

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2021-R-05
LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
March 29, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in a moment of silence; Council remembered Joe Jackson from Transit and Elmo Lopez, Sr., in particular.

IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Pete Saenz	Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.	District I, Mayor Pro Tempore
Vidal Rodriguez	District II
Mercurio "Merc" Martinez, III	District III
Alberto Torres, Jr.	District IV
Ruben Gutierrez, Jr.	District V
Dr. Marte Martinez	District VI
Vanessa Perez	District VII
Alyssa Cigarroa	District VIII
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.	City Secretary
Robert Eads	City Manager
Rosario Cabello	Deputy City Manager
Kristina L. Hale	Assistant City Manager
Riazul Mia	Assistant City Manager
Rene Benavides	City Attorney

Dr. Marte Martinez joined at 5:35 p.m.

V. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of March 1, 2021 and March 8, 2021.

Motion to approve the March 1, 2021, and March 8, 2021, minutes.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Dr. Marte Martinez was not present.

Citizen comments

None

VI. RECOGNITION

1. Recognition of Officer Anthony Whitehawk Cabello while in the line of duty.

Mayor Saenz presented a certificate of recognition recognizing Officer Whitehawk Cabello for his heroic efforts on March 16, 2021, in which he used quick judgment and expertise to save the life of a three-year-old boy. Council and City staff in attendance offered a round of applause and added their commendations.

VII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III to the Audit and Accountability Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Mercurio Martinez, III to the Audit and Accountability Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. to the City-County Government Issues Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Alberto Torres, Jr., to the City-County Government Issues Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa to the City-

Council Government Issues Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Alyssa Cigarroa to the City-County Government Issues Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa to the Community Action Agency Advisory Board.

Motion to approve the nomination of Alyssa Cigarroa to the Community Action Agency Advisory Board.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III to the South Texas Development Council.

Motion to approve the nomination of Mercurio Martinez, III to the South Texas Development Council.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. Re-appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Carole Alexander to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number One (TIRZ).

Motion to approve the nomination of Carole Alexander to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number One (TIRZ #1).

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. Appointment by Council Member Vanessa Perez of Elizabeth Alonzo Villarreal to the Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Elizabeth Alonzo Villarreal to the Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

8. Re-appointment by Mayor Pro-Tempore Rudy Gonzalez, Jr. of Patty San Miguel to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Patty San Miguel to the Municipal Civil Service Commission

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

9. Re-appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Ana Saenz to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Ana Saenz to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

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

10. Appointment by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr. of Dr. Sylvia Dominguez to the Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Dr. Sylvia Dominguez to the Drug and Alcohol Commission.

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

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

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

Public Hearing amending the 2020-2021 One Year Action Plan to allow for the reprogramming of two previously identified projects: (1) "Park Improvements in District III" described in the 2020 plan as the design, construction and other amenities as deemed necessary to improve a park located in District III, in the amount of \$127,500.00 and (2) "District III Design of South Laredo Nature Center

Trails” described in the 2019-2020 plan as the design and construction of the South Laredo Nature Center walking trails and other amenities as deemed necessary, in the amount of \$25,000.00.

The reprogramming and cancellation of these projects will allow the creation of the newly proposed “District III Public Improvements and Infrastructure” project which entails the Design and/or Construction of sidewalks, bike lanes, bus bays, lighting, traffic signals, street signs, landscaping, sewer and water systems, electric poles, utility improvements, and other necessary improvements and infrastructure as deemed necessary for a total funding amount of \$152,500.00.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to ratify the acceptance of Federal Aviation Administration Grant No. 3-48-0136-093-2021 and amend the City of Laredo FY 2021 Airport Operations Budget to appropriate the grant funds in the amount of \$1,410,819.00. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, and combating the spread of pathogens at the airport which are 100% Federal funds; no local match is required. Federal grant funding is available under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act 2021.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Cm. Torres

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 11, Block 997, Eastern Division, located at 1808 Chacon Street, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District).

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended denial of the proposed CUP and staff does not support the application. ZC-022-2021 District III

Marc Baldrige voiced opposition for this zone change, as did Poncho Martinez, Barbara Camina, Amenda Tijerina, and Francisco Gonzalez.

Motion to close public hearing and deny as per Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation.

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

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

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

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance Map of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an amusement redemption machine establishment, on all of Block 1667, Eastern Division, located at 3620 Arkansas Avenue, for Unit #1 only.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the proposed CUP and staff supports the application. ZC-014-2021 District IV

Cm. Torres voiced his opposition to Conditional Use Permits for *maquinitas* or amusement redemption machine establishments.

Motion to close public hearing and deny.

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

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for a Restaurant Serving Alcohol, on Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 3, Khaledi Heights Subdivision, located at 3910 E Del Mar Blvd., Unit 3, for Suite 201 only.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the proposed SUP and staff supports the application. ZC-20-2021 District VI

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

8. Authorizing the City Manager to establish the City's Foreign Trade Zone No. 94 zone fee schedule applicable to Laredo's Foreign Trade Zone operators, attached hereto as Exhibit A; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

9. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to lease agreement between the City of Laredo, as LESSOR, and International Bank of Commerce, as LESSEE, approved by Ordinance 2015-O-146 dated October 5, 2015, amending Section 1.03, Description of Premises Demised, to delete .0028 acres (121 square feet) of land on the leased premises for a new total of 0.1154 acres (5,029 square feet). The current monthly rent is \$831.00 and the new monthly rent shall be \$811.64. In addition, amending Section 1.05, Term of Leasehold, by extending the lease term for an additional two (2) periods of five (5) years to end on September 30, 2030 and September 30, 2035 and Section 1.06 titled, Rental Obligation and Mode of Payment, by adding adjustment of rental value based on appraised fair market value of the leased premises on anniversary date in 2021 and 2026, all other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in effect.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

10. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Master Developer Agreement and Ground Lease Agreements between the City of Laredo and Aviation Facilities Company Management, LLC (AFCO) from Dulles, Virginia to develop and manage four (4) parcels consisting of approximately 2.5 acres of developed land (Parcel A), approximately 9.3 acres of undeveloped land (Parcel C), approximately 10.5 acres of undeveloped land (Parcel D), and approximately 51.7 acres of undeveloped land (Parcel F) at the Laredo International Airport. Any lease agreement for each parcel will be for an initial construction term not to exceed two (2) years, Occupancy Term of thirty (30) years, and Lessee will have the right to extend the ground lease agreement for two (2) additional periods of four (4) years each for a total of forty (40) years ground lease agreements. Monthly rental shall be at Fair Market rental value. Commencing on the sixth (6th) anniversary of the agreement, Lessee shall also remit to Lessor annually 5% revenue sharing.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

11. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the renewal of a lease agreement with Webb County for its Head Start program for the following parcels of land, at their current monthly rate for a one (1) year term at a new adjusted rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as referenced below.

Jesus Garcia Head Start	2518 Cedar Avenue	\$939.14
Tatangelo Head Start	2200 Zacatecas Street	\$643.34
Villa Alegre Head Start	3501 Eagle Pass	\$932.64
Coordinators Annex	2802 McDonell Avenue	\$556.60

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

12. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, authorizing the City Manager to sell to Manuel J. Benavides and Rebecca R. Benavides the "Surface Only" of a section of Chestnut Right-of-Way, at its appraised fair market value of \$40,000.00. This property is legally described as a tract of land containing 12,096.65 sq. ft. (0.28 acres), more or less, being a portion of the Chestnut Street right of way, located between Urbahn Ave. right of way and the South Meadow Ave. right of way, situated in the Eastern Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The City of Laredo reserves any and all apparent and visible easements recorded or not recorded; hereof, closed as a public easement and providing for an effective date. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 272.001 (b)(1), (b)(2) and (c) authorizing municipalities to sell property held as public streets in certain circumstances.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. THIRD READING

13. Authorizing the City Manager to grant a non-exclusive franchise to JPG BROS,

LLC D/B/A 1-800-JUNKPRO to use the present and future streets, avenues, alleys, roads, highways, sidewalks, easements and other public rights-of-way of the City of Laredo, Texas for container refuse gathering and disposing services, setting forth terms and conditions to govern the franchise; providing a severability clause, a savings clause and providing for publication and effective date. All waste hauling businesses operating within the City Limits are required to secure a franchise agreement with the City of Laredo for use of public streets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. FIRST AND FINAL READING

14. 2021-O-070 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, pursuant to Section 2.11 of the City Charter, amending the Public Health Emergency Ordinance by: amending the order to comply with the requirements of Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-34; removing the occupancy limits for businesses; removing limits on non-essential activities and non-essential services; requiring facial coverings in City Buildings and Facilities; amending the COVID-19 vaccine distribution requirements; allowing City Committee's to meet in person if members and staff are fully vaccinated; extending the Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster through April 19, 2021; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item #64. Richard Chamberlain, Health Director, confirmed a total of 150 active cases of COVID-19 today (less than 2% of the population). The City has had less than 150 active cases for the last two weeks; per the City's metrics, the community is ready for Stage 3 of COVID-19 recovery (in which recreational swimming, team sports with games and tournaments, and Uni-Trade Stadium are reopened).

Dr. Victor Treviño, Health Authority, noted that the data provides adequate support to reopen these activities. To his recommendation that the City wait until the second or third week of April to enter Stage 3, Dr. Marte Martinez cautioned Council and staff from changing the goal when metrics are being met.

Juan J. Gomez, Parks and Recreation Director, reported staff's goal to open all pools by May 29, 2021, with the North Central Park and Inner City pools being opened initially on three alternating days. Opening all pools will require 80 positions to be filled at an estimated

cost of \$166,000 and may push the open date back to June 1, 2021. To open up the eight recreation centers, senior center, and boxing gym, staff estimates a target open date of May 10 with certain guidelines: admittance is for adults 18 years and older, 50% capacity, and limitations to which areas of the centers are open. No contact sports will be opened, and he estimated the cost to be \$176,000 with 25 positions returning to the Parks and Recreation Department from the Health Department and Community Development.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-070.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to enter into Stage 3 of the COVID-19 recovery plan and open all pools following presented guidelines with an opening date of June 1 to September 6, 2021, including two pools (North Central Park and Inner City) to open immediately on alternating week days and a pool in South Laredo to open immediately on Saturdays, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Gonzalez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to open the splash pad as an outdoor activity.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XII. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2021-O-067, 2021-O-068, and 2021-O-069.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

15. 2021-O-067 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, 2021 and ending on March 31, 2022. Monthly rent will be \$5,400.00 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 notice.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-067.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

16. 2021-O-068 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending the Land Development Code, Chapter 24, Article V, Section 24-83.9, to provide that money-in-lieu of trees will satisfy 50% of the total planting requirement; to provide that funds received may be used for the purposes of purchasing and installing landscaping and the planting of eligible trees in or near city parks or public right-of-way; to provide that the cost per tree shall be determined by the Parks and Recreation Board; providing that this Ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-068.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

17. 2021-O-069 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas amending Ordinance No. 2020-O-131 regarding the voluntary drug testing for elected officials of the City of Laredo to include changes in frequency of testing; changes in testing procedures; approving changes to the drug testing form; providing a severability clause and providing an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-069.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

AIRPORT: STAFF SOURCE JEFFREY J. MILLER, AIRPORT DIRECTOR

18. Consideration for approval of change order #1 to professional service contract with

RS&H Inc., San Antonio, TX in an amount not to exceed \$76,976.50. This change order is to provide professional consulting and legal support services to the Laredo International Airport. Funding is available at Airport Operation Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Consideration to award contract to vendor Convergent Technologies LLC, Austin, TX, for Airport Security System Services and related Software Maintenance Support for the Laredo International Airport in an annual amount not to exceed \$97,400.00. These services are obtained on an as needed basis, using Omnia Partners cooperative pricing under contract R170502. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning as of the date of its execution and subject to future appropriations. Funding for this contract is available in the International Airport Operations Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

BRIDGE: STAFF SOURCE YVETTE LIMON, BRIDGE DIRECTOR

20. 2021-R-089 A resolution of the City of Laredo, Texas, formalizing the establishment and creation of the Port of Entry Advisory Committee; adopting the bylaws of the Port of Entry Advisory Committee; and declaring an effective date.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 71.A.1.

J.D. Gonzalez spoke in favor of the resolution. Robert Eads, City Manager, reminded council that this committee would be advisory with a staff liaison providing a free flow of communication to Council.

Kristina L. Hale, Assistant City Manager, reported that the committee would advise Council on the development and diversification of the economy by encouraging the establishment of inland ports that facilitate commerce and comprehensive planning. She noted that the committee is currently a 15-member body with representation from each of the main trade and transportation associations (customs brokerage, freight forwarders, international bankers, economic development, etc.) This committee will also have a nonvoting

member from Nuevo Laredo.

Cm. Torres noted that two Council Members should serve on the committee in addition to Cm. Perez, the District VII representative. Cm. Mercurio Martinez suggested instead that Council Members feel free to attend the Committee's meetings in an *ex-officio* capacity rather than as sitting, voting members, to which Cm. Perez agreed.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-089 and to allow Council Members to attend in an *ex-officio* capacity, as amended.

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

- 21. Consideration to award contract FY21-028 Uniforms for Bridge to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Al & Rob, Laredo, TX, for the purchase of employee uniforms for the International Bridge Department in the estimated annual amount of \$35,000.00. This contract is for one (1) year with option to renew for three (3) additional one (1) year extensions upon mutual agreement and contingent upon availability of funds. Funds are available in the Bridge Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

CITY ATTORNEY: STAFF SOURCE RENE C. BENAVIDES, CITY ATTORNEY

- 22. Motion to enter into a third amended agreement between the City of Laredo, Texas and Laredo Outlet Shoppes, LLC (Successor/Assignee to El Portal Center LLC) ("EPC") to redefine and reduce employment positions, extend Phase I for an additional two years, establish new employment compliance protocols, amend communication tower option, revert two parcels of land west of Santa Cleotilde Ave., and the City shall retroactively pay previous quarter owed EPC. This amendment does not provide for any additional funds nor increases to the contractual agreement.

Motion to table.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TINA MARTINEZ, COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

23. 2021-R-078 Authorizing the City Manager to accept the donation from Emerald Riverview Development, LTD, of a 44.21 acre tract and a 0.71 acre tract of land, out of 1,319.40 acre tract of land, situated in Porcion 15, Jose Prudencia Garcia, Abstract 53, and Porcion 16, Dolores Garcia, Abstract 46, Webb County, Texas, as described in deed recorded in Volume 2557, Pages 829-836, Deed Records, Webb County, Texas. This property has an appraised value of \$1,800,000.00 based on the Independent Appraisal Report by State Certified Appraiser Christopher Swisher from Valbridge Property Advisors, San Antonio, Texas. Donation will be added to the City's Fixed Asset System.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-078.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: STAFF SOURCE TECLO J. GARCIA, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

24. 2021-R-085 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Economic Development Agency (EDA), U.S Department of Commerce, for a total project cost of \$2,700,000.00 to help fund the Springfield Road Extension Project. This grant amount will be cost-shared with \$810,000.00 by the City and \$1,890,000.00 by the EDA. The grant proposal has gone through the South Texas Development Council of Governments and meets priority for the region. This grant will cover construction costs associated with Phase 2 of the project which will extend Springfield Avenue from International Blvd to Shiloh Drive.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-085.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

25. Consideration for approval to award a contract to CMT-Tec, L.L.C., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$40,100.00 for the City of Laredo / WCCL RMA / WCDD No. 1 Ave. Los Presidentes Arterial Project from Loop 20 (Cuatro Vientos) to Brownwood Street for the materials testing & observation services; and authorizing the City Manager to

execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance. Funding is available as follows: Capital Grants Fund in the amount of \$26,104.79, Webb County of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) in the amount of \$13,995.21.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 an increase of \$855,383.20 to the construction contract with REIM Construction, Inc., Mission, Texas, for the Laredo International Airport Cargo Apron Phase 14 Rehabilitation. This change order 1 consists of the following: (1) to reconstruct 3,250 SY of Taxiway A, (2) construct a new concrete driveway, (3) and replace a section of AOA fence. The reconstruction consists of removing existing asphalt pavement full depth and installing new 17" concrete pavement on 6" asphalt base on compacted subgrade. The change order also includes erosion control measures and new airfield pavement marking and adds forty (40) calendar days to the construction contract time. Current construction contract amount with this change order no. 1 is \$15,688,555.10. Current construction contract time with this change order is six hundred fifteen (615) calendar days. Completion date for the project is scheduled for October 2022. The change order will be funded with leftover money from FAA AIP Grant No. 3-48-0139-087-2018 and FAA AIP Grant No. 3-48-0139-090-2020.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

27. Consideration to renew annual supply contract FY17-024 to the following vendors:

1. Beaver's Source, Laredo, Texas;
2. Eagle Supply, Laredo, Texas;
3. Safe-T-Supplies, Laredo, Texas; and
4. South Texas Specialties, Laredo, Texas

for the purchase of safety supplies in an amount up to \$150,000.00 for all City departments. This contract establishes pricing and discount percentage for those safety supplies most commonly utilized by City departments. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. There was no price

increase during the last extension period. This is the last extension period for this contract. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and funding will be secured from the user department budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

FIRE: STAFF SOURCE GUILLERMO HEARD, FIRE CHIEF

28. 2021-R-079 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$7,550,151.60 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding of Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. If awarded, this grant will provide funding to help increase the number of trained, frontline firefighters. The City of Laredo is not required to match funds. Grant will be accounted for in the Special Fire Grants Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-079.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

FLEET MANAGEMENT: STAFF SOURCE RONALD MILLER, FLEET DIRECTOR

29. Consideration to renew annual contracts FY19-042 (Outside Tire Repair Contract) with the following vendors:

1. Section I: **Outside Tire Repairs for Mid-Size Vehicles:** T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$60,000.00 (Primary Vendor), Toro Auto Sales, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$45,000.00 (Secondary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$35,000.00 (Secondary Vendor);
2. Section II: **Outside Tire Repairs for Heavy Trucks:** T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$55,000.00 (Primary Vendor), Toro Auto Sales, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$45,000.00 (Secondary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas in amount up to \$35,000.00 (Secondary Vendor);
3. Section III: **Outside Tire Repairs Industrial:** T&W Tire LLC., Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$50,000.00 (Primary Vendor) and Southern Tire Mart, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$40,000.00 (Secondary Vendor).

All outside tire repair services will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of

this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the second of three extension periods. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Consideration to award annual parts/labor contract FY21-038 (Outside Trailer Repair Contract) for small and medium size trailers to:

1. Section I: (**Outside Trailer Repairs**): Laredo Mechanical Industry, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$40,000.00 (Primary Vendor);
2. Section II: (**Outside Trailer Repairs**): Tims South Texas, Laredo, Texas, in an amount up to \$30,000.00 (Secondary Vendor)

All trailer repairs will be done at the vendor's shop and will be secured on an as-needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This contract can be renewed three (3) additional one (1) year extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Consideration to award contract FY21-039 to sole bidder Cabello Wrecker and Auction Services, Laredo, TX in the annual amount of \$80,000.00 for Towing Services for Non-Police City owned Vehicles. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning the date of its execution. This contract may be extended one (1) additional two (2) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding for this contract is available in the Fleet Department's Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Consideration to renew service contract FY19-023 to Rush Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in an estimated amount of \$78,878.40 for the service of a Global Positioning Tracking System (GPS) for City Fleet, various departments. Services include the tracking of approximately 200 vehicles (40 Solid Waste trucks; 160 city operations "white" trucks) which are currently outfitted with third Telematics Management services for location and operations tracking only. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning the date of its execution (subject to future appropriations) and can be extended for one additional, one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. There was no price increase during the last extension period. This is the second of three extension periods. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding for this contract is available in various department funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Consideration to renew annual parts/service contract FY20-051 for the purchase of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for the City's Case equipment with Nueces Power Equipment, Corpus Christi, Texas, in an amount up to \$150,000.00. All parts and services will be secured on an as needed basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Due to a 24% increase proposed by RDO Equipment, staff is recommending that the John Deere equipment portion of this contract be rebid. There was no price increase from Nueces Power Equipment during the last extension period. This contract can be renewed for two (2) additional one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Consideration to award annual parts contract FY21-045 to the following bidders:

1. BTE Body Company, Irving, TX, in an amount up to \$120,000.00 (Primary Vendor-Parts);
2. Fox Truck World, San Antonio, TX, in an amount up to \$60,000.00 (Secondary Vendor-Parts);

for the purchase of Scorpion Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts for the City's automated side loader trucks. The term of this contract shall be for a period of

one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This contract may be extended for three (3) additional one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement of the parties. Staff is recommending that BTE Body Company (sole source letter OEM Parts attached) be the primary vendor and the Fox Truck World be the secondary vendor (30% markup on cost OEM Parts). All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE RICHARD A. CHAMBERLAIN, HEALTH DIRECTOR

35. 2021-R-075 Ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the estimated amount of \$3,106,637.00 with no match for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) COVID-19 vaccination activities for the term period upon execution through June 30, 2024 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-075.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. 2021-R-076 Authorizing the City Manager to accept additional funds of \$633,123.00 for a total amount of \$6,522,731.00 with no match from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program for the term period from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-076.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. 2021-R-080 Ratifying the submission of a continuation grant application to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the estimated amount of \$144,000.00 with no match to continue the City of Laredo

Health Department (CLHD) Community and Clinical Health Bridge (CCHB) project for diabetes disease self-management and increased health education on chronic diseases for the term period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-080.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. 2021-R-081 Ratifying the submission of a continuation grant application in the estimated amount of \$216,147.00 with no match to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) HIV Prevention Program for the term period from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-081.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. 2021-R-082 Ratifying the submission of a continuation grant application in the estimated amount of \$230,491.00 with no match to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Program for the term period from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents resulting from the award of this grant. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-082.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. 2021-R-083 Authorizing the City Manager to accept additional emergency funds of \$25,000.00 with no match from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for the City of Laredo Health Department

(CLHD) Family Support/Community Resources program to assist families with children with special healthcare needs for the term period from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-083.

M Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. 2021-R-084 Authorizing the City Manager to accept additional funds of \$15,703.00 for a total amount of \$154,080.00 with no match from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Primary and Acute Health Care Services Program for the term period from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-084.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Ratifying the execution of a Master Subscription and Services Agreement between the City of Laredo and Innovated Software, LLC to purchase access to the SaaS Services, Innovated Software's COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduler Software, Smart Tracker in the amount of \$47,880.00 per year for a total amount of \$143,640.00 for the term period from February 26, 2021 through February 25, 2024.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Consideration to amend contract FY20-018 to Martinez Pharmacy, Laredo, Texas, to allow for a 25% contract amount increase for pharmaceutical services for the City of Laredo Health Department; new annual amount of contract will be for \$152,500.00. This contract is in the 1st year of a two (2) year term and is subject to future appropriations; contract can be extended for one (1) additional two (2) year term, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Health Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

47. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a contract between SecuLore Solutions, a Cybersecurity company focused on Public Safety, and the City of Laredo to provide cybersecurity technology and monitoring services to safeguard the 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), as well as the 9-1-1 Database Network in the four county region of Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb and Zapata. SecuLore will provide cybersecurity monitoring services for a two-year period to the region in the amount of \$293,098.00. The managed services will be purchased from SecuLore Solutions through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) Contract No. EC07-20. Funding is available in the Regional 9-1-1 Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

PARKS & RECREATION: STAFF SOURCE JUAN J. GOMEZ, JR., PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

48. 2021-R-086 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a donation agreement between the City of Laredo and Mr. Daniel Wyers for the acceptance of approximately 55 tons of landscaping boulders, valued at approximately \$8,000.00, to be used towards the landscaping of Las Misiones and Southern Development parks.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-086.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

POLICE: STAFF SOURCE CLAUDIO TREVINO, CHIEF OF POLICE

49. 2020-R-074 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$872,271.00 to fund the Laredo Police Department HIDTA Task Force, the Laredo DEA HIDTA Task Force, and the Rio Grande Valley Financial HIDTA Task Force. These initiatives are funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) at no cost to the City. Funding will be used to pay personnel

salaries, fringe benefits, overtime, travel and operating expenses from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Funding for the Rio Grande Valley Financial Task Force will be used for payment of fringe benefits, overtime, and operating expenses from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. These initiatives are 100 % funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-074.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

50. Consideration to authorize the purchase of ammunition for the Police Department in the amount of \$149,828.65 from GT Distributors, Inc. through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program's Contract No. 603-20. Funding is available in the Laredo Police Department General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

SOLID WASTE: STAFF SOURCE JOHN PORTER, INTERIM SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR/ ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

51. Consideration to award contract FY21-044 Dirt Hauling Services to the low bidder Industrial Property Brokers, Laredo, TX in the amount up to \$506,250.00 for the purchase and hauling of approximately 135,000 tons of earthen soils to the City's Solid Waste Facility. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution; contract can be extended three (3) additional one (1) year periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. All earthen soils will be purchased on as a needed basis. The Solid Waste Department will use these soils to cover the landfill cells on a weekly basis in accordance with TCEQ requirements. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Services Department Fund.

Arturo Aguero, Frontera Dump Trucks owner, stated that Frontera was the lowest of six vendors for this project within the scope of the bid. He asked that Council consider awarding the contract to Frontera Dump Trucks either in full or as a secondary vendor.

John Porter, Interim Solid Waste Director, stated that the City does not have the personnel or equipment to load its own dirt at this time. Miguel Pescador,

Purchasing Director, noted that the City is exercising the best option for its needs at this time; once staff secures the equipment that is needed to mine and load its own dirt, they can consider a new call for bids. At this time, he clarified that the City cannot award a secondary vendor for the contract.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

52. Consideration to award contract FY21-015 Uniforms for Solid Waste to the LF Enterprise, Laredo, TX for the purchase of employee uniforms for the Solid Waste Department in the amount of \$90,000.00 (\$45,000.00 annually). This is a two (2) year contract, contingent to budget appropriations and has an option to renew one (1) additional two (2) year term, upon mutual agreement and contingent upon availability of funds. Funding is available in Solid Waste Operating Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

TAX: STAFF SOURCE DORA MALDONADO, TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

53. Refund of property tax in the amount of \$2,947.38 payable to Walls & Grid Incorporated due to an overpayment. Tax account # 900-90221-174.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

UTILITIES: STAFF SOURCE ART GARCIA, P.E., UTILITIES DIRECTOR

54. 2021-R-090 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$45,754.00 with the Owner/Developer, 4V Holdings of Laredo, Texas, to upsize the 8-inch waterline to a 12-inch waterline at Cuatro Vientos Sur Subdivision, Phase VII. Funding is available through the 2019 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-090.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

55. 2021-R-091 Authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract in an amount not to exceed \$13,286.77 to the Owner/Developer, Santa Fe Webb, LLC, of Laredo, Texas, for upgrading the 8-inch Wastewater line to a 12-inch Wastewater line in Lago Del Valle Subdivision Phase VII. Funding is available through the Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-091.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

56. Authorizing the City Manager to approve the final acceptance of the project and the release of the retainage for \$67,103.60 to System Controls & Instrumentation LLC for the Jefferson Water Treatment Plant High Service Pumps Variable Frequency Drive project. The project was completed on October 31, 2020. Funding is available from SECO Loan funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

57. Consideration to award annual material/labor contract FY21-041 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Midas Contractors, Laredo, Texas in an amount up to \$280,000.00 for concrete repairs of sidewalks, driveways, and curbs as a result of water line break repairs made by 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 and is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. All work will be performed on an as needed basis required due to utility repairs. This contract can be renewed three (3) additional one (1) year extension periods, upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Utilities Water and Wastewater Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

58. Consideration to extend annual contract FY17-014 with ROMO Contractors, Laredo, Texas with an increase of \$40,000.00 for a new amount of \$315,000.00 for concrete repairs of sidewalks, driveways, and curbs as a result of waterline break repairs

made by the Utilities Department. The extension term of this contract shall be for an additional two (2) months. This was caused by the extreme cold weather experienced in February and allow time for a new contract service being awarded.

All work will be performed on an as needed basis required because of utility repairs. There was no unit price increase during the last extension period. This will be the final extension period for this contract. A new bid/contract is being solicited. Funding is available in the Utilities Water and Wastewater Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

59. Consideration to select and negotiate with Porrás Nance Engineering of Laredo, Texas for the Engineering & Surveying Services for the Relocation of Utilities on US59 / Loop 20 for the City. Four (4) Statements of Qualifications were received from local consultants and were reviewed and evaluated by City Staff. Porrás Nance Engineering ranked first in the evaluation and is being recommended for this project. There is no cost involved during the interview, review and selection of the Request of Qualifications.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XIV. STAFF REPORTS

60. Appointment of Elia Rodriguez to the position of Interim Internal Auditor upon Veronica Urbano-Baeza retirement; and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve the appointment of Elia Rodriguez as Interim Internal Auditor.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

61. 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.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Torres was not present.

62. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) prepared by the City of Laredo's Financial Services Department and audited by the Independent Audit Firm of Canales, Garza, and Baum, P.L.L.C.

Juan Jose Garza of Canales, Garza, and Baum reported that the firm issued an unmodified clean opinion of the City of Laredo, which is the best opinion that a CPA firm can supply to an entity. He noted that the firm did not find any deficiency or issue in the full or single audits. The General Fund balance as of September 30, 2020, was confirmed at \$42,615,573.

63. Presentation of the Plan of Finance by Noe Hinojosa of Estrada-Hinojosa & Company, Inc., as it relates to various proposed bond issuances, with possible action.

Noe Hinojosa of Estrada-Hinojosa & Company, Inc., noted that the five proposed bond issuances are for the landfill land acquisition, financing Certificates of Obligation for the General Fund or general projects, TIRZ #1 Downtown improvements, a TxDOT SIB financing structure for the Bridge system, and the use of sales tax previously dedicated to the arena to fund a sports complex.

Motion to approve as presented by consultant and recommended by management.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Torres were not present.

64. Status update on current COVID-19 information as presented by Local Health Authority, Health Director and Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC); and any other matters incident thereto.

This item was discussed in conjunction with First and Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-O-070, Items XI. 14.

Richard Chamberlain, Health Director, confirmed a total of 150 active cases of COVID-19 today (less than 2% of the population). The City has had less than 150 active cases for the last two weeks; per the City's metrics, the community is ready for Stage 3 of COVID-19 recovery (in which recreational swimming, team sports with games and tournaments, and Uni-Trade Stadium are reopened).

Dr. Victor Treviño, Health Authority, noted that the data provides adequate support to reopen these activities. To his recommendation that the City wait until the second or third week of April to enter Stage 3, Dr. Marte Martinez cautioned Council and staff from changing the goal when metrics are being met.

Juan J. Gomez, Parks and Recreation Director, reported staff's goal to open all pools by May 29, 2021, with the North Central Park and Inner City pools being opened initially on three alternating days. Opening all pools will require 80 positions to be filled at an estimated cost of \$166,000 and may push the open date back to June 1, 2021. To open up the eight recreation centers, senior center, and boxing gym, staff estimates a target open date of May 10 with certain guidelines: admittance is for adults 18 years and older, 50% capacity, and limitations to which areas of the centers are open. No contact sports will be opened, and he estimated the cost to be \$176,000 with 25 positions returning to the Parks and Recreation Department from the Health Department and Community Development.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-070.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to enter into Stage 3 of the COVID-19 recovery plan and open all pools following presented guidelines with an opening date of June 1 to September 6, 2021, including two pools (North Central Park and Inner City) to open immediately on alternating week days and a pool in South Laredo to open immediately on Saturdays, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: MPT Gonzalez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to open the splash pad as an outdoor activity.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

65. Discussion with possible action to consider a second request for an extension of injury leave with pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Gustavo Sotelo. Human Resource and Police Department recommend extension. Total number of days out as of February 19, 2021 is 278.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: MPT Gonzalez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Dr. Marte Martinez was not present.

66. Presentation from the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #1 on the 1st project for the downtown area, with possible action.

Henry Sauvignet, TIRZ #1 Chair, reported that Phase 1 of the TIRZ #1 project encompasses Zaragoza Street, Iturbide Street, and San Agustin Plaza along with a wayfinding signage and murals project. The TIRZ was created to interconnect Downtown's shops and attractions and increase the attractiveness of the area in order to promote pedestrian traffic and patronage. He presented renderings of improvements to the TIRZ streetscapes and lighting to transform the areas. He thanked the Community Development Department for their liaison services to the Board as well as Able City for their consultations and renderings of the Downtown area. The TIRZ fund has collected approximately \$960,000 as of December 31, 2020; these funds will be used to leverage financing. The estimated probable cost of Phase 1 is \$2.2 million with a \$300,000 contingency for price fluctuations or unforeseen conditions, which would require a \$2.5 million bond amount. Mr. Sauvignet asked Council to assist the TIRZ Board in financing this project through a \$2.5 million bond. When it is to the City's advantage, he requested a match to the TIRZ Board's resources to fund Phases 2 and 3.

Robert Eads, City Manager, noted staff's willingness to assist with the \$2.5 million bond sale but noted that the City is not able to provide a cash match at this time; perhaps staff will be able to make a recommendation for a cash match for Phases 2 or 3.

Motion to approve the sale of \$2.5 million in bonds and to consider cash matches for future phases of this project.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa
Second: Dr. Marte Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
MPT Gonzalez was not present.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

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

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Dr. Marte Martinez was not present.

67. 2021-RT-04 Authorizing the City Manager to execute Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) No. CSJ-0922-33-202 with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$143,715.00 including federal participation in the amount of \$100,000.00 and an estimated local participation in the amount of \$37,500.00 including 100% of overruns for the city improvements of ADA Bus Stops and Bicycle Plazas Project. In addition, an estimated indirect state cost of \$6,215.00 for General Administration is included in the AFA 0922-33-202. The required local match is funded from the District 8 Discretionary Priority Funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 and \$12,500.00 from Transit Sales Tax.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-RT-04.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

68. 2021-RT-05 Authorizing the Laredo Mass Transit Board to approve the second version of the Texas Department of Transportation sponsored Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan and establishing safety performance targets for El Metro Transit.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-RT-05.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez
Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

69. 2021-RT-06 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$8,753,532.00 to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY2021 Section 5307 Urbanized Area authorized under the new American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA, H.R.1319) as passed by the House of Representatives on February 27, 2021 and passed by the Senate on March 10, 2021 and signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021. Funding will be provided at a 100% federal share, with no local required match, and will be available to support capital, operating and other facility and vehicles maintenance expenses under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency, including, beginning on

January 20, 2020.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that being awarded this grant gives the City an opportunity to match its funding for Laredo's public transit system.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-RT-06.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

70. Consideration to modify the current bus shelter advertising contract with Lamar Company, L.L.C D/B/A Lamar Advertising of Laredo for one (1) additional year starting February 23, 2021 to February 23, 2022.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit Director, clarified that the recommendation is to award the contract for only one year and explore other opportunities after the year. Cm. Rodriguez recommended opening this contract to competitive bidders at this time; Mrs. San Miguel noted that after this year, staff can look for more profitable opportunities. Lamar manages the advertising on bus shelters and have done so for the past 10 years. Usually, the City extends its contract for five years, but staff is recommendation a one-year extension only so that the City can get more revenue-sharing and bus shelter/bench opportunities.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

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

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

71. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Discussion with possible action on the status of Port Laredo-Industry Committee, and any other matters incident thereto.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item XIII.20.

Jerry Maldonado voiced his support of this committee. Arturo Dominguez noted that this committee should advise the City on comprehensive planning and development of trade and transportation in the community. Rick Laurel asked that the heads of international trade associations be appointed to this community given their expertise and experience.

Robert Eads, City Manager, reminded council that this committee would be advisory with a staff liaison providing a free flow of communication to Council.

Kristina L. Hale, Assistant City Manager, reported that the committee would advise Council on the development and diversification of the economy by encouraging the establishment of inland ports that facilitate commerce and comprehensive planning. She noted that the committee is currently a 15-member body with representation from each of the main trade and transportation associations (customs brokerage, freight forwarders, international bankers, economic development, etc.) This committee will also have a nonvoting member from Nuevo Laredo.

Cm. Torres noted that two Council Members should serve on the committee in addition to Cm. Perez, the District VII representative. Cm. Mercurio Martinez suggested instead that Council Members feel free to attend the Committee's meetings in an ex-officio capacity rather than as sitting, voting members, to which Cm. Perez agreed.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-089 and to allow Council Members to attend in an ex-officio capacity, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on directing the Internal Auditor to conduct an investigation regarding the construction, ownership and public use of the "Martinez Basketball Court" in District VII and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vanessa Perez)

Motion to bring back to the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install a speed hump at the following location under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps instead of speed cushions which is currently required under the policy, and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District IV Priority Funds will be used for this project.

- Speed Hump on 100 W. Locust

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For:

Against:

Abstain:

2. Discussion with possible action to establish a policy and/or criteria for the creation and adoption of TIRZ's, 380 agreements, and any other tax incentive agreements, and any other matters incident thereto.

Teclo Garcia, Economic Development Director, explained that the Economic Development Advisory Committee went through a laborious process for this policy and criteria creation; it is under review by the City Attorney's Office and will then be distributed to Council.

Motion to bring back to the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to adopt a resolution to set the record straight regarding recent allegations that Laredo is one of the battlegrounds of our nation's Border Crisis, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Torres noted that untrue allegations were made over the weekend that Laredo is overrun with migrants and is unsafe in a fearmongering attack on the community by out-of-town officials. Some of the claims posted pictures of processing centers and inaccurately referred to them as detention centers; this led to people across the nation pleading for this official to be safe and decrying Laredo as a dangerous place when they have never been in this city. Such actions hurt Laredo's reputation and economy; he emphasized that hate speech is not patriotic as asylum-seeking is a legal avenue to enter the United States.

Beatriz Mendoza spoke against the scare tactics being used against Laredo and asylum-seekers. Maxine Rebeles spoke in favor of this resolution, as did James

Norris who noted the decrease of crime in Laredo. Virginia Viky Garcia emphasized that Laredo is safe and urged Council to speak out against harmful misinformation, as did Isabela Cigarroa, Jose Salazar, Jorge Tovar, Efrain Lopez, Armanda Alvarado, Sylvia Dominguez, Shellee Laurent, Andres Rodriguez, Nadja Lopez, and Sister Rosemary Welsh.

Hector Garza of the Border Patrol Council reported an increase in unaccompanied children crossing the border over time; Laredo is seeing more illegal immigrants that asylum-seekers. He stated that Laredo has a border security crisis, which would lead to an increase in criminal activity.

Sylvia Bruni, Webb County Democratic Party Chair, voiced her support of this resolution to correct the record and reputation of Laredo. She questioned the validity of the data presented by Mr. Garza as he is not an actual representation of the US Border Patrol.

Gilberto Hinojosa, Texas Democratic Party Chair, voiced his support of the proposed resolution and denounced the politicizing of human suffering that is currently being done by special interest groups. Asylum-seekers are presenting themselves as Laredo's borders, following all laws, in order to have their applications processed for legal entry into the country.

Juan Ruiz emphasized the lack of a safety or migration crisis in Laredo and voiced support of the proposed resolution, as did Sandra Rocha Taylor, Claudia Benavides, Jennifer Ramos, Tricia Cortez, Melissa Cigarroa, and Maria del Carmen Perez.

Tyler Krause spoke in opposition of the proposed resolution and claimed that the weekend's event was a peaceful protest. Sandra Whitten also voiced opposition to the resolution.

Mayor Saenz clarified that he knows Laredo is safe but noted his concerns with single adults trying to enter the country rather than families, unaccompanied children, and stash houses and tractor-trailer incidents. He voiced his opinion that the situation creates opportunity for gang activity, if it is not already present in the community. Laredo is not a sanctuary city and is safe due to its strong relationship with law enforcement.

Dr. Marte Martinez reminded Council that this discussion includes many issues that Council has no control over; however, Council can react to disparaging comments about Laredo. He reminded his colleagues to move away from political theater and to keep Council meetings about City businesses, to which Cm. Gutierrez agreed.

Following a video presentation, Cm. Torres initiated a motion to adopt a resolution reiterating that Laredo is safe and to adopt a resolution to address Laredo's

support of law enforcement.

Cm. Perez voiced her concern that the resolution may contain language that makes certain people welcome or unwelcome in Laredo, cautioning Council from using such wording. Cm. Torres argued that no such language is included in either proposed resolution.

Motion to adopt a resolution iterating that Laredo is a safe community and also adopting a second resolution addressing Laredo's support of law enforcement and requesting funding for law enforcement operations, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member Ruben A. Gutierrez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to dedicate Field #6, at Hillside Little League, "Warriors in the Outfield, honoring David Rivera, Jr.", and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Gutierrez noted that David Rivera, Jr. graduated from Alexander High School and was an avid athlete and exemplary student. He passed away in January 2021.

Motion to approve and bypass the Facility Naming & Recognition Commission.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to direct City Manager to instruct Transit staff to explore the feasibility of bus stops at Lakeview Blvd, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Gutierrez requested a circular bus using CARES Act #2, the American Rescue Plan, funding given the need for a bus in Lakeside.

Cm. Perez asked if Transit could add a stop rather than creating an entirely new route. Robert Eads, City Manager, confirmed that the feasibility study would compare an additional stop versus a new route.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to direct City Manager to authorize staff to explore the costs of adding additional lighting at the southeast side of Blas Castaneda Park walking trail, and any other matters incident thereto.

Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that a floodlight would be a simple install for this particular issue.

Motion to approve, not to exceed \$50,000.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Cm. Mercurio Martinez was not present.

D. Request by Council Member Vanessa J. Perez

1. Discussion with possible action to direct the Transit General Manager to draft a modified circulator pilot program to include Mines Road area extending services to the Green Ranch, Deer Creek, La Bota Ranch, Pan-American, InterAmerica areas and District 8 areas of Main Ave. and Riverside Dr. as proposed, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa)

Motion to approve with the correction of directing the City Manager rather than the Transit General Manager.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2. Status update with possible action on the trap, spay and neuter program and funding thereof, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.)

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Rodriguez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action on directing management to create an incentive model for industrial developments that will encourage investment in landscaping thereby both promoting water conservation and maintaining aesthetically pleasing lots, and any other matters incident thereto.

Arturo Dominguez voiced support of this item, as did Eduardo Alonzo.

Cm. Perez noted her understanding that a xeriscaping ordinance is in the works and stated that she would like to send this concept to the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee to provide a recommendation in line with the Comprehensive Plan.

Riazul Mia, Assistant City Manager, reminded Council that the City has a water conservation ordinance which has voluntary measures. Staff brought an incentive plan to Council a few years ago; he confirmed that staff will bring this issue back to the Committee.

Motion to send this item to the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gutierrez was not present.

E. Request by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to work with the Holding Institute on a proposal using Community Development-Covid Relief funds for the enhancement and expansion of homeless shelter operations in order to serve the local and migrant community's needs, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve and to authorize the City Manager to proceed accordingly and as needed for these funds, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gutierrez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct the City Manager to waive garbage collection fees for all local NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) addressing the current migrant population influx for a period of 6 months in order to alleviate the burden on their operational costs, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Gutierrez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to repurpose funding to the reserves of \$10,000.00 from the 2016 C.O. Bond currently allocated to the Water Park Study due to the project already being funded by the Sports and Community Venue Sales Tax, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

F. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.

1. Status update on the usage of COVID Relief funds received from Transit, Airport, and Community Development, and any other matters incident thereto.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item #62.

Jose Castillo, Acting Finance Director, reported that the City received \$14,743,135 in CARES Act funds, which has already been spent to cover the City's COVID-related expenses like PPE, social distancing supplies, disinfecting supplies, and COVID payroll. The Airport received \$18.5 million in CARES Act funding, of which they have expensed \$8,298,156 as of February 2021 for Airport operations. Transit received \$9,988,345, of which they have expensed \$9,595,010 to-date. He explained that Transit was hurt by not collecting revenue from fares and was not given the tax revenues that are often used to support its operation.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit Director, explained that the CARES Act distributed last year did not have an expiration date. She noted that sales tax was used first. Cm. Perez asked that the Department's financial report be included in Council's Friday packet. Mr. Castillo reminded Council that sales tax is used as matching funds for Transit's operations.

Jeffrey Miller, Airport Director, noted that the airport is now hosting six departures per day, which was more traffic than pre-COVID. The remaining CARES Act funding will help the Airport achieve the next level of travel and customer service.

Mr. Castillo reported that the Health Department received \$128,854 in CARES Act funding for their loss of health related revenues or expenses related to COVID-19; to-date they have expensed \$6,823. Community Development received \$4,430,457 and have expensed \$805,197 as of February 2021 for administrative expenses, rental assistance, and hotel quarantine vouchers.

Tina Martinez, Community Development Director, noted that the Department

received two CARES Act grants, one of which assists renters whose housing situation has been affected by COVID-19. The other is for emergency solutions such as homeless shelters and homeless prevention programs. The Department received \$8,718,925 for rental assistance and has expensed \$34,021 as of February 2021.

Mr. Castillo reported total CARES awards City-wide in the amount of \$60,192,657.

2. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps at the following locations under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps instead of speed cushions which is currently required under the policy, and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District I Priority Funds will be used for this project.

- Speed Hump on Monclova
- Speed Hump on Guaymas
- Speed Hump on Queretaro

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action to vote on the implementation of the policy and procedures manual so that it remains in effect in perpetuity unless otherwise amended, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: MPT Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

G. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct City Manager to authorize staff to install speed humps at the following locations under the Special Provision of the Speed Hump Installation Policy and to authorize the use of asphalt type speed humps instead of speed cushions which is currently required under the policy, and any other matters incident thereto. City Council District II Priority Funds will be used for this project.

- Speed Hump on 3100 Santa Clara
- Speed Hump on Gage St. between Minutemen and Estancia

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to direct City Manager to create a wholesale produce terminal market in Laredo, and any other matters incident thereto.

Dr. Marte Martinez voiced his support of this matter; Cm. Mercurio Martinez asked that management include Laredo Main Street in this matter as they facilitate farmers' markets throughout the City; the public is also making use of a community garden.

Robert Eads, City Manager, explained that the concept is similar to a cold storage facility so that hundreds of trucks directly from Mexican markets can come in with the produce, offload them, and move on. The facility can then offer the produce to the public at wholesale prices.

Motion to approve and direct management to investigate the feasibility of a public-private partnership bring this matter back to Council for consideration.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

H. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III

1. Discussion with possible action to authorize the City Manager to rescind action taken on March 1, 2021 to enter into a Mural Agreement with Celina Vallarta (Artist) for \$23,887.64 for a mosaic mural to be located at the Canseco House, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve and rescind the mural agreement with Celina Vallarta.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

