

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2021-R-01  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
January 19, 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 the lives lost and impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly City employee Enrique Tomas “Tom” Alvarado.

**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

**V. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of December 7, 2020 and December 22, 2020.



Ruben Gutierrez, Jr., Council Member Dr. Marte A. Martinez and Council Member Alyssa Cigarroa)

Juana Elia Guevara spoke in favor of this item, as did Gonzalo Prida, Emilio Richter III, Rafael Dueñas, Arturo Dominguez, and Monica Salinas.

James Kirby Snideman, Planning Director and MPO Director, reported that the trade and logistics master plan for the City of Laredo is in progress at this time. Cm. Rodriguez urged Council to let each Council Member appoint a commissioner so that each district is represented.

Dr. Marte Martinez noted that a hybrid system, such as a mix of Council and Council appointees as well as industry leaders, work well for a nuanced topic like trade and logistics.

Motion to direct staff to start the process of creating this committee and bring back to Council, along with a list of the organizations that would participate, as amended.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rodriguez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report with possible action on the planned renovation by the new owner of the structures and properties located at 2201 Bristol Road in Laredo, Texas commonly known as the Dellwood Apartments, and any other matter incident thereto.

Cm. Perez reminded Council that this apartment complex has been a hazard and nuisance in District VII for many years. Rene Benavides, City Attorney, reminded Council that there was an abatement injunction on this property which led to it being boarded up. Staff is pending an inspection to see if the building has any continuing issues that would require further action. An inspection warrant was signed today.

Arturo Garcia, Building Director, noted that the property owner is granting the City access to inspect the property tomorrow to assess its current state. The City Attorney's Office will move forward at that point with any necessary legal action.

Cm. Perez noted that the building qualifies for a public nuisance under numerous criteria in the related ordinance due to its many violations. At this time, the City has the option of securing the building or demolishing it. She asked why these actions have not been pursued since the City has the means to recover its costs with regard to this property and noted that the property presents a hazard to surrounding residences.

Motion to direct management to enforce the ordinance regarding public nuisances with regards to this property to the fullest extent possible and pursue any cost recovery measures.