

CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

MINUTES

M97-R-16

MAY 5, 1997

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,	COUNCILMEMBER,	DISTRICT I
LOUIS H. BRUNI,	"	, DISTRICT II
ALFONSO I. "PONCHO" CASSO,	"	, DISTRICT III
CECILIA MAY MORENO,	"	, DISTRICT IV
ELISEO VALDEZ,	"	, DISTRICT V
JOE A. GUERRA,	"	, DISTRICT VI
MARIO GEORGE ALVARADO,	"	, DISTRICT VII
GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.,	CITY SECRETARY	
FLORENCIO PENA,	CITY MANAGER	
JAIME L. FLORES,	CITY ATTORNEY	

ABSENCES:

Motion to excuse Cw. Montalvo.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Casso was not present, he joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Motion to waive the rules of order and move up item IX.A, B, X.A(1).

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to waive the rules and move item X.C(4)

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Casso
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to waive the rules and move item D(1).

Moved :
Second:
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IV. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

- 2. Amending Section 2-17 of Article II, Chapter 2 of the code of ordinances to create a utilities billing division in the Utilities Department, and to create a Tax Assessing and Collection Division in the Tax Department. This amendment will restructure the Tax and Utilities Departments by moving the utilities billing function to the Utilities department.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 3. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with United Exports Trading Association (U.E.T.A.) of Texas, Inc., for approximately 2,526 square feet out of Lot 10, Block 22, in the Western Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, lying North of the concrete pavement connecting Salinas Street with Water Street.

- 1. Lease term is for three (3) years commencing on April 21, 1997 and ending April 20, 2000,
- 2. Monthly rent will be \$720.00, providing for effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

V. FINAL READINGS

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinance 97-O-099, 97-O-100, 97-O-101, 97-O-102, 97-O-103, 97-O-104, and 97-O-105.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Protem Casso was chairing the meeting and Cw. Moreno was out temporarily.

4. 97-O-099 Ordinance amending the zoning ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 7, Block 1744, Eastern Division, located at 2806 Cross Street, from R-2 (Multi-Family District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District); providing for publication and effective date. (Jose R. Perez Jr.)

Motion to approve Ordinance #97-O-099.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. 97-O-100 Ordinance amending the zoning ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 9, Block 623, Eastern Division, located at 520 McPherson Avenue, from M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District), providing for publication and effective date. (Joe A. Guerra)

Motion to approve Ordinance #97-O-100.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 97-O-101 Ordinance authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for warehousing of bagged sand on 15,940 square feet of the North 1/2 of the Texas Mexican Railway Company Right-of-Way through Block 1082, Eastern Division, as further described by metes and bounds, located at 701 Buena Vista Avenue; providing for publication and effective date. (Jose R. Perez)

Motion to approve Ordinance #97-O-101.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. 97-O-102 Ordinance amending the zoning ordinance (Map) of

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VI. RESOLUTIONS

11. 97-R-050 Opposing Senate Bill 1937 which will severely limit a local government's right to manage their right-of-ways.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-050.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. MOTIONS

12. Approval of a preliminary plan for the Three Points Affordable Housing Project as prepared by Sanchez and Sanchez Architects for 32 single family affordable housing dwellings for low income applicants ranging from \$12,000.00, to \$15,000.00/annual income. These homes will be located in an area bounded by Piedra China on the north, Mercer on the south, New York on the west and Canada on the east. The preliminary plan includes one (1) floor plan and four (4) different elevations (facades). At the March 3, 1997, meeting, City Council directed staff to develop a project to provide housing for low income families (those earning between \$12,000.00 and \$15,000.00 annually). Staff is seeking City Council authorization to proceed.

Cm. Perez stated that on a previous meeting it was set up that these homes were to be built, then they would go through the process of who would qualify and he had requested then, that staff look as to how people living in flood areas would be given the first option of qualifying them as flood victims or something to that effect.

Erasmus Villarreal of Community Development stated that since that date some drainage improvements have been done to that area and there has been no flooding.

Cm. Perez stated he does not have a concern with the drainage problem, only that these people need to be given the opportunity to get out of there if they need to. He still wants these people to get priority or first choice for those

affordable housing if they qualify.

Mr. Peña stated they need to look at this issue more closely, it is not a relocation type of activity, but if there is another way to do that they will identify what those areas are and will bring back a report.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. Approval of plans and specifications as prepared by Frank Architects, Inc., and authorization to advertise for bids from general contractors for 50 single family affordable housing dwellings for low and moderate income applicants for the Los Obispos Affordable Housing Project Phase I, to be located on Block 2, Lots 1-50 at Los Obispos Subdivision, Unit V. The final plans include six (6) different floor plans and six (6) different front elevations (facades) for a home of approximately 1,100 square feet. A tentative bid award is scheduled for June 23, 1997.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Approval of bid specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the following:
- a) uniforms - Police/Fire Departments/Bridge System
 - b) lawn maintenance services - Utilities Department/Bridge System
 - c) purchase of a submersible sewage pump -Utilities Department - Wastewater Treatment Division.

A tentative bid award is scheduled for June 16, 1997.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. Approval of construction plans and specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the Alma Pierce Drainage Improvements. The project consists of extending an

existing storm sewer along Logan Avenue from San Carlos Street to Ryan Street in order to improve the drainage around Alma Pierce Elementary School. A tentative bid award is scheduled for June 16, 1997.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Approval of construction plans and specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for a New Air Conditioning System and its accompanying Roof Structural Support for the Bridge Administration Building located at the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge No. 2. A tentative bid award is scheduled for June 16, 1997.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Award of a contract to the LOW BIDDER, Gillespie Ford, San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$20,820.00, for the purchase of one 3/4 ton truck for the Community Development Department. This vehicle will be equipped with a CNG bi-fuel fueling system. Funding is available in the department's capital outlay budget and will be used by the newly established graffiti removal crew. A total of two bids were received for a bi-fueled vehicle, while a total of three bids were received for a conventionally fueled vehicle. Delivery is anticipated within ninety days.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Lucent Technologies Inc., San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$53,327.91, for providing all required materials and installation of a certified voice and data telecommunications cabling system at the new Public Library building. The telecommunications cabling system will support voice and high speed data communications as well as a Community Antenna TV (CATV)

distribution system and public address system. Funding is available in the new Main Library Construction Project Account. A total of three bids were received for this work. The system will be completed within sixty days.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Brance-Krachy Company, Inc., Houston, Texas, in the amount of \$11,974.00, for the purchase of two, replacement motors with a gear reducers for the Utilities Department. These will be installed on #3 and #4 flocculators at the Jefferson Street Water Treatment plant. Flocculators mix the chemicals and water during the second stage of the water treatment process. Funding is available in the Utilities Department - Water Treatment, Capital Outlay Account. A total of two bids were received for this purchase. The motors will be delivered within two weeks.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Award of annual supply contracts to the LOW BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS, U.S. Filter Corporation, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$138,648.33, for supplying water line repair clamps for the Utilities Department. All items will be purchased on an as need basis. A total of two bids were received for this purchase. Funding is available in the Utilities Department - Water Division Account. The contract pricing is approximately 5% more than the previous contract.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Award of contract to the SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER, New York Blower, Willbrock, Illinois, in the amount of \$15,495.80, for the purchase of two, replacement fan blowers, for the Utilities Department. These will be installed at the Zacate

Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant for the removal of hydrogen sulfide from the primary clarifiers. These blowers create a vacuum which directs the toxic hydrogen sulfide gases to a carbon filtering system within the clarifiers. Funding is available in the Utilities Department - Wastewater Treatment Capital Outlay Account. Delivery is expected within three weeks. These blowers are available only from the original equipment manufacturer.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Award of a construction contract to the LOWEST BIDDER, Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$333,823.00, for the Southgate Pilot Channel Improvements to be placed over an existing earthen ditch located along the east side of Canada Avenue, approximately 2,200 linear feet, and approximately 12 feet wide, from Norton Street to Ireland Street, curving southwesterly through the drainage easement located along the east side of New York Street to Southgate Boulevard. A total of two bids were received for this work. Funding is available in the Drainage Improvements Southgate Pilot Channel Account. Construction time is 70 working days.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Award of a construction contract to the LOWEST BIDDER, Ramex Construction Company, Inc., Houston, Texas, in the amount of \$103,995.00, for the Willow/Chacon Drainage Improvements. This project consists of the extension of an underground drainage system to alleviate erosion abutting private property at mid-block between Texas Avenue and U.S. Highway 83 between Willow and Chacon Streets. A total of two bids were received for this work. Funding is available in the Drainage Improvements Willow/Chacon Drainage Improvements Account. Construction time is 45 working days.

Motion to amend the awarding of the contract by including the authorization to transfer \$46,000 form the Community Development Block Grant Demolition of Substandard Building in the 22nd Action Year to cover the total drainage amount.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to approve the contract as amended.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Award of a construction contract to the **LOWEST BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS**, Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$313,682.32, for the City of Laredo and Laredo Independent School District (LISD) Sidewalk Program (13 Schools) for Buenos Aires Elementary, Ochoa/Sanchez Elementary, J.C. Martin Elementary, D.D. Hachar Elementary, Kawas Elementary, Ligarde Elementary, Daiches Elementary, Zachary Elementary, Cigarroa Middle, Memorial Middle, Lamar Middle, Cigarroa High and Nixon High Schools. The City of Laredo will pay 50% of the costs as will the Laredo Independent School District. A total of five bids were received for this work. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund School Sidewalks Account and in the Community Development Department. Construction time is 90 working days.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 Cm. Alvarado withdrew his second.

Paragon Builders, represented by John Charles, argued that Paragon was the lowest bidder.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, stated that where there is a conflict between words and numbers, that the words would govern the bid amounts.

Motion to table for the next meeting to clarify the bid amount of Paragon Builders.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 1
 Cm. Perez

25. Approval of change order no. 3, a net increase of \$18,201.49, to the construction contract with Ramex Construction Company, Houston, Texas, for
- a) the installation of two (2) additional security cameras and various other miscellaneous items
 - b) to delete the circulation desk screen, and
 - c) a savings on the interior signage
- at the City of Laredo New Main Library. This change order will also add 87 calendar days to the contract consisting of 21 calendar days for bad weather plus 66 calendar days for the additional work required for change order no. 3. The project is scheduled for completion by October 1997. Original contract amount was \$5,641,000.00. This change order will bring the total to \$5,760,003.00. Funding is available in the New Main Library Buildings Capital Outlay Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Awarding a professional consulting services contract for an amount not to exceed \$126,720.00, to Carter and Burgess, Inc., Houston, Texas, to develop a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Ordinance(s) and Best Management Practices (BMP) guidance manual, as required by the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater requirements. These ordinances and the BMP guidance manual will govern the criteria regarding special use permits for detention/retention ponds, and are the initiation of the Stormwater Master Planning Process. A total of four firms responded to the City's request for proposals. Funding is available in the Environmental Engineering Division.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

27. Presentation regarding the status of the lease with the Laredo Children's Museum.

Florencio Peña, City Manager, stated that there were six areas of concern with the lease agreement as presented by the attorney for the Children's Museum. The concerns were:

(1) The operational costs associated with the structure, apparently the representatives would like the city to pay the utilities, the ground maintenance, and the building maintenance. These are items not in the budget and they will have an impact.

(2) The right of first refusal. The city attorney has some concerns about the proposed wording.

(3) The non-payment of taxes. Mr. Peña stated that the city cannot waive taxes, if it is required by state law to pay taxes then they have to pay them, but he is not sure what the state law says in reference to non-profit status.

(4) There is a clause in the agreement that makes reference to sub-leasing. The city should have complete control as to whether the property is to be sub-leased.

(5) There is a question regarding metes and bounds description that is not available. They cannot enter into a lease today, because there is no metes and bounds description of the property. They will have to conduct a survey to parcel that out.

(6) Since this property was bought with bond money which was intended for the purpose of constructing a library, they would have to conduct a research and determine whether or not a museum would be an eligible use under the intent of this bond issue.

Ken Valls, attorney for the Children's Museum, stated that they may be satisfied with a 25 year lease with a 25 year option; they will provide the metes and bounds description to the City Attorney; the sub-leasing needs to be done in order to provide exhibit space for exhibitors from all over the country, any other type of sub-lease would have to be approved by the Council; ad valorem taxes are exempt for this agency; and that the maintenance of grounds is not an important issue and they will negotiate with staff.

Motion to direct staff to proceed with a contract formulation and bring back to Council by May 19th.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Amending the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Policy and Procedures Manual as it pertains to Downpayment Assistance Program. The following are the proposed changes:
- a) increase the loan amount of \$2,500.00, up to a maximum of \$3,000.00,
 - b) eliminate the 50% match required from the applicant,
 - c) decrease the 5% interest on the principal loan amount to 0%, and
 - d) define the deferred payment period to 3 years. After the deferment period, the eligible borrower(s) will start making payments on the Downpayment Assistance Loan as per a predetermined schedule based on the loan amount. There will not be any prepayment penalties. The repayment period may not exceed five years. A second Lien Deed of Trust with Vendor's Lien and Real Estate Lien Note will be recorded against the property being purchased. The property should remain affordable for a period of five years. This program is Citywide and may be used towards the purchase of an existing or a newly constructed home. The proposed changes will allow the Citywide program to coincide with the recently approved Concord Hills Downpayment Assistance Program by providing qualifying applicants with assistance of up to \$3,000.00.

Chris Arthur, representing the Builders Association, asked council to wait on any recommendation until they have time to inform the community on how the various programs work and save the City money.

Motion amending the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Policy and Procedures Manual as it pertains to Downpayment Assistance Program.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

The second was withdrawn.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Ramirez returned to join the council, 8:10 p.m.

He had left at 7:10 p.m.

29. Presentation regarding the status of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater discharge requirements and acceptance of the permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in compliance with 40 CFR 122 and 124.

Raj Guntner, Environmental Engineer, made the presentation before the council. A detail of the requirements is available for review in the agenda book.

Motion to accept a draft permit as issued by United States Environmental Protection Agency in compliance with 40 CFR 122 and 124 and comply with the permit conditions.

Moved : Cm. Casso

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Presentation regarding the status of the detention pond ordinance. An ordinance will be introduced at a subsequent meeting which will provide for the concrete lining of the detention pond's embankment.

Raj Guntner, Environmental Engineer, gave a report to the council stating that a draft of the proposed ordinance was included in the agenda book for their review and that this draft will be presented before Planning & Zoning Commission.

31. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed partial settlement agreement in Cause No. C-95-00259-D2 styled Jacaman Investment Group LTD., et al. v. City of Laredo with possible executive session for consultation with City Attorney, as per Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

Motion to go into executive session under Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to instruct the City Manager and Legal Department to proceed with settlement.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Recognizing Les Norton and Dennis Longoria for their exemplary service to the City of Laredo Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission. Their service to the City is 16 and 11 years respectively.

Mayor Ramirez recognized Les Norton for his 18 years, as corrected by Mr. Norton, of exemplary service to the City of Laredo.

Dennis Longoria was not present.

- b. Recognizing the Department of Public Works for their receipt of the Texas Clean Cities 2000 award.

Mayor Ramirez recognized Raj Guntner from Environmental Engineering Department and Joe Guerra, Public Works Director for this award.

- c. City Manager Peña announced that there will be a visit by several officials from the State of Nuevo Leon on issues that relate to Solidarity Bridge at 6:30 p.m. at Colombia. The following individuals will be present:

Lic. Fernando Canales Clariond -
 candidate for Governor of Nuevo Leon
 Jesus Hinojosa - Mayor of Monterrey
 Lic. Aldalberto Nunez - Mayor of San Nicolas de los Garza
 Senator Mauricio Fernandez
 Senator Lic. Luis Santos de la Garza
 Lic. Consuelo Botello - Federal Representative
 Lic. Jorge Padilla - Federal Representative
 Lic. Jose Luis Coindreau
 Raul Monter
 Arq. Antonio Fuentes Flores - coordinator of the event

- d. Cm. Alvarado reported on the Laredo Delegation to the Summit attended in Washington and that a formal report will be presented at the next council meeting.
- e. Cm. Alvarado announced the Mothers Day Concert set for May 8th from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Civic Center free of admission to the public.

f. Cm. Bruni publicly congratulated El Manana Newspaper owners on their new office.

Cw. Moreno returned to join the meeting at 8:35 p.m. She had left at 7:10 p.m.

X. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

32. Requests by Mayor and City Councilmembers for discussion and presentation.

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

1. Recognizing the participation of City of Laredo employees in the 1996-1997 United Way Campaign.

Mayor Ramirez recognized Mrs. Phyllis Colon for her work in the United Way Campaign who in turned presented the following awards to various city departments:

The Silver Award to: Police, Airport, Traffic, Bridge, Civic Center, Health, Public Works, and Finance.

The Golden Award to: Fire, Traffic, City Secretary, and City Manager.

Mrs. Colon received the Volunteer of the Week Award and the Mucho Mass Award from the Board of Directors.

B. Requests by Councilmember Louis H. Bruni

1. Status report on the Air Passenger Survey conducted by the City of Laredo's airport consultant Vesta Rae Associates, with possible action.

Mr. Jose Flores, Airport Director, and Bill Bouldin, Marketing Director, made the presentation before the council. The survey confirms that an extraordinary number of Laredoans routinely travel to San Antonio to begin their air travel. Of every 15 air tickets purchased by Laredoans, 8 are bought here and 7 are bought in San Antonio. The survey revealed that local air travel is predominantly business oriented, as opposed to pleasure oriented. Both business and pleasure travelers listed ticket cost as the main reason they chose to fly from San Antonio. Dallas and Houston were the principal destination of the survey's respondents, followed by Las Vegas, San Antonio, and Mexico City.

A detail report is available for review in the agenda book.

- 2. Staff presentation regarding a cost proposal for the inclusion of Ponderosa Street into a current paving program, with possible action.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, reported the following cost estimate:

Street Reconstruction	:	\$39,510.00
Street Overlay	:	16,170.00
Concrete Valley Gutters:		<u>12,800.00</u>
Subtotal	:	\$68,480.00
Testing/Contingencies	:	6,848.00
Engineering	:	6,848.00
Total	:	\$82,176.00

Mayor Ramirez suggested that Public Works continues the with the repairs until we can find monies to include it into a paving/reconstruction project.

- 3. Staff presentation regarding a proposal to deal with the problem of vehicles accessing Casa Blanca Road from Clubview Drive.

Mr. Luis Landin, Traffic Manager, stated that he had talked to Mr. Cliff Wilson, Webb County Road & Bridge Director, and that they had closed the road together with the assistance from Joe Guerra, Public Works Director, who placed cables to barricade the road. He reported that Mr. Haynes would not participate in any manner.

C. Requests by Councilmember Alfonso I. Casso

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding the landfill and the possibility of producing electricity.

Joe Guerra, Public Works Director, reported that the City of Laredo government buildings and property pay \$4.5 million to CP&L per year on electricity payments while we receive about \$2 million in franchise fees. He added that there are 155 plants in the U.S. while Japan has 42. These plants burn everything. The estimated cost of a waste to energy plant is about \$60 million. He concluded by giving Cm. Casso a brochure with additional information.

- 2. Discussion and possible action regarding the planting of cypress trees on Meadow Street in front of both cemeteries.

Cm. Casso suggested that the city considers planting a row of trees along Meadow and requested that staff comes back with costs.

Mayor Ramirez requested for staff to provide a cost estimate for a wrought iron fence along Meadow.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the parking of tractor trailers in residential areas.

Cm. Casso stated that he has received numerous complaints and that our ordinances are not being enforced and it's getting out of hand.

Richard Perez, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that staff and Legal Department are in the process of developing a comprehensive ordinance and they will report to council by the May 19th meeting.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the collection of city taxes by the county.
(Co-sponsored by Councilman Louis H. Bruni)

Cm. Casso stated for the record that an EEOC complaint by Phyllis Colon was not filed against him nor Cm. Bruni, that the complaint had been filed against the City Manager only.

Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor/Collector, made a report to the council on the handling of city tax collections by her office. She reported that an estimated cost of \$1.08 per parcel would be the charged to the city for those services.

Cm. Casso wanted a report from staff on whether we can save money and how much by contracting with Ms. Barrera and a report from Mrs. Colon on whether she will need more staff.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the repaving of Malinche Street.

Cm. Casso stated that there are two things which need to be done 1) on Malinche and Willow, Ramex Construction is destroying residents' front yards. 2) on Malinche Street he noticed that they are resurfacing certain areas, but when they get to Guatemozin they stop, the curbs are not complete. He wants the projects to be finished, he will provide staff with the names and addresses of the residents, and wants to see if it can be included in one of the paving projects.

Staff will look at that the section of Malinche from Guatemozin to Chacon and will come back to council with cost estimates and a time table.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed dam by Webb County.

Cm. Casso stated that he placed this item on the agenda because the county has taken the lead and believes that the city should be involved and we should include other cities especially those upstream. He would also like to invite Raul Sanchez from St. Mary's University School of Law due to his knowledge on this item.

Mayor Ramirez told Cm. Casso that he would go to the county to take an official position.

D. Requests by Councilmember Joe A. Guerra

1. Discussion and possible action concerning a presentation by Dr. Hector Farias regarding international trade.

Motion to support the following two positions presented by Dr. Farias:

I. Taxation of international trade services.

The attempt to tax services of freight forwarders, customs brokers, transportation companies, warehousing, and distribution was narrowly averted in the House (HB 4). However, we remain concerned that this issue might be re-introduced in the Senate version of this legislation. We are strongly opposed to the taxation of international trade services and are convinced that Laredo would be negatively impacted by any such levy.

II. Elimination of Export Certifications.

The House passed HB 4 with language that eliminates the ability of Mexican walk-in shoppers to obtain export certifications from customs brokers as a means to obtain a refund for the sales taxes they have paid on their purchases. Elimination of this exemption would severely damage our retail industry, since it would be tantamount to another peso devaluation (of 8.25% to be exact).

We support the recommendations of the Coalition of Texas Customs Brokers as presented to State Comptroller John Sharp. We are concerned that the Senate and final versions of this

legislation will eliminate this exemption to the detriment of Laredo's retail industry.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Note: Mayor Ramirez left at 7:10 and Mayor Protem Casso was chairing the meeting.

E. Requests by Councilmember Mario G. Alvarado

1. Discussion and possible action requesting traffic department staff to review the traffic light signals change sequence from Del Mar Boulevard and Santa Maria up to Del Mar and Springfield in order to help improve the flow of traffic. (Co-sponsored by Joe A. Guerra)

Luis Landin, Traffic Manager, reported that on April 20th the controller was down and replaced by 1:00 a.m. and was reprogrammed as before and is presently working fine.

2. Discussion and possible action requesting traffic department staff to meet with Farias School Administrators to work on a temporary road block plan during the schools pickup and dropoff hours.

Mr. Landin reported that he will meet with Farias School Administrators.

3. Discussion and possible action requesting traffic department staff for street crossing lines for Farias Elementary School.

Mr. Landin stated that he will work with them and is presently in the process of placing cross walks.

4. Discussion and possible action requesting Public Works to setup a schedule for street sweeper maintenance along the Mines Road area.

Mayor Ramirez stated that the maintenance responsibility of Mines Road belongs to the State.

Florencio Peña, City Manager, stated that he will check with Villarreal from TxDOT on this matter and will report on any discussions with him.

5. Report from Public Works on repair work scheduled for San Lorenzo Street at the 8300 block area.

Joe Guerra, Public Works Director, stated that San Lorenzo does not have a black base. He would have to dig it up and place 6 inches of black base. He will provide a cost estimate for emergency repairs.

F. Requests by Councilmember Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo

1. Discussion and possible action to maintain branch library services at Bruni Plaza.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

33. Public hearing concerning the adoption of an ordinance setting the rates to be charged by El Metro for parking at the Laredo Transit Center, located at 1300 Farragut Street, Laredo, Texas, and for various miscellaneous fees related to contract parking as follows:
 - a) daily parking rate shall be \$1.50 per hour or portion thereof, subject to a daily maximum of \$7.50.
 - b) Contract parking rate shall be \$75.00, per month. \$40.00, shall be charged for the initial month of a contract if it begins on or after the 16th day of the month. Otherwise, no proportion of the monthly rate shall apply at either the beginning or end of a contract term.
 - c) The following miscellaneous fees shall also apply:
 - 1) refundable key deposit: \$10.00,
 - 2) replacement charge for damaged key: \$10.00,
 - 3) replacement charge for lost key: \$25.00.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance setting the rates to be charged by El Metro for parking at the Laredo Transit Center, located at 1300 Farragut Street, Laredo, Texas, and for various miscellaneous fees related to contract parking as follows:

- a) daily parking rate shall be \$1.50 per hour or portion thereof, subject to a daily maximum of \$7.50.
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XIII. MOTION TO RECESS AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

36. Award of contracts to the LOW BIDDER Autophone of Laredo, Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$20,160.00, for the purchase and installation of fifteen mobile radios for the new transit buses.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to adjourn as The Laredo Mass Transit Board and convene as City Council.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.


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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Adjournment time: 9:55 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES CONTAINED IN PAGES 01 TO 24 ARE TRUE COMPLETE AND CORRECT PROCEEDING OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH DAY OF MAY, 1997. A CERTIFIED COPY IS ON FILE AT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.



GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

Minutes approved on: May 19, 1997