

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS
5:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

M-96-R-04

FEBRUARY 5, 1996

I. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present Mayor Saul N. Ramirez, Jr. called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Saul N. Ramirez, Jr. led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

IN ATTENDANCE:

SAUL N. RAMIREZ, JR.,	MAYOR	
LOUIS H. BRUNI,	COUNCILMEMBER,	DISTRICT II
ALFONSO I. "PONCHO" CASSO,	"	DISTRICT III
CECILIA MAY MORENO,	"	DISTRICT IV
JOE A. GUERRA,	"	DISTRICT VI
JOSE GERARDO (JERRY) PEREZ,	"	DISTRICT VII
FELIPE CARDENAS,	"	DISTRICT VIII
GUSTAVO GUEVARA,	CITY SECRETARY	
PETER H. VARGAS,	CITY MANAGER	
CARLOS R. VILLARREAL,	ASST. CITY MANAGER	
JESUS NAVA,	ASST. CITY MANAGER	
FAUSTO SOSA,	CITY ATTORNEY	

ABSENCES:

Motion to excuse Cm. Jose R. Perez and Cm. Jerry Perez due to out-of-town commitments and Cm. Castaneda due to death in his family.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. City Council Meeting of January 22, 1996

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to waive the regular order of business and move up item X-(a) under communications for presentation at this time.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to move up communications to recognize the WBCA with a proclamation which was read and presented by Mayor Ramirez.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cw. Moreno
For 5

V. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

- 3. Closing as Public easement the South 785.44 feet of Orilla Avenue (60' R.O.W.) situated within the North Laredo Land Irrigation and Water Company plat, recorded in Volume 1 Page 104 of the Webb County Deed records and being between the North boundary line of Lot 1 of Block 1006 of the Modern Industrial Park to a point located 214.56 feet South of the South right-of-way line of Island Avenue.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 4. Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to effectively convey title to Mr. Rodolfo Garcia for the sale at fair market value of the surface only of certain City properties formerly known as those sections of Atlee Avenue between Ventura and Soledad Streets and Gilbert Avenue between Water and Piedregal Streets excluding the intersections, situated in the Western Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 5. Authorizing the acceptance of a utility easement from Sears Department Store, part of Lot 2A, Tract B, Mall Del Norte, in exchange for the abandonment by the City of Laredo of part of their utility easement located at Mall del Norte, part of Lot 2A, Tract A.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

VI. FINAL READINGS

Motion to waive final reading of ordinances #96-O-003, #96-O-004, #96-O-005, #96-O-006, #96-O-008, #96-O-009, #96-O-010, #96-O-011, #96-O-012, #96-O-013.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 96-O-003 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Border Area Nutrition Council for approximately 481 square feet constituting suite #24 of building #S-1 located at 1718 E. Calton Road at the Laredo International Airport;

- 1. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing January 1, 1996, and ending December 31, 1996, and may be extended for two (2) terms of one (1) year each ending December 31, 1997, and December 31, 1998;
- 2. Monthly rent shall be \$518.69 and will be adjusted annually during the primary and extension terms of this lease according to changes in the consumer price index; providing for effective date.

(Unanimous City Council)

Motion authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Border Area Nutrition Council for approximately 481 square feet constituting suite #24 of building #S-1 located at 1718 E. Calton Road at the Laredo International Airport.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. 96-O-004 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Laredo-Webb County Food Bank for approximately 9,600 square feet constituting building #1331 located at 4110 North Jarvis Avenue at the Laredo International Airport;

- 1. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing January 1, 1996, and ending December 31, 1996;
- 2. Monthly rent shall be \$2,316.91; providing for effective date.

(Unanimous City Council)

Motion authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Laredo-Webb County Food Bank for approximately 9,600 square feet constituting building #1331 located at 4110 North Jarvis Avenue at the Laredo International Airport.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. Guerra
 For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

8. 96-0-005 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association of Laredo, a Texas Non-Profit Corporation, for approximately 8.0 acres of land consisting of the north one-half (1/2) of Block No. 29, and the entire Block No. 22, of the Airport Subdivision Plat at the Laredo International Airport and providing for an alternate tract;
1. Lease term is for fifteen days commencing February 12, 1996, and ending February 26, 1996;
 2. Daily rent will be \$500.00; providing for effective date.
- (Unanimous City Council)

Motion authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association of Laredo, a Texas Non-Profit Corporation, for approximately 8.0 acres of land consisting of the north one-half (1/2) of Block No. 29, and the entire Block No. 22, of the Airport Subdivision Plat at the Laredo International Airport and providing for an alternate tract.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. Guerra
 For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

9. 96-0-006 Authorizing a ten year lease between the City of Laredo and the Azteca Economic Development and Preservation Corporation for approximately 1,445 square feet of building space and an additional 3,009 square feet of parking area, located on Lot 10, Block 89, situated in the Western Division of the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, and/or 20 Iturbide as more commonly known, for use as a Police Sub-Station. (As Amended) (Unanimous City Council)

Motion authorizing the ten year lease between the City of Laredo and the Azteca Economic Development and Preservation Corporation for approximately 1,445 square feet of building space and an additional 3,009 square feet of parking area, located on Lot 10, Block 89, situated in the Western Division of the City of Laredo, Webb county, Texas, and/or 20 Iturbide as more commonly known, for use as a Police Sub-Station.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

10. 96-O-008 Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and a budget in the amount of \$66,000.00, for the HIV/AIDS Health Education/Risk Reduction Project, of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996; and increasing Revenue Line Item No. 226-0000-323-4043 Program 226-0000-323-4037 from \$0 to \$66,000.00, and Expenditure Line Item No. 226-6023 from \$0 to \$66,000.00. (Unanimous City Council)

Motion to approve an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and a budget in the amount of \$66,000.00, for the HIV/AIDS Health Education/Risk Reduction Project, of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996; and increasing Revenue Line Item No. 226-0000-323-4043 Program 226-0000-323-4037 from \$0 to \$66,000.00, and Expenditure Line Item No. 226-6023 from 40 to \$66,000.00

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

11. 96-O-009 Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and a budget in the amount of \$462,810.00, for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, and \$71,233.00, for the WIC Immunization Initiative Project, for a total of \$553,043.00, of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning October 1, 1995, through March 31, 1996; and increasing Revenue Line Item for the WIC Program No. 226-0000-323-4037 from \$0 to \$462,810.00, and increasing Expenditure Line Item No. 226-6031 from \$0 to \$462,810.00; and increasing Revenue Line Item for the WIC Immunization Initiative Project No. 226-0000-323-4060 from \$0 to \$71,233.00, and increasing Expenditure Line Item No. 226-6032 from \$0 to \$71,233.00. (Unanimous City Council)

Motion to approve an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and a budget in the amount of \$462,810.00, for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, and \$71,233.00, for the WIC Immunization Initiative Project, for a total of \$553,043.00, of the City of Laredo Health

Department for the period beginning October 1, 1995, through March 31, 1996; and increasing Revenue Line Item for the WIC Program No. 226-0000-323-4037 from \$0 to \$462,810.00, and increasing Expenditure line Item No. 226-6031 from \$0 to \$462,810.00; and increasing Revenue Line Item for the WIC Immunization Initiative Project No. 226-000-323-4060 from \$0 to \$71,233.00, and increasing Expenditure Line Item No. 226-6032 from \$0 to \$71,233.00.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. 96-O-010 Amending the zoning ordinance (map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 1280, Eastern Division, located at 2215 Chihuahua Street, from R-O (Residential/Office District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date. (Unanimous City Council)

Motion amending the zoning ordinance (map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 1280, Eastern Division, located at 2215 Chihuahua from R-O (Residential/Office District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. 96-O-011 Amending the zoning ordinance (map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 6, and 8, Block 526, Western Division, located at 1900 Bruni Street, from M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District); providing for publication and effective date. (Unanimous City Council)

Motion amending the zoning ordinance (map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 6, and 8, Block 526, Western Division, located at 1900 Bruni Street, from M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District); providing for publication and effective date.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. 96-0-012 Authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for sales/service of pagers and two-way radios as well as the 200 foot communications tower which receives and transmits the signals, on Lot 4, Block 178, Western Division, located at 1007 San Dario Avenue; providing for publication and effective date.
(As Amended) (Unanimous City Council)

Motion authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for sales/service of pagers and two-way radios as well as the 200 foot communications tower which receives and transmits the signals, on Lot 4, Block 178, Western Division, located at 1007 San Dario Avenue; providing for publication and effective date.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. 96-0-013 Amending Section 32-49, titled "Same Minimum Amount" of Chapter 32, Vehicles for Hire, Article II., Taxicabs, Division 4, Holder and Driver Regulation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, thereby making uninsured motorist insurance protection optional, and decreasing property injury or destruction insurance to \$15,000.00, and decreasing personal injury (for passengers) insurance protection to \$2,500.00, to holders and drivers of taxicab services; providing severability; compliance with the Open Meetings Act; and providing for an effective date and publication.
(Unanimous City Council)

Motion amending Section 32-49, titled "Same Minimum Amount" of Chapter 32, Vehicles for Hire, Article II., Taxicabs, Division 4, Holder and Driver Regulation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, thereby making uninsured motorist insurance protection optional, and decreasing property injury or destruction insurance of \$15,000.00, and decreasing personal injury (for passengers) insurance protection to \$2,500.00, to holders and drivers of taxicab services; providing severability; compliance with the Open Meetings Act; and providing for an effective date and publication.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. RESOLUTIONS

16. 96-R-015 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$232,429.00, for the Tuberculosis Prevention/Control Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract.

Motion authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$232,429.00, for the Tuberculosis Prevention/Control Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. Bruni
 For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

17. 96-R-016 Appointing the nominees of District VI Councilmember Joe A. Guerra, District VII Councilmember Jerry Perez and District VIII Councilmember Felipe Cardenas to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board.

Motion appointing the nominees to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board as follows:

District VI	Representative
Cm. Joe A. Guerra	Diane J. Utterback
District VII	
Cm. Jerry Perez	Dr. Michael Landeck
District VIII	
Mayor Protem Felipe Cardenas	Ramiro Ramirez, III

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. Bruni
 For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

18. 96-R-018 Declaring the public necessity to acquire a 114.77 acre tract of land situated in Survey No. 1021, Abstract 64, and Survey No. 1022, Abstract 654, City of Laredo, Webb County Texas and being more particularly described by metes and bounds, as needed for the Laredo International Airport Runway 17L/35R Expansion Project in order to mitigate aircraft noise in the residential areas located south of the Laredo International Airport and

authorizing the City Attorney to file condemnation proceedings to acquire this tract if staff is unable to acquire the property through good faith negotiations with the property owners based on independent fee appraisals, or due to conflicts in title, or owners refusal to sell, and approval of ratification of an earnest money contract in the amount of \$500,000.00, for the purchase of said tract executed on January 3, 1996.

Motion declaring the public necessity to acquire a 114.77 acre tract of land situated in Survey No. 1021, Abstract 64, and Survey No. 1022, Abstract 654, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas and being more particularly described by metes and bounds, as needed for the Laredo International Airport Runway 17L/35R Expansion Project in order to mitigate aircraft noise in the residential areas located south of the Laredo International Airport and authorizing the City Attorney to file condemnation proceedings to acquire this tract if staff is unable to acquire the property through good faith negotiations with the property owners based on independent fee appraisals, or due to conflicts in title, or owner refusal to sell, and approval of ratification of an earnest money contract in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the purchase of said tract executed on January 3, 1996.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VIII. MOTIONS

19. Authorizing the publication of a notice of intention to grant a permit to Columbus Energy Corporation to drill and operate a natural gas extraction well on 3.0 acres out of Porciones 36 and 37, Abstracts 410 and 473, as further described by metes and bounds, located east of Hwy. 83 and southeast of Colonia Los Obispos Subdivision. The well to be known as the L.A. Wright Well No. 2.

Motion authorizing the publication of a notice of intention to grant a permit to Columbus Energy Corporation to drill and operate a natural gas extraction well on 3.0 acres out of Porciones 36 and 37, Abstracts 410 and 473, as further described by metes and bounds, located east of Hwy. 83 and southeast of Colonia Los Obispos Subdivision. The well to be known as the L.A. Wright Well No. 2.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

20. Award of contract to the Low Bidder, Ferrara Firefighting Equipment, New Braunfels, Texas, in the amount of \$26,232.60, for the purchase of thirty (30) sets of protective clothing (bunker gear) for the Fire Department.

Motion to award a contract to the low bidder, Ferrara Firefighting Equipment, New Braunfels, Texas, in the amount of \$26,232.60, for the purchase of thirty (30) sets of protective clothing (bunker gear) for the Fire Department.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Award of a contract to the Low Bidder, Sendero South Co., Los Fresnos, Texas, in the amount of \$11,610.00, for the purchase of six, automatic dialers for use by the Utilities Department -Wastewater Collection Division.

Motion to award a contract to the low bidder, Sendero South Co., Los Fresnos, Texas, in the amount of \$11,610.00, for the purchase of six, automatic dialers for use by the Utilities Department-Wastewater Collection Division.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Award of contract to the Low Bidder, Magic Car Wash, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$30,000.00, for furnishing car wash services for the City's automotive fleet.

Motion to award a contract to the low bidder, Magic Car Wash, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$30,000.00, for furnishing car wash services for the City's automotive fleet.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Award of contract to the Low Bidder, Buckner Rental Service, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$19,200.00, for the purchase of two, portable air compressors for use by the Utilities Department - Water Transmission Division.

Motion to award a contract to the low bidder, Buckner Rental Service, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$19,200.00, for the purchase of two, portable air compressors for use by the Utilities Department - Water Transmission Division.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Award of six month supply contract to the Low Bidders, Tire Center, Inc., San Antonio, Texas (\$71,994.01) and Goodyear Auto Store, Laredo, Texas, \$22,533.72), to supply tires and tubes for all City vehicles.

Motion to award six month supply contracts to the low bidders, Tire Center, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, (\$71,994.01) and Goodyear Auto Store, Laredo, Texas (\$22,533.72), to supply tire and tubes for all City vehicles.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Award of a contract to the Low Bidder, Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$44,866.27, for the purchase of telecommunication equipment for the Police Station.

Motion to award a contract to the low bidder, Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$44,866.27, for the purchase of telecommunication equipment for the Police Station.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Award of contract to the Low Bidder, Paul Young Co., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$17,595.00, for the purchase of one, extended cab truck for use by the Fire Department.

Motion to award contract to the low bidder, Paul Young Co., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$17,595.00, for the purchase of one, extended cab truck for use by the Fire Department.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Award of an annual supply contract to the Low Bidder, Traffic Parts, Spring, Texas, in the amount of \$21,358.30, for the purchase of repair and replacement traffic signal parts for the Traffic Safety Department.

Motion to award an annual supply contract to the low bidder, Traffic Parts, Spring, Texas, in the amount of \$21,358.30, for the purchase of repair and replacement traffic signal parts for the Traffic Safety Department.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Award of contract to the Low Bidder, Crosstown Ford Sales, Inc., Corpus Christi, Texas, in the amount of \$63,554.00 for the purchase of one, twelve cubic yard dump truck for the Utilities Department -Wastewater Collection Division.

Motion to award a contract to the low bidder, Crosstown Ford Sales, Inc., Corpus Christi, Texas, in the amount of \$63,554.00 for the purchase of one, twelve cubic yard dump truck for the Utilities Department -Wastewater Collection Division.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Award of contract to the Low Bidder, Hydro Conduit, San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$18,361.00, for the purchase of reinforced concrete pipe, as required for the drainage systems in Street Paving Projects #35, #42, and #50.

Motion to award contract to the low bidder, Hydro Conduit, San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$18,361.00, for the purchase of reinforced concrete pipe, as required for the drainage systems in Street Paving Projects #35, #42, and #50.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Award of contract to the Sole Providers, Payton Scientific Inc., Buffalo, NY (\$64,800.00) and Indentix Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA (\$29,235.00), for the purchase of specialized equipment, for use by the Police Department in criminal investigations.

Motion to award a contract to the sole providers, Payton Scientific Inc., Buffalo, NY (\$64,800.00) and Indentix Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA (\$29,235.00), for the purchase of specialized equipment, for use by the Police Department in criminal investigations.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Award of six month supply contracts to the Low Bidders Meeting Specifications, Arguindegui Oil Co., Laredo, Texas, (\$15,715.36), and Leyendecker Oil Inc., Laredo, Texas (\$12,219.95) for the purchase of lubricants for the Fleet Maintenance Division.

Motion to award six month supply contracts to the low bidders meeting specifications, Arguindegui Oil Co., Laredo, Texas, (\$15,715.36), and Leyendecker Oil Inc., Laredo, Texas

(\$12,219.95) for the purchase of lubricants for the Fleet Maintenance Division.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

32. Approval of change order no. 4, an increase of \$23,148.30 to the construction contract with Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo, Texas for the Bond Street Assessment Paving Project 54 (40.5 Blocks) for additional utilities and storm drain improvements.

Motion to approve change order no. 4, an increase of \$23,148.30, to the construction contract with Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo, Texas for the Bond Street Assessment Paving Project 54 (40.5 Blocks) for additional utilities and storm drain improvements.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

33. Approval of a construction contract to the Sole Bidder, Cantu Electric Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$218,815.00 for the International Bridge No. 1 Modifications to Toll Plaza and Related Improvements Project.

Motion to approve a construction contract to the sole bidder, Cantu Electric Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$218,815.00 for the International Bridge No. 1 Modifications to Toll Plaza and Related Improvements Project.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

34. Approval of change order no. 1, an decrease of \$23,407.85, acceptance of the project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$30,909.85 to Pete Gallegos Paving, Laredo, Texas for the Laredo International Airport Manufacturing Facilities Subdivision Phase I.

Motion to approve change order no. 1, a decrease of \$23,407.85, acceptance of the project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$30,909.85 to Pete Gallegos Paving, Laredo, Texas for the Laredo International Airport Manufacturing Facilities Subdivision Phase I.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

35. Approval of amendment no. 2, an increase of \$22,000.00 to the engineering contract with Mejia Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, for additional design work and revisions to the alignment of the 24" diameter Manadas Creek Wastewater Interceptor of the North Laredo/Webb County Infrastructure Improvements Project, Economic Development Administration (EDA) Project No. 08-01-02878.

Motion to approve amendment no. 2, an increase of \$22,000.00 to the engineering contract with Mejia Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, for additional design work and revisions to the alignment of the 24" diameter Manadas Creek Wastewater Interceptor of the North Laredo/Webb County Infrastructure Improvements Project, Economic Development Administration (EDA) Project No. 08-01-02878.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

36. Approval of change order no. 2, an increase of \$2,096.10, acceptance of the project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$52,946.59 to Foremost Paving, Inc., Weslaco, Texas, for the Shiloh Drive Bridge Project.

Motion to approve change order no. 2, an increase of \$2,096.10, acceptance of the project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$52,946.59 to Foremost Paving, Inc., Weslaco, Texas, for the Shiloh Drive Bridge Project.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

37. Acceptance of the project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$48,543.67 to J & B Contractors d/b/a South Texas Utility Contractors, Mercedes, Texas, for the Sierra Vista Subdivision Sanitary Sewer Improvements Phase II.

Motion to accept the project and approve final payment in the amount of \$48,543.67 to J & B Contractors d/b/a/ South Texas Utility Contractors, Mercedes, Texas, for the Sierra Vista Subdivision Sanitary Sewer Improvements Phase II.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

38. Award of an engineering contract to Sherfey Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$27,900.00 to design and prepare plans and specifications for the removal and replacement of wastewater lines in Flynn Subdivision, and along Bustamante Street between McPherson

Road and Meadow Ave., and prepare an engineering study on the Bustamante Lift Station.

Motion to award an engineering contract to Sherfey Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$27,900.00 to design and prepare plans and specifications for the removal and replacement of wastewater lines in Flynn Subdivision, and along Bustamante Street between McPherson Road and Meadow Ave., and prepare an engineering study on the Bustamante Lift Station.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. Approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$30,000.00, to the Feasibility Study for an Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) Facility engineering contract with CH2M Hill, San Antonio, Texas, for additions to the scope of basic services made necessary by the new grant funding guidelines recently formulated by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

Motion to approve amendment no. 1, an increase of \$30,000.00, to the Feasibility Study for an Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) Facility engineering contract with CH2M Hill, San Antonio, Texas, for additions to the scope of basic services made necessary by the new grant funding guidelines recently formulated by the Texas Water Development Board. (TWDB).

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Awarding a professional services contract between the Laredo Urban Transportation Study and Barton-Aschman Associates, Inc., by and through the City Manager of the City of Laredo, Texas in the aggregate amount of \$48,000.00, for the U.S. 83 Congestion Study.

Motion awarding a professional services contract between the Laredo Urban Transportation Study and Barton-Aschman Associates, Inc., by and through the City Manager of the City of Laredo, Texas in the aggregate amount of \$48,000.00, for the U.S. 83 Congestion Study.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Awarding a professional services contract between the Laredo Urban Transportation Study and Traffic Engineers, Inc., by and through the City Manager of the City of Laredo, Texas in the aggregate amount of \$75,000.00, for the Downtown Traffic Circulation Study.

Motion awarding a professional services contract between the Laredo Urban Transportation Study and Traffic Engineers, Inc., by and through the City Manager of the City of Laredo, Texas in the aggregate amount of \$75,000.00, for the Downtown Traffic Circulation Study.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. Guerra
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

42. Authorization from the City Council to cancel the third City Council Meeting for the month of February (February 26, 1996) as a result of the activities associated with the Washington's Birthday Celebration festivities.

Motion approving to cancel the third City Council Meeting for the month of February (February 26, 1996) as a result of the activities associated with the Washington's Birthday Celebration festivities.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. Guerra
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

43. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City of Laredo and the Sisters of Mercy for the construction of a cemetery fence along Saunders Avenue.

Motion authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City of Laredo and the Sisters of Mercy for the construction of a cemetery fence along Saunders Avenue.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. Bruni
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

44. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract with the Laredo Webb County Community Action Agency (CAA) and Catholic Social Services of Laredo, Inc. (CSSL) in the amount of \$14,550.00 each, to provide homeless prevention services with 1994 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Motion authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract with the Laredo Webb County Community Action Agency (CAA) and Catholic Social Services of Laredo, Inc. (CSSL) in the amount of \$14,550.00 each, to provide homeless prevention services with 1994 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Note: Cm. Jerry Perez joined the council meeting at 6:15 p.m.

45. Presentation by the police consulting firm, Murphy, Mayo and Associates concerning the status on the implementation of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program with possible Executive Session as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss upper level management positions.

Mr. Patrick Murphy and Dr. Mayo read a progress report before the City Council.

(Note: No report was made available to the Office of the City Secretary for public inspection and availability.)

Cm. Casso said that according to the background communication Murphy and Mayo have been working with the city's Police Department to improve its morale and efficiency and it states in this report that a cornerstone of this plan has been the implementation of community oriented policing services. He added that this may be true, but he also believes that a cornerstone to this plan is the removal of the Chief of Police. That maybe they would have to go into executive session to discuss this because he has serious problems with this. It was his understanding that they were coming here to give the Chief of Police an evaluation of his performance based on his relationship with the top command and that maybe they should go into executive session to discuss upper management positions.

Mr. Murphy stated that they have worked with the Chief of Police, the Assistant Chief, the Patrol Captain and others in the department and they have received strong cooperation and support from all levels starting with the Chief of Police. They have had intensive debates about some of the recommendations and they do not expect the Chief or any of the top command to immediately accept community policing when they have been functioning under a different principle for so long. They are having questions raised about it, they did have debates and discussions and at times it requires thinking about the issues for a few days.

Mr. Murphy went over the areas that were raised at the beginning which were fair and equitable discipline and the issue of fairness on the assignments of overtime. He added that both issues have been addressed, a new disciplinary procedure is now on effect where a board hears the charges. Recommendations have been made for dealing with the assignments of overtime and the most equitable manner that

can be developed. The Chief has indicated that the procedure is in the process of being implemented. The issue of morale was raised and in his many year in police work he does not think there ever was a day that morale wasn't the highest or the lowest it had ever been, and that he thinks it is of the nature of a Police Department. The very nature of the work generates that, the enormous power and authority that every police officer has, the discretion that an officer operates with in making powerful decisions even to the point of the taking of a life, and working under those extreme pressures on his tour of duty. There will be times where there will be differences of opinion which also affect morale, but they are confident that as they are working with the department and improving disciplinary procedures and working with the police association he believes there is a positive spirit developing and is optimistic that whatever the problems were they are beginning to be corrected.

Cw. Moreno asked at what point are they to see some results.

Mr. Murphy replied that he thinks in thirty (30) days, that they will hear from the constituents in the neighborhoods. He added that it will take time, but that the officers will be visiting households, they will be attending community meetings or block clubs, and he thinks that in three months you will begin to see significant favorable reaction in the community and he firmly believes that within six months they will begin to see an impact on crime and orderliness in the neighborhood, and in solving some of the problems that might be conducive to crime.

Cw. Moreno asked who will monitor the progress and make recommended adjustments?

Mr. Murphy replied that they will be working with the project through June under the current contract and the Assistant Chief is in charge of it under the direction of the Chief of Police.

Cw. Moreno asked if they will get to see an organizational chart?

Mr. Vargas replied that they have already developed rosters, so they know which officers will be assigned on the concepts of community policing.

Cw. Moreno asked what recourse will exist if some of these persons are not able to do the job?

Mr. Murphy believes there was a probationary period of one year.

Cw. Moreno stated that they have asked the department to encourage officers to take college classes and she hears that

somehow staff will not work with their schedules in order for them to take college courses.

Mr. Murphy stated that this schedule will permit them to go to college, previously they rotated monthly and it was difficult for them to take the courses.

Cm. Casso asked what the average experience of the patrol officers is and wanted to hear from the President of the Police Association so that council could hear how the morale is out there, because he does not think its getting better. He added that he thinks they are dancing around the problem saying that the community policing is the answer to the problem, but that the problem is with leadership and that the top command is still split.

Mr. Murphy stated he has been at this business for over 50 years and has visited many police departments and that he was frankly deeply concerned that there was a police department in shambles like it was described to him. He admits that he went into that department expecting to find it. He added that police departments like other organizations are less than perfect, there is never a perfect department. It is not easy work from the youngest rookie to the chief and dealing with people's problems, dealing with danger, crime and disturbed people is very difficult work and is understandable to him that tensions do exist from time to time. Having gone into the department expecting to find very serious tensions and divisions, he must tell the council that he is impressed by the professionalism of people from top to bottom in the department from members of the association and its leadership through all of the ranks and branches of the department. It is not perfect, he can see that there are tension when the Police Chief has to deal with disciplinary problems or problem employees, it's not easy and not always do you make friends, being Police Chief is not a popularity contest. He knows that this chief has had to deal with very serious personnel problems in the beginning of his tenure and he still has some of those problems and the best he can do is report his observations as objectively and honestly as he can, the department is far from perfect, but he is impressed by what he interprets to be a willingness to change and accept change. He is surprised at the level of willingness because he has met very strong resistance to community policing and other changes in many departments. The only thing he can offer is his own observation and to give council his honest opinion and assure them that they will continue to work with that attitude of calling the shots as they see them and offering the best they can.

Cm. Casso asked what is the average experience of the patrol officers that we have right now?

Mr. Murphy answered that between four (4) and five (5) years is the experience of a patrol officer.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Mayor Ramirez congratulated the award winners and recognized all participants in the "Make A Difference Day" contest.

Joe Garza, Recreation Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, explained their efforts, stated there were 1,500 participants and recognized the youth groups with Certificates of Appreciation and presented three prize awards to the top activities.

Webb County Sheriff Explorers Troop 197
 Leyendecker Elementary
 Laredo Community College Speech Club
 Laredo Jaycees
 Hermelinda Ochoa Elementary
 Nixon High School Honor Society Group B
 Nixon High School Jr. R.O.T.C.
 Gutierrez Elementary
 Clark Elementary Group A & B
 Nixon High School Honor Society Group A
 Azteca Neighborhood Development Corporation
 Cigarroa High School Student Council Volunteers
 Alicia Ruiz Elementary \$250.00
 Martin High Gifted & Talented Class \$250.00
 United Middle School \$500.00

- b. Mrs. Marcia Jovel spoke on an incident she encountered on December, 1995 while she was attending a UISD Board Meeting at United South High School which she reported to the UISD Police. That same week she was called by more friends that gave her more details about the incident which she decided to bring to the Laredo Police Department. On January 23, 1996 she went to speak to Chief J.L. Martinez on this issue and since he was not present she spoke to Captain Hale. She gave him a full report on the incident and he said that he had no problem with her filing another report with the Laredo Police. He informed her that all UISD related incidents had to be filed with UISD Police. Upon her insistence that her family needed police protection in the event of any future threats he advised her to contact the District Attorney's Office which she has done so and is awaiting word from them. She said she needs their advise as what her rights are. Her house nor her family are in the jurisdiction of UISD therefore, she is requesting that the Laredo Police take care of her case immediately. Because of the nature of her position and involvement in the activities of "United for Education" she is involved in activities where she has received seven annoying calls, nevertheless, she is committed to education is committed to continue. She requested advise

and help, secondly she requested that he request be recorded so that if anything were to happen to any member of her family and her home due to negligence on the part of the City Police, she will press charges against the city police. She requested that Chief Martinez or the legal staff to continue the investigation by one of the staff members whose computer was broken into and who decided to file her complaint with the UISD Police who also filed another with the city police. She was informed that the Laredo Police was going to investigate this case and questioned if this case would be pursued by the city police and by whose authority and validity of the above action in the Laredo Police.

Mr. Vargas, City Manager, stated that it does appear to be a jurisdictional issue and from what he is able to gather a lack of confidence in that jurisdiction on her part to follow up on the issue. What they can do is consult with our City Attorney with regards to what the jurisdiction is and what it is that the city can or cannot do with regards to another political jurisdiction that does have a law enforcement agency and what our jurisdiction would be.

Police Chief J.L. Martinez stated that he had advised Mrs. Jovel that the only thing that we need was to notify Chief Wintheroth about the follow-up investigation in that particular case. He also explained to her about the jurisdiction that they have on all UISD schools, but that whatever crimes or harassment happen on her residence can be reported to the Laredo Police Department which they will investigate.

Fausto Sosa, City Attorney, stated that the City of Laredo has original jurisdiction within the boundaries of the City of Laredo including the LISD campuses, there is nothing that prohibits a police officer from being called to a shooting and to go there and assert his authority. Therefore, there is no question of jurisdiction, we do have jurisdiction, the problem here maybe the problem of who has better access to the information and being that the UISD have a police on campus, it is easier for them. It is just a matter of getting with the police chief, writing out a report and following the case through.

- c. Cm. Casso announced that the Texas Water Conservation Committee has requested that the South Texas Development Council organize a South Texas Water Conservation Task Force and Cm. Bruni is going to be the chairman of this task force and the main focus of this task force is going to be to plan water conservation on original basis. He encouraged everybody to attend. The first meeting will take place tomorrow at 10:00 in the morning at 1718 Calton.
- d. Mayor Ramirez recognized WBCA representatives and read the proclamation which designates Friday, February 23rd as

"Red, White and Blue Day" and called upon the community to observe this celebration by participating in the programs, ceremonies, and activities during the week of February 15 thru February 25th.

He also announced that they will be designating February, 1996 as School Board Month, this is state wide effort promoted by Governor Bush. He will be having a formal proclamation and appreciation ceremony February 6th, and extended an invitation for everyone to attend.

- e. Mr. Mike Chavez and Mr. Hector Rodriguez representatives from the Union Pacific Railroad Company were before City Council to say that there are many crossings in Laredo and they do have a problem with them. They are constantly on call and they respond practically immediately. They have started a problem and are working with the City Planner so that they can continue to upgrade the crossings that exist. These crossings have existed for a while and the improvements that have been made upon them have been very slow. They have started the improvements north of Zaragoza Street replaced 100 feet of track which is the main line that goes to Mexico with new track panels and resurfaced the area with asphalt so that traffic can go more speedily through Zaragoza. He reported that they have proceeded through Scott Street which is a major truck route, they have refurbished the main line. The railroad is responsible for the track and the ties. They have also done Sanchez crossing and replaced the track panels for three of the tracks. This is an ongoing process up to Jefferson. He explained that it is a slow process and an expensive one, but they will try to attack it the best way that is feasible for the city to manage the traffic that exists thru there and at the same time maintain their operation that exists with Mexico north and south bound. They have an active operation life saver program to present in 1996 and plans for more upgrading as far as the crossings.

Cm. Bruni spoke in reference to blockage on the railroad crossings that presents a serious problem to the industrial parks.

Cm. Cardenas addressed some concerns in west Laredo where his main concern is that Sanchez is blocked most of the time and the street is in terrible condition. He is waiting on some answers on Gonzalez Street from staff because he does not recall approving Gonzalez Street for the use of the railroad. People are desperate there and say that either we do something or they are going to do something because it has been closed for over 12 to 16 hours. The residents there are planning to hire an attorney to file a suit against the railroad company unless this street is cleared. He said that they either clear the street or work out an agreement with them that it is going to be closed at certain hours. He added that besides blocking the streets they also have

engines running by themselves idly for more than two or three hours after 11:00 p.m. annoying the residents of the area.

Mr. Rodriguez stated they have met the commitment that they will commence opening the crossing at Gonzalez as much as they can. He continued by saying that Sanchez Street has been completely refurbish the plan is to do the existing tracks on the west side, but what they have done is directed the renovation towards the tracks that need the highest priority, for example the truck route which is compeletly done except the west track. He concluded by saying that Sanchez is in the program to be completed and will be done.

XI. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

46. Request by Mayor and City Councilmembers for discussion and presentation.

A. Requests by Councilmember Louis H. Bruni

1. Discussion and possible action concerning the development of an ordinance prohibiting persons from riding in the back of open bed pick-up trucks or open flat-bed trucks on public streets or highways.

Cm. Bruni stated that he was in advise by his attorney that as long as the city does not contradict state law that we indeed as a city can create and enact an ordinance to strengthen and tighten this particular state ordinance. He thinks that the city should move in this direction and move in the direction of creating an ordinance.

Mr. Aldo Tatangelo commended Cm. Bruni for bringing this item before the council and requested that council pass an ordinance prohibiting persons riding in the back of open pickup trucks.

Mr. Dan Ramirez, Associate Municipal Court Judge, stated that February 11-17th is Child Passenger Safety Week stipulating that kids aren't cargo and asked that we follow up on this issue and provide an ordinance prohibiting the riding of persons in the back of pickup trucks as has been done in Albuquerque, Arizona.

Fausto Sosa, City Attorney, stated that we must conform with the requisites of the state constitution and we can not contradict a state law by any means. There is no ordinance that can be created that will supersede a state law which was the answer that was given by his predecessor a year ago and still applies today. Under Art. 67.01D was the old statute and has been recodified under the Texas Transportation code and basically you are referring to section 545.414 which is riding on open beds. One of the sections that begin the Transportation code is section

5.42.221 which talks about the general rules of uniformity and there is where we are told that a municipality or local authority may not enact or enforce an ordinance or rule those conflicts with state. Therefore, if the state law has set the parameters under which this conduct will be govern, we cannot change those parameter. The way that we could go above changing it would be by lobbying with our Senator and our local State Representative to get the state law changed.

Motion to instruct staff and Legal Department to draft an ordinance prohibiting the riding on the back of open pickup trucks similar to the one enacted in Albuquerque and add it to our Traffic Code of Ordinance right now and make it a section of our local traffic laws.

Moved : Cm. Casso
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 5

Against: 1 Abstain: 0
Cm. G. Perez

B. Requests by Councilmember Alfonso I. "Poncho" Casso

1. Discussion and possible action concerning Amendment No. 5, UNITEC Contract with the City of Laredo.

Cm. Casso had some reservations on the cost of implementing Amendment No. 5, it is going to cost \$153,000.00 and he was thinking that it would cost more, it seems to him that are some items being left out.

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, Utilities Director, answered that on the report that Cm. Casso showed, alternate No. 1 says to install an emergency generator at Station No. 2, install a backup fire pump at Station No. 3, install an emergency generator in Station No. 3, and require existing buildings with immediate fire flow in excess of available to provide on-site fire protection capabilities. In addition it further states water system approval for this alternative are estimated to cost \$400,000.00. The requirement for building is there, if they are in excess of "x" number of square feet based on the requirements of the building code. In addition to satisfying the requirement of the generator we have a 1,000 gallon per minute pump. That station 2 is a 1,000 gallon per minute pump diesel operated, if there is a power failure we have the pumping capability. To install a backup fire pump at station 3, an emergency generator is also covered by the 2,000 gallon per minute pump with a diesel generated engine. In addition to that, they asked for a chlorinator and an amoniator and for a telemetry system so that it could be connected to the Jefferson water treatment plant.

Cm. Bruni asked if the NRS report is mirrowing the Foster Engineering report or what they plan on doing out there? Is

Foster Engineering adhering to the NRS report or what they suggest we do out there.

Cm. Bruni asked if they will be addressing additional on site ground storage for that industrial park in the near future.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that a study was made and the amount of consumption by that Unitec Industrial Park is minimum and does not require additional ground storage at this time. If they added another 400 acres or they do to develop it then we would need additional ground storage, but at the present time the problem that they had is that if you have too much storage and not enough fuse then the chlorine residue drops and it drops pass a point which creates a violation of state law.

2. Discussion and possible action concerning the creation of a City/County Government Commission to study and establish a metropolitan government for Laredo and Webb County.
(Co-sponsored by Cm. Louis H. Bruni, and Cm. Joe Guerra)

Cm. Casso said that the most important question is how do Laredoans want to govern themselves? He asked that council support the creation of a City/County Government Commission that would lead to a better utilization of resources and avoid the waste from the duplication of efforts. The work from the commission would be (1) to recommend how the city and county can better work together under existing law. (2) To propose state legislation that would allow for structural consolidation of existing governments and (3) to develop and conduct a public education and outreach program to explain the benefits of such consolidation. The Commission would be appointed as follows: We would have the City Council appoint ten members, the Commissioners Court to appoint four members, the Mayor and County Judge could jointly appoint five members, the Webb County Clerk could appoint one member, the District Attorney another, the Webb County Attorney appoint one member, Webb County District Clerk, Webb County Sheriff one member, Webb County Tax Assessor/Collector one member. The commission can then create various operating task forces that can be broken into broad functional areas which include Planning, Housing and Community Development, Health and Human Services, Recreation and Cultural Services, Public Safety, Transportation,

Utilities and Infrastructure, Economic Development and Administrative Support Services.

Mayor Ramirez suggested that we first establish a City/County Ad Hoc Committee and start with appointing Cm. Casso, Cm. Bruni and Cm. Guerra as our representatives and get two County Commissioners to the table and start from there to set up the parameters of who is going to serve and

what the intent is and then move it to the public. And in fact go into having a public discussion of this committee.

Motion to create a City/County Ad Hoc Committee and have the Mayor name Cm. Joe Guerra, Cm. Louis Bruni, Cm. Casso with Cm. Guerra being the chair for the city's end.

Moved : Cm. Casso

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion and possible action regarding international and out of state travel by the City Manager and his assistants.

Cm. Casso asked that in the future when the City Manager and his assistants go on trips, that they be notify what their goals and missions are before they take the trips. He added they want to know the details before hand because they know after the fact and they are put in a bad light with their constituents.

Mayor Ramirez stated that there needs to more involvement in the flow of information in advance so if there is interest from them to participating in greater detail is afforded to them prior to them and not after. And that when they have delegations coming in that they do have representation from the elected officials as well.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding a crosswalk between City Hall and the Justice Center.

Cm. Casso stated he has heard many complaints from the elected officials across the street because we are giving citations to jay walkers and what we are doing is just hurting the elderly people who are going over there to pay their taxes. He said they are not using the side street, that maybe a time could help or wants to know what can be done.

Mr. Vargas stated that they looked at that situation before because there was great sentiment to put the crosswalk in the middle, but that was not as safe as having them on the corners because the motorist are expecting them on the corners. He will look at the possibility of a timer with a push button so that people do not have to wait so long.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the status of the new Laredo Public Library.

Cm. Casso said for the record there has been some rumors around town that some members of this council are opposed to the library. He said he was not opposed and wants to know what the status is and why they are taking so long because the police facility is almost finished.

Mr. Vargas stated that the reason for the longer time period is that the library was going to be a community facility, council appointed a big committee and they had to give them time to be able to get everyone's input, with the police facility they hired a consultant engineering almost immediately and they started to work on it because it was a security building.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, stated that the plans have been ready for some time, however there has been discussion on the fire protection and they added additional fire protection. The consultant asked for another week extension the latest schedule was received today and it calls that the plans will here for distribution on the 15th, they will be out on bids on the February 10th.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding the required parking spaces for the Los Rincones condominiums.

Cm. Casso stated that Mr. Delgado has had some problems and wants some solutions to them.

Mr. Richard Delgado, President for Los Rincones condominiums, located at 1404 Musser which has 26 units and 52 parking spaces are required, right now they only have 36 and his question is how did the city ever approved this when they built this.

Marina Sukup, Planning Director, stated that Mr. Rene Solis is the developer he had adequate parking for what he had proposed. Mr. Solis has indicated that he is willing to provide the parking pursuant to the original plan that was submitted. His indications were that the Resident's Association and Mr. Delgado don't want the parking provided as per the original plan. He has indicated that he is more than willing to provide the parking.

Mayor Ramirez stated that this warrants a re-inspection by the City Planning Department.

Mrs. Sukup will set up a meeting with Mr. Delgado, Mr. Solis, the Planning Director, and the Building Inspector to discuss this matter.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding the addition of:
 - (a.) Milmo St. (south of Chacon St.), and
 - (b.) Piedra China St. (east of Milmo St.)to the street paving assessment project #59.

Mr. Vargas stated that staff has looked at these areas and the whole area is an "arroyo" that has been filled in illegally, they do not even know what was used to fill it in. That area was a tributary to an arroyo, they don't know

what is there and they were not included in the paving districts. What they need to know is see what we are getting into, that we get the technical data from the Engineering Department.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, explained that they have documents in reference to the area. He said there is a 1979 contour map of the area in question which shows it is a creek area, an aerial photo that shows the creek area is still in existence in 1983, 1984 a photo that shows all that area was filled in and is highlighted with yellow marks. They are working on the cost estimate of the water and sewer improvements.

Cm. Bruni stated that the 3200 and 3300 blocks of Rosario are unpaved and that maybe they can add this two to project 59.

C. Requests by Councilmember Cecilia May Moreno

1. Discussion and possible action on conducting a study for the purpose of identifying improvements that can be made to our traffic pattern and assessing the cost of implementation. Examples of these are one-way streets, turning lanes, and curve cuts to create additional lanes at the intersections.

Motion to instruct staff to conduct a study for the purpose of identifying improvements that can be made to our traffic pattern and assessing the cost of implementation and instructing staff to identify three projects to come before City Council during budget time every year.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

D. Requests by Councilmember Blas Castaneda

1. Discussion and possible action concerning the receipt of a preliminary airport master plan.

Motion to table indefinitely.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion and possible action concerning the Rail Highway Crossing Safety Plan as it relates to the City's major transportation plan.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Status and possible action concerning City Council direction on the issue of blocked railroad crossings.

Motion to table

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

4. Status concerning ground breaking activities for the City's new main library.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

5. Discussion concerning charges (fees) assessed by the City to businesses for tapping into the City's tax rolls.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

47. Public hearing concerning the approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$232,429 for the Tuberculosis Prevention/Control Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$232,429 for the Tuberculosis Prevention/Control Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996, and increasing Revenue Line Item No. 226-0000-323-4071 from \$0 to \$232,429.00, and Expenditure Line Item #226-6037 from \$0 to \$232,429.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Cardenas
For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

48. Public hearing concerning the authorization of the issuance of a Special Use Permit for Gas Extraction to Columbus Energy Corp. on 3.00 acres out of Porciones 36 and 37, Abstracts 410 and 473, as further described by metes and bounds on attached Exhibit "A", located east of Hwy. 83 and southeast of Colonia Los Obispos Subdivision. Known as the L.A. Wright Well #2.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Authorization of the issuance of a Special Use Permit for Gas Extraction to Columbus Energy Corp. on 3.00 acres out of Porciones 36 and 37, Abstracts 410 and 473, as further described by metes and bounds on attached Exhibit "A", located east of Hwy. 83 and southeast of Colonia Los Obispos Subdivision. Known as the L.A. Wright Well #2.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Cardenas
For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

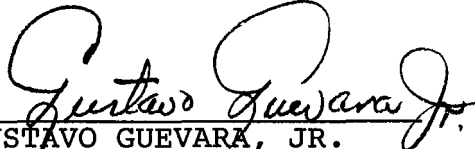
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Adjournment time: 8:50 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES CONTAINED IN PAGES 01 TO 31 ARE TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1996. A CERTIFIED COPY IS ON FILE AT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.



 GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.
 CITY SECRETARY

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Delia Rodriguez, Deputy City Secretary II

MINUTES APPROVED ON: March 4, 1996

CORRECTIONS: