

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-O-122

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 93-244 OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS, ETC., OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; DIVISION 3; THE ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL; RENAMING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-191 THROUGH 2-194; REDEFINING MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA, ADAPTING THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS FROM 12 TO 9; ALLOWING FOR THE CREATION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEES, PROVIDING FOR DUTIES AND POWERS; AND ADDING SECTIONS 2-195 THROUGH 2-197; PROVIDING FOR MEETING REQUIREMENTS, PROVIDING FOR ITS ADVISORY CAPACITY, AND ADDRESSING COMPENSATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on November 15, 1993, the City Council moved to create the Economic Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to amend sections of this ordinance and create further guidance for the Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to delineate the creation, composition, duties, powers, and capacity of the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT: THE CITY OF LAREDO CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS, ETC., IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

DIVISION 3. ECONOMIC **DEVELOPMENT** ADVISORY ~~COUNCIL~~ **COMMITTEE**

Sec. 2-191. Created.

There is hereby created the Economic **Development** Advisory ~~council~~ **Committee** of the City.

(Ord. No. 93-244, § 1, 11-22-93)

Sec. 2-192. ~~Members.~~ Membership criteria; term of office; method of appointment.

~~*It shall consist of twelve (12) voting members and three (3) ex-officio members.*~~

- (a) The Membership of the Economic Development Advisory Committee shall be comprised of nine (9) voting Members who shall reside in the city, and who shall be appointed by the Mayor and City Council.
- (b) All Members shall serve a term of office corresponding to their respective sponsoring elected official's term.
- (c) In the event that an Economic Development Advisory Committee Member's position becomes vacant due to death, discontinuance of the Committee Member's eligibility to serve, or the Committee Member's incapacity or unwillingness to serve for any reason whatsoever, the City Council shall fill the vacancy for that Committee Member, by appointing a new Committee Member, upon submittal of a recommendation by the sponsoring elected official of the position that has become vacant.

(Ord. No. 93-244, § 2, 11-22-93)

Sec. 2-193. Bylaws.

The governance of the economic Advisory council will be determined by the bylaws that will be established for its own governance.

(Ord. No. 93-244, § 3, 11-22-93)

Sec. 2-193. Chairperson and other officers; sub-Committees.

- (a) The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected on an annual basis by majority vote of the Advisory Committee, and shall serve for a twelve (12) month calendar year period, shall be eligible for reelection for no more than two consecutive years, and shall continue to serve until a new Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson is elected.
- (b) The Advisory Committee may establish such other offices as the Advisory Committee may deem necessary.
- (c) The Advisory Committee may establish any such other sub-committees as it deems necessary. The Chairperson shall appoint the members and Chairperson of all such sub-committees.

(Ord. No. 93-244, § 3, 11-22-93)

Sec. 2-194. Compensation; officers; meetings; quorum; conflict of interest.

- ~~(a) — Each member shall serve on the economic Advisory council without compensation as such member, as a voluntary duty derived from his/her position as a citizen in good standing.~~
- ~~(b) — The economic Advisory council will elects its own officers, which will include a chairman, vice chairman and secretary.~~
- ~~(c) — The economic Advisory council shall attempt to schedule at least one (1) regular meeting a month for the purpose of conducting business.~~
- ~~(d) — The presiding officers may call special meetings of the economic Advisory council as deemed necessary.~~

- ~~(e) — A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.~~
- ~~(f) — A member of the economic Advisory council may not be particularly interested in or benefitted by any relationship in doing business with the city. Standard conflict of interest provisions shall prevail as set forth in this city charter.~~

Sec 2-194. Duties and Powers.

- (a) The Economic Development Advisory Committee will advise and make recommendations to the Economic Development Department on matters and possible projects related to strategic economic development and growth in and around the City of Laredo, including but not limited to the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan and the City of Laredo Economic Development Plan, and any other matter related thereto.**
- (b) The Economic Development Department will review recommendations of the Economic Development Advisory Committee and provide the Advisory Committee with feedback on the feasibility of any recommendations.**
- (c) When recommendations by the Advisory Committee are determined to not be feasible, by the Economic Development Department, the Chairperson shall send a written request to the Director of the Economic Development Department to place an agenda item, regarding the recommendation, to be placed on the following City Council meeting agenda. Both the Advisory Committee and the Economic Development Department will present their positions and recommendations before City Council.**
- (d) The Economic Development Advisory Committee is hereby empowered to adopt rules and bylaws governing its own operation for the performance of its official duties and powers.**

(Ord. No. 93-244, § 3, 11-22-93)

Sec 2-195. Meetings.

- (a) The Advisory Committee shall not meet less than once a month, at such time and place as the Director of the Economic Development Department shall designate. The Director shall cause to be posted at City Hall, 1110 Houston St., Laredo, Texas, a notice of the date and time of said meetings and shall prepare an agenda for all items to be discussed or deliberated upon, in accordance and compliance with the Priority Procedure Handbook for the City of Laredo.**
- (b) The Advisory Committee may elect officers at its first regularly scheduled monthly meeting, and thereafter at its first meeting after the expiration of twelve (12) months and may hold annual elections on the anniversary date of the elections or as near as possible to the anniversary date of the election of each succeeding year thereafter. The Advisory Committee may elect any such other number of officers as it deems appropriate.**

- (c) A quorum for any meeting shall consist of a majority or five (5) voting Committee members, in accordance with the Priority Procedures Handbook for the City of Laredo and City Ordinance 2023-O-039.
- (d) The agenda for each meeting shall be prepared by the director of the Economic Development Department, to include items requested by the Chairperson or the Vicechair of the Committee. Any member of the Economic Development Advisory Committee, shall have the right to request the Chairperson to place any proper item of business on the agenda, via written request, so long as the request is made prior to the posting of the notice of the meeting as required by law.
- (e) Attendance at regularly called meetings of the Economic Development Advisory Committee meetings is mandatory. Any member with three (3) absences in a calendar year, beginning each January and ending each December, shall automatically forfeit their term of office, and the City Council shall appoint a new member to complete the unexpired term of office. Any member who knows in advance that they will be unable to attend a meeting shall so notify the Chairperson at the earliest possible time of the reason of the absence. The Committee shall determine the reasonableness and acceptability of any absence, and shall excuse any absence it considers unavoidable or reasonable.
- (f) A member of the Advisory Committee may be removed from office before the end of his or her term in office by action of the City Council in accordance with the rules set forth by the Priority Procedures Handbook for the City of Laredo.
- (g) A record shall be kept of all proceedings, and all meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth by the Priority Procedures Handbook for the City of Laredo.

(Ord. No. 93-244, § 3, 11-22-93)

Sec. 2-196. Advisory capacity.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee, in discharging its duties enumerated in this division, shall serve in an advisory capacity.

(Ord. No. 93-244, § 3, 11-22-93)

Sec. 2-197. Compensation and conflict of interest.

- (a) No salary, fees, or compensation shall be paid to any member of the Economic Development Advisory Committee for their services rendered as a member of the Advisory Committee.
- (b) A member of the Economic Development Advisory Committee may not be particularly interested in or benefitted by any relationship in doing business with the City. Standard conflict of interest provisions shall prevail as set forth in this City Charter.

(Ord. No. 93-244, § 4, 11-22-93)

Secs. 2-198—2-220. Reserved.