

CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL BUDGET WORKSHOP
ON THE PROPOSED FY 1993-94 BUDGET

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1993

LAREDO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY HALL, ROOM 141 AND 142

M93-W-22

M I N U T E S

AUGUST 5, 1993

I. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mayor Pro-tem Perales called the Budget Workshop to order.

II. IN ATTENDANCE:

JOSE R. PEREZ,	COUNCILMEMBER,	DISTRICT I
JACINTO P. JUAREZ,	"	, DISTRICT II
ARLENE RASH ALDRIDGE,	"	, DISTRICT III
CECILIA MAY MORENO,	"	, DISTRICT IV
EDUARDO PERALES,	"	, DISTRICT VI
JOSE GERARDO (JERRY) PEREZ,	"	, DISTRICT VII
FELIPE CARDENAS,	"	, DISTRICT VIII
PETER H. VARGAS,	CITY MANAGER	
JOSE SALVADOR TELLEZ,	CITY ATTORNEY	
CARLOS VILLARREAL,	ASST. CITY MANAGER	
JESUS NAVA,	ASST. CITY MANAGER	

ABSENCES:

SAUL N. RAMIREZ, JR.,	MAYOR
GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.,	CITY SECRETARY
BLAS CASTANEDA,	COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT V

Peter H. Vargas, City Manager, made the beginning presentation and the introduction on what the budget reflects and the philosophy that went into the making of the budget. Mr. Vargas introduced Ms. Flores and Ms. Jackson stating that council had requested a presentation on governmental accounting concepts.

III. GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING PRACTICES - Gonzalez, Farias and Guerra, P.C., Certified Public Accountants

Ms. Gigi Flores a representative of Gonzalez, Farias and Guerra made the presentation on Governmental Fund Structure and Accounting Fund Types, definitions, example transactions, fund categories and fund measurement focus on funds such as:

- (1) General
- (2) Special Revenue

- (3) Capital Projects
- (4) Debt Service
- (5) Enterprise
- (6) Internal Service
- (7) Trust and Agency
- (8) General Long-term Debt Account Group
- (9) General Fixed Assets Account Group

Ms. Flores also gave an overall overview of measurement focus on governmental funds that are designed to measure financial resources on hand at the end of a period and propriety funds that are designed to reflect the overall economic health of the fund.

Ms. Mitchell Jackson made the rest of the presentation on Equity in Propriety Funds; contributed capital; retained earnings; and Retained Earnings vs. Liquidity.

In summary the proper interpretation of "unreserved fund balance," "reserved fund balance," "contributed capital," "retained earnings" and other measures of equity that is vital if users of governmental balance sheets are to properly understand and utilize the data presented there. To finalize she summarized encumbrance accounting and unencumbered appropriations.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED FY 1993-94 ANNUAL BUDGET -

- A. BUDGET VIDEO
- B. PROPOSED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
- C. MAJOR OPERATING BUDGET ISSUES
- D. PROPOSED NEW POSITIONS

Peter H. Vargas, City Manager, gave an overview on the goals for the proposed annual budget, the consolidated operating expenditures of \$116,118,666. The consolidated project budgets, the general fund revenues, general fund expenditures and the tax levy projections.

On capital projects the program is a \$63 million dollar program.

In addition, scheduled for next year, there are over \$7 million dollars worth of capital projects for next year from incoming revenues this year.

He added that expenditures in the general fund they held the line this year with personnel additions only on the very basic areas, in police, firemen and public works.

He continued by saying that they added other people in other enterprise funds that needed the personnel in order to bring in more revenues. There will be approximately 40 new individuals at the cost of approximately half a million dollars. Twenty-seven positions proposed for next year's general fund budget.

He stated the new proposed budget proposes no tax increase. The tax rate will remain at .5101 per \$100 of assessed value for the third year in a row the tax rate will remain at .5101.

He continued by saying that they are proposing some fee increases particularly on water, garbage collection and landfill operations as a result from federal mandates.

Mr. Vargas explained a series of graphs and charts on the status of the proposed budget on consolidated operating revenues anticipating \$113,253,246 and breakdowns; consolidated operating expenditures levels projecting \$116,118,666 and explained as to the expenditures that are reflected; consolidated project budgets of \$61,197,477; breakdowns of revenues for the general fund projecting \$44,280,694; general fund expenditures and he went over tax levy and collections projections.

- V. **REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FY 1992-93 ANNUAL BUDGET** -Diana Arredondo, Finance Director
 - A. REVENUE COLLECTIONS
 - B. EXPENDITURES
 - C. ESTIMATED FUND BALANCES
 - D. ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR INDEPENDENT AUDIT

Diana Arredondo, Finance Director, made the presentation.

- VI. **PROPOSED PUBLIC SAFETY ANNUAL BUDGETS**
 - A. FIRE SERVICES - Mike Perez, Fire Chief
 - B. EMS & AMBULANCE SERVICES

A video presentation was made at this time.

Cm. Juarez asked that they give each Councilmember a copy of the budget video and asked that it be narrated in English and Spanish.

Motion to go ahead with the County Contract and that if in fact the county approves the contract, that the monies be utilized to hire seven (7) additional positions plus an ambulance to be placed in the central station and that it be rotated where needed.

Mr. Vargas clarified the motion, "In the event that the county approves the \$250,000 contract that the revenues of the contract be utilized to purchase one new ambulance and the staff necessary for that ambulance to cover the areas outside the city limits or the county to continuously provide coverage."

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Cm. Castaneda was not present)

C. POLICE SERVICES - J.L. Martinez, Police Chief

J. L. Martinez, Police Chief made the presentation. He presented functions, goals, objectives and police department accomplishments. He elaborated on the implementation of five Neighborhood Policing Stations throughout the city; the Police Department Grants they have been awarded; and the 911 Emergency Department which is one of the biggest projects in the past year.

Chief Martinez showed projections and statistic reports. He concluded and summarized a work plan for 1994 to reduce violence and property crime; reducing fatalities and accidents; to interdict drugs; to develop school programs; to computerize the Police Department; and to prepare the budget.

Cm. Perales was concerned about the enforcement of the ordinances. He stated that more patrolling is needed in Highway 83, Del Mar and Scott.

Chief J.L. Martinez stated that they will specify at roll call time every morning about the monitoring, patrolling and the enforcement on these areas.

VII. PROPOSED EDUCATION AND RECREATION ANNUAL BUDGETS

A. PUBLIC LIBRARY - Janice Weber, Library Director

Cm. Jose R. Perez read a letter from Ms. Eulalia Inez Monsivais of 2919 Vicente in regards to the branch library in which she states that now that there are plans for a new library they hope that we will not forget the residents of the neighborhood. Cm. Perez stated that she requests that we go ahead with the plans to finish the Santo Nino Library.

(Copy of petition submitted to City Secretary's office.)

Janice Weber, Library Director, made the presentation and presented a \$1,000 check from Ms. Lasker O'Keese Herford made payable to "Friends of Library" for books or whatever is necessary at the Santo Nino Library. She spoke on the bond issue and the feasibility study.

Cw. Moreno suggested and asked that they consider a volunteer program.

Cw. Aldridge asked that if and when the library is built that they try to have an area, a community room or a conference room to have functions to draw people to the library.

She also suggested that they look into volunteer programs for

elderly to make community service.

B. RECREATION - Alfredo Castillo, Ed & Rec Director

Alfredo Castillo, Education & Recreation Director, requested that a Recreation Specialist be approved.

Cm. Juarez asked as to how many programs are for matured citizens and disabled.

Mr. Castillo stated that they are in the process of conducting programs next year.

Cw. Aldridge suggested that they look into using the Youth Commission or start a program of different schools to sell on the Aldo Tatangelo Parkway on weekends to raise funds for school activities in order to have activity in the parkway, now that the Arts center will be at El Mercado to promote the area.

Cw. Aldridge questioned on the Park Rangers and the schedules.

Mr. Vargas stated that they will get a schedule and look into this.

Cm. Perez question on the upkeeping of the Parks?

Cm. Perales suggested that a committee be appointed to see into the upkeep of the parks.

Mr. Vargas suggested that maybe the council should see into a regional park, but that the people should decide on this issue.

Motion was made to instruct staff to pursue and look into the concept of a regional park, also that council appoint a committee of citizens to look into the issue of a municipal golf course and have them put together a concept.

Moved : Cm. Perales

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. PARKS AND PARK MAINTENANCE

Cw. Aldridge suggested that they look into the work force and schedule them accordingly on the parks for the upkeeping.

(Cw. Aldridge left at 4:10 p.m.)

D. WEST MARTIN FIELD

Larry Dovalina made the presentation. He stated that they have

developed a contract thru the Legal Department for concerts, for anyone who is interested in renting the West Martin Field.

E. EL MERCADO

Alfredo Castillo made the presentation. He stated that they need to paint and refurbish El Mercado.

He was asked that staff look into renting the parking to El Mercado.

Mr. Vargas stated they will look into this.

F. PUBLIC ACCESS

Jerry Leal, Public Access Director, made the presentation and showed a video presentation.

Cm. Juarez suggested that they look into offering GED and Adult Education classes thru the Public Access for mature persons.

Mr. Leal stated their objectives are to be an effective media source for the city and also to assist the public and the community of television.

Mr. Leal is proposing to promote Laredo. He was proposing \$25,000 in capital outlay to help produce better videos and replace equipment.

VIII. ADJOURN FOR DAY ONE

Motion to recess for Friday, August 6, 1993 at 9:00 a.m. at LSU, University Hall, Room 141 and 142.

Moved : Cm. Perales

Second: Cm. G. Perez

For: 6


Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Cm. Castaneda and Cw. Aldridge not present.)

Workshop recessed at 4:45 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY TAHT THE ABOVE MINUTES CONTAINED IN PAGES 01 TO 07 ARE TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1993-94 BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD ON THE 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1993. A CERTIFIED COPY IS ON FILE IN THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.



GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Delia Rodriguez, Deputy City Secretary II

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON:

CORRECTIONS: