

CITY OF LAREDO
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
A-2022-SC-01
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
January 6, 2022
12:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the special city council meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Saenz.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Saenz called for a moment of silence.

IV. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Rudy Gonzalez Jr.	District I
Vidal Rodriguez	Mayor Pro Tempore
Mercurio "Merc" Martinez, III	District III
Ruben Gutierrez Jr.	District V
Dr. Marte Martinez	District VI
Vanessa Perez	District VII
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
Dean Roggia	City Attorney

Cm. Perez arrived at 12:15 pm.

MPT. Rodriguez arrived at 12:17 pm.

Citizen comments

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance amending the FY 21-22 Transit System Fund by drawing down fund balance by \$216,000.00 from the Transit Sales Tax Fund and appropriating \$216,000.00 as a transfer out to the Transit System - El Metro Operations Fund to cover the estimated cost increase related to personnel expenses.

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and convene as the Laredo Mass Transit Board and bring up and open Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance 4 along with Public Hearing number 1.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 5

Against:

Abstain:

NP: MPT. Rodriguez, Cm. Torres, Cm. Perez, Cm. Cigarroa

Motion to amend Public Hearing number 4 to include a 2.5% also for administrated staff with an estimated amount of \$40,000.00.

Moved: Cm. Gonzalez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 6

Against:

Abstain:

NP: Cm. Torres, Cm. Cigarroa

Citizen Consuelo Montalvo asked for an explanation on public hearing number 1 if the employees are going to get the money from the cost of living increase from El Metro. Ms. Rosario Cabello explained that Public Hearing number 1 was to take monies from sales tax funds in order to pay for the cost of living and the onetime fee for the transit employees.

Motion to close and introduce Public Hearing number 1 and as amended.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against:

Abstain:

NP: Cm. Torres, Cm. Cigarroa

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

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 5

Against:

Abstain:

NP: MPT. Rodriguez, Cm. Torres, Cm. Gutierrez, Cm. Cigarroa

VI. MOTION

2. Consideration to award FY22-015 -Transit Management Services Contract to the sole bidder Hendrickson Transportation Group (HTG), of Waco, Texas, and to authorize City Manager to negotiate a management agreement for the City's Transit System for a term of five (5) years beginning February 1, 2022, with one option to renew for an additional five (5) years. Funding for this contract is available in the El Metro Operations Fund.

City Manager Robert Eads introduced Mr. Hendrickson with HTG stated that they wanted to do a smooth transition and bring on board all the employees and calm any concerns they might have. Mr. Eads stated that come February 1st there should be a smooth transition and not much should change except some managing style that should not affect the ridership.

Motion to bring up item number 3.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against:

Abstain:

NP: Cm. Torres, Cm. Cigarroa

Motion to go into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to consult with attorney regarding the City of Laredo sponsorship of the Laredo Transit Management, Inc. Defined Benefit Plan to include management legal and anyone deemed necessary.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 6

Against:

Abstain:

NP: Cm. Torres, Cm. Cigarroa

Mayor stated that council exited executive session at 12:53 pm and has not taken any action on the items. Cm. Dr. Martinez thanked Mr. Hendrickson for submitting their bid but had a couple of questions. Will the current employees have their jobs come February 1st. Mr. Hendrickson stated that that is correct. The second question was if they would try to match what the current health benefits are, to which Mr. Hendrickson stated that that is correct and that they would everything they can to be as close or similar to what they have in place. Cm. Dr. Martinez asked if also included the pension liability as well. Mr. Hendrickson mentioned that it is something that

they plan on working through as long as it works within the budget. Ha also agreed to working with management to see who would be running the transit system. MPT. Rodriguez commented that he would like to see the best working environment as possible; and that the employees have a voice on council.

Motion to accept item number 2.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

Second: Cm. Martinez

For: 6

Against:

Abstain:

NP: Cm. Torres, Cm. Cigarroa

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any posted agenda item when authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and/or 551.086 (Economic Development). Following closed session, the open meeting will reconvene at which time action, if any, may be taken.

3. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to consult with attorney regarding the City of Laredo sponsorship of the Laredo Transit Management, Inc. Defined Benefit Plan

No action taken.

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

4. **Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance** amending the FY 21-22 Transit System - El Metro Operations Fund by transferring and appropriating from the Transit System Fund by \$216,000.00. The purpose is for a one-time payment in the amount of \$750.00 for contract part-time personnel and \$1,100.00 for contract full-time personnel in addition to a cost of living increase of 2.5% for contract personnel which will be retroactive and effective October 1, 2021. Total expenses will be an estimated \$361,000.00.

Refer to item V. (1) both items were taken together.

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 1:00 pm.

Moved: Cm. Dr. Martinez

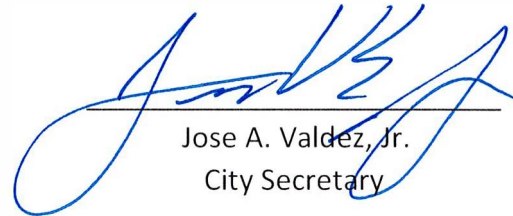
Second: Cm. Perez

For: 6

Against:

Abstain:

NP: Cm. Torres, Cm. Cigarroa



Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
City Secretary