301 under Plumbing License Law. The only ones that are required and/authorized to have a permit for plumbing work are Responsible Master Plumbers. They are not required under the law to pay registration fees. In 2016, there were 59 citations issued and 13 as of January of 2017. There can be up to \$ 2,000.00 penalties.

Cm. San Miguel requested for Legal to reconsider incrementing the severity of penalties to include permit suspension in order to decrease the amount of violations. He directed staff to bring this item back to include all other licenses and trades.

Cm. Torres suggested that this enforcement effort should be extended to all occupational permits to include but not limited to plumbers, electricians, etc.

Motion to direct staff to implement the criteria necessary for all the trades, and include a permit suspension for up to 6 months and fine associated with violations, and for staff to automatically report any violations to the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

F. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion with possible action to pass a resolution in favor of a virtual wall with extended lines of sight, control of river cane and use of technology to keep the United States secure and for said resolution to also oppose a border wall and unnecessary tariffs against Mexico in order to safeguard the Texas and Laredo economies. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pete Saenz, Council Members Vidal Rodriguez, and Council Member Rudy Gonzalez)

Cm. Altgelt explained that a virtual wall is necessary with extended lines of sight, control of river cane and use of technology to keep the United States secure. He noted that an actual wall will fail within time. He asked for this resolution to oppose a border wall and unnecessary tariffs against Mexico in order to safeguard the Texas and Laredo economies as it will be detrimental to both economies. Mexico is our most important trading partner.

Cm. Gonzalez noted that this is the time to stand together and if they have to fight back they will. He explained that citizens are very concerned about the wall. He commended Cm. Altgelt for supporting this item.

Cm. San Miguel explained that if the federal government would like to move forward they should transfer those funds to this municipality as they are familiar with this area and security needs.

Mayor Saenz stated that the City of Laredo supports security. He is a strong supporter of the virtual wall.

Motion to support a Resolution to be compiled in favor a virtual wall versus an actual wall.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to pass a resolution in favor of comprehensive immigration reform for families, businesses and investors while deterring illegal human trafficking and illegal entry into the US.(Co-Sponsored by Council Member

Nelly Vielma and Council Member Charlie San Miguel).

Cm. Vielma noted that the City of Laredo needs a reform as the last time there was an amendment was in 1996.

Mayor Saenz expressed that immigration reform is necessary as the population keeps increasing. He noted that Dennis Nixon is a strong supporter of this, as well.

Cm. Altgelt noted that proper paths to immigration should be executed through comprehensive immigration reforms. Reforms that will benefit the immigrant, the employer, and the economy as whole. The government should issue a tax id as opposed to a social security card. The immigrants are doing the jobs that Americans don't want to do.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to direct City Management to provide to each City Council Member a dedicated City staff member to assist with any and all constituent concerns and Council Member related responsibilities and directives. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Nelly Vielma)

Cm. Altgelt noted that there is an existing commitment from the City Manager's Office to dedicate his office staff to assist with any and all constituent concerns and Council Member related responsibilities and directives.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, explained that his staff will address all concerns efficiently and effectively to deliver great customer service.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

G. Request by Council Member Roberto Balli

1. Discussion with possible action to formulate a resolution in Support of NAFTA and free trade between the United States, Mexico and Canada. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.)

Cm. Balli noted that this item is in response to the 20% tariff increment that the federal government wants to implement.

Miguel Conchas, Laredo Chamber of Commerce, explained the positive impact of

a free trade agreement. He expressed his concerns pertaining to the nationalism that has been created in Mexico as a result of domestic policy. He thanked City Council for supporting this item and asked them to continue supporting this as it makes the United States more competitive.

Mayor Saenz noted that the City of Laredo is interdependent with Mexico's commerce trade. He expressed his enthusiasm and believes that Laredo will thrive. He applauded El Mañana for publicly addressing this issue.

Motion to direct City Manager to prepare a Resolution in support of NAFTA and free trade between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to solicit proposals for public private partnership for a downtown convention center & full service hotel to be located south of Grant St, and west International Bridge #2. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member George Altgelt and Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.)

Cm. Balli noted that both proposed areas are great locations. However, the location near the San Agustin Plaza matches the Master Plan more than the second location. He expressed his excitement by La Posada's interest in this partnership. He clarified that the location images illustrated on the feasibility study are not the actual locations. The proposal has changed since it was first introduced. The location is not in front of the hotel but behind and attached to the Posada Hotel. He stated that if the proposal jeopardizes historic buildings he will not support it.

Bill Skeen explained that they hired their own consults and determined that it is in the best financial interest of the City of Laredo to establish a partnership between the new convention center and La Posada. He noted that they are currently working with GSA to resolve any air space concerns as the air space in such area is protected for security purposes.

Sandra Rocha Taylor expressed that the Posada is a wonderful place. However, she noted that Laredo has unique Historic buildings and based on the Feasibility Study illustrations they are all concentrated in the same area, capturing three blocks

Mari and Jesus Bernal are in favor of this convention center and expressed his enthusiasm to see more clients in his restaurant.

Cm. Altgelt noted that The Posada is a great example of the type of business partners that the City of Laredo should associate and make business with.

Gabriel Castillo, International Bank of Commerce, noted that he is a strong

supporter of progress and development. He explained that there is a lot of hope and opportunity to beautify the downtown area. He strongly supports this project.

Cm. Torres stated that entering into a private public partnership with Palafox is in the best interest of the City of Laredo. He thanked La Posada for embracing this opportunity. He recognized their continuous efforts, investments, and dedication.

Cm. Vielma vocalized her constituents' concerns pertaining to the location of this proposed project. She stated that her constituents wished this project was located by the LEA.

Cm. San Miguel noted that he is extremely proud of La Posada. He has strongly recommended this place to dine and sleep. He explained that La Posada has invested millions of dollars in renovations and the improvements are undoubtedly visible.

Mr. Dickman explained that they invested millions of dollars in renovations and thanked City Council for their support. He noted that the downtown area is very unique, is full of culture. This could be enhanced with this project.

Cm. Gonzalez congratulated them and thanked them for their continuous support to the community.

Cm. Rodriguez expressed his support and thanked them for the opportunity of working with City of Laredo.

Armando Cisneros questioned compliance of this item with the open meetings act.

Kristina L. Hale, Acting City Attorney, explained that this item adheres to the Texas Open Meetings Act as the subject and the item are substantially the same.

Mayor Saenz stated that La Posada has earned an opportunity to establish a strong partnership with the City of Laredo. This Council has committed a lot of money in the downtown area.

Jesus M. Olivares, City Manager, expressed that any potential concerns will be addressed to City Council and the Mayor for their consideration.

Motion authorizing and directing City Staff to enter into negotiations for an Economic Development Agreement between the City and Palafox Hospitality/La Posada in connection of the Convention Center in the Downtown area.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I Heberto L. "Beto" 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 to 36 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on February 6, 2016.

Heberto L. "Beto" Ramirez
Acting City Secretary