

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2021-R-08  
LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
May 3, 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, remembering Judge George P. Kazen, who recently passed away.

**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                 |

Cm. Rodriguez joined at 5:34 p.m.

Dr. Marte Martinez joined at 5:44 p.m.

**V. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of April 19, 2021 and April 26, 2021.

Motion to approve the April 19, 2021, and April 26, 2021, minutes.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

**Citizen comments**

None

**VI. RECOGNITION**

None

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Cm. Torres noted that Building Director Arturo Garcia is retiring this week, thanking him for his loyalty and dedication to the City of Laredo. Mr. Garcia thanked Council for the recognition, noting that he enjoyed his time at the City for over 20 years. He commended the City’s support of the Building and Planning Departments, encouraging them to continue supplying those Departments with the resources needed to encourage growth in the community.

**VIII. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

- 1. Appointment by Mayor Pete Saenz of Elia Guevara to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Elia Guevara to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

- 2. Appointment by Council Member Vanessa Perez of Ofelia G. Mislyan to the City Utilities Advisory Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Ofelia G. Mislyan to the City Utilities Advisory Commission.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Gutierrez  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0  
Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

3. Appointment by Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez of Rafael Duenas, Sr. to the Transportation & Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the nomination of Rafael Duenas, Sr. to the Laredo Port of Entry Advisory Committee, as corrected.

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

4. Appointment by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa of Mark Ceballos to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Mark Ceballos to the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Gutierrez  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0  
Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

5. Appointment of Gilberto L. Navarro to the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission of the City of Laredo to serve a (3) three-year term effective April 28, 2021 to April 28, 2024.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Appointment #6.

Rene Benavides, City Attorney, clarified that the appointments to the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission were meant to be staggered two- and three-year appointments with no preference of who is to serve which term.

Cm. Rodriguez asked about the criteria for selecting members to this committee. Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that these individuals are City Manager appointments and are made with information from the Police and Fire Chiefs; he confirmed that there are currently no criteria in place for making these selections, to which Cm. Rodriguez noted that he cannot support motions for appointments without criteria for this commission.

Guillermo Heard, Fire Chief, noted that while the Fire and Police Departments may

differ in their operations, their civil service commission and retirement processes are very similar. Cm. Torres noted that if the commission members give both Departments a fair representation and service, then he would support this motion.

Motion to approve the nomination of Gilberto L. Navarro to the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission and to allow him to draw for a two-year or three-year term, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 7                                      Against: 1                                      Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez                                      Cm. Rodriguez  
Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
Cm. Torres  
Cm. Gutierrez  
Dr. Marte Martinez  
Cm. Perez  
Cm. Cigarroa

6. Appointment of Fernando Quiroga to the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission of the City of Laredo to serve a (3) three year term effective April 28, 2021 to April 28, 2024.

This item was discussed in conjunction with Appointment #5.

Motion to approve the nomination of Fernando Quiroga to the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission and to allow him to draw for a two-year or three-year term, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 7                                      Against: 1                                      Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez                                      Cm. Rodriguez  
Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
Cm. Torres  
Cm. Gutierrez  
Dr. Marte Martinez  
Cm. Perez  
Cm. Cigarroa

## **IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Motion to open public hearing #1.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0  
Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's FY 2021 Capital Grants Fund by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$2,493,000.00 for the Los Presidentes Avenue Project. Funding for the amendment is as follows: Contributions from Webb County City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WCCL RMA) and Webb County Drainage District # 1 in the amount of \$993,000.00 and a transfer in from 2019 Certificate of Obligation in the amount of \$1,500,000.00.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

2. Motion to open public hearing #2.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0  
Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance ratifying the execution of a contract amendment from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 2020-2021 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$88,176.00, with no match and amending the FY 2020-2021 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Licensed Vocational Nurse III, R33 position for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Program for COVID-19 activities for the term period upon execution through August 31, 2022. No grant match required.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

3. Motion to open public hearing #3.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance ratifying the execution of a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), amending the FY 2020-2021 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$3,106,637.00 and amending the FY 2020-2021 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by adding one (1) Registered Nurse II, R38 position, four (4) Medical Office Assistant I, R28 positions, four (4) Clerk III, R27 positions, one (1) Management Information Application Analyst, R36 position, one (1) Program Coordinator, R33 position, and one (1) Budget Analyst I, R33 position for the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) COVID-19 Vaccination Capacity program for the term period from April 22, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Dr. Marte Martinez was not present.

4. Motion to open public hearing #4.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the City of Laredo Land Development Code Section 24.66.4 to adjust the rules of the Historic District. This amendment will allow minor improvement and rehabilitation projects while still protecting historic structures. The ordinance will also allow the Historic Board to authorize staff to administratively approve items which do require Board approval, expediting selected activities.

The Historic Landmark Board recommended approval of the proposed ordinance with changes. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the proposed ordinance without changes. Staff recommends approval without changes.

Sadigh Yahya, Jamshid Yeroushalmi, Ana Volpe, Gary Skoien, Angel Velazquez, Luis Vela, Marilyn Gonzalez, Jasveer Malik, Terri Deutsch, Luis Ludsky, Lawrence

Friedman, Hank Sames, Flint Bourgeois, and Jorge Santana voiced their support of this rule change.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

5. Motion to open public hearing #5.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0  
Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance concerning a voluntary annexation application by EMA Commercial Investments LLC, altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 9.961 acres, more or less, located east of Loop 20 (Bob Bullock Loop) and north of East Del Mar Blvd., 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 B-3.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the annexation and initial zoning and staff supports the application. AN-010-021 District VI

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

6. Motion to open public hearing #6.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0  
Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance concerning a voluntary annexation application by Emerald Riverview Development LTD, altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 15.556

acres, more or less, located south of FM 1472 (Mines Rd) and southwest of Verde 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.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the annexation and initial zoning and staff supports the application. AN-008-2021 District VII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

7. Motion to open public hearing #7.

Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 6                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0  
Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance concerning a voluntary annexation application by Cinco 28 LLC, altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 2.7904 acres, more or less, located south of FM 1472 (Mines Rd) and southwest of Verde 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.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the annexation and initial zoning and staff supports the application. AN-009-2021 District VII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

8. Motion to open public hearing #8.



Moved: Cm. Torres  
Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez  
For: 6                                      Against: 0                                      Abstain: 0  
Cm. Rodriguez and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance concerning a voluntary annexation application by Maria De La Luz Marquez, altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo by annexing additional territory of 0.09 acres, more or less, located north of FM 1472 (Mines Rd) and west 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.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the annexation and initial zoning and staff supports the application. AN-006-2021 District VII

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

**X. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

- 9. Authorizing the City Manager to ratify the execution of a lease agreement with the City of Laredo Health Department, as LESSEE, for the center portion of the building consisting of approximately 2,873 square feet of building space and parking lot located at 1605 E. Hillside at the Laredo International Airport. The lease term shall be for three (3) years commencing on May 1, 2021 and ending on April 30, 2024 with two (2) one-year options to extend ending in April 30, 2025 and April 30, 2026. The monthly rental shall be \$2,873.00 and will be adjusted annually according to changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 10. 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 95-O-154 dated August 7, 1995, as amended by Ordinance 97-O-152 dated July 21, 1997, as amended by Ordinance 2007-O-197 dated October 1, 2007, to amend Section 1.05, Term of Leasehold, Commencement of Term, Suspension, by changing the end dates of lease term to September 30, 2025 and September 30, 2030 and adding an additional one five (5) year option to extend ending on August 31, 2035. All other terms and conditions

remain unchanged and in effect.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

11. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, Amending Chapter 2, Article II, Division 6 (Pay Administration), of the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, specifically Section 2.87(c)(12)a, by providing for a three percent (3%) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), subject to the City receiving funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to the existing wage schedule and to all City employees, except Interns, Cooperative Education Program employees (CO-OPS), Elected Officials, Temporary Staffing Agency employees, and employees subject to any Collective Bargaining Agreement; providing for a repealing clause; providing for a severability clause; and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

12. An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Article XI of the Code of Ordinances, by amending section 2-426 to revise the Recognition and Award of Recipients of the Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year Program; Providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Melina Bermudez, Human Resources Director, asked that this item be tabled so that staff may confirm recent information being provided to them.

Motion to table.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Perez were not present.

13. An Ordinance amending Chapter 19, Article VIII, Section 19-360, of the Laredo Code of Ordinances by adding Subsection (e), to establish a mobile payment service application and convenience fees under certain terms and conditions; providing for severability and declaring and effective date.

Danny Magee, Traffic and Safety Director, reported that staff researched mobile payment parking apps for its two brands of parking meters.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## **XI. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES**

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2021-O-081, 2021-O-082, 2021-O-083, 2021-O-084, 2021-O-085, 2021-O-086, and 2021-O-087.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. 2021-O-081 Accepting, and authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for a grant from the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), FY20-21 in the amount of \$585,000.00 with City designating \$65,000.00 in cash and in-kind matching funds for a total amount of \$650,000.00 for the Zacate Creek/Manadas Creek Floodplain/Master plan study and amending the Annual Budget FY 20-21 for the Environmental Services Fund by appropriating the said grant revenue to the appropriate expenditure accounts.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-081.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. 2021-O-082 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately a 2.002-acre tract in Porcion 33, Jose Dionisio Trevino, Abst. 3084, and Porcion 34, Jose Antonio Diaz, Abst. 762, located east of Ejido Ave and Zacatecas Street, from R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area Residential District) to AG (Agricultural District). ZC-26-2021 District I

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-082.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. 2021-O-083 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a bar (microbrewery) in Condo Units 9, 10, 11, 12 only, on Lot 1 & 2, Block 1, Kimberly Plaza Subdivision, located at 4820 McPherson Rd. ZC-024-2021 District V

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-083.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. 2021-O-084 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning approximately 0.61-acre tract of land out of Porcion 14, Abstract 56, J Guajardo, Original Grantee, located southeast of Peoples Blvd. and Port Texas Dr., from R-1MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District). ZC-023-2021 District VII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-084.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. 2021-O-085 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to purchase the "Surface Only" of the following three (3) tracts located in the Cuatro Viento South legally described as a 4.64-acre tract of land being out of Abstract 594, Survey 2149, R.H. Rains Original Grantee, Webb County, Texas, and being a portion of a called 490.78 Acre Tract, Tract 5 of Cuatro Vientos South, LTD.; Recorded in Volume 4225, Page 242, Webb County Official Public Records, Webb County, Texas; 28.80-acre tract of land being out of Abstract 546, Porcion 35, Jose M. Diaz and Abstract 594, Survey 2149, R.H. Rains, Original Grantee, Webb County, Texas, and being a portion of a called 490.78 Acre Tract, Tract 5 of Cuatro Vientos South, Ltd., recorded in Volume 4225, Page 242, Webb County Official Public Records, Webb County, Texas and an 8.00 Acre Tract of land being out of Abstract 594, Survey 2149, R.H. Raines, Original Grantee, and Abstract 473, Porcion 36, Laureano Salinas, Original Grantee, Webb County, Texas, and being a portion of a called 490.78 acre tract, Tract 5 of Cuarto Vientos South, Ltd., recorded in Volume 4225, Page 242, Webb County Official Public Records, Webb County, Texas. Total purchase price \$3,066,000.00 (Sports Venue Fund \$2,586,000.00 and Utilities Fund \$480,000.00).

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-085.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. 2021-O-086 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 2, Article V, (Boards, Commissions, Councils, Etc.) of the Code of Ordinance by adding Division 7, Sections 2-250 through 2-253 for purposes of establishing the Laredo Port of Entry Advisory Committee; defining the duties, powers, meeting requirements, and

providing for other rules applicable to said committee.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-086.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. 2021-O-087 An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, repealing Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2-10 (city write-off policy) of the Code of Ordinances in its entirety for purposes of establishing a more comprehensive and efficient procedure for the write-off of debts deemed uncollectible and in order to ensure that the city's financial statements do not overstate the city's assets.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-087.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **XII. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **CITY MANAGER'S: STAFF SOURCE ROBERT A. EADS, CITY MANAGER**

21. 2021-R-128 A Resolution of the City of Laredo, Texas, declaring the necessity to acquire for public use fee simple title to: LOT 1 PASO DEL NORTE IND PARK I 4.8789 ACS, LOT 2 PASO DEL NORTE IND PARK I 5.3109 ACS, LOT 3 PASO DEL NORTE IND PARK I 5.4829 ACS, LOT 4 PASO DEL NORTE IND PARK I 3.2541 ACS, LOT 5 PASO DEL NORTE IND PARK I 3.1838 ACS (3062.40 SQ FT) of land situated in the 1238 Survey, Abstract No. 425, in Webb County, City of Laredo, Texas, located at the Paso Del Norte Subdivision in the Los Martinez area, and legally described as lot 1 - 5 Paso Del Norte Ind Park I 22.1106 acres; determining the public necessity for such acquisition to be used for park recreation purposes; authorizing the acquisition of property rights necessary for the park development project; appointing an appraiser and negotiator as necessary; authorizing city staff to establish just compensation for the property rights to be acquired; authorizing city staff to take all steps necessary to acquire the needed property rights in compliance with all applicable laws and resolutions; and authorizing city staff to institute condemnation proceedings to acquire the property if purchase negotiations are not successful.

Rosa Aguilar and Michelle Winteroth voiced their support of this

resolution to add a park with lighting.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, reminded Council that the City does not have any district priority bond money tied to land acquisition. Dr. Marte Martinez noted that Council can always find a funding source at a later time but noted that the City does not even know if the owner wants to sell at this point. However, adding lighting and amenities in this area would help alleviate crime problem that is currently happening there.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that this area is floodplain, so nothing other than park space can be built upon it; Kristina L. Hale, Assistant City Attorney, reminded Council that this is a condemnation request that allows the City to pay nothing more than fair market value. Considering a pending lawsuit claim for improvements that were made almost equal to the fair market value, she estimated that the acquisition would not have much of a financial impact.

Cm. Rodriguez noted that he will only agree to this item if the funding source is through District VII's capital improvement funding or through CDBG funds. Cm. Torres agreed that a funding source should be in place before this item is voted upon by Council.

Cm. Perez noted that the space is platted as an unbuildable creek area; there is nothing that can be built upon this land. Tina Martinez, Community Development Director, noted that the current CDBG funding is associated with bike lanes, but there is a process for allowing them to be used for this acquisition. It follows an environmental approval process that involves an assessment.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-128.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

22. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo's 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.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Authorizing the City Manager to execute (5) Individual contracts with the following Hotel-Motel Tax Fund recipients totaling \$80,000.00 for FY 2020-2021. Funding is contingent on the event materializing in a safe manner as approved by the Health Authority. In accordance with the Texas Tax Code, only in-person events may qualify for reimbursement.

| <b>Organizations</b>                 | <b>Amount</b>      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| The Society of Martha Washington     | \$15,000.00        |
| Princess Pocahontas                  | \$10,000.00        |
| Laredo Chamber of Commerce           | \$20,000.00        |
| Laredo Main Street - Jamboozie       | \$25,000.00        |
| Mexican Cultural Institute of Laredo | \$10,000.00        |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>\$80,000.00</b> |

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

24. 2021-R-122 Creating an economic incentive program and guidelines pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code for the purposes of promoting state or local economic development and to stimulate business and commercial activity in the City of Laredo and the region.

Teclo Garcia, Economic Development Director, confirmed that this agreement went before the Economic Development Advisory Committee and was approved 7-1; it then was reviewed by the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Office, and the Economic Development Department. Small tweaks were made but none that affected the spirit or meaning of the document.

Cm. Cigarroa asked that the revised document be sent back to the Committee so that they could review the updated changes. Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted his understanding that the Committee expected the revised document to go back before them for final review.

Mr. Garcia noted his understanding that if the meaning of the document remains completely intact, it would be ready to go before the decision-making body, which is City Council.

Motion to table and to direct staff to send the revised agreement to the Economic Development Advisory Committee for review.

Moved: Cm. Cigarroa

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7                      Against: 1                      Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez                      Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Torres

Cm. Gutierrez

Dr. Marte Martinez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Cigarroa

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

25. Consideration for approval of the selection of Olympia Landscape Development, Inc. Laredo, Texas for FY21-ENG-07 City of Laredo Cemetery Irrigation Design-Build Project; and authorization to award a contract in the amount not to exceed \$475,000.00 to include the landscaping design, construction of all irrigation system components, water pressure booster system and project contingency. A total of three (3) companies responded to the request for proposals. The evaluation committee recommends the selection of Olympia Landscape Development, Inc. Laredo, Texas. Contract time is 120 working days. Funding is available in the Waterworks Construction Fund.

Cm. Gutierrez voiced his concern or the cost of this project, asking if the City could do this job in-house. Ramon Chavez, Engineering Director, reminded Council that this irrigation project covers more than 30 acres of landscaping; it is a big project.



The City does not have the resources to take on such a big project in-house.

Cm. Gutierrez asked management to look for a contractor or someone that could be hired to the City to perform this type of work so that the City does not have to spend so much money on irrigation in City parks and facilities.

Cm. Torres noted that the City is contracting a professional so that the job is done correctly. Dr. Marte Martinez agreed, noting that having an irrigation specialist on staff may not be the most cost-effective option. This is a unique project and likely does not merit an on-staff irrigation expert.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

26. 2021-R-118 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a Grant application to the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the amount of \$50,000.00 with no matching funds. Funds will be used to fund a used paint recycling and reuse program.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-118.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

27. 2021-R-094 Resolution directing publication of notice of intention to issue City of Laredo, Texas Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation 2021, in one or more series, in the maximum principal amount of \$34,500,000.00, for the purpose of:

1. Planning, constructing, improving and repairing city streets, sidewalks, and drainage improvements, together with right-of-ways acquisition, traffic and street signalization, landscaping, and lighting improvements in the City's Reinvestment Zone Number One(Downtown area) and other parts of the City.
2. Acquiring, constructing and improving municipal parks and recreational facilities;
3. Constructing, acquiring, equipping, renovating and improving

City owned buildings, acquiring municipal equipment and municipal vehicles for various city departments, to wit: City Administration, Building Development Services Department, Health and Welfare Department, Engineering Department, Parks and Leisure Department, Public Safety Departments, Public Works Department, Transit Department; Traffic Department and Animal Care Services Department;

4. Undertaking various capital improvement beautification projects throughout the City;
5. Constructing, acquiring and equipping improvements to the City's municipal landfill, including the acquiring of vehicles;
6. Purchasing and acquiring existing landfill at 10705 Highway 359 for municipal landfill purposes and;
7. Paying legal, fiscal, and engineering fees in connection with such projects.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-094.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Consideration to renew supply contract FY19-069 for the purchase of general office supplies for all city departments to primary and secondary vendor.
  1. Patria Office Supply, Laredo, Texas
  2. Executive Office Supply, Laredo, Texas

Approximately \$600,000.00 is spent on office supplies on an annual basis. The term of this contract shall be for a period of two years beginning as of the date of execution. This contract may be extended for one (1) additional two (2) year period. This is the last extension period. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available and will be secured from the user departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**HEALTH: STAFF SOURCE RICHARD A. CHAMBERLAIN, HEALTH DIRECTOR**

29. 2021-R-123 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

\$108,129.00 for a total of \$338,620.00 with no match for the continuation of the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Program for the term period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022. No grant match required.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-123.

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

30. 2021-R-124    Ratifying the submission of a continuation grant application in the estimated amount of \$340,208.00 with no match to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Healthy Texas Women (HTW) program for the term period of 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-124.

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

31. 2021-R-125    Ratifying the submission of a continuation grant application in the estimated amount of \$353,505.00 with no match to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to continue the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Women's Health Preventive Health Services and Family Planning 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-125.

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

32. 2021-R-126    Ratifying the submission of a continuation grant application in the estimated amount of \$49,995.00 with a match of \$16,665.00 to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to continue the

City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) Program for the term period of 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.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-126.

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

33. Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a second contract amendment with Doctors Hospital of Laredo for mammography services for patients referred to the hospital by the City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD) related to women's health services and breast cancer prevention for a total amount of \$164,000.00 and extending the term of the contract through February 12, 2024, contingent on funding availability. Funding is available through the Health Department Budget.

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**

34. Discussion with possible action to consider a third request for an extension of injury leave with pay in accordance with 143.07 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Patrol Officer Gustavo Sotelo. Human Resources and Police Department recommend extension. Total number of days out as of April 23, 2021 is 312 days.

Motion to approve.

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

**LIBRARY: STAFF SOURCE MARIA G. SOLIZ, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

35. Consideration to renew contract to the following Inter-Local Cooperative Purchasing Programs: The Inter-local Purchasing System (TIPS), Texas Procurement and Support Services Cooperative Purchasing Program (TPASS), BuyBoard and include Sole Source vendors for the purchase of library materials

such as books and audio visual materials in an estimated amount of \$473,345.00 this fiscal year. Approximately \$473,345.00 in library materials is purchased on an annual basis. This contract will supplement the Library's ability to purchase books and audiovisual material to keep high quality and variety of reading materials for efficient collection development. The term of this renewal shall be for a two (2) year term. Funding is available in the Public Library Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

36. 2021-R-120 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding, attached hereto as Exhibit A, between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Laredo Police Department (LPD) for the purpose of granting a revocable license to use the City of Laredo 800 MHz Trunked Voice Radio System.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-120.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. 2021-R-121 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,445,186.80 from the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) for the purpose of funding the 2020 Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG). This funding will be used for the purchase of ten (10) roadside license plate readers (LPRs) and for overtime and fringe benefit expenses used for Stonegarden Operations. No local match is required. Funding is available in the Special Police Fund.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-121.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

38. 2021-R-110 Accepting the conveyance of a 15' wide Utility and Access Easement being 0.0785 acre (3,418.00 square foot) situated in Porcion 24, A-268, Certificate No. 24, Webb County, Texas. more or less, being out of Lot 9B, Block 1 of the replat of Lots 9 and 11, North Creek Plaza. Phase 2, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas into Lots 9A, 9B, 9C, and 11A, Block 1, North Creek Plaza. Phase 2, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas as recorded in Document no. 564946 and Volume 15, Page 88 of the Webb County Plat Records to serve as a Utility and Access Easement for the purpose of excavating, constructing, inspecting, repairing, replacing, locating, relocating, and maintaining underground utility lines and any appurtenant or necessary facilities, in over, upon, across, and through said 0.0785 acre tract of land said easement is further described in Exhibit "B" Metes and Bounds as depicted in Boundary Survey in Exhibit "A"; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-110.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. 2021-R-127 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$108,424.55 for City's participation with the Owner/Developer, Mines Road Community Developers, LLC, to upsize the proposed 8-inch gravity sanitary sewer line to a 12-inch gravity sanitary sewer line along Blue Ridge Parkway. Also, to include an additional 1,452.0 feet of new 8-inch gravity sewer main line along southern boundary of Sapphire Industrial Park, Phase I. This 8-inch gravity line extension will eliminate the existing Deer Creek Lift Station. Funding is available through the 2019 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-R-127.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Seeking the City Council to ratify Change Order No. 1 and authorizing the City Manager to approve Change Order No. 2 to Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) to Honeywell for Phase 1. Both Change Orders No. 1 & 2 are for change of scope without changes to the contract value. The contract in the amount of \$10,009,255.00 (Ten million nine thousand two hundred fifty-five dollars and no cents) remains unchanged. The changes to the contractual period to Change Order No. 1 and 2 are zero (0) and 365 calendar days respectively. The new

contract time is 965 calendar days. Funding is available in the 2019 Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to award contract FY21-053 to ABBA Construction, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$499,011.00 for the purchase and installation of manholes and mud valves at the South Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Utilities Department. The estimated time for completion of this project is one hundred and fifty (150) working days. Funding is available in the 2017 Sewer Revenue Budget Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Consideration to renew annual contract FY19-065 with Square E. Services, Los Fresnos, Texas, in an amount up to \$750,000.00 to provide services in the maintenance of all the wastewater's treatment plants SCADA monitoring and electrical controls under preventative maintenance and emergency response objectives. Pricing is based on a flat hourly rate for management, technician, system integrator, journeyman electrician, and a professional engineer. All 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 contract can be renewed one (1) additional one (1) year extension period upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Water Works Department Fund - Water Treatment Division.

Miguel Pescador, Purchasing Agent, reported that this contract was begun in 2019 and has only been renewed once. This vendor was a sole bidder supplier to this contract. Arturo Garcia, Utilities Director, explained that the contract cost increased a little this year because some equipment was lost during the winter storm event this last year.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Consideration to authorize the purchase of new vehicles:

1. One (1) 2022 Ford F250 Regular Cab Truck in the amount of \$31,004.50;
2. Two (2) 2021 Ford Transit Vans in the amount of \$66,135.50;
3. One (1) 2022 Ford F350 Crew Cab Truck in the amount of \$36,882.50;
4. One (1) 2021 Ford F150 Crew Cab Truck in the amount of \$33,711.50;
5. One (1) 2022 Ford F250 Crew Cab Truck in the amount of \$34,286.50;
6. Two (2) 2021 Ford F150 Extended Cab Trucks in the amount of \$62,791.50;
7. Two (2) 2022 Ford F250 Regular Cab Trucks in the amount of \$62,009.00;
8. One (1) 2021 Ford F150 Extended Cab Truck in the amount of \$31,695.75;
9. One (1) 2022 Ford F550 Regular Cab Truck w/Flatbed in the amount of \$48,027.50;
10. Three (3) 2022 Ford F550 Crew Cab Trucks w/Compartments & Crane in the amount of \$221,725.50;
11. Six (6) 2022 Ford F550 Crew Cab Trucks w/Compartments & Air Compressor in the amount of \$337,611.00;
12. Three (3) 2022 Ford F550 Regular Cab Trucks w/Compartment & Crane in the amount of \$212,785.50;

in the total amount of \$1,178,666.25 from Silsbee Ford, Silsbee, Texas through the GoodBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing. These operations' vehicles are replacement units which have already reached their useful life. Funding is available in the 2018 PPFCO Water & Sewer Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. Consideration to authorize a purchase contract utilizing the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program pricing to RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas for the purchase of:

1. Two (2) John Deere 310 Backhoe Loaders in an amount of \$178,658.00;
2. Two (2) John Deere 324G Skid Steer Loaders in an amount of \$109,704.54;
3. One (1) John Deere 644 4-Wheel Loader in an amount of \$261,875.00;
4. One (1) John Deere 470GF Mini-Excavator in an amount of \$48,500.00;
5. One (1) John Deere OKADA Concrete Breaker in an amount of \$14,700.00;

for a total amount of \$613,437.54 for the Utilities Department. Some of this heavy equipment are replacement units for equipment which has already reached their useful life and the new equipment is for in-house utilities projects. Funding is available in the 2018 PPFCO Water & Sewer Fund.



Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

45. Consideration to authorize the purchase of six (6) dump trucks and two (2) water tanker trucks from Rush Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in the total amount \$1,092,387.54 for the Utilities Department. The purchase of these trucks shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program. Some of these trucks are replacement units for trucks which have already reached their useful life and the new trucks are for in-house utilities projects. Funding is available in the 2018 PPFCO Water & Sewer Fund and the 2020A Water Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

46. Consideration to authorize a purchase contract utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program pricing to Briggs Equipment, Laredo, Texas for the purchase of:

1. One (1) 2021 Yale GP050VX Forklift in an amount of \$36,190.59;
2. Two (2) 2021 Bomag Tandem Vibratory Roller in an amount of \$76,600.00;
3. One (1) 2021 185 CFM Air Compressor in an amount of \$26,297.10;

for a total amount of \$139,087.69 for the Utilities Department. All equipment are replacement units which has already reached their useful life. Funding is available in the 2018 PPFCO Water Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. Consideration to authorize the purchase of two (2) gator utility vehicles and one (1) 72" riding mower from John Deere Company, Cary, North Carolina in the total amount \$56,853.82 for the Utilities Department. All equipment are replacement units which have already reached their useful life. The purchase of this equipment shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding is available in the 2018 PPFCO Water & Sewer Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

Abstain: 0

48. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) vibrating compactor from Holt Caterpillar, Laredo, Texas in the total amount \$85,925.32 for the Utilities Department. This compactor is an additional piece of equipment which will be used for compacting trenches during in-house utilities projects. The purchase of this equipment shall be made utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding is available in the 2018 PFFCO, 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond, and 2020A Sewer Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

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

Abstain: 0

49. Consideration to award annual heavy equipment rental contracts FY21-047 with the following vendors:

| <b>Section I (Rental of Skid Steer)</b>      | Amount      | Recommendation   |
|--|-------------|------------------|
| RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas                 | \$80,000.00 | Primary Vendor   |
| Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas        | \$40,000.00 | Secondary Vendor |
| Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada             | \$30,000.00 | Secondary Vendor |
| United Rentals, Laredo, Texas                | \$20,000.00 | Secondary Vendor |
|  |             |                  |
| <b>Section II (Rental of Mini-Excavator)</b> |             |                  |
| RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas                 | \$50,000.00 | Primary Vendor   |
| Texas First Rentals, Laredo, Texas           | \$40,000.00 | Secondary Vendor |
| Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas        | \$30,000.00 | Secondary Vendor |
| Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada             | \$20,000.00 | Secondary Vendor |

|  |              |                  |
|--|--------------|------------------|
|  |              |                  |
| <b>Section III (Rental of Trench Roller)</b> |              |                  |
| Texas First Rentals, Laredo, Texas           | \$100,000.00 | Primary Vendor   |
| Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada             | \$40,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |
| H&E Equipment, Baton Rouge, Louisiana        | \$30,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |
| United Rentals, Laredo, Texas                | \$20,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |
|  |              |                  |
| <b>Section IV (Rental of Backhoe)</b>        |              |                  |
| RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas                 | \$50,000.00  | Primary Vendor   |
| exas First Rentals, Laredo, Texas            | \$40,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |
| United Rentals, Laredo, Texas                | \$30,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |
| Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas        | \$20,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |
|  |              |                  |
| <b>Section VI (Rental of Water Truck)</b>    |              |                  |
| Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada             | \$140,000.00 | Primary Vendor   |
| United Rentals, Laredo, Texas                | \$30,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |
| H&E Equipment, Baton Rouge, Louisiana        | \$20,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |
|  |              |                  |
| <b>Section VII (Rental of Excavator)</b>     |              |                  |
| Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas, Nevada             | \$50,000.00  | Primary Vendor   |
| RDO Equipment, Laredo, Texas                 | \$40,000.00  | Secondary Vendor |

|  |             |                     |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo,<br>Texas | \$20,000.00 | Secondary<br>Vendor |
|--|-------------|---------------------|

All equipment rentals 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 may be extended for three (3) additional one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

50. Consideration to award a professional engineering services contract in the amount of \$809,250.00 to Porras Nance Engineering of Laredo, Texas for the Relocation of Utilities on US59 / Loop 20. Funding is available in the 2020A Water Revenue Bond and 2017 Sewer Revenue Bond.

Arturo Garcia, Utilities Director, confirmed that staff has to relocate its water and sewer infrastructure, which will be combined with the TxDOT project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

51. Consideration to ratify issued purchase orders to Environmental Improvements, Inc. for the preventative maintenance, equipment repairs, and equipment replacement for the water and wastewater treatment plants in the amount of \$49,978.00. Environmental Improvements Inc. is the Texas Regional Manufacture Representative for the sale and maintenance of this equipment. An additional \$70,000 is being requested for needed upgrades and to cover unforeseen equipment failures in the water and wastewater treatment plants. Total contract amount is \$119,978.00. Funding available in the Waterworks and Sewer System Operations Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

### XIII. 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 accept the Internal Auditor's report.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

53. 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.

Dr. Victor Treviño, Laredo Health Authority, reported 834 COVID-19 deaths and voiced his cautious optimism that the community is currently near the end of this infection cycle. The current hospitalization trend is due to a lack of personnel rather than an uptick in the spread of the virus. The demobilization of medical staff has contributed to this issue. Vaccination efforts continue to be a top priority, and approval for the vaccine in youth aged 12 to 16 years is forthcoming.

Guillermo Heard, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, confirmed that staff requested additional medical personnel from STAR and were denied since the service is specific to COVID-19 patients. Dr. Treviño noted that the City has since reached out to Representative Richard Raymond for assistance as they find the need to be related. Dr. Marte Martinez initiated a motion to send a resolution to Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt requesting medical personnel from STAR.

Richard Chamberlain, Health Director, confirmed that the community is again below the 150 active COVID-19 cases (128 actual cases), which is the Level 2 risk. Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that staff expects to receive federal funds by the end of May to continue opening facilities and labor in June.

Cm. Rodriguez asked if the City could administer vaccinations at Council District-sponsored events, which are resuming; Chief Heard agreed that staff will reach out to Council Members for those vaccination opportunities.

Motion to direct staff to send a resolution to Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt requesting medical personnel from STAR and ask the state to pay the difference or share the costs with private hospitals, as amended.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

54. Status update on the appointment of the Interim Internal Auditor, and any other matters incident thereto.

Robert Eads, City Manager, asked for Council direction; staff received the qualifications of the two applicants at this point. If Council wishes for a bigger pool, then staff will follow that direction as well.

Cm. Torres voiced his opinion that this position needs more time for a wide pool but noted that he is not discrediting the current applicants. He initiated a motion to bring this item back in six weeks for further advertising.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez countered that one of the two current applicants meets all of the posted requirements and has impressive credentials. Rene Benavides, City Attorney, reminded Council that the City Charter provides that the ordinance will lay out the qualifications for the Internal Auditor; the ordinance states that the Auditor must have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting, business administration, finance, or a related field. They shall be knowledgeable in public administration, public financial and fiscal practices, and governmental accounting and auditing.

Motion to direct staff to continue the search for the Internal Auditor and bring this item back to Council in six weeks with recommendations and to further direct staff to advertise this position in every way possible to include any internal auditing and governmental entity opportunities and to adhere to the qualifications as provided in the ordinance, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

55. Temporary appointment of Vanessa Guerra to the position of Interim Planning Director upon James "Kirby" Snideman resignation; and any other matters incident thereto.

Council and management thanked J. Kirby Snideman, Planning Director, for his work at the City in the Planning Department and for his commitment to his profession. Mr. Snideman thanked Council for their well wishes and noted the love and fondness that he has in his heart for Laredo; though he wished he could stay, he noted that a family situation compels him to resign at this time.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez, Cm. Mercurio Martinez, and Dr. Marte Martinez were not present.

56. Status update on the Don Tomas Sanchez sculpture project; and any other matters incident thereto.

Robert Eads, City Manager, noted that the intention of this item was to bring the artist before Council to ask and answer any questions related to the project. However, staff was recently notified that the artist requested to reschedule this item until May 17. Cm. Torres noted his opinion that the artist being out of town for this important discussion is unacceptable.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss this item.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Cigarroa

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

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

57. Staff report on Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) mid-year update, and any other matters incident thereto.

Gene Lindgren, LEDC President and CEO, reported on the organization's six-month performance in activities designed to promote and market Laredo and to target and recruit business/industry. Cesar Hernandez, MileOne Program Director, reported that the organization suffered last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic given businesses taking their operations home rather than in the MileOne building. However, MileOne has initiated 13 new coworking memberships and 35 new incubation memberships.

Cm. Rodriguez voiced his opinion that the City of Laredo should be able to manage the community's economic development without the work of the LEDC, to which Mr. Lindgren disagreed. Cm. Rodriguez encouraged Council to find a way to defund the LEDC and to instead give that money to the City's Economic Development Department. Cm. Mercurio Martinez disagreed, noting his embarrassment at the small amount of money that the City uses to fund LEDC in light of the diligent work that the organization has done to bring industry to Laredo.

58. Status update on the proposed Management Agreement for UNI-TRADE STADIUM with STX LDO Management LLC., and any other matters incident

thereto.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss this item.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

#### **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

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

No action.

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

No action.

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

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

1. Discussion with possible action to instruct Management to formulate as soon as possible a five (5) year operational and financial forecast/plan on current and future expense and revenue budgets, and their impacts, in order to reasonably determine whether the City can afford to cover the following matters:

- incorporating and specifying cost of new hires,
- cost of equity in wage disparities within existing positions and new positions within departments;
- overall cost of the application of the recent 3% COLA increase;
- the ongoing negotiation of Police Department Contract,
- future negotiation of Fire Department Contract; ongoing and future Capital and Operational expenses;
- along with all future compounding impacts to the respective budgets, specifically the General Fund; and,
- including all other normal ongoing encumbrances impacting the General Fund and other funds, respectively.

Mayor Saenz reminded Council that many of the City's costs are compounded each



year, which is not sustainable unless the City increases its revenues. Robert Eads, City Manager, agreed that this proposal is a good exercise but assured Council that if staff ever believed that the City could not afford an expenditure or project, they would inform Council. He confirmed that staff could bring five-year impacts at the request of Council.

Mayor Saenz questioned whether the City can truly afford Chapter 380 agreements with entities, asking for the financial impact throughout the periods of those agreements.

Cm. Cigarroa agreed with Mayor Saenz's suggestion to implement a software program to help manage the City. Cm. Gutierrez agreed and noted that he received many phone calls from citizens demanding to know how the City can give employees raises when the organization is operating at a deficit.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Saenz

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

## **B. Request by Council Member Vanessa J. Perez**

1. Discussion with possible action directing management to modify Ordinance 2017-O-071, Sec. 31-138.1.1 fees, late fees: 5% or \$5, whichever is greater, to eliminate the \$5 minimum fee, while keeping the 5% fee, to not disproportionately penalize customers with lower bill totals: our current feeless auto pay program should be enhanced and promoted with the goals of increasing participation and ease of enrollment, and any other matter incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III.)

Dr. Liza Peña and Arturo Dominguez voiced their support of this item. Cm. Perez noted that for many households living at or below the poverty threshold, \$5 is a large fee, especially if they are paying their bills late because they could not afford them in the first place. She initiated a motion to approve. The City should not be budgeting for late fees; she clarified that this item does not remove the fee just the \$5 portion of the fee and to instead apply 5% across the board.

Cm. Torres noted that he has routinely voted against raising water rates or tax rates. However, if the ordinance is amended and has an effect on the customer who pays on time, then he cannot support the item. The Enterprise Fund must stay solvent so that the City can continue to provide services to its citizens, and he stated his belief that the domino effect of this proposal will affect the customer in good standing. Many services and companies charge late fees for a reason, to encourage timely payments.

Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager, reminded Council that veterans and senior citizens do not accumulate late fees. Arturo Garcia, Utilities Director, noted that the budget is set up to include this projected revenue stream. Therefore, adjusting this ordinance will actually affect the revenue stream.

Robert Eads, City Manager, added that this Enterprise Fund's revenue stream is used when the City goes to its bondholders to borrow money. Based on the City's collections, its borrowing capacity is affected. If the revenue stream is affected, he estimated that the City would have to make it up by raising the water rates.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 3

Against: 4

Abstain: 0

Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Cm. Rodriguez

Cm. Perez

Cm. Torres

Cm. Cigarroa

Cm. Gutierrez

Dr. Marte Martinez

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

Motion fails. No further action taken.

2. Discussion with possible action directing management to implement a city composting program, and any other matter incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III. and Council Member Ruben Gutierrez, Jr.)

Hesedth Martinez and Tricia Cortez spoke in favor of a city composting program. John Porter, Interim Solid Waste Director, reported that Council approved a contract on April 19, 2021, with a company (NewGen) for a Solid Waste Master Plan, of which composting is a large component. There is not currently a permit for composting at the main landfill, but the Ponderosa landfill has one. Permitting, equipment, and personnel are the main obstacles to begin composting at the landfill, but Mr. Porter confirmed that staff will bring equipment and personnel requests to Council during the budget workshops. After the program is started, he noted a substantial savings for the Department and a benefit to the City at large.

Cm. Mercurio Martinez noted that Council created the Laredo Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainability, which would be perfect for managing this program. Arturo Garcia, Utilities Director, confirmed that the City spends about \$1 million to transport biosolids to other landfills, which could be used in composting.

Cm. Perez noted that while there may be an upfront cost to starting this program, the long-term savings and benefit to the community are well worth the investment. Mr. Porter confirmed that staff can obtain a permit amendment and begin operations

once the equipment and personnel are secured.

Motion to update the composting plan as recommended by staff and to initiate the first phases of the program.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action on hosting the City of Laredo's Inaugural Avocado Festival to be held on October 23, 2021 at the Uni-Trade Stadium, and any other matter incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III.)

Cm. Perez noted that this festival is a good direction for the City of Laredo as a hub of fresh produce, particularly avocados. Aileen Ramos, Convention & Visitors Bureau Director, stated that avocado is a very popular fruit and presents the opportunity for a successful festival that features culinary demonstrations, competitions, and family entertainment such as games, arts and crafts, and live music. The inaugural avocado festival is slated for Saturday, October 23, 2021, at the Uni-Trade Stadium from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. to ensure that attendees have an open space to safely gather and enjoy the festivities. Staff will submit this plan to the Health Department and the Medical Authority, then send out RFPs for branding, music, and other services needed. CVB will then finalize sponsorship packets, contact potential sponsors, and work with different departments on any pending services needed. To Cm. Torres's question about the budget and funding for this festival, Ms. Ramos estimated that the basic elements of the festival will be about \$70,000-\$80,000, which is typical of other events. Staff will seek as many sponsorships as possible.

Teclo Garcia, Economic Development Director, confirmed that an event such as this festival will have economic benefits to the City, as well. Any event that draws visitors to the City to spend their money is a benefit; festivals and attractions help attract businesses and industries to invest in Laredo. This would be the first avocado festival in Texas, which will give Laredo the reputation as the avocado hub.

Cm. Torres countered that Devine and San Antonio are planning their own avocado festivals, also for October. He cautioned staff not to compete with other communities for travelers to the city.

Motion to approve and leave the date of the festival open so as not to compete with other cities' avocado festivals, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez and Cm. Gutierrez were not present.

**C. Request by Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa**

1. Status report with possible action on the Open Data Portal for the City of Laredo, and any other matters incident thereto.

Homero Vazquez-Garcia, IST Director, explained that open data is data that is available to all for use as they wish. Staff started the open data portal (OpenLaredo.com) that updates nightly and provides staff and the public interactive transparency on City resources in a downloadable format if they wish to save the information. He noted that staff are currently recruiting a data officer to manage this endeavor.

No action taken.

**D. Request by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez**

1. Discussion with possible action to re-evaluate current standard project timeline of 90 days for completion, as well as set a new standard for when a project should commence once it is approved, and any other matters incident thereto.

Cm. Rodriguez voiced his intention to set the deadline date of completion from the day that the contract is awarded, not the day that the contractor gets their certificates or permits. He noted his frustration at the prolonged construction times on many City projects.

Ramon Chavez, Engineering Director, noted that there are notification requirements that are essential before a contractor begins work. From the time a contract is awarded, the City must give a notice to proceed, which takes about 25-30 days; 10-15 days after that notice is given, the contractor secures a building permit. Then, the period of the contract begins for 60, 90, or 120 days until the project is completed. He reported that the Engineering Department will implement a project tracker online in the next two weeks to help with project management with the Airport, Bridge, Transit, CIP, Parks, TxDOT, CDBG, Traffic, Environmental, and over 90 other projects and divisions.

Motion to bring this item back in 30 days.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on a status report on all LED lighting and street repair pending in the entire City, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Rodriguez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

**E. Request by Council Member Mercurio Martinez, III**

1. Discussion with possible action to request that the City Manager initiate a resolution to extend the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Borders, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

**F. Request by Council Member Alberto Torres, Jr.**

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 IV Priority Funds will be used for this project.

- 3400 of Stamford Street
- 3500 Block of McDonell Avenue

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Torres

Second: Cm. Mercurio Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

**G. Request by Council Member Ruben A. Gutierrez, Jr.**

1. Discussion with possible action on amending Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances to remove the 300 feet distancing requirement between amusement redemption machines in an effort to allow for better enforcement and regulations, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action to rescind motion approved on April 19th regarding the removal of playground equipment at Uni-Trade Stadium to keep the equipment where it is and to add batting cages in the location property, and any other matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Vidal Rodriguez and Council Member Vanessa Perez)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action to direct the City Manager to instruct staff to explore new dates for the 2021 "Runway 5k" at the Laredo International Airport, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Gutierrez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

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

1. Discussion with possible action on dedicating accessible property owned by the City of Laredo adjacent to Springfield Ave, for use as a Transit Hub, and any other matters incident thereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Gutierrez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.

#### **XVII. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Dr. Marte Martinez

Second: Cm. Torres

For: 7                      Against: 0

Abstain: 0

MPT Gonzalez was not present.