

CITY OF LAREDO

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

MINUTES

M-96-R-06

MARCH 4, 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	
JOSE R. PEREZ, JR.,	COUNCILMEMBER,	DISTRICT I
LOUIS H. BRUNI,	"	DISTRICT II
ALFONSO I. "PONCHO" CASSO,	"	DISTRICT III
CECILIA MAY MORENO,	"	DISTRICT IV
BLAS CASTANEDA,	"	DISTRICT V
JOE A. GUERRA,	"	DISTRICT VI
JOSE GERARDO (JERRY) PEREZ,	"	DISTRICT VII
FELIPE CARDENAS,	"	DISTRICT VIII
GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.,	CITY SECRETARY	
PETER H. VARGAS,	CITY MANAGER	
JESUS NAVA,	ASST. CITY MANAGER	
FAUSTO SOSA,	CITY ATTORNEY	

ABSENCES:

Carlos Villarreal, Assistant City Manager.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. City Council Meeting of February 5, 1996
City Council Meeting of February 20, 1996

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 6

(Cm. Casso was not present)

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Casso joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Motion to move up item XI - D(1) allowing the presentation by Audry Salgado on the Laredo Commission for Women.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

3. Street Improvements Project 58-I; declaring the necessity for and ordering the paving and improvements of certain street in the City of Laredo, Texas; approving the street paving assessment roll and cost estimates as prepared by the City Engineer; and directing the City Secretary to file this Ordinance with the County Clerk as a notice of its enactment and ordering and setting a public hearing on the 15th day of April 1996.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

Motion to move item XI - C(4) under Cm. Casso's request dealing with unpaved streets in District III.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to move up item X-A and recognize Mr. Carlos Garza.

Moved : Cm. Castañeda

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VI. FINAL READINGS

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinances #96-O-018, #96-O-019, #96-O-020, #96-O-020, #96-O-021, #96-O-022, #96-O-023, #96-O-024, #96-O-025, #96-O-026, #96-O-027, #96-O-028, #96-O-029, #96-O-030, #96-O-031, and #96-O-032

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. 96-O-018 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Charles Haber D/B/A Bed Factory for approximately 9,216 square feet constituting Building #1334 located at 4016 North Jarvis Avenue at the Laredo International Airport;
1. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing May 1,

- 1996, and ending April 30, 1997, and may be extended for one year ending April 30, 1998;
2. Monthly rent shall be \$1,625.00 and will be adjusted annually during the primary and extension term 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 Charles Haber D/B/A Bed Factory for approximately 9,216 square feet constituting Building #1334 located at 4016 North Jarvis Avenue at the Laredo International Airport.

Moved : Cm. Castañeda

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. 96-0-019 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Charles Haber D/B/A Bed Factory for approximately 9,600 square feet constituting Building #1335 located at 3918 North Jarvis Avenue at the Laredo International Airport;
 1. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing March 1, 1996, and ending February 28, 1997, and may be extended for one (1) year ending February 28 1998;
 2. Monthly rent shall be \$1,918.00 and will be adjusted annually during the primary and extension term 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 Charles Haber D/B/A Bed Factory for approximately 9,600 square feet constituting Building #1335 located at 3918 North Jarvis Avenue at the Laredo International Airport.

Moved : Cm. Castañeda

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 96-0-020 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Charles Haber D/B/A Bed Factory for approximately 9,216 square feet constituting Building #1336 located at 4010 North Jarvis Avenue at the Laredo International Airport;
 1. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing March 1, 1996, and ending February 28, 1997, and may be extended for one (1) year ending February 28, 1998;

of the City of Laredo, thereby creating and establishing a sections prohibiting unauthorized use or wearing of any identical uniform worn by uniformed members of the City of Laredo Police or Fire Department; prohibiting unauthorized use of similar uniforms worn by uniformed members of the City of Laredo Police or Fire Department if calculated to deceive or mislead the public; providing for a definition of uniform; and providing for an effective date and publication.
(Unanimous City Council)

Motion approving ordinance creating section 21-154, of chapter 21, offenses and miscellaneous provisions, Article IX, unlawful use of uniforms, of the code of ordinances of the City of Laredo, thereby creating and establishing a sections prohibiting unauthorized use or wearing of any identical uniform worn by uniformed members of the City of Laredo Police or Fire Department; prohibiting unauthorized use of similar uniforms worn by uniformed members of the City of Laredo Police or Fire Department if calculated to deceive or mislead the public; providing for a definition of uniform; and providing for an effective date and publication.

Moved : Cm. Castañeda

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. 96-0-032 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 authorizing 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.

Moved : Cm. Castañeda

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. RESOLUTIONS

19. 96-R-022 Authorizing the Issuance of a Drilling Permit to drill and operate a gas extraction well on a 3.00 acre tract out of Porcion 36, Abstract 473 and Porcion 37, Abstract 410, as described by metes and bounds, located east of Highway 83 and southeast of Colonia Los Obispos Subdivision, known as L.A. Wright Well No. 2, of the City of Laredo; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion authorizing the Issuance of a Drilling Permit to drill and operate a gas extraction well on a 3.00 acre tract out of Porcion 36, Abstract 473 and Porcion 37, Abstract 410, as described by metes and bounds, located east of Highway 83 and southeast of Colonia Los Obispos Subdivision, known as L.A. Wright Well No. 2, of the City of Laredo; providing for publication and effective date.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Castaneda
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

20. 96-R-023 Authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement between the City of Laredo and the Texas Department of Transportation to contribute funds for the acquisition necessary for the right-of-way required for the widening of Highway S H 359, from Chacon Creek to 1.0 mile east of Loop 20; and authorizing payment of \$12,440.00 as the City's share of estimated cost of such acquisition; said amount to be paid from Capital Improvements Projects Account No. 402-4323-535-4080.

Motion authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement between the City of Laredo and the Texas Department of Transportation to contribute funds for the acquisition necessary for the right-of-way required for the widening of Highway S H 359, from Chacon Creek to 1.0 mile east of Loop 20; and authorizing payment of \$12,440.00 as the City's share of estimated cost of such acquisition; said amount to be paid from Capital Improvements Projects Account No. 402-4323-535-4080.

Moved : Cm. Castaneda
Second: Cm. Cardenas
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

21. 96-R-024 Declaring the public necessity to acquire 6 parcels of land as utility easements for the proposed North Laredo/Webb County infrastructure improvements

project EDA Project No. 08-01-0287 and authorizing the City Attorney to file condemnation proceedings to acquire those parcels that staff is unable to acquire through negotiations.

Motion declaring the public necessity to acquire 6 parcels of land as utility easements for the proposed North Laredo/Webb County infrastructure improvements project EDA Project No. 08-01-0287 and authorizing the City Attorney to file condemnation proceedings to acquire those parcels that staff is unable to acquire through negotiations.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Castaneda
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 22. 96-R-025 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$72,153.00, from the Texas Department of Health for the HIV/AIDS counseling, testing, referral and partner elicitation/notification 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 in the amount of \$72,153.00, from the Texas Department of Health for the HIV/AIDS counseling, testing, referral and partner elicitation/notification 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. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Cardenas
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 23. 96-R-026 Revising an Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Municipal League Group Benefits Risk Pool for the purpose of providing Life, Group Health, and Accidental Death, and Dismemberment, and Hospital, Surgical, and Medical expense coverage for City Employees.

Motion revising an Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Municipal League Group Benefits Risk Pool for the purpose of providing Life, Group Health, and Accidental Death, and Dismemberment, and Hospital, Surgical, and Medical expense coverage for City Employees.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. G. Perez
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

24. 96-R-027 Approval of Addendum and Amendment Number One to Dilworth/McPherson Road Extension Project Agreement, and authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute said addendum and amendment number one with the members of the Dilworth Family.

Motion to approve Addendum and Amendment Number One to Dilworth/McPherson Road Extension Project Agreement, and authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute said addendum and amendment number one with the members of the Dilworth Family.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

25. 96-R-028 Accepting conveyance of 57 acre feet of Class "A" Water Rights from Congregation of the Servants of Sacred Heart of Jesus, a Texas Non-Profit Corporation, D/B/A Sacred Heart Children's Home under Certificate of Adjudication No. 23-2746 as payment for water availability charges in connection with the platting of land from time to time, and authorizing the City Manager to request amendment of said water rights by the Texas Natural Conservation Commission.

Motion accepting conveyance of 57 acre feet of Class "A" Water Rights from Congregation of the Servants of Sacred Heart of Jesus, a Texas Non-Profit Corporation, D/B/A Sacred Heart Children's Home under Certificate of Adjudication No. 23-2746 as payment for water availability charges in connection with the platting of land from time to time, and authorizing the City Manager to request amendment of said water rights by the Texas Natural Conservation Commission.

Moved : Cm. Cardenas
 Second: Cm. G. Perez
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VIII. MOTIONS

26. Refund of property taxes to Western Supplies of Laredo (c/o Juan Jose Ramirez) in the amount of \$575.69. This firm went out of business 12-31-90 and consequently has not been in existence since that time.

Motion to refund property taxes to Western Supplies of Laredo (c/o Juan Jose Ramirez) in the amount of \$575.69. This firm went out of business 12-31-90 and consequently has not been in existence since that time.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Award of annual supply contract to the Low Bidders, The Rohan Co., Laredo, Texas (\$212,499.51), Davis Mcallen Pipe & Supply, Laredo, Texas (\$36,113.32), and Noland Co., San Antonio, Texas (\$17,434.98), for the purchase of water works materials (service saddles, couplings, valves) for construction and repair projects by the Utilities Department.

Motion award annual supply contract to the Low Bidders, The Rohan Co., Laredo, Texas (\$212,499.51), Davis Mcallen Pipe & Supply, Laredo, Texas (\$36,113.32), and Noland Co., San Antonio, Texas (\$17,434.98), for the purchase of water works materials (service saddles, couplings, valves) for construction and repair projects by the Utilities Department.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Award of annual supply contracts to the Low Bidders Meeting Specifications, The Rohan Co., Laredo, Texas (\$309,623.64), and Davis McAllen Pipe & Supply, Laredo, Texas (\$4,951.22), for the purchase of water works materials (m.j. retainer glands, brass and galvanized fittings, meter boxes, and copper pipe) for construction and repair projects by the Utilities Department.

Motion award annual supply contracts to the Low Bidders Meeting Specifications, The Rohan Co., Laredo, Texas (\$309,623.64), and Davis McAllen Pipe & Supply, Laredo, Texas (\$4,951.22), for the purchase of water works materials (m.j. retainer glands, brass and galvanized fittings, meter boxes, and copper pipe) for construction and repair projects by the Utilities Department.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Award of contract to the Low Bidder, Casco Industries, Inc., Pasadena, Texas, in the amount of \$14,790.00, for the purchase of fire service hose for the Fire Department.

Motion to award contract to the Low Bidder, Casco Industries, Inc., Pasadena, Texas, in the amount of \$14,790.00, for the purchase of fire service hose for the Fire Department.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

30. Award of a construction contract to the Sole Bidder, Lambda Construction Company, New Braunfels, Texas for the Improvements to the Milmo Avenue, East Corridor and other Booster Pump Stations Project and approval of change order no. 1, a decrease of \$108,000.00 to delete the Mid Booster Pump Station "H" for a net award of a construction contract in the amount of \$677,400.00.

Motion to award construction contract to the Sole Bidder, Lambda Construction Company, New Braunfels, Texas for the Improvements to the Milmo Avenue, East Corridor and other Booster Pump Stations Project and approval of change order no. 1, a decrease of \$108,000.00 to delete the Mid Booster Pump Station "H" for a net award of a construction contract in the amount of \$677,400.00.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

31. Approval of change order no. 2, a decrease of \$2,825.00, acceptance of the project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$38,470.58 to Price Construction Company, Laredo, Texas, for the Springfield Avenue Drainage Improvements in the Hillside Subdivision Unit 5 Area.

Motion to approve change order no. 2, a decrease of \$2,825.00, acceptance of the project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$38,470.58 to Price Construction Company, Laredo, Texas, for the Springfield Avenue Drainage Improvements in the Hillside Subdivision Unit 5 Area.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

32. Acceptance of the Market Street Courts Resurfacing Project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$16,528.00 to Strayhorn Tennis Construction Company, Austin, Texas.

Motion to accept the Market Street Courts Resurfacing Project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$16,528.00 to Strayhorn Tennis Construction Company, Austin, Texas.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

33. Acceptance of the Parking Lot Improvements for the Cigarroa Outdoor Recreational Complex Project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$30,008.50 to Libcon, Inc., Laredo, Texas.

Motion to accept the Parking Lot Improvements for the Cigarroa Outdoor Recreational Complex Project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$30,008.50 to Libcon, Inc., Laredo, Texas.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Approval of amendment no. 3, an increase of \$52,755.32 to the engineering contract with Frontera Associates International, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for additional archaeological services as required by the Texas Antiquities Committee for the South Laredo (Chacon Creek) Wastewater Interceptor Project.

Motion to approve amendment no. 3, an increase of \$52,755.32 to the engineering contract with Frontera Associates International, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for additional archaeological services as required by the Texas Antiquities Committee for the South Laredo (Chacon Creek) Wastewater Interceptor Project.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Award of an engineering contract to G.G. Salinas Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$130,500.00 to design and prepare plans and specifications for the Santa Maria Avenue Drainage Improvements between Del Mar Blvd. and Markley Lane.

Motion to award an engineering contract to G.G. Salinas Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$130,500.00 to design and prepare plans and specifications for the Santa Maria Avenue Drainage Improvements between Del Mar Blvd. and Markley Lane.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Approval of change order no. 1, and increase of \$23,762.40 to the Bond Street Paving Assessment Project 55 (44 Blocks) construction contract with Ramex Construction Company, Laredo, Texas, for additional street and drainage improvements.

Motion to approve change order no. 1, and increase of \$23,762.40 to the Bond Street Paving Assessment Project 55 (44 Blocks) construction contract with Ramex Construction Company, Laredo, Texas, for additional street and drainage improvements.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Cardenas
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

37. Award of annual concession services contracts to Tropical Sno, Laredo, Texas, for the exclusive rights to sell food items at the Benavides Softball Park complex and J & A Restaurant, Laredo, Texas, for the exclusive rights to sell food items at the Civic Center pool.

Motion to award annual concession services contracts to Tropical Sno, Laredo, Texas, for the exclusive rights to sell food items at the Benavides Softball Park complex and J & A Restaurant, Laredo, Texas, for the exclusive rights to sell food items at the Civic Center pool.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Cardenas
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

38. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a one (1) year lease with a one (1) year renewal option agreement with G.L. Hachar, Sr. and Hachar Inc., Laredo, Texas for a certain tract of land to be used by City employees for parking. Located on the corner of Matamoros and Flores.

Motion authorizing the City Manager to enter into a one (1) year lease with a one (1) year renewal option agreement with G.L. Hachar, Sr. and Hachar Inc., Laredo, Texas for a certain tract of land to be used by City employees for parking. Located on the corner of Matamoros and Flores.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Cardenas
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

39. Award of contract to the Low Bidder, Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc. San Antonio, Texas in the amount of \$119,491.38 for two collection events for the collection, processing, packing and disposal of household hazardous waste as part of the city's Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Proper Disposal Program.

Motion to award contract to the Low Bidder, Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc. San Antonio, Texas in the amount of \$119,491.38 for two collection events for the collection, processing, packing and disposal of household hazardous waste

as part of the city's Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Proper Disposal Program.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

40. Seeking City Council authorization for an emergency purchase of a 100 foot Aerial Platform Truck in order for the City to maintain adequate rescue and firefighting capabilities during emergency situations.

Motion authorizing an emergency purchase of a 100 foot Aerial Platform Truck in order for the City to maintain adequate rescue and firefighting capabilities during emergency situations.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

41. Discussion and possible action concerning proposed settlement in cause no. B-91-166, styled TML Risk Pool, et al, v. Hartford Life Insurance Company, et al, docketed in the U.S. Federal District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, with possible Executive Session as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to discuss pending litigation and consultation with City Attorney.

Motion to approve the proposed settlement.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

42. Authorizing the City Manager to award \$106,600 in 1995 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Funds made available by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to Catholic Social Services of Laredo, Inc. (CSSL) for the rehabilitation of The Frontera Halfway House to include the conversion of a storage facility into a shelter for homeless families and related improvements; and authorizing the execution of any and all documents resulting from such an award.

Motion authorizing the City Manager to award \$106,600 in 1995 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Funds made available by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to Catholic Social Services of Laredo, Inc. (CSSL) for the rehabilitation of The Frontera Halfway House to include the conversion of a storage facility into a shelter for homeless

families and related improvements; and authorizing the execution of any and all documents resulting from such an award.

Moved : Cm. Castaneda
 Second: Cm. G. Perez
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

43. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract with the Laredo Webb County Community Action Agency (CAA) in the amount of \$49,200 to provide homeless prevention services with 1995 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds provided by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Motion authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract with the Laredo Webb County Community Action Agency (CAA) in the amount of \$49,200 to provide homeless prevention services with 1995 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds provided by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Castaneda
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Recognition and presentation of an Honorary President of the Republic of the Rio Grande to Carlos Garza for his many contributions to the citizens of the City of Laredo.

Mayor Ramirez was recognized on behalf of the Texas Army National Guard and the local units and was presented with an Emeritus Award by the Military First Committee, Laredo Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Texas Army National Guard.

- b. Cm. Guerra recognized a resident from the Shiloh Subdivision who in turn stated that the residents in the area are concerned with finishing Shiloh Drive.

Mr. Vargas stated that it was a joint effort between the private developer of Crown Ridge Development Corporation and the city. The city in essence would build the bridge over Manadas Creek and Crown Ridge was to build the road including the approaches to the bridge, but for some reason the approaches were never completed. They mailed a certified letter to Crown Ridge asking them to proceed with that project because they knew there were several individuals that were using the road and it wasn't complete which presented a liability problem to them. Later, they sent them another letter indicating that if they were not ready to proceed the city would proceed and finish the project. This morning they received a letter from Crown Ridge Development which was authorization to proceed with the project and finish it up.

They hoped that this project will be completed within a month.

- c. Mayor Protem Cardenas read a letter from concerned Union Pacific employees which read as follows:

"This letter, is in reference to the City Council meeting held on February 20, 1996. We, the employees of Union Pacific Railroad, would like to take the opportunity to express our sentiments which do not compare to those expressed by the U.P. Executive, Mike Chavez recorded by Laredo's finest LAPD. We find his behavior, to be in poor taste and agree with City Council that he be relieved of his duties for his unprofessional conduct."

XI. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

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

A. Requests by Mayor Saul N. Ramirez, Jr.

1. Discussion and possible action concerning the use of Hotel/Motel Reserve Fund monies for the erection of a natural action sculpture for the new Laredo International Airport Terminal.

Mayor Ramirez asked that bronze statues be placed in front of the new airport terminal such as South Texas wildlife and commissioning Mr. Armando Hinojosa for such a project. The estimated cost of the project would be \$350,000 which would be allocated out of the Hotel/Motel Reserve Fund.

Cm. Casso stated that before making his decision he wanted the legal staff to provide him with section 351.03 of the Hotel/Motel Tax Code which outlines restrictions for the hotel/motel tax revenues and a copy of section 380.01 of the Local Government Code for economic development agencies.

Motion to have the Mayor ask Mr. Hinojosa to move ahead with bringing an actual rendition of what would be out there and to proceed with finding other funding sources such as selling advertisement and matching type of funding from the private sector.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Requests by Councilmember Louis H. Bruni

1. Report on all stolen tractor trailers in the City of Laredo with possible action.

Cm. Bruni read a letter he had addressed to Carlos Villarreal, Assistant City Manager, in reference to stolen tractor trailers where he was asking for a list of stolen tractor trailers, plus a list of the status of police investigations that are ongoing or solved, a list of all persons arrested or suspected of this act from 1994 through 1996 and had not received a response from staff or the City Manager's Office. He asked what staff has done pertaining to his request, if they have something to present to him tonight and wanted to hear from the Chief of Police of what he has been doing to advert these problems that seem to be plaguing the community.

Mr. Vargas replied that staff had faxed and mailed a report this afternoon.

J.L. Martinez, Chief of Police, stated that he had just provided the report to Mr. Vargas today. They have investigated about 32 cases of cargo theft since 1994, they have recovered 7 tractors and 17 trailers with merchandise. They have arrested 12 people with felony theft as a result of those investigations. There are four outstanding warrants for that same offense. They have ongoing investigations on organized criminal activity with the FBI on these investigations.

Dr. Hector Farias, Jr., President of the Texas-Mexican Border International Trade Association, stated that this problem has accelerated and that the City of Laredo has done much by taking in funds from federal and state agencies to combat this crime. He added that even though the sheriff says that we need a task force within a task force, there is already a task force that has been in existence for some time. The task force comprises of the Sheriff's Office, the Chief of Police, the District Attorney, and DPS. He added that we do not need another task force. In his opinion what we need is that the task force concentrate on the theft of trailers. The reason it is not taking place is because only the city is involved in trailer thefts, and only the city has taken advantage of the funds that have been available every year for the past six years. He concluded by asking for the city's assistance since this is the only responsible law agency doing its part because the county says they have no jurisdiction and that the majority is within the city limits. He asked who's responsibility is it? He urged council to take a close look at what they bring to this community because if our tax base is affected by the shifting of commodities to other ports we are all in serious trouble.

Cm. Casso wants a report from staff on what the status is on the four outstanding warrants for the same offense which

have been turned over to the District Attorney's office for prosecution. He also wants a report on the radio system, how much it costs, what kind of a system it is, how many megahertz, whether it is digital, and what we paid for it? He wants the President of the Police Association to come before this City Council to share views on this issue, because they state they are not happy with the radio system.

2. Status report on the street lighting for Arkansas Avenue and Loop 20 with possible action.

Mr. Luis Landin, Traffic Manager, stated that on Arkansas Avenue they will try to see if they can bring up the illumine from the 16,000 illumine that they have there to illuminate the roadway. On 359 to 83 and Loop 20 there are 40 lights that they are going to install in that portion of the road that now has curb and gutter and is on the last phase of being constructed, they already have the conduits underneath the roadway so when they get the proposal from CPL they will bring it to the City Manager with cost estimates. On Los Presidentes and on Century City the Highway Department is going to install two signals there and upgrade the one on 83 and Loop 20.

Motion to move up the Public Hearings 47, 48 and 49 at this time.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
 Second: Cm. Cardenas
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the installation of a computer system in city council chambers to enable the city council to view the agenda via computer.

Motion to table this item in absence of Cm. Casso.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

(Mayor Protem Cardenas was chairing the meeting)

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the passage of a resolution to convince the Webb County Appraisal Board to lower property values due to the economic slowdown.

Mr. E.J. Laurel stated that he agrees with Cm. Casso's efforts and hopes that council approves this action. He also asked that council consider the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to look into the criteria that is been used to enforce collection by the Tax Attorney because if the taxpayers are being burden right now with the low economy

the city makes the matters worst by charging the taxpayer court costs, attorney's fees, and abstract researches. He asked that council consider the possibility of having a committee look into this, to see if there is some tolerance or some kind of sensitivity that can be applied to certain situations where the taxpayers will not be burden.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of electronic security devices for City Hall.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Discussion and possible action regarding unpaved streets in District III.

Cm. Casso asked when the paving will be completed and stated that staff should have some type of a computer module that shows exactly what is not paved, what has curbs, and what doesn't. He added that staff should already have this information and should not have to depend on the public to tell them what streets are not paved. He wants a report from staff of how many streets are unpaved, how many do not have curb and gutter in his district, and what are the streets pending to be paved.

D. Requests by Councilmember Cecilia May Moreno

1. Presentation by the Audrey Salgado, Chairperson of the Laredo Commission for Women concerning a status report of Commission's activities.

Ms. Audry Salgado introduced some of the members of the Commission present and proceeded to give a report on the year's accomplishment. Their accomplishments reported are:

- (1) Celebrated the month of August the Women's Right to Vote and have continued the voter registration campaign.
- (2) Members of the commission have been sworn in as Volunteer Deputy Registrars.
- (3) They are studying the process for representation of Laredo on the Texas Governor's Commission for Women and plan to assure a Laredo Woman is appointed at the earliest opportunity.
- (4) Want to assure that women are fairly represented in our library, they have met with members to discuss

having a selection of the new library to include women and women's issues.

- (5) They are monitoring federal/state legislation, city policies, ordinances, and resolution affecting women.
- (6) They are reviewing the Laredo City Council minutes and budgets to determine what impact their decisions are having on the women of Laredo.
- (7) They read world, national, and state statistics, but are not sure how to obtain statistics on Laredo women so they can measure their progress and improve the status of women in Laredo.

They have identified the needs and concerns of women, develop and access strategies including community outreach activities, public/private partnerships, coordination of community and state resources and recommend assistance and services to improve the status of women in Laredo. Because they need to focus in one issue to assure success, they identified the woman's issue of domestic violence. They presented the action plan to significantly reduce incidents of domestic violence in particular that directed to women. They have joined forces with Webb County Domestic Violence Task Force to eliminate duplication of efforts.

They have established a Women's Hall of Fame in Laredo, ten women were honored last year and this year they will honor 11 women into the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame, Natalie C. Burkhalter, Guadalupe G. Castaneda, Elizabeth G. "Betty" Flores, Altagracia Azios Garcia, Lydia G. Gonzalez, Anita L. Martin, Cecilia May Moreno, Peggy J. Newman, Katy Profit, Graciela C. Ramirez, and Mildred J. Reyna.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

45. Public hearing on approval of a contract for fiscal year 1996-97 with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$72,153 for the HIV/AIDS Counseling, Testing, Referral and Partner Elicitation/Notification (CTRPE) Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996; and that an ordinance be introduced.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of a contract for fiscal year 1996-1997 with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$72,153 for the HIV/AIDS Counseling, Testing, Referral and Partner Elicitation/ Notification (CTRPE) 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. 226-0000-323-4043 from \$0 to \$72,153.00, and Expenditure Line Item No. 226-6035 from \$0 to \$72,153.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Mayor Protem Cardenas was chairing the meeting.)

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

46. Public hearing on approval of an amendment to the budget in the amount of \$18,656 of the Comprehensive Public Health Services Programming of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996; and that an ordinance be introduced.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an amendment to the budget in the amount of \$18,656 of the Comprehensive Public Health Services Programming of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996; and increasing Revenue Line Item No. 226-0000-232-4033 from \$309,324.00, to \$327,980.00, and increasing Expenditure Line Item No. 226-6021 from \$309,324.00, to \$327,980.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Castaneda

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Mayor Protem Cardenas was chairing the meeting.)

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

47. Public hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 1996, authorizing the execution of a Purchase Contract, approving an official statement, and the

execution of an escrow agreement in the amount of \$34,700,000; and that an ordinance be introduced.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 1996 authorizing the execution of a purchase contract, approving an official statement and the execution of an escrow agreement.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mr. Noe Hinojosa, Financial Advisor from Estrada - Hinojosa, explained to council the purpose of refinancing.

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Cm. Casso was not present.)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

48. Public hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas, Texas Waterworks System Revenue Refunding Bonds, New Series 1996, authorizing the execution of a Purchase Contract, approving an official statement, and the execution of an escrow agreement in the amount of \$6,825,000; and that an ordinance be introduced.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$_____ City of Laredo, Texas Waterworks System Revenue refunding bonds, new series 1996, and making provisions for the security thereof; approving the purchase contract, the official statement, and the escrow agreement; and approving other matters relating thereto.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez

Second: Cm. Cardenas

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Casso was not present.

Mr. Jesus Ponce was concerened that we don't get into a

financial bind as the State of California did with bond financing.

Mr. Anthony Peña, who said that he presently does financing work, stated that what Mr. Hinojosa was doing is fine except that it's difficult to understand the financial mechanism.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Cardenas
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

49. Public hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas, Texas Sewer System Revenue Refunding Bonds, New Series 1996, authorizing the execution of a Purchase Contract, approving an official statement, and the execution of an escrow agreement in the amount of \$5,785,000; and that an ordinance be introduced.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$_____ City of Laredo, Texas Sewer System Revenue refunding bonds, new series 1996, and making provisions for the security thereof; approving the purchase contract, the official statement, and the escrow agreement; and approving other matters relating thereto.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. G. Perez
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Mayor Ramirez left at 7:50 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved : Cm. G. Perez
Second: Cm. Perez


For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Adjournment time: 8:00 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES CONTAINED IN PAGES 01 TO 26 ARE TRUE COMPLETE AND CORRECT PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 4TH DAY OF MARCH, 1996, A CERTIFIED COPY IS ON FILE AT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.



GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Delia Rodriguez, Depty City Secretary II

MINUTES APPROVED ON: March 18, 1996

CORRECTIONS: