

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2020-R-05  
LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
April 6, 2020  
3:00 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. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Pete Saenz led in a moment of silence, asking the community to keep in mind the of the COVID-19 virus on this community and the world.

**IV. ROLL CALL**

In attendance:

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.	District I
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Mercurio "Merc" Martinez, III	District III
Alberto Torres, Jr.	District IV, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Norma "Nelly" Vielma	District V
Dr. Marte Martinez	District VI
George J. Altgelt	District VII
Roberto Balli	District VIII,
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Rosario Cabello	Co-Interim City Manager
Robert Eads	Co-Interim City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	City Attorney

Cm. Vielma joined at 3:21 p.m.

**V. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of March 2, 2020, March 4, 2020, March 13, 2020, March 17, 2020, and March 31, 2020.

Motion to approve the March 2, March 4, March 13, March 17, and March 31, 2020, minutes.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

### **Citizen comments**

Jose A. Valdez, Jr., City Secretary, and Rafael Benavides, Public Information Officer, read the public comments into the record:

Rosa Maria De Llano voiced her strong opposition of Item 25 regarding a border wall at Laredo's southern border as it is an affront to our neighbors, a waste of money during this crisis, and will forever damage the fragile ecosystem. She suggested instead that the government pursue immigration reform that take better care of asylum seekers and immigrants rather than wasting resources on this wall.

Tricia Cortez voiced her opposition to Item 25 regarding a border wall.

Jose Ceballos voiced his opposition to Item 25 regarding a border wall and asked Council to table this item. It is untimely given the reality of the COVID-19 situation at hand, which needs the City's focus at this time. While the community is supportive of border security, they also care about the social, economic, and ecological issues as well as those who lost their loved ones to COVID-19. Stakeholders, both private and public, would like the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sylvia Bruni opposed Item 25 and any physical barrier separating Laredo from its neighbors to the south. This act is without merit, as is the presidential declaration of a state of emergency. Emergency resources should be redirected to where they are truly needed, the COVID-19 pandemic and medical supplies.

Bill Skeen noted that it was unfortunate that such an important item as Item 25 was placed on the Consent Agenda without consulting downtown stakeholders and businesses that would be most impacted by a bulkhead and adjoining wall. Since citizens cannot attend City Council meetings at this time, he asked Council to table this item and bring it back when business leaders can provide input for such an important project.

Josh Thompson of T&W Tire, LLC, noted that two competitive bids were submitted for project FY20-039; after speaking with the Purchasing Department Director, he learned that it was on the Council agenda to reject all bids and resubmit the request. He was told that this was because the Fleet Department refused the results. Section 20.1 says that only pre-approved brands are allowed and Section 20.2 specifically lists those pre-approved brands. His company submitted two approved brands that were completely aligned with the specifications, selected due to competitive pricing and full warranties in order to bring more value to the City. Section 4 outlines why bids can be rejected, and he stated that none of these reasons apply. Section 10 states the lowest responsible bidder will win the bid; he asked that his or any other vendor who put in a lowest qualifying bid be awarded the project tonight. He asked that Council award the bid project as is, stating that to do otherwise is a disservice to the bid process and the taxpayers to reissue bids repeatedly.

Miguel Conchas voiced favor for Item 60. G. He did not specify which item number he favored. Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, clarified that the item referred to by Josh Thompson is Item 35, noting that the bids were rejected because none of them met the specifications being required by staff. Robert Eads, City Manager, clarified that Miguel Conchas was referring to 60. G. 1, specifically.

Gerry Schwebel stated that no business is immune to the financial strain being cause by COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, many of those in the private sector have had to take the necessary measures in cutting costs and having to right size their companies to reduce expenses due to revenue loss. Tax relief is a critical component of a company's balance sheet, and he voiced his pleasure at seeing Council giving some consideration of tax relief to small businesses. He asked that Council prioritize those businesses that are most critical to the local economy and trade businesses.

Armando Cisneros spoke in favor of public hearings #1 and 2, voicing his opinion that it is of extreme importance that the lines of communication between the public and elected officials remain clear and strong. He hoped that technical difficulties which arose at the last meeting will not occur again, suggesting that the City charge one person with communicating to the public during this crisis instead of several. He also requested more than 500 characters allowed on the online witness registration card.

Henry Sauvignet spoke in opposition of Item 25, stating that due to the pandemic, the City of Laredo has taken unprecedented action abridging activity through measures that only work when and if citizens trust local government. He stated that in less than a week Council will take action on the bulkhead without community outreach or input. No community participation for an enormous project that will shape the community's future prosperity is unacceptable; he asked that Council table this item.

Mayor Saenz noted the public that by this point of the public comments, Item 25 was already tabled.

Carlos E. Flores, representing the Community and No Border Wall Coalition, spoke in opposition of Item 25, asking Council to table this item since taking up this issue in the current moment of crisis-when over 100 Laredoans have tested positive for the virus and six people have died from the disease-is irresponsible and unforgiveable.

Melissa Cigarroa of the Rio Grande International Study Center, opposed Item 25 as the MOU proposes major construction before environmental studies and engineering designs are complete and vetted. Flooding to Nuevo Laredo will greatly increase as a result of this construction plan; construction along the riverbank will negatively impact the health of the river, which is the source of drinking water for people living along the river. She added that the lack of transparency and fair process will speak poorly of Council's decision-making, asking Council to reject this MOU or, at the minimum, table it.

JJ Centro of Peua Consulting, LLC, representing Blanca Estela Rodriguez spoke in favor of Public Hearing #7 and provided his contact information should Council have any questions. He also spoke in favor of Public Hearing #8 representing Roger Gubser and in favor of Public Hearing #5 representing Elvira Moreno.

Another comment from Armando Cisneros was read noting his hopes that this crisis

will end sooner rather than later; he asked Council to keep some mandates in place after the COVID-19 pandemic is over, such as masks and gloves for all food service employees who directly handle food consumed by the public. He urged Council not to be in a hurry to open things up again, which will jeopardize the community's progress.

## VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alberto Torres, Jr. of Rafael Antonio Martinez to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Rafael Antonio Martinez to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Appointment of the Keep Laredo Beautiful Board of Directors:

1. **Tracey King**, public school educator
2. **Jackie Sutton**, public school educator
3. **Gene Belmares**, independent business owner and environmental advocate
4. **Celina Vallarta**, local artist, educator and member of Cultivarte
5. **Shelly Laurent**, local artist and member of Cultivarte
6. **Aida Heiras**, local environmental activist & volunteer
7. **Mayra Hernandez**, Director of TAMIU Student Conduct and Community Engagement
8. **Bianay Ramirez**, TAMIU student leader
9. **Leslie Adame**, Southern Distributing company representative
10. **Masi Mejia**, Environmental Educator

Cm. Rodriguez asked what criteria was used to make these determinations and whether all areas of Laredo are represented on this Board. John Porter, Environmental Services Director, explained that these were people who expressed interest and volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors; there was not an application process, but these people worked with the program before and showed continued interest. The Board prioritizes projects in every Council district. Cm. Rodriguez voiced his opinion that there is not enough outreach to find interested candidates for this Board among all districts in Laredo. He voiced his opposition to this item because he has no resumes or qualifications for the nominations and is not familiar with their backgrounds. He encouraged Council to postpone this item until a proper procedure is implemented for this committee.

Cm. Gonzalez asked if more nominees could be added to the Board or if the maximum number is 10 persons; Mr. Porter confirmed that staff can add more. Cm. Rodriguez conceded that if more nominees can be added to the Board, then he no longer has an issue with this item and would be willing to move forward, asking that staff still implement a procedure and make their qualifications available to Council.

Motion to approve the nomination of the 10 presented individuals to the Keep Laredo Beautiful Board of Directors.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

## VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

### 1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Public Hearing providing community residents an opportunity to comment on their housing and community needs and the projects they wish to see funded. Comments received will be made part of the City's 2020-2021 One Year Action Plan and 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan that will outline how funding for the programs listed below, made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will be utilized. Allocation amounts are as follows:

46th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)  
\$3,850,188.00  
2020-2021 HOME Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) \$1,167,858.00  
2020-2021 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) \$327,812.00

The public may provide comments via this public hearing, by attending any public meeting location to fill out a survey, by calling our office at (956)795-2675, by sending an e-mail to [cdcomments@ci.laredo.tx.us](mailto:cdcomments@ci.laredo.tx.us) or by filling out a survey online in English at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DDRZJFF> or in Spanish at <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Y6Z2JKC>.

Also for discussion and comment is the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) regarding the City's administration of HUD Programs.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Cm. Gonzalez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

### 2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Public Hearing requesting public comments regarding a partial change of use of a

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) purchased tract of land. The property located at 3712 U.S. Highway 83 South in Laredo, Texas 78046 which was originally purchased with Federal funds (CDBG) was acquired as a public facility activity and will now also serve as a public improvement activity. The City is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to request and receive public comments on the proposed changes in use.

The partial change of use will allow for this road to provide access to a future recreational development but also share this tract of land for use as an entrance and exit for a residential subdivision.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance ratifying the execution of a contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in the amount of \$117,500.00, for a total of \$373,125.00 for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies (HTMB) Program to promote maternal child health services, women's health and well-being for the term from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending Ordinance 2006-O-288 Subsection (k) Section 20-37 of the City of Laredo Code of Ordinance and authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety. The amendment lowers the payment reimbursement fee from \$30.00 dollars to ten \$10.00 dollars.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 0.84 acres, more or less, located west of Los Minerales-Annex Rd. and south of FM 1472/Mines Rd. providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 3.04 acres, more or less, located west of FM 3338 (Las Tiendas Rd) and south of FM 1472/Mines Rd. providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, confirmed that Tract 6 is south of FM 1472, and it is adjacent to Vidal Cantu Road. The intended use of the property is for additional warehousing.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 7.29 acres, more or less, located north of FM 1472/Mines Rd. and east of Lampazos Loop, providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

8. Motion to open public hearing #8.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 1.45 acres, more or less, located north of FM 1472/Mines Rd. and east of Copper Mine Rd. Providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

9. Motion to open public hearing #9.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary



limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 81.02 acres, more or less, located east of Cuatro Vientos Rd./Loop 20 and north of Wormser Rd. providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of AG (Agricultural District).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. Motion to open public hearing #10.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 100.00 acres, more or less, located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd. Providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. Motion to open public hearing #11.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 15.63 acres, more or less, located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd., providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

12. Motion to open public hearing #12.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 5.2077 acres, more or less, located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd. Providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

13. Motion to open public hearing #13.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 204.7003 acres, more or less, located north of Vidal Cantu Rd. and west of FM 1472/Mines Rd. Providing for the effective date of the ordinance, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract adopting a service plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning of M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

**VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

14. Authorizing the City Manager to amend lease agreement between the City of Laredo, as LESSOR, and 4-G Investments LLC, as LESSEE, approved by

Ordinance No. 2011-O-030 dated March 21, 2011, as amended by Ordinance No. 2011-O-132 dated September 19, 2011, as amended by Ordinance No. 2015-O-098 dated August 3, 2015 by amending the lease premises to add approximately 5,818.95 square feet for a total of 93,679.47 square feet. The new monthly rent shall be \$2,957.69 effective May 1, 2020, and will be adjusted annually according to changes of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). All other terms and conditions remain the same; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

15. An Ordinance amending Chapter 21, Article XII of the Laredo Code of Ordinances regarding Aggressive Solicitation and enacting a new section for pedestrian and traffic safety. Providing for publication and providing for effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

16. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 7, "Building and Building Regulations", Article II, Section 7-24 of the Code of Ordinances, to provide for additional authority that the Building Development Services Director may exercise to temporarily revoke an applicant's permit, license, endorsement, or registration privileges; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, confirmed that there is already an ordinance that speaks to the ability to the City to revoke an applicant's permit or privileges if the applicant provided inadequate or false information when applying to work for the City. The Building Department asked that this issue be brought back before Council because it has not been utilized.

Arturo Garcia, Building Director, explained that the item is being brought back because the Department has had issues with repeat offenders and the Department does not have the ability to stop repeat offenders from reapplying with the City. An addition to the order is a stop work order to prevent the contractor from continuing work until they correct the error or make repairs. The Department has noticed that many cited contractors do not go to their court date but there is no current consequence to their ability to continue working. The ordinance has not been implemented to its full effect.

Cm. Gonzalez voiced his opinion that if this ordinance has been in effect since 2017, it is up to the Department to enforce it. He questioned whether this item should have been brought to Council if it is already in effect. Mrs. Hale clarified that the stop work order is an addition to the ordinance to give the Department authority in enforcing it.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES**

Motion to waive final reading of Ordinances 2020-O-022 and 2020-O-023.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 17. 2020-O-022 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximate 9.3453 acres, out of Porcion 19, Joaquin Garcia, Original Grantee, Abstract 47, located at approximate 1,400 LF, South of Aquero Blvd., and East of Bernadette Ln., from AG (Agricultural District) to R-1B (Single Family High Density District); providing for publication and effective date. ZC-75-2019 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-022.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 18. 2020-O-023 Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to lease agreement between the City of Laredo, as LESSOR, and Air Trade Laredo, LLC, as LESSEE, approved by Ordinance No. 2011-O-148 dated November 7, 2011, amended by Ordinance No. 2013-O-066 dated May 20, 2013, by amending the lease premises to add approximately 6,796.95 square feet for a total of 91,094.26 square feet. The new monthly rent shall be \$3,210.52 effective May 1, 2020, and will be adjusted annually according to changes of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on the lease anniversary month of November. All other terms and conditions remain the same; providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-O-023.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**X. CONSENT AGENDA**

**BRIDGE: STAFF SOURCE YVETTE LIMON, BRIDGE DIRECTOR**

- 19. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement renewal with Securitas Security Services USA, Inc., as a sole source as per Customs and Border Protection approved Security Contract, for approximately 120 square feet of office space and an exclusive office entry lane for approximately 1,020 square feet at Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge (Bridge II). Lease term will be for one (1) year commencing April 1, 2020 and ending on March 31, 2021. Monthly rent will be \$3,500.00 for approximately 120 square feet of office space

and an exclusive office entry lane for approximately 1,020 square feet at Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge (Bridge II). The lease may be terminated by either party with a thirty (30) day written notice.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Toll Collection System Maintenance Service Contract between the City of Laredo and TransCore, L.P., for the hardware and software maintenance of the Laredo Bridge System Electronic Toll Collection equipment. This maintenance service contract is for a term of three (3) years, subject to future budget appropriations, effective April 1, 2020 for an annual amount of \$320,231.00 and a total not to exceed \$960,693.00. Funding is available in the Bridge System Fund.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez observed a significant disparity between the two figures. Mayor Saenz clarified that the amount is \$320,231 every year for a three-year total of \$960,693. Cm. Martinez conceded to the explanation.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**BUILDING: STAFF SOURCE ARTURO GARCIA, BUILDING DIRECTOR**

21. 2020-R-052 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and ELI-GAR LTD. For a proposed project located at 3402 Clark Blvd, lot 2; block 11; Eastwood Subdivision that consists of automated car wash, 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 abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$938,880.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$5,952.50 and estimated total fee waivers of \$3,600.00. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-052.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. 2020-R-053 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement

Agreement between the City of Laredo and Somos Cinco, L.L.C. for a proposed project located at 1105 Farragut, lot 7 & part of lot 4; block 47; western division that consists of roof & fascade reconstruction, 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 abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$246,505.17, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$184.32 and estimated total fee waivers of \$2,610.00. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-053.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. 2020-R-054 Authorizing and approving a fee waiver and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Guadalupe I. Martinez for a proposed project located at 2904 Rosario Street, the west one third of lot 7 and the east one third of lot 8; block 1789; eastern division that consists of complete rehabilitation, 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 abate taxes on new improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$43,400.00, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$576.45 and estimated total fee waivers of \$1,492.00. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-054.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**CITY ATTORNEY: STAFF SOURCE KRISTINA L. HALE, CITY ATTORNEY**

24. 2020-R-047 A resolution by the City of Laredo, Texas suspending the May 4, 2020 effective date of the proposal by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., D/B/A CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas – South Texas division to implement interim grip rate adjustments for gas utility investment in 2019 and requiring delivery of this resolution to the company and legal counsel.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-047.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

25. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding, attached hereto as Exhibit A, between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the City of Laredo for the purpose of establishing a mutual agreement governing the respective responsibilities of the Parties for the construction of the Laredo Downtown Bulkhead.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Balli  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 7                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Vielma was not present.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TINA MARTINEZ, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

26. 2020 R-058 Amending the Citizen Participation Plan to adhere with the Consolidated Plan Submission requirements of (24 CFR, Part 91) as set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These amendments will allow for flexibility in the way public hearings, public meetings and other consultations are done for the One Year Action Plan, the Consolidated Plan and other HUD required plans and/or reports in case of a local and/or National Emergency or in case the current set processes are not feasible.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-058.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

27. Accepting the conveyance of five different tracts of land and improvements, within the San Isidro Northeast Subdivision Master Plan, which are identified as follows: Tract 1: the Surface Estate Only in and to Lot 2, Block 1 San Isidro Northeast Subdivision, Phase II according to plat there of recorded in Volume 30, Pages 11-12 Plat Records of Webb County Texas together with all improvements situated thereon; Tract 2: the Surface Estate Only in and to Lot 1 Block 1, San Isidro Northeast Los Palmares Subdivision, Unit 1, according to plat thereof recorded in Volume 30, Pages 36-36a plat records of Webb County, Texas together with all improvements situated thereon; Tract 3: the Surface Estate Only in and to Lot 2, Block 1, San Isidro Northeast Los Palmares Subdivision, Unit 3 according plat thereof, recorded in Volume 30, Pages 70-70a plat records of Webb County together with all improvements situated thereon; Tract 4: being the Surface Estate Only in and to Lot 1 Block 10, San

Isidro Northeast Los Palmares, Subdivision Unit 4 according to plat thereof recorded in Volume 31, Pages 23-26, plat records of Webb County, Texas, together with all improvements situated thereon; Tract 5: being the Surface Estate Only in and to Lot 12, Block 5, San Isidro Northeast Subdivision, Phase 11, according to plat thereof recorded in Volume 32, Pages 14-15, plat records of Webb County, Texas, together with all improvements situated thereon; to serve for Recreational and/or Municipal Parkland purposes in accordance with the Land Development Code and the Parkland Deferment Contract in attached Exhibit "B" executed with San Isidro Northeast LTD on May 15, 2018.; said tracts of land are further described in attached Exhibit "A"; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

### **ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER**

28. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to Sepulveda Associates Architects, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$526,819.70 for the design and preparation of plans and specifications for the Southern Hotel located at 1200 Matamoros. Design work is to be done on a fast track basis. Funding is available in the 2018 CDBG Grant - Project Number CD1802 and 2019 CDBG Grant - Project Number CD1902.

Cm. Balli noted that he has been working on this project with Community Development for quite a while, and he noted his concern that the amount seems too high. Cm. Mercurio Martinez agreed; Cm. Balli asked for clarification on the amount as well as a recommendation if Council should resubmit this contract for a lower bid.

Tina Martinez, Community Development Director, explained that it is an architect, engineering, and *consulting* contract as Sepulveda will help the City obtain a Section 108 loan, which is a loan package that lets the City borrow five times its allocation. This Downtown property will need a feasibility study and multiple assessments moving forward. She voiced the Department's opinion that this is a fair price considering all of the requests being made of the firm. The Washington HUD office showed excitement when she showed them the design sketches, but it will altogether be a big project with a lot of required documentation.

Cm. Martinez commended Cm. Balli on his diligence to this project, asking how many units will be included in this hotel. Mrs. Martinez noted that this will be determined during the assessment phase. CDBG requires that 51% of the funding be committed as low-income housing. That percentage will determine how many units will be determined; based on a rough estimate of the square footage of a similar property, she estimated that there may be about 20 studio units but clarified that this estimate is preliminary.

MPT Torres reminded Council that this has been discussed with other



Downtown buildings before, noting that the restoration of the currently-existing building must be considered with regard to the cost, which is usually higher than new construction but invests in existing infrastructure in the area.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible responsive bidder Quantcorp Construction, LLC., Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$168,800.00 for the Jose & Alicia Garza Park Basketball Metal Shade with a construction contract time of ninety (90) working days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. After a notice to proceed is issued, estimated completion date for the project is scheduled for July 2020. Funding is available in the 2017 and 2018 CO Bond District Priority Funds – Project Number D12003.

Cm. Gonzalez noted his intention to remove some services of this contract, which should reduce the price. He asked Council to deny it and to bring it back to the next Council meeting following those revisions.

Motion to deny.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible responsive bidder Azar Services, LLC., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$1,840,903.50 for the Flores Avenue Drainage and Utility Improvements – Phase II with a construction contract time of two hundred forty (240) calendar days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. After a notice to proceed is issued, estimated completion date for the project is scheduled for December 2020. Funding is available in the 2016 Environmental CO, 2016 Water Revenue Bond, and 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible responsive bidder ABBA Construction, LLC., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$364,727.00 (base bid minus alternate no. 2) for the Fasken Community Center Pool & Amenities with a construction contract time of two

hundred seventy (270) calendar days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. After a notice to proceed is issued, estimated completion date for the project is scheduled for December 2020. Funding is available in the 2019 CO Bond - District 7 Priority Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**FINANCE: STAFF SOURCE JOSE F. CASTILLO, ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR**

32. Consideration to ratify the emergency purchases and expenditures related to the City of Laredo Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency (COVID-19 crisis).

The following list of vendors issued emergency Purchase Orders to provide immediate commodities and services:

Thermo Fisher	\$100,465.10	COVID Test Kits, Swab Kits, Test Equipment
American Vapor	\$41,416.00	N95 Masks, Gowns, Face Shield, Sanitizers, Thermometers
Image Carpet	\$32,000.00	Disinfecting Offices - CH & Recreation Centers
ServPro North	\$55,772.40	Disinfecting Offices - CH Annex & Rec & Library
Service Master	\$36,534.34	Disinfecting Offices- Recreation Centers
Gulf Coast	\$15,000.00	Hand Sanitizers, Janitorial items, Misters 6, Thermometers
Logicargo	\$20,000.00	N95 Masks, 3 ply Masks
SouthTexas Waste	\$12,000.00	15 Hand wash Stations
Patria Office	\$10,000.00	Safety Eyewear, Janitorial Items, Sanitizers, Disinfectants
Total	\$323,187.84	

Funding available in General Fund COVID-19 Emergency Fund and in respective department budgets.

Robert Eads, City Manager, confirmed that the Thermo Fisher testing kits are entirely new kits and not connected to any other testing kits discussed by officials or Council in the past.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted his appreciation of the estimated number of kits to be purchased, adding his opinion that this is a living document that will likely change throughout the pandemic. He cautioned the public that in the event of changes, Council will have to act quickly to adapt to the new needs.

Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Agent, confirmed that the City purchase 1,000 testing kits from Thermo Fisher, which includes the entire setup and PCR machine to test the samples. Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, explained that the Thermo Fisher tests are not rapid tests (which are only presumptive); they are PCR tests (which are confirmatory). Officials are waiting on one more shipment to begin testing the quality control; he requested flexibility for staff to adapt in response to the capacity that these testing kits will provide. The City can be reimbursed up to 25% of these costs through FEMA.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Cm. Gonzalez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

- 33. Consideration to authorize the use of State of Texas, Department of Information Resources (DIR) Cooperative Purchase contracts to purchase computers, computer hardware, computer software, telecommunications and other goods and services offered through DIR Cooperative Purchase contracts. Because of year-round (as needed) cumulative purchases, the following DIR vendors exceed the \$50,000.00 purchase limits which require City Council approval:

Dell Computers USA	\$650,000.00
Computer Solutions	\$250,000.00
Verizon	\$575,000.00
AT&T	\$540,000.00
SHI Government Solutions	\$320,000.00
CDG Government	\$230,000.00

The City is a member of the State of Texas - Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS) Cooperative Purchasing Program which allows the City of Laredo to take advantage of approved State contracts. Funding for Cooperative Purchase contracts and services are available in the respective departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

**FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR**

- 34. Consideration to renew contract FY19-051 for the purchase of Chevrolet/GM Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts for the City's fleet vehicle repairs

with Family Chevrolet, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$100,000.00. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the first of three extension periods. Funding for the additional extensions is subject to future budget appropriations. All parts will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the Fleet Management Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Consideration to reject the six bids received through Cit-E-Bid for FY20-039 for the purchase of truck tires for the City of Laredo Fleet Department. The six bids were evaluated and all tires were deemed not to meet specifications. The department will modify the specifications and request new bids.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE DR. HECTOR GONZALEZ, HEALTH DIRECTOR**

36. 2020-R-048 Ratifying the execution of the contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) through the South Texas Development Council (STDC), in the amount of \$115,441.00, for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Project (HOPWA) to assist with housing and utilities for the term of February 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-048.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. 2020-R-049 Ratifying the execution of the contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$230,491.00 with a projected amount of program income of \$107,488.00 for a total of \$337,979.00 for the continuation of the Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Program for the City of Laredo Health Department to provide immunizations for serious vaccine preventable diseases and conduct disease detection and surveillance activities for prevention for the term beginning September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-049.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. 2020-R-050 Ratifying the execution of a contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the amount of \$341,737.00, with a cash match of \$34,174.00, for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Response Services for disease control and emergency management, for the term period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-050.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. 2020-R-056 Ratifying the submission of a grant application and authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for funding from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and amending the FY 2019-2020 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$406,775.00 and amending the FY 2019-2020 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Epidemiologist, R38 position, one (1) Microbiologist I, R37 position, and two (2) Public Health Technician, R36 positions for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) COVID-19 response activities for the term from execution date through March 15, 2021.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-056.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Consideration to extend service contract FY17-020 to Quest Diagnostics, San Antonio, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$600,000.00, to provide clinical laboratory testing services for the Health Department and Employee Health and Wellness. The term of this contract shall be for three years, beginning on May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2023, and is subject to future appropriations. Services will be secured on as needed basis and funding is available in the Health Department and Employee Health and Wellness Funds.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted his understanding that Quest Diagnostics are about 14 days behind in their return of information for test results. He asked for clarification if this item is related to normal, routine testing or COVID-19 specific testing. Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, confirmed that this item is for

regular primary care services. Quest Diagnostics is the primary testing lab for California's COVID-19 crisis, so they have a significant backlog at this time.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**HUMAN RESOURCES: STAFF SOURCE MELINA BERMUDEZ, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**

41. Appointment of Rosario Camarillo Cabello to the position of Deputy City Manager; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. 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 and general liability coverage for Laredo Transit Management, Inc., with limits of \$10,000,000.00 per occurrence, with a zero (\$0) dollar deductible. First Transit, Inc. will name the City of Laredo as an additional insured and provide waiver of subrogation endorsements on both the general liability and automobile liability insurance policies. Annual premium cost to be \$597,695.00 for the first year. Annual premium cost to be \$615,626.00 for the second year. If renewing for the third year, annual premium rate is not fixed. The above mentioned insurance agreement term will be for a period of one (1) year with two (2) one (1) year options to renew and with a sixty (60) day cancelation notice. Funding is available in El Metro Operations Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**INFORMATION SERVICES & TELECOMMUNICATION: STAFF SOURCE HOMERO VAZQUEZ-GARCIA, IST DIRECTOR**

43. Consideration to ratify Purchase Orders issued to Insight Public Sector, Inc., in the total of amount of \$133,757.44 for the purchase of network equipment and installation at Building Development Services - Planning and Zoning Building located at 1413 Houston St., Laredo, Texas. Funding is available in the 2016 CO Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

**PLANNING & ZONING: STAFF SOURCE JAMES KIRBY SNIDEMAN, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR**

44. Consideration to award contract FY20-008 to sole bidder consulting firm Strand Associates, Inc., Bernham, TX for the amount of \$150,000.00 for the Quiet Zone Implementation Project. This contract is for general services for the implementation of a Railroad Quiet Zone. This contract covers planning, design, and construction management of safety improvements needed in order to establish a "Quiet Zone" along the Kansas City Southern railroad line. Funding for this contract is available in the 2016 Certificate of Obligation Bond Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Cm. Gonzalez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

**POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE**

45. Consideration to authorize the purchase of ammunition for the Police Department in the amount of \$149,285.27 from GT Distributors, Inc. through the Buyboard Cooperative Purchasing Program's Contract No. 524-17. Funding is available in the Laredo Police Department General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Cm. Gonzalez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

46. Consideration to execute a renewal lease agreement between the City of Laredo Police Department as lessee, and LA Ventures, Inc., as lessor for the approximate 9,397 square feet office and warehouse space located at 2826 E. Bustamante St., at the Laredo International Airport Industrial Airpark. The monthly rent is \$5,080.00 for the first year. The lease agreement is for five years and will commence on May 1, 2020 and end April 30, 2025. The facility will be used as storage of evidence and for other LPD operations. Funding is available in the Police Department's General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Cm. Gonzalez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

**UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE RIAZUL MIA, UTILITIES DIRECTOR**

47. Consideration to award annual contract FY20-040 to the lowest bidder MG Landscaping, Laredo, Texas in an amount, not to exceed, \$90,000.00 for lawn and landscaping repairs caused by water line break repairs. This contract is based on square and linear footage rates, and includes the cost of a licensed irrigator, plus a contingency fund to cover miscellaneous landscaping repairs including (but not limited to) replacing trees, mulch, various plants, and other landscaping items. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract has three extension periods. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Water Works Fund budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

48. Consideration to award annual service contract FY20-025 to the following vendors:

a. Sections I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII: Laredo Mechanical, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$210,000.00 (Primary Vendor);

b. Sections I, II, III: Gutierrez Machine Shop, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$100,000.00 (Secondary Vendor);

c. Sections IV, V, VI, VII: RAMSA Electric Mechanic, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$70,000.00 (Secondary Vendor),

for water treatment and wastewater treatment booster stations, and lift stations pump repairs for the Utilities Department. This contract establishes hourly rates and a percentage discount on parts utilized during emergency pump repairs. All services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Water Works and Waste Water Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

49. Consideration to award supply contract number FY20-045 to the low bidder Core and Main, St. Louis, Missouri in an amount of up to \$800,000.00 for the purchase of mechanical joint fittings, cast iron meter boxes, brass and galvanized fittings, and full circle repair clamps for the Utilities Department. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This contract has three extension periods. These materials are purchased on an as needed basis by the Utilities Department- Water Operations for construction and repair projects. Funding is available in the Water Works Fund.



Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

50. Authorizing the City Manager to approve Change Order #1 in the net amount of (\$12,570.62), accepting the project as complete and release of retainage in the amount of \$109,946.47 to Davila Construction, Inc, San Antonio, Texas for the North Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant Administration Building Project. This change order is a credit for unused remaining portion of allowance for the project. The new contract sum amounts to \$2,198,929.38, and contract period is at 308 calendar days. Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

51. Authorizing the City Manager for the award of a construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Romo Contractors, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$168,000.00 for the Creek Erosion Control Project Near Station 312+81. The contract time is one hundred (100) working days. Funding is available in the 2016 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

## **XI. STAFF REPORTS**

52. Discussion with possible action on ongoing audits and/or irregularities identified by the Internal Auditor including the potential assignment of other and/or additional auditing duties; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve the Internal Auditor's report.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

53. Discussion with possible action on an update of the finances and operations due to COVID-19, and any other matters incident thereto.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Items G. 1, A. 1, and F. 1.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, reported that Council approved \$150,000 on March 13, 2020 for the City to spend on COVID-19 emergency response expenses. Not knowing the magnitude of the pandemic or the expenditures which would result from it, she reported that the current expenses as of April 2, 2020 total \$980,718, as follows:

Personnel	\$402,240 (2 weeks)
Overtime	\$24,869+
Materials/Contracts	\$553,609

Staff expects to seek all federal funding available on this issue; FEMA can reimburse 75% of some expenses. She clarified that at this time, personnel expenses are not reimbursable, but they may become reimbursable in the future. Mrs. Cabello reported the potential impact to the FY2020 budget as follows:

Property Taxes	Minimal Impact
Bridge revenues (\$6.8-\$11 million)	\$3.4-\$5.5 million
Sales Tax-General Fund	\$7.0-\$8.2 million
Municipal Court	\$1.5-\$2.0 million
Amusement Devices	\$1.5-\$1.8 million
All Other General Fund	\$5.1-\$7.6 million
Total GF Revenue Impact	\$12.88-\$16.6 million

The minimal impact on property taxes is because most citizens have already made property tax payments by this time. These estimates assume that the entire fiscal year (up to September 30) as well as a 60%-75% worst-case scenarios at the bridge. They do not include any other fund, just the General Fund. Staff has also calculated some savings implementations, reported as follows:

<u>Savings Implementation</u>	<u>General Fund Impact</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
NO Travel	\$400,000	IMPLEMENTED
NO New Hire (Hiring Freeze)	\$2,500,000	IMPLEMENTED
Reduction of Op. Budget 15%	\$371,500	PENDING
Review/Cancel Paving Projects	\$3,000,000	PENDING
Review usage of reserves from 28.86%	\$10,000,000	PENDING
Overtime Deferral to Comp	\$70,000	PENDING
NO Temp Employee Hiring	Analyzing	PENDING
Salary Adjustment/Review	Analyzing	Not Considering
Reductions/Admin. Pay less than 100% based on Fed. Guidelines	Analyzing	PENDING
Total	\$16,341,500	

Mrs. Cabello noted that the City has been fortunate with a health General Fund balance; if staff changed its use of reserve from 28.86% to 20%, that would free up an additional \$10 million; using only 15% of reserves would result in an additional \$19 million. Overtime can be discontinued for all employees, but for those working more than 40 hours per week on COVID-related duties will be converting to comp time rather than overtime.

Mrs. Cabello reported to the potential financial impact of Non-General Funds as follows:

Sales Tax-Transit	\$1.7-\$2.0 million
Sales Tax-Sports Venue	\$1.8-\$2.1 million
Transit Operations	\$2.5-\$3.1 million
Parking Meters	\$680,000-\$870,000
Hotel/Motel	\$2.0-\$2.5 million
Utilities*	\$10.5-\$15.2 million

\*Utilities include Water, Sewer, Solid and Environmental Fund.  
Impact is based on additional delinquency of 10-15%.

Mrs. Cabello clarified that these estimates do not include federal funding that the City is pursuing through the CARE grant. She noted that the City is not forgiving utility bills during this time, only the late fees. Staff have already noticed delinquencies on payments for utilities despite the online payment options available to the public.

Operational changes by departments include reducing the number of flights at the airport, having employees work from home remotely, putting their applications and request online only or performing inspections through online appointment only, rotational work to keep staff socially distanced, and other changes. She noted that the Library has gotten very creative in their service changes; while their physical locations are closed, staff provides curbside drop-off and pick-up of books and providing many services online such as storytelling, crafts, ESL classes, and more. City Hall remains open for payments, though distancing is still maintained inside.

Mr. Eads informed Council that, operationally, staff is trying to walk the fine line between continuing City services while keeping employees safe and at home as much as possible. He assured Council that employees are not sitting at home on paid vacation; they are under mandated stand-by and are required to remain at home. If the COVID-19 pandemic worsens, more employees are going to be sent home to stop the spread. If staff is at home, management does not want to reassign them and put them somewhere else as this defeats the purpose of the community's order to stay at home. If a heightened situation emerges which requires stricter measures, management will be the first to implement them to the City's workforce.

Mrs. Cabello reported that most other cities that management contacted (San Antonio, Austin, Brownsville, and El Paso) have paused their economic development incentives, some third party funding, street maintenance projects, capital improvement projects and capital outlay. They have reduced their temporary employees but most are not contemplating salary reductions at this time. She reminded Council that these numbers are very preliminary, and future updates will be provided and adjusted depending on the duration of the pandemic. Staff are applying for any and all available state and federal assistance; if the City makes no changes at all, there is only enough funding to operate for the next eight or nine weeks. She clarified that the reduction of flights to and from the airport have a financial impact, as well.

Jeffrey Miller, Airport Director, explained that there is no specific date for the airport's initial flight to Mexico City, though it is estimated around June 2020. Many municipal airports have grants and assistance from the FAA and other entities. He did not anticipate spending any funds on Mexico City flights until after the COVID-19 situation calms down since most airlines are grounding many of their planes.

No action taken.

54. Discussion with possible action to consider a seventh (7th) request for an extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073(b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Jesus A. Garcia Perez. Total number of days out as of March 21, 2020 pay period: 476 days. Human Resources and Police Department do not recommend extension.

Zaida Gonzalez, Employee Health Services Administrator, explained that staff does not recommend this extension because the officer did not comply with some requirements. However, he has documentation supporting his reason to be out, so she noted the Department's deferment to Council's decision.

Claudio Treviño, Police Chief, stated that he has met with Human Resources regarding this issue. He could not confirm the medical documentation that Officer Garcia Perez has but noted his support of the recommendation. There have been issues with this officer continually pushing back appointments or purposefully misses them; he also disregards medical recommendations. He asked Council to deny this extension request.

Cm. Vielma asked if denying this request would conflict with the emergency act or Family Medical Leave Act. Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, noted that the emergency act is specific to COVID-19 injuries; it is completely unrelated to this request. Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director, confirmed that if Council denies this request, the officer would be on leave without pay. If Council denies his request, the officer would not necessarily be forced to come back to work as he has medical documentation that is keeping him out through April 30. If Council were to approve the request, his leave with pay would be extended until April 30, 2020. This will result him being out on leave with pay for 505 days.

Ms. Gonzalez clarified that if Council approves the request at this time, staff will have to come back to Council for an additional extension request because Officer Garcia Perez may still not be able to return to work after April 30.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if the officer could be given two weeks to comply with the proper paperwork requirements. Ms. Bermudez clarified that the requirements that he is noncompliant on are not for actual paperwork; the officer did not follow recommendations from his healthcare provider.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss specific information related to this request.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Following executive session, MPT Torres reported that no action was taken.

Motion to follow staff recommendation and deny this extension request.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session to discuss Items 55-58.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. [Video cuts off the second, notes are missing this]

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

55. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to deliberate the duties and contractual terms of the City Manager's employment contract and any matters related thereto, and return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

Motion to direct the City Attorney to continue negotiations, prepare an agreement, and bring it back to Council for approval.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

56. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(A) to consult with City Attorney and relating to the Engagement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Davidson Trolio Ream & Garza regarding the claims arising out of the construction of the El Pico Water Treatment Plant in Laredo, Texas filed in Lawsuit 2018CVF001299-D2 pending the 111th District Court, Webb County, Texas, and to return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

Motion to direct the City Attorney to continue with the filed suit.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

57. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.072 related to the Offer to Sell Real Property of La Grulla Tract in the amount \$355,494.00 for 15.464 acres owned by the City of Laredo along the Rio

Grande River for the purpose of conducting environmental assessments and property surveys, including the right to temporarily store, move and remove necessary equipment and supplies; survey, stake out, appraise, bore and take soil and/or water samples, and perform any other such work which may be necessary and incidental to the Government's assessment of the Property for Border Infrastructure Projects in the Laredo Sector area of responsibility.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

58. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071(1)(A) to consult with attorney on contemplated litigation involving Civil No. 5:20-CV-031; United States of America v. 982.6891 Acres of Land, more or less, situated in Webb County, State of Texas, and City of Laredo; pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas Laredo Division; and return to open session for possible action.

Following executive session, Mayor Saenz reported that no action was taken.

### **XIII. 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: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

59. 2020-RT-05 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the amount of \$9,988,345.00 FY2020 Section 5307 Urbanized Area authorized under the new Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), published L. 116-136 March 27, 2020. Funding will be provided at a 100% federal share with no local match required, and will be available to support capital, operating and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-RT-05.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

### **XIV. 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: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

### **A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz**

1. Discussion with possible action on assessing financial losses and overall financial impact on City's 2019-2020 Budget, local business, persons unemployed, persons that are hungry or lack basic living and health necessities and the status of the City's overall operations; and the development of various assistance and economic recovery models to address all of the above; and any other matters incident thereto.

This item was discussed along with Item 53. No action taken.

### **B. Request by Council Member George Altgelt**

1. Discussion with possible action to mandate any and all "local businesses" that sell personal protective medical equipment to first sell said equipment to bonafide credentialed health care service providers, workers and first responders with reasonable limits imposed, and any other matters incident thereto. "Local businesses" are those doing business within the City of Laredo including, but not limited to: HEB, Walmart, Lowe's, Home Depot, Pharmacies, and all retailers and wholesalers of personal protective medical equipment including, but not limited to: N95 and surgical masks, gowns, gloves, shields, disinfectants (wipes and spray), hand sanitizing gel, eye protection, and hair/head protection, etc.

Cm. Altgelt noted that the City of Los Angeles tasked their local businesses and Port Authority with creative means of locating PPE to fortify their healthcare infrastructure. The City of Laredo has purchasing power and connections to trading partners to do something similar to protect its community first. He initiated a motion to task the City Manager with assembling a task force to locate and secure critical PPE for first responders, law enforcement, and the healthcare profession.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that this effort is already being done, which is good news and that the City is competing with the rest of the country and beyond for this type of equipment. The City has already been "burned" by some PPE that has not been up to standard. He urged Council to remember that staff must ask for the data sheets and places of origin for these products to ensure that they are of the quality necessary for the City's purposes.

Motion to task the City Manager with assembling a task force to locate and secure critical personal protective equipment for first responders, law enforcement, and the healthcare profession.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion to mandate that any and all local businesses that have PPE for sale to first sell said equipment to bonafide credentialed healthcare service providers and first responders with reasonable limits imposed. He noted that local businesses are those that are operating within the city of Laredo including but not limited to pharmacies, PPE wholesalers and retailers, HEB, Walmart, Lowe's, and any other business that has n95 masks, surgical masks, gowns, gloves, shields, disinfectants, hand sanitizing gel, air protection, hair and head protection, etc.

Motion to mandate that any and all local businesses that have personal protective medical equipment for sale to first sell said equipment to bonafide credentialed healthcare service providers and first responders with reasonable limits imposed as presented.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Vielma

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to encourage and assist with our non-essential personnel small businesses that qualify for the SBA 10,000 grant to apply quickly to access grant money for our community due to limited availability of funds; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alberto Torres, Jr. and Council Member Vidal Rodriguez)

Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion to designate and train, with management's discretion, any non-essential personnel to assist the public, especially small businesses, with keeping their employees retained through any and all state and federal resources available.

Dr. Marte Martinez asked for management's opinion on this directive regarding the feasibility and timeliness of staff's ability to train these employees for such a purpose. He asked if the City should instead participate in this endeavor which is currently being done by other organizations.

Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that getting employees out of the house and into another physical location is contrary to the directive from Council to stay home as much as possible. However, employees can help with phone banking to direct calls to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation, who is leading this charge. Cm. Rodriguez asked if the City could request or require that Laredo EDC take these employees or provide data on this endeavor since the City provides funding for them.

Cm. Vielma agreed with Cm. Rodriguez's suggestion, noting that there are some restrictions to the grant program. Only financial institutions can provide this service, and there is only so much that other entities can do to provide assistance.

Motion to direct management to designate and train, using discretion, any non-essential personnel to assist the public, especially small businesses, with retaining their employees through any and all state and federal resources available and to track the outreach phone calls made by the Laredo Economic Development, Laredo Chamber of Commerce, and MileOne for comparison



purposes, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to keep public transit free for 6 months to keep people mobile; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alberto Torres, Jr., Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez and Council Member Vidal Rodriguez)

Cm. Altgelt initiated a motion to approve this item; Cm. Rodriguez seconded the item but asked that Council consider a month-to-month basis given the uncertain longevity of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has a lot of urgent issues to address at once, and a month-to-month arrangement will still help public transit riders.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit Director, reported that staff pursued funding through the CARES Act, which should bring in \$9.988 million for the Transit System with no match required. Staff are still reviewing eligible expenses; she commended her staff in going above and beyond with PPE and cleaning of the buses, noting that those expenses are fully reimbursable; however, clarification is needed in terms of how much labor costs are reimbursable. Transit will try to maximize those dollars in the best possible way to cover the deficit of this item while still providing needed mobility to the public. She agreed with Cm. Rodriguez's suggestion to enter into this motion with caution and pursue a month-to-month arrangement first. Cm. Altgelt accepted the suggestion as an amendment.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez asked Cm. Altgelt to add another amendment to provide a clear physical barrier, like plexiglass, between the driver and passengers. Cm. Altgelt accepted this amendment, noting his willingness to dedicate District VII Priority Funds to help with this effort.

Cm. Vielma recused herself from this vote. Dr. Marte Martinez reminded Council that physical mobility provides for economic mobility and growth; the City must continue providing this service even if it is for a few months in advance rather than a month-to-month basis.

Robert Eads, City Manager, agreed that this service is essential and needs to continue, adding that he is also eager to learn if this is an eligible expense for the Transit System. Transit drivers are unionized, which must be taken into consideration, as well. He agreed with Mrs. San Miguel's request to pursue this effort on a month-to-month basis, not recommending more than a month in advance at this point given the lack of information or certainty around the issue.

Motion to approve on a month to month basis and add a plexiglass divider between the driver and passengers on each bus, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Gonzalez  
Cm. Rodriguez  
Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
MPT Torres  
Dr. Marte Martinez  
Cm. Altgelt  
Cm. Balli

Cm. Vielma

### **C. Request by Council Member Roberto Balli**

1. Discussion with possible action to provide emergency funding in the amount of \$50,000.00 to Bethany House; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Balli noted that at the last Council meeting, they provided funding for food pantries to continue providing food to the needy during the COVID-19 pandemic but forgot to include Bethany House. Not only does Bethany House provide shelter to the homeless community, they also provide them with food, deliver food, and purchase food from the food banks to continue their services. By funding Bethany House with \$50,000, they will be able to continue operations for the next three months. He initiated a motion to this effect.

MPT Torres reminded Council that previous action stipulated that the money be used to purchase food, noting that Bethany House could use the money for housing expenses as well. Cm. Balli noted that \$50,000 would continue their work for the next three months, but the other food pantries only asked for funding for the month of April given the Mayoral order. He asked if this would jeopardize potential FEMA reimbursement or if Council should only April expenses at this time. Mayor Saenz added that Council also required backup documentation such as receipts so that the City could request the reimbursement from FEMA.

Cm. Balli anticipated that the emergency order will be extended past April. He suggested pro-rating the funding over the next three months contingent up on the emergency order that is in place. He amended his motion to this effect for three separate payments starting on the date that the emergency order was originally implemented.

MPT Torres disagreed with the amended, suggesting that the payment start for the month of April like the other organizations in order to remain consistent. This would allow for payment to Bethany House for the months of April, May, and June, if needed. The other organizations were not paid for the month of March.

Robert Eads, City Manager, voiced his doubt that retroactively making payments can be done for FEMA reimbursement. He recommended sticking to a month-to-month funding system while the order is in place. Cm. Balli disagreed, noting this opinion that retroactive funding is appropriate given the emergency order and the fact that Bethany House's funds have been depleted.

MPT Torres asked Cm. Balli to consider a one-time \$50,000 payment so that Bethany House may make their purchases and abandon the notion of “retroactive payments,” to which Cm. Balli agreed.

Motion to approve \$50,000 for Bethany House and require that they provide documentation of their purchases for FEMA reimbursement, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

1. Discussion with possible action to implement the limit of people that go out in public to purchase essentials with children due to the pandemic of COVID-19 in our community; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Gonzalez noted that many people in grocery stores are shopping together as a family or with children in tow; sometimes they are wearing a face covering but other times they are not. This is a health risk for the children of the community. He voiced his intention to prevent children out in public unless there is no other alternative available; Walmart has agreed to uphold this directive if passed by Council.

Mayor Saenz noted that some families have hardships in which one parent must work or there is not another parent in the house to watch the children during a trip to the store. Cm. Gonzalez agreed, noting the intention to limit the number of children going into stores where they risk becoming infected with the virus.

Dr. Marte Martinez agreed with Cm. Gonzalez’s intention and stated that this suggestion is a good way to reiterate Council’s directive to stay at home as much as possible and practice social distancing. Cm. Balli noted that he would want to see an exception for people who do not have alternative childcare. While there may be some people trying to get around the rules, the majority of the community is trying to comply with the order.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, confirmed that the medical community has been encouraging people to leave their children at home with another adult when they go out-of-doors for a while. The whole family should not go to the store.

Motion to amend the emergency ordinance to limit the number of people that go out in public to purchase essentials with children by directing the public to leave their children at home with the exception of households who do not have adequate childcare options available.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Dr. Victor Treviño recommended that masks or face coverings should be worn

at all times because people are exercising outside or taking walks around their neighborhoods or schools. He has seen groups of people passing each other in different directions close to one another without wearing masks. The intent of the directive was to allow for breathing while exercising outside, but the use of this exception is increasing the risk of transmission since people are not exercising alone. He suggested that masks be worn at all times when one is outside.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, stated that the exceptions to the requirement to wear face coverings include when engaging in a permissible outdoor activity such as walking or jogging/running. Dr. Treviño noted that since people are performing this activity in small groups, he would remove this exception from the directive and make face coverings mandatory. He stated that the exception when driving in one's personal vehicle can be left as is if the individual is driving by themselves; if someone is in a vehicle with another person, he would suggest wearing masks. Mrs. Hale confirmed that there would be no way to enforce the requirement to wear masks in one's home, though he could recommend anything that he thinks is appropriate. Dr. Treviño noted that he *would* recommend that people wear masks inside their house but conceded that this could not be enforced through an ordinance or mandate.

MPT Torres agreed with the argument that even walking around the neighborhood exposes someone to the virus, which they could then transmit to their shelter unit when they return home. In this regard, the recommendation to wear masks inside the house, even with one's shelter unit, is valid. Dr. Treviño reiterated his recommendation to wear a mask anytime one is outside of the home regardless of the activity.

Dr. Martinez urged the public not to go outside of their home unless they have to. Small contact like exercising alone has negligible risks of virus transmission; however, in groups, especially not in a shelter unit, then a mask needs to be worn. He noted that most people do not have access to multiple masks; the mask in one's home is a source of infection itself. If someone is going to use a mask when they leave the home, then they need to replace it with a new mask when they return in order to prevent infecting their family. A new study has shown that the virus can last up to seven hours in a mask, depending on the fabric. He recommended that the public continue to use masks but to regularly change or replace them to protect the family. Masks are also a secondary protective measure; the primary measure is social distancing, staying in the home and away from potential places where transmission can occur, and practicing daily hygiene.

Dr. Treviño reminded Council that officials do not know for certain all of the ways that the virus can be transmitted or move around the community. Therefore, wearing a mask anytime one is outside seems like the best practice, even if it is an overreaction.

Mrs. Hale continued that the next exception to the face covering requirements is when one is alone in a separate single space; Dr. Treviño noted that depending on how far away an individual is from another person or if others are coming in and out of that space, he might still recommend covering one's

face. A lot of exceptions will make the order invalid or moot. Mrs. Hale added that another exception to the requirement to wear face coverings is for consumption purposes, to which Dr. Treviño agreed there is no way to eat or drink with a face covering in the way. In emergencies or medical crises, he agreed that the face covering can be removed in order to provide medical assistance.

Mrs. Hale stated that the requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to anyone aged five years or younger. Dr. Treviño recommended that children also wear a mask and that their guardians help them keep it on, to which Cm. Altgelt agreed. He noted that this brings up the issue of daycare centers; some citizens have no choice but to utilize childcare services at this time, but daycares will likely struggle with keeping masks on children if they are even able to operate at all. He voiced his opinion that traveling in a car with a shelter unit is the same as being in the home with them. Cm. Altgelt agreed that sending only one person to the grocery store, but if the same family unit is in a vehicle or in the home together, he did not understand the recommendation to wear masks. He asked for the medical committee to provide a broader spectrum of opinions or consensus before Council makes a decision about masks during car rides or while in the home.

MPT Torres asked if the medical committee could join a special Council meeting for this discussion. Cm. Balli noted that Council cannot intrude into people's homes if for no other reason other than the City cannot enforce a requirement to wear a mask in the home. This oversteps Council's responsibility and does not make sense given how many things are shared in the home. He voiced the same sentiments for driving in the car with a family unit. Running in groups should be addressed; he voiced his understanding that Council already directed the public to exercise alone or only in their family unit rather than in groups.

Cm. Vielma voiced her agreement with Cm. Balli regarding masks with members of one's own household as it is too restrictive. She asked the City Attorney to research whether such restrictions are even constitutional. Mrs. Hale clarified that Council can mandate anything for public health as long as it is the least restrictive to achieve the intended objective. It has to be reasonable and logical.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez voiced his wish to see the City Manager and Human Resources Department restrict the number of people that come into City facilities and offices; the third floor of City Hall has a lot of visitors conducting business, including Council Members. He asked staff to keep this in consideration for all City facilities, since phone calls, emails, and texts go a long way to conduct City business. Mr. Eads confirmed that staff will provide as much support to their medical authority as they convey their recommendation or gather input from other medical professionals in the community.

MPT Torres asked Council to avoid passing the buck to the City Manager and to instead recognize Dr. Treviño's position as a health authority for the City of Laredo; Council can take action based on the doctor's guidance. There are several physicians with contractual obligations to the City who can come to

the table and provide information essential to Council for decision-making.

Dr. Treviño cautioned Council that the next two weeks are going to be the worst for Laredo in terms of COVID-19 cases; there is no time to nitpick about his recommendations. The reason to wear masks in one's home or car with family members is because someone in the household is leaving to get supplies or perform essential errands; masks will protect the transmission of any virus particles to the rest of the family that may be brought home.

Cm. Vielma noted that many people are leaving personal protective equipment (PPE) trash in parking lots, asking Dr. Treviño to look into a recommendation for remedies to this problem. Cm. Gonzalez noted his appreciation for all staff and authorities during this time, as they have been working diligently in a very difficult situation.

Dr. Treviño reported that 22% of the tested persons in Laredo (of which results are available) are positive. To multiply that percentage by Laredo's population implies that up to 57,000 people in the community could become infected.

Cm. Balli initiated a motion requiring masks to be worn in an automobile, but Mrs. Hale interjected that the agenda item is not worded for such a motion. However, she reminded Council that per Section 121.021 of the Health and Safety Code as well as Section 85 of the Administrative Code, as the health authority of the City of Laredo, Dr. Treviño is an officer of the state and does not need Council permission to implement control measures in cases of emergencies such as these.

Dr. Martinez clarified to the public and media that nobody is saying that 57,000 people are infected or will certainly be infected; it is merely a projection based on the current statistics in the community. He also reminded the public that the people who have been tested have been in clusters in close proximity to an already-positive person. Dr. Treviño confirmed that he and Dr. Gonzalez could prepare a model with projections for the next two weeks for Council's consideration.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Health Director, noted that there are several models that can be used for projections for *possible* cases; they are not absolute. He also reminded Council that most of the people being tested for the virus are negative and not getting sick. Some of the newest cases are people in their 20s; this is because young adults are still clustering and gathering together despite the order. They will likely not suffer from symptom complications, but action needs to be taken to ensure that they do not get others sick.

MPT Torres urged Council not to deviate from the medical opinions of the City's health authority, even if members of Council are also physicians. Council must abide by the medical authority's opinions; there is no disputing that. Dr. Martinez countered that he has not spoken in disagreement of Dr. Treviño, he was simply clarifying the percentage so that the media does not misrepresent the data.

Cm. Martinez asked about any delays in providing testing to the community.

Dr. Treviño explained that the first delay lies within the fact that there are not enough tests for the entire community; the first batch of tests that the City purchased were not reliable, so Dr. Gonzalez rejected them for the community's use. Dr. Gonzalez stated that there are not enough tests nationwide, as this is a novel virus. Because this virus is novel, there were no tests for it previously; they are being manufactured due with a high demand already in place. Private labs are being added every day to increase testing capacity. The current tests take up to two weeks for results to become available given the backlog. None of the rapid tests becoming available have produced anything reliable. The local testing is also only being done on people who are experiencing symptoms or are feeling sick, which may skew positive. The City purchased a new PCR machine with reagents for 1,000 test kits and have been receiving the kits in parts from the manufacturer. If someone wanted to provide PPE to the City, that can be coordinated with the Purchasing Agent; the Hospital Preparedness Program brought PPE and medical to the local hospitals and first responders. The emergency stockpile is being distributed.

Dr. Gonzalez explained that masks are really only good for one day before needing to be replaced. While it is possible to sanitize the mask for reuse, the best practice is to replace it. Dr. Treviño added that best practice is to replace masks, gloves, and gowns when seeing a new patient or handling something new.

Cm. Vielma asked Dr. Treviño to consider the issue of PPE littering in parking lots if he intends to make any changes to the emergency order. Dr. Treviño noted that this can be addressed through an educational campaign to the public.

No further action taken.

#### **E. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez**

1. Discussion with possible action on the City of Laredo media outlets and public release of information related to COVID-19 procedures; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Rodriguez stated that the City has faced the COVID-19 pandemic locally for about a month, yet he has not seen many advertisements or announcements through radio or the newspaper as of late. He asked what the City is doing to educate the public; while he understands that the Public Information Office is utilizing a lot of social media like Facebook, many in the community do not use social media.

Robert Eads, City Manager, reminded Council that the PIO joins the daily media briefing, which is given in both English and Spanish for print, television, and radio media. He noted that some radio personalities are not employed right now as radio station right-size themselves. He agreed that social media is not adequate to educate or inform the public but reminded Council that daily media briefings include all forms of media partners to deliver the same message.

Rafael Benavides, Public Information Officer, reported that all media platforms are reached on a daily basis. All local media are a part of the outreach, and he has even been contacted by media partners in Dallas, Austin, and the valley. Advertisements ran in *El Mañana* and the *Laredo Morning Times* as well as on KGNS and Univision. Advertising will soon go up at the airport and the Outlet Shoppes, the Sames Auto Arena, and through Hachar Media and Lamar Advertising digital billboards. The text message service sends out daily texts to thousands of subscribers in both English and Spanish; the City's website is updated routinely with COVID-19 details. Daily press releases also go out in both languages and are available online. The office has also given radio interviews. Staff intends to increase advertising with media partners for both free and paid messaging.

Cm. Rodriguez commended staff for their increased efforts. He initiated a motion to reach out to all radio and television stations with commercial advertisements regarding the public requirements of the order and ordinance(s) related to COVID-19. Cm. Mercurio Martinez asked for an amendment to include instructions to discard used PPE properly rather than through littering. Cm. Rodriguez accepted the amendment.

Cm. Vielma requested an amendment that the advertisement comply with the Governor's order for people with special needs such as an interpreter or pictures. Cm. Rodriguez accepted the amendment.

Cm. Balli reported a phone call from a constituent noting concern that extended families are going to gather over the Easter holiday. While the public is aware that they should not gather, he suggested a campaign about celebrating Easter through phone calls, video calls, social media, and other means besides in-person visits. He voiced his shared concern that people will violate the social distancing rules over the weekend. Cm. Rodriguez accepted his suggestion as an amendment, adding that the fines will be relayed in the advertisements as well so that the public is aware of the consequences for violations.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, reminded Council that they are allowed to ban gathering by the Governor because the City of Laredo is a heightened status of substantial community transmission.

Motion to direct management and staff to reach out to all radio and television stations for commercial advertisements regarding public requirements of the emergency order and ordinance(s) related to COVID-19 as well as instructions to discard used personal protective equipment properly rather than through littering with pictures and an interpreter for viewers with special needs and a campaign discouraging people from gathering for the Easter holiday with the fines relayed as a reminder of the consequences for order violations, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

#### **F. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III**



1. Status reports on Bridge operations and contingency plans, and its effects on City's budget as it pertains to Bridge and sales tax revenue; and any other matters incident thereto.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 53; no action taken.

2. Status report by Police Department on execution plan to implement and enforce current ordinances passed after Declaration of State Disaster, and any other matters incident thereto.

Claudio Treviño, Police Chief, reported that from March 16, 2020, the Deputy Police Chief was put in charge of COVID-19 Emergency Operations. Teams were assembled to monitor and enforce the order 24/7 through education and citation of violators. The Department enhanced its call center for questions and complaints during the pandemic. Officers have visited different businesses, locations, and parks to help respond to calls/complaints or enforce the order. The policy has been updated with the changing order or as new information and directives are received. The ROTC has allowed for 8,500 hours over the last three weeks for the Department to continue its enforcement. He reported the following statistics from March 18 to April 5, 2020:

Parks checked	2300
Price gouging checked	71
Citations issued	169
Complaint calls/order violations	978
Businesses checked	2569
Inquiries	1417
Total	7504

Chief Treviño noted that domestic violence increased about 4% in comparison to this time last year; petty thefts also increased about 5% at convenience stores or similar businesses. Aside from that, crimes have not been seen to change as compared to last year.

No action taken.

3. Status report of contingency plans of all City Departments, specifically Planning & Zoning and Building Departments, and how they're servicing our stakeholders; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that even though the community is in a crisis, the City must maintain its essential operations, specifically planning and building services. He voiced initial concern that these Departments are not meeting with applicants and asked for a status update.

Robert Eads, City Manager, stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) met earlier today via online conference calling and document sharing. James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, reported that Planning operations are continuing as normal; staff are still processing applications as before. A few of the committee meetings were not held, but

everything is still scheduled as normal. He confirmed that the MPO met earlier today online, and the Planning & Zoning Commission will follow suite following best practices as advised by the state and the City.

No action taken.

#### **G. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alberto Torres, Jr.**

1. Discussion with possible action on the preliminary and forecasted Coronavirus COVID-19 financial and economic impact to include review of Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax, Sales Tax, Property Tax, General Fund Reserves, General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and all other possible affected funds to further determine the suspension of non-bond program and projects to assist in the balancing of the FY 2019-2020 Budgets due to revenue shortfalls and consider assisting property owners with a 8.33% discount from City property taxes for each month the City of Laredo Emergency Order and/or Emergency Ordinances is in place; and any other matters incident thereto.

MPT Torres noted that the reason he proposed an 8.33% discount to City property owners for each month of the emergency ordinance in conjunction with this presentation was because it is unfair of the City to expect its property owners to pay their full property taxes when many of them have not been able to collect rents from their tenants or generate income on their commercial properties. He asked management to begin considering this matter for at least a one-time discount.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, noted that this would have a financial impact of \$500,000-\$800,000 per month on the City. MPT Torres voiced his opinion that an organization with a \$700 million annual budget could work with a \$500,000 loss in revenue, especially if it benefits taxpayers who have lost their own revenue streams during this health crisis. He noted that he would not make a motion at this time but requested that management look further into the matter and present to Council at the next Council meeting factored into the next fiscal year projections.

Mayor Saenz reminded Council that some businesses are doing very well during this time; not everyone is experiencing a loss of revenue or business during the pandemic. MPT Torres agreed but clarified that his main intention is relief for the residential home-owning taxpayer.

Robert Eads, City Manager, reminded Council that about 60% of the City's budget goes directly to Fire, Police, and emergency response personnel. While management sympathizes with the community, property tax revenues is how the City pays for its first responders.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that the recovery from this pandemic is going to be very uncomfortable for all involved; recovery efforts are going to seem extreme at times in terms of drawing down fund balances. However, these are uncertain times with no solid understanding of how long they will last. What is known to the City is that planning an economic recovery is necessary or else it will not happen. He conceded that there are some essential, everyday services that cannot stop that are paid for out with ad valorem tax revenues,

so cutting them may not be the right way to achieve this relief to the community. However, this does not mean that there are not other ways to incentivize growth; he asked Council not to confuse shortfalls in the budget with economic incentives to grow the economy in the aftermath of COVID-19. Officials need to act as if the state or federal government is not going to rescue the City, and the City has reserves that were specifically saved for a “rainy day.” He noted that this pandemic is exactly what those reserves were meant to be utilized for.

Cm. Balli noted that while giving a tax break to some people would be very appropriate, some people have not been financially affected by the emergency ordinance or safety measures at all.

Cm. Vielma noted that it is very difficult to make these tough decisions without knowing the data regarding the actual effect on the community so far. These types of issues are going to be made on a case-by-case basis, and judges of the courts have discretion to determine the inability of citizens to pay. She agreed with Dr. Martinez regarding not jeopardizing those daily essential services. Like the Great Depression, economic recovery is possible through capital improvement contracts that will create more jobs. She voiced her opinion that it is too early to provide discounts until projections are more rooted in data.

Cm. Balli suggested that a tax break could be offered in the form of a tax assistance grant, though that would require someone at the City to administer this grant. The applicant could come to the Tax Department and swear to an affidavit that their income was negatively affected by the emergency declaration in order to apply for that tax break. This way the tax break is only available for those who were affected and who request the assistance.

Mayor Saenz reminded Council that there is not much room to make in tax revenues that will not significantly impact the City’s ability to provide everyday essential services. Mrs. Cabello added that staff has only calculated the impact of this change on to the City but not the impact on the actual taxpayer. Depending on the value of the home, a discount such as this may only save the taxpayer \$10-\$30, which is not really going to help them. She reminded Council of the tax cap, which will have a large impact on the City; staff is also gearing up its Economic Development team for recovery efforts to implement.

Dr. Martinez stated that City staff are already tasked with so much at this time; an economic recovery task force might be better developed through an appointment. He suggested tasking the Economic Development Director with leading this effort, cautioning staff that the larger the task force is, the less efficient it will be.

Mr. Eads informed Council that management already contacted the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, the Laredo Economic Development Corporation, and the private sector to get involved with the Economic Development team to focus solely on business recovery on a daily basis. MPT Torres initiated a motion to instruct management to consider an 8.33% discount on property taxes for each month that the City of Laredo emergency ordinance is in place as a consideration, to evaluate the financial impact, and bring that information

back to Council for a decision.

Motion to instruct management to consider an 8.33% discount on property taxes for each month that the City of Laredo emergency ordinance is in place as a consideration, to evaluate the financial impact, and bring that information along with the feasibility and legality back to Council for a decision.

Moved: MPT Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 6

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gonzalez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Vielma

MPT Torres

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Altgelt

Cm. Balli

2. Discussion with possible action to develop a tax abatement program for a period of three to six months for local businesses that were forced to close and did not terminate any of their employees during the period of the City of Laredo Emergency Order and/or Emergency Ordinances as a result of Coronavirus COVID-19; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez and Council Member George Altgelt)

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item G. 3.

Dr. Marte Martinez stated that other communities are utilizing tax abatement programs or small grants to keep small businesses going. The City of Laredo can possibly utilize these mechanisms to expedite economic recovery. If the City is establishing an economic recovery task force, then it would behoove the City to assign them with this objective right away.

Tecló Garcia, Economic Development Director, confirmed that Bexar County and the City of San Antonio joined forces to put \$5 million into an account with assistance from a company called Lift Fund. El Paso and College Station have done something similar in varying amounts of funding. He reminded Council that these programs will only help so many businesses, of which there are 30,000 in Laredo.

Dr. Martinez agreed that the City cannot possibly help every business in Laredo but can help as many as possible; the federal government is also putting money into this recovery effort. He voiced his opinion that Council put some of the City's reserve funds into this effort.

Kristina L. Hale, City Attorney, stated that ordinarily grants and tax abatements are not allowable using these funds, but there have been many allowances made for COVID-19 related programs in other cities. She advised Council to include "to the extent allowed by law" in any motion passed at this time so that this program could be implemented if legally permitted.

Mayor Saenz voiced his concern regarding the availability of money as people

become delinquent during this crisis. If the City is unable to add to its coffers, then the General Fund will suffer greatly; Dr. Martinez cautioned Council from being too short-sighted at this time because a thorough recovery plan is needed. All options must be explored.

Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that staff must consider the viability of the City of Laredo's operations as well during this time. Staff would be happy to research the feasibility of this effort so that the organization can stay viable to effect this change in the first place.

Dr. Martinez countered that not helping small businesses remain viable will result in less money coming into the City's coffers. There are some reserve monies available to create this program, which will be a step in the right direction.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, reminded Council that nobody knows how long this emergency is going to last. If the City utilizes all but 15% of the General Fund (as restricted by the City Charter) to continue operations, the City only has eight to nine weeks until there is no money left. This includes the use of fund reserves. She urged Council to wait before making this decision for at least two more weeks. The City may see grants coming into Departments to assist with operations or COVID-19 related expenses. If so, then staff will be able to plan for this proposed program. She informed Council that during this meeting, the City was able to purchase an additional \$17,000 worth of masks and PPE. There are other options that staff can try to do, like eliminating temporary employees or reducing salaries. The City will find itself in serious trouble if it tries to take care of other organizations without taking care of its own affairs first.

Dr. Martinez disagreed, noting that the City needs to take care of the ones who make the government viable. Mrs. Cabello countered that it is very troubling to hear that the City will give grant money out to the public when staff is unsure if they will be able to operate in a few weeks. The rest of the country is in the same situation as Laredo. She reminded Council that many cities are actually removing their abatement programs and other incentives right now.

Dr. Martinez initiated a motion to task the Economic Development Director and task force with exploring the feasibility of a tax abatement program for a period of three months for local businesses that were forced to close and did not terminate any of their employees during the period of the City of Laredo Emergency Order to be funded through as much General Fund Reserves as possible to the extent allowable by law.

Cm. Altgelt voiced his support of this motion and asked that the task force coordinate with the City Attorney's Office regarding the use of sports venue tax revenues for this effort as well.

Mr. Garcia noted that the state and federal government have more money than the City does and are pouring some to the community in unemployment benefits and stimulus programs, especially through the Small Business Administration; those checks have not been cut yet. Money is coming to the community to assist these business owners. The government is already

talking about a second round of funding or assistance, as well. He asked for clarification on the type of tax abatement that Council is requesting.

Dr. Martinez clarified property taxes but noted that Mr. Garcia and the task force are being asked to explore all of the options. The effort is targeted to small business owners.

Mr. Eads reminded Council that there are some expenses out of the General Fund that are contractually required and non-negotiable; staff will have to work around those non-negotiable expenses, leaving staff with forty cents on the dollar to work with for the rest of City operations without even considering Council's new directive.

Motion to task the Economic Development Director and task force with exploring the feasibility of a tax abatement program for a period of three months for local businesses that were forced to close and did not terminate any of their employees during the period of the City of Laredo Emergency Order and to create a local grant program to be funded through as much General Fund Reserves as possible to the extent allowable by law.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to explore the possibility of creating a local grant program funded by the City of Laredo through city reserves (based on availability) to assist local businesses affected by the Coronavirus COVID-19, City of Laredo Emergency Order, and/or Emergency Ordinances; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez and Council Member George Altgelt)

Motion to task the Economic Development Director and task force with exploring the feasibility of a local grant program for a period of three months for local businesses that were forced to close and did not terminate any of their employees during the period of the City of Laredo Emergency Order and to create a local grant program to be funded through as much General Fund Reserves as possible to the extent allowable by law.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **H. Request by Council Member Nelly Vielma**

1. Discussion with possible action to direct management to have City's Economic Development Director and Economic Development Corporation work with the private sector to create an economic development recovery plan; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Vielma noted that she has participated in several meetings with these economic development figures to establish what jobs have been lost and what trends are being observed to focus on skill training to get people back into the

workforce. She initiated a motion to this effect.

Teclo Garcia, Economic Development Director, reported meeting several times over the last couple of weeks with business leaders in the private sector and is working through many channels to develop a plan. He voiced his willingness to work with whatever directive Council wishes to pass, but staff and stakeholders are trying to move as quickly as possible. The business community is asking for the opportunity to get back to work. Contracts with the City or the federal government will help many contractors and subcontractors get paid when the pandemic is over.

Cm. Vielma noted that one of the needs of the community is for this task force to provide relevant information for them, especially small business owners, regarding any assistance available to them or their options moving forward. She voiced her opposition to making this task force a political one with Council's appointments; it should be composed of representatives of the different industries in the community that can work with the economic development leaders.

Cm. Altgelt noted that small businesses power both the federal and local economy; if the contingent City employees are being paid to stay home, they could be cross-trained to assist local small businesses in applying for grants and loans, which will help stimulate the economy. He agreed that the City must be targeted and surgical with its economic recovery. The voice of the small business owner must be heard in this discussion; he agreed with a precious comment that the City should not assume that the state or federal government is coming to Laredo's rescue.

Mr. Garcia emphasized that the top program for small businesses to pursue is the Paycheck Protection program, which is funded through the stimulus and is handled by the Small Business Administration through local certified lenders. They are currently accepting applications, and he has received reports that hundreds of applications are submitted daily in Laredo. This program offers forgivable loans for small businesses who kept their employees but had to close operations. This money will not be available forever; businesses have to apply, and there are several online tutorials available for them. He noted that the application only takes minutes to complete.

Dr. Martinez countered that he is currently going through that paperwork, and it does not take 10 minutes; it requires reporting of payroll, Social Security payments, insurance, retirement, and profit sharing. There is substantial documentation and other requirements. He noted that business owners will likely need help filling out this paperwork, making non-essential workers at home ideal for this assistance. Mr. Garcia clarified that the program is run through local lenders, who are the ones who help the businesses fill out the applications. Business owners cannot simply fill out the application and submit it to the SBA on their own.

Dr. Martinez noted that his idea of an economic recovery task force is not a local committee but a group of professionals with experience in this matter who have a global-scale plan of incentives to grow the city's business community and resources.

Robert Eads, City Manager, confirmed that staff can provide as much over-the-phone assistance as possible in this endeavor.

Motion to direct management to task the Economic Development Director to work with the Laredo Economic Development Corporation and the private sector to develop an economic recovery task force for a recovery plan and that the task force include a variety of professionals in the business sector including economists and small business owners, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Status on promotion of food service inspection report cards; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: MPT Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to direct staff to facilitate technology innovation with TAMIU Engineering students, Laredo College, Harmony, LISD, UISD, and STEM students to collaborate in creating medical face shields, ventilators, and personal protective equipment; and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Vielma noted her intention to coordinate these efforts with Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Steve Landin to determine the community's needs and ask the City Manager to consider any additional materials or supplies to be added under the financial request in Item 53.

Motion to direct staff to coordinate this item with Fire Chief Steve Landin to determine the community's needs and direct the City Manager to consider any additional materials or supplies to be added under the financial request as presented in Item 53.

Moved: Cm. Vielma

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

#### **I. Request by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez**

1. Discussion with possible action to create a city wide NEZ for a period of 4-6 months to expedite permits and investments; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alberto Torres, Jr. and Council Member George Altgelt)

Motion to table.



Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action that all contracts use local labor or subcontractors for a period not to exceed one year to keep jobs in Laredo during recover of this crisis; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alberto Torres, Jr. and Council Member George Altgelt)

Motion to table.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez  
For 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action requiring that we establish protocols for businesses that will possibly be allowed to open in 30 days and to allow businesses a window of 30 days to prepare for said requirements. The goal is to ensure businesses to be ready to start complying and opening their doors from day one; and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Alberto Torres, Jr. and Council Member George Altgelt)

Motion to direct staff to develop protocols for businesses that will possibly be allowed to open in 30 days and bring it back to Council.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez  
Second: MPT Torres  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

## **XV. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: MPT Torres  
Second: Cm. Rodriguez  
For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0