

CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

MINUTES

M97-R-35

OCTOBER 6, 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, JR.,	COUNCILMEMBER,	DISTRICT I
ALFONSO I. "PONCHO" CASSO,	"	DISTRICT II
LOUIS H. BRUNI,	"	DISTRICT III
CECILIA MAY MORENO,	"	DISTRICT IV
ELISEO VALDEZ,	"	DISTRICT V
JOE A. GUERRA,	"	DISTRICT VI
MARIO G. ALVARADO,	"	DISTRICT VII
CONSUELO "CHELO" MONTALVO,	"	DISTRICT VIII
GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.,	CITY SECRETARY	
FLORENCIO PENA, III,	CITY MANAGER	
JAIME L. FLORES,	CITY ATTORNEY	

Motion to dispense with the regular order of business and move up items D(1), #54, #55, and #18 for consideration at this time.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Casso had not yet arrived.

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

Motion to move waive the rules of order and move item IX. under Communications.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IV. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

- 2. An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement providing for possible reimbursement of part of the cost of constructing a sanitary sewer line incurred by Mr. Camilo Prada.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 3. Granting a license to Grande River Communications, Inc., to erect, construct, maintain, and operate a wire telecommunications system pursuant to the City of Laredo's Wire Telecommunications System licensing Ordinance No. 96-O-185.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 4. Granting a license to GST Telecom Texas, Inc. to erect, construct, maintain, and operate a wire telecommunications system pursuant to the City of Laredo's Wire Telecommunications System licensing Ordinance No. 96-O-185.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 5. Amending Section 2-5, titled "City Council Meetings," of the code of ordinances of the City of Laredo, thereby limiting the number of discussion items that may be placed on a City Council Meeting Agenda by each councilmember to four (4); providing severability; and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

V. FINAL READINGS

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinances #97-O-235, #97-O-237, #97-O-238, #97-O-239, #97-O-240, #97-O-241, #97-O-242, #97-O-243, #97-O-244, and #97-O-245.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2415, S.F. 14283, Webb County, Texas, being a portion of that certain 2,307.116 acre tract called 2,389.5 acres, known as San Isidro Ranch, conveyed to B. Dilworth by deed recorded in Volume 220, pages 148-150 of the Deed of Records of Said County.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VII. MOTIONS

- 24. Approval of bid specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the following:
 - a) Lubricants, six month contract - Fleet Maintenance Division
 - b) Tire & Tubes, six month contract - Fleet Maintenance Division.
 - c) Windshield repair service - Fleet Maintenance Division
 - d) Office Supply Contract - All Departments
 - e) Internet Service - Public Library
 - f) Raw Water Pump Repair - Utilities Department, Water Treatment Division
 - g) Hauling service, drying sludge - Utilities Department, Water Treatment Division

A tentative bid award is scheduled for November 3, 1997.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 25. Authorization to advertise for Request for Proposal (RFPs) to provide Professional Engineering Services for mitigation of methane gas migration at the City of Laredo Type I Landfill located on Highway 359 which include the nature and extent of the methane gas migration, engineering design, preparation of construction plans and specifications with cost estimates as required for compliance with Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's Subtitle D requirements of 30 TAC 330 municipal solid waste regulations. Funding is available in the Landfill Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 26. Approval to reject the four (4) bids received September 19, 1997 and re-bid the Telecommunications Offices and Public Access Facility to be located at the Civic Center on the 900 block of Garden Street.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 27. Approval to reject two (2) bids received September 12, 1997 for the Azteca Neighborhood Park and Parking Lot Improvements, to modify plans, and re-bid the project.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 28. Approval of the contract for professional services with the Laredo Development Foundation in the amount of \$85,000.00, for fiscal year beginning October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 29. Approval of the contract for professional services with the Animal Protective Society in the amount of \$120,000.00, for fiscal year beginning October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

30. Approval of a second-year contract with VERTEX TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES of Irving, Texas, to complete Medicaid Administrative Claims for the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998. Payment will be based on a rate of twenty-two (22%) of new funds reimbursed by Medicaid to the City of Laredo.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Award of a construction contract to the LOWEST BIDDER, Reddy Engineers and Contractors, Inc., Houston, Texas, in the amount of \$2,629,749.00, for the 60 Million Gallon per Day Intake Structure at the Jefferson Street Water Treatment Plant per the Texas Water Development Board Requirements. A total of seven (7) bids were received. Funding is available in the Waterworks System Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Award of a construction contract to the SOLE BIDDER, FMC Jetway Systems, Ogden Utah, in the amount of \$1,713,766.00, for the Passenger Loading Bridges Package for the New Airport Passenger Terminal. Funding is available in FAA Grant Project No. 03-48-0136-20 which will pay 90% of the cost, the local 10% match is available in the Airport Fund. (Note: Action must first be initiated on item #56, prior to action being initiated on this item.)

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract in the amount not to exceed \$60,000.00, with the LOW BIDDER, Laboratory Corporation of America, San Antonio, Texas, to provide clinical laboratory tests on specimens submitted by the City of Laredo Health Department. This laboratory is contracted to provide laboratory clinical testing services which are not

provided in-house or by the Bureau of Laboratories of the Texas Department of Health. A total of two bids were received these services. The contract price remained the same as last year.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

34. Award of contracts to the SOLE SOURCE VENDOR, 3M Safety and Security Division, St. Paul, MN., in the amount of \$21,399.00, for the purchase and installation of a collection (book) security system. This system uses a magnetic security strip to prevent unauthorized removal of materials from the Public Library building.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to waive the rules and move up item #56.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

35. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Texas Spacesaver Systems, Inc., Houston, Texas, in the amount of \$17,955.00, for relocation services for the Public Library. The contract vendor will be responsible for the relocation of certain equipment, furniture, shelving, and the collection of books and library materials to the new Public Library. A total of three bids were received for these services. Funding is available in the Library Project Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

36. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Border Maintenance Service Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$36,600.00, for providing janitorial services for the Health Department - WIC Program, and the Santo Nino Branch Library. The scope of work

requires that the company provide all personnel, equipment, and supplies needed to properly clean the different locations. A total of three bids were received for these services. Funding is available from their respective departments.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. Approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$3,500.00, to the professional services engineering contract with Resource Management International (RMI), Inc., Austin, Texas for additional services for the telecommunications and audio visual systems for the installation of two Intermediate Distribution Facilities (IDF) in conjunction with the New Main Library. The original contract amount was \$35,293.00. This amendment will bring the contract total to \$38,793.00. Funding is available in the New Main Library Engineering Fees Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$25,000.00, to Phase II of the professional services engineering contract with CH2M Hill, San Antonio, Texas, to conduct compatibility testing for an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) System. The original contract amount was \$150,000.00. This amendment will bring the contract total to \$175,000.00. Funding is available in the Water Availability Study Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. Approval of change order no. 1, an increase in the amount of \$13,451.13, to Library Interiors, Inc., Bastrop, Texas, for four workstations and an information desk for the new Public Library. These furnishing will be needed so that the current workstations and information desk may be used at the proposed Bruni Plaza branch library. Staff had initially planned to relocated these items to the new Library building. The

workstations and information desk will be delivered with the original furniture order. The original contract amount was \$474,924.55. This change order will bring the contract total to \$488,375.68. Funding is available in the Main Library Project.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Approval of change order no. 1, an increase in the amount of \$14,537.00, to Dell Computers, Austin, Texas, for upgrading the 113 personal computers ordered for the new library. These computers will be upgraded to a faster Pentium Processor with MMX technology and will have a network card installed for an additional cost of \$128.65 per system. This will allow for faster access to the network for on-line card catalog, the Internet, CD-ROM and Video Services. The original computer configuration was ordered during the month of May. The original contract amount was \$277,641.00. This change order will bring the contract total to \$292,178.00. Funding is available from the Library construction budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Approval of change order no. 1, an increase in the amount of \$12,150.00, to Lucent Technologies, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, for materials and labor to install a fiber optic network 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. The original contract amount was \$53,327.91. This change order will bring the contract total to \$65,827.91. Funding is available from the Library construction budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Acceptance of the Milmo Avenue, East Corridor and Other Booster Pump Stations Project and approval of final payment in the amount of \$41,184.31 to Lambda Construction Company, New Braunfels, Texas. Original contract amount was \$677,400.00. Final contract amount was for \$702,086.17. The project was completed within the 265 working days allotted for the project. Funding is available in the Waterworks System Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Approving the City of Laredo Telecommunications Study as prepared by Columbia Telecommunications Corporation in order to proceed with the implementation of the Institutional Network (I-Net). This plan identifies a standard software that will be required of all users.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount \$19,500, with the City designating \$10,500.00, in matching funds for a total of \$30,000.00, for funding of the Speed STEP program for the period of October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

45. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount \$32,500, with the City designating \$17,500.00, in matching funds for a total of \$50,000.00, for funding of the "El Protector" Traffic Safety Education Program for the period of October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 46. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount \$10,000.00, with the City designating \$10,000.00, in matching funds for a total of \$20,000.00, for funding of the Occupant Protection program (seat belt enforcement) for the period of October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 47. Approval of contracts with providers listed below to provide professional health services to clients of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period of October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998:

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Contract Amount</u>
1) J & A Pharmacy	La Familia/HIV-Health and Social Services	\$75,000.00
2) Zoila Meza, LVN	Immunizations/Tuberculosis	\$25,000.00
3) Home Care of Texas	HIV-Health and Social Services	<u>\$45,000.00</u>
		<u>\$145,000.00</u>

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- 48. Presenting a status report on the progress of the Santa Isabel Water Well with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that he had a meeting with the contractor, the possible start up date for this project is still November 1st. They are having the technicians from the member "A" company to install the actual arrow unit, next week they should have some training and do some trouble shooting in the last two weeks of October.

Cm. Alvarado told Mr. Roman that they need to look at a water point for the residents in the area because many of the residents will not be able to hook up immediately.

Cm. Bruni asked Mr. Roman to look at the cost to upgrade the water supply.

Cm. Alvarado asked staff to address a letter to the County and advise them concerning the time frame that the city has gotten to have production on line and to request that Commissioner Cortez place us on the Commissioners Court for action on this matter.

Mr. Roman stated he will inform them on the firm date so they can do the planning on this matter.

49. Update on the status of the Colonias Facility Plan and financial application.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, stated that the environmental work that was holding them up has been completed, the field work has been completed, they identified five lots where the Johnston Frankenia grass was, they left out four of these lots which belonged to a corporation and which were not eligible anyway. On the fifth vacant lot they have to make an effort not to include it in the plan right now so that they don't put 5,000 people ahead of one lot. They expect the report from the company doing this environmental work to be ready by October 31st, then they will submit it to the Texas Historical Commission which should take from 30-60 days. He feels that the time that they will apply where they will put the application to the Finance Committee to the Texas Water Development Board would be January of 1998 to be funded in February.

50. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code to consult with legal counsel concerning the pending litigation filed by Jeffrey H. Tamkin and Joan Tamkin, Airport Lessee, as Plaintiffs, v. Webb County Appraisal District, Defendant, in Cause No. 97CVQ00898-D3, in the District 341st Judicial District, Webb County, Texas. Return to open session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code to consult with legal counsel concerning the pending litigation filed by Jeffrey H. Tamkin and Joan Tamkin, Airport Lessee, as Plaintiffs, v. Webb County

Appraisal District, Defendant, in Cause No. 97CVQ00898-D3, in the District 341st Judicial District, Webb County, Texas. Return to open session for possible action.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

After executive session the Mayor announced that no formal action was taken in executive session.

Motion to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to intervene in this pending lawsuit in order to preserve and protect the interests of the City of Laredo.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 51. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code to consult with legal counsel concerning the pending litigation styled Royal Joint Venture et.al. v. Louis H. Bruni, individually and in his Official Capacity as City Council Member, City of Laredo, Civil Action No. L-95-136 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code to consult with legal counsel concerning the pending litigation styled Royal Joint Venture et. al. v. Louis H. Bruni, individually and in his Official Capacity as City Council Member, City of Laredo, Civil Action No. L-95-136 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

After executive session the Mayor announced that no formal action was taken in executive session.

- 52. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 to consult with legal counsel concerning the contemplated litigation and ongoing investigation of the City of Laredo's Fleet Maintenance Department.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071

to consult with legal counsel concerning the contemplated litigation and ongoing investigation of the City of Laredo's Fleet Maintenance Department.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

After executive session the Mayor announced that no formal action was taken in executive session.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Proclaiming October as "Adopt-a-Book" Month.

Mayor Ramirez publicly read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Rose Woodruff and Mrs. Chuck Owen.

X. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

Requests by Mayor and City Councilmembers for discussion and presentation.

A. Requests by Mayor Pro Tem Jose R. Perez, Jr.

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the setting of a date to hold a workshop to identify projects which are going to be funded through an issuance of debt.

Motion to set the date of October 27, 1997.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Requests by Councilmember Alfonso "Poncho" Casso

1. Status report on the staging area for eliminating the long lines of trucks on I.H. 35, with possible action.

Cm. Casso wanted to know how many acres are being allocated for a queuing area at the 4th International Bridge for tractor trailers.

Florencio Peña, City Manager, stated that staff will provide a detail report on amount of acres on both the U.S. side and on the Mexican side.

Cm. Casso stated there are certain things that came from the Transportation Committee such as the increasing of bridge fares which he is totally against. Their recommendation was to increase bridge fares to hire more police officers, but the hiring of more police officers is not going to reduce the long lines at IH-35. They also suggested having concrete barriers on IH-35 up to where the Holiday Inn is and that does not solve the problem because we are still going to have the long lines up to Del Mar Blvd. He wants real public input and discussion so that we can come back to the public and say "you are going to have to live with it for two more years until the bridge is operational or we have some different types of solutions".

Cw. Montalvo suggested going back to using the River Drive Mall holding tank and using Santa Isabel Truck Route.

Cw. Moreno asked what would it take to get additional hours of operation.

Florencio Peña, Interim City Manager, stated that staff has had a meeting with the Laredo Transportation Association, custom brokers, TxDot, the Chairman of the Transportation Committee, other business representatives, and he invites the council to hold a public hearing and have those parties come in and give their input because they are people in the profession and they understand the situation. They will give a report to council regarding the findings of that meeting.

They felt that one of the biggest problems we now have is the ongoing construction and once it is completed and we have a dedicated lane, there will be more order to the movement because there will be two lanes that will be specifically for non-commercial type vehicles.

He added that they have worked with TxDot, there is some legislation that has been passed that allows us to dedicate a lane for commercial cargo only. In essence we need to adopt an ordinance that allows us to impose a fine for any trucks that violate that designation. They are looking at possible traffic signalization that would be introduced right prior getting into Victoria Street where the trucks may queue a little to the north of Victoria.

He said that all these things are being explored, but the overall feeling of the committee is to allow the construction to be finished, allow the markings to be done (which will be in December), monitor as to how its going to work, in addition to

that however, they recommend proceeding with the dedication of the inside lane as a commercial cargo lane.

On the issue of mornings and more hours, staff has been working on an ordinance to bring back to council to accomplish that. The use of the bridge in the morning was discussed and the feeling is that there are Mexican Customs procedures in place that probably do not encourage the use of the bridge in the morning.

Cm. Casso requested a public hearing on October 20th for input from experts in the field.

Cm. Bruni was concerned about the vehicular passengers/citizens that are driving near chemical cargo and requested that staff pursue contacting the U.S. Customs representatives and see about setting some passenger commuter lane where people that travel southbound/northbound that travel four or five times a day somehow have a card with them, or if they can expedite a lane whereby they are not be tied up in traffic. He clarified he wants staff to contact U.S. Customs to see how we can facilitate southbound/northbound vehicular passenger vehicles whereas they don't have to be blocked near 18-wheelers with hazardous materials cargo.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the fence at the City Cemetery and the planting of trees along Meadow and Saunders.

Cm. Casso stated it is his understanding that Mercy wants to pay for the planting of trees along Saunders, but that they need permission from council and we have not given them permission yet. He wants clarification on the issue because he wants to move in that direction. He also wants to know what is going to happen with the other portion of the fence, are we going to do it? If Mercy is going to pay for the trees, and if that is going to help the Tree City USA Campaign lets go for it and he also wants to know if there is a water well in the cemetery or not?

Mr. Pena stated that the money is allocated to finish the rest of the project.

Mayor Ramirez stated we are in a situation where we are looking at perhaps purchasing additional acreage because we are running out of plots, we have 550 plots that have been on the books for 100 years that have never been used by the organizations that bought them. He added that the only way that we can take possession of these lots is to come up with approximately

\$120,000, to put it in escrow so that if there are any claims on these lots in the future, that there will be a fund that there would be available. He proposed that council set aside these monies and take possession of these lots, this would add approximately seven more years of life to the cemetery. If we set aside \$120,000 we would recover those monies as we transfer the land and they would pay us the plot fee which would equate at the end to \$120,000.00. He stated it would be a good investment to proceed in that direction plus it would give council ample time to look for a new site for the city cemetery.

Motion to bring back from staff a recommendation as to how to proceed with the current plots that are unused, but claimed at the City Cemetery and what actions can be taken by the City Council to remedy that situation. A recommendation to proceed on the negotiations of planting of trees along Saunders in participation with Mercy Regional Medical Center.

Moved : Cm. Casso

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the future site of the fire stations.

Cm. Casso stated that in talking with some firefighters in regards to where to locate another station, they brought up the idea that there is some property on the airport that belongs to the city which is ideal for this because we would not have to pay for it or if we have to lease it from the airport all we would be doing is paying ourselves rent. He wants staff to seriously consider the property at the airport.

Cm. Casso wants to include item #4 as part of this discussion.

Tomas Ramirez, Fire Chief, stated that as far as the property is concern, that has been considered as one of the sites for one of the stations, unfortunately it is a little out of their response time perimeter and that is the main reason that they hold off. They may consider it in the future if they can't find anything more suitable, but at the present time they are trying to secure something closer to the Del Mar Loop, T.A.M.I.U. area or Casa Verde Road. They have had some property donated that turned out to be inadequate for their needs and they are still trying to acquire property in that area, they are still negotiating on the southeast fire station, and are still waiting on word from two landowners.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the staffing requirements of the airport crash truck.

Cm. Casso stated that many times the airport crash truck is not properly staffed, which creates a dangerous situation. That perhaps if we had a fire station close to the airport and have it properly staffed we can solve that problem.

Tomas Ramirez, Fire Chief, stated that previously they did have a full compliment of firefighters on that unit, unfortunately because of budgetary cutbacks and growth of the city and because they took them over to the Del Mar Fire Station at the time, they had to trim down on staff at this location. He added that FAA only requires sufficient firefighters it doesn't define what sufficient is. They would ideally like to have a full compliment of firefighters, unfortunately the budget does not allow for this at the present time.

Cm. Bruni stated that FAA is not interested how much freight comes in, they only categorize us on the amount of passengers that come in, so the crash truck is sufficient for the amount of passengers. He added that we should always make sure that we have a full crew for the airport crash truck and requested a report from staff with recommendations on having a full time crew, that does nothing there but guarding the safety of the citizens that fly in Continental Express, American Eagle, and Taesa. He wants to know what is sufficient personnel to man that airport crash truck, and that the chief come with an overall analysis of how he sees that developing and how it currently exists.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the image portrayed by Police Officers in the performance of their duties.
(Co-sponsored by Councilmember Joe A. Guerra)

Cm. Casso spoke of past weekend incidents that occurred where the image of the Police Department has been deteriorating to an embarrassing level and where they have been described as the Keystone Cops. He stated that this comedy of errors is becoming a tragedy of incompetence, it is an embarrassment and there have been one scandal after another. He spoke of several incidents that have occurred in the past with the previous Chief of Police, added that consultants were hired and briefed on their findings and conclusions, which stated that the most urgent problem facing the department is divided top leadership and that the chief has been unable to obtain the loyal support of every member of his executive corp. He is not saying that

it exists now, but to certain extent it does, because some of the captains are still there. It seems that these issues continue because of the way the department has been doing its job. He wants to be informed about all the judgements and everything that is happening. He added that the previous attorney never kept them abreast of that, he wants the Legal Department to advise them as to what is going on. He knows police brutality exists here in Laredo and in all the country and something needs to be done. What is wrong with the Police Department? What is it, perhaps they have not given more money to the Police Department, perhaps they need to recruit college educated people and raise salaries, perhaps they are training officers and they are going to federal agencies and we end up doing the training and then they go to other federal agencies. He feels that the problem is that we have an absence of leadership in the Police Department and that something needs to be done because there has been one scandal after another because they cannot do their job correctly.

He continued by saying that he understands that there is a shredder at PD and they need to get rid of it because that is a violation of the Local Government Code under Subtitle C. We already had a problem and we do not want more problems over there. They never found out what happened with the lost fingerprints, and he never got an explanation that he can live with. He concluded by asking what as council can they do to help? Do they need that they appropriate more monies? He asked what can they do to rectify the situation because its getting to become a tracksuit of incompetence and its a joke.

Agustin Dovalina, III, Police Chief, replied that they are not a department filled with incompetents, he has very dedicated police officers who give their "all" everyday to go ahead and perform their duties as required to do so. He added that they are not perfect and they are not an ideal police department, but again the police officer in all the country are trying to provide nothing short, but the best police services. This is growing community and they are doing their best to correct anything that comes along. In recent weeks there have a been a number incidents that have occurred, some of which are still under investigation and he will not go into specifics. They are looking at the process and procedures in place and trying to implement something new by way of improving their ways of conducting investigations and providing the services that they are supposed to provide the community.

With respect to the budget, it would be ideal for him to come and ask for additional monies, more officers, and increase

salaries but what he is trying to do is work within the confines of what they have on the table and not to create much of a burden on the city, but to work within the system to provide the best that they can. They are looking at professionalism and at added training overall from the supervisors ranks all the way to the line personnel and into customer service as well. He said that with Civil Service who has that added cover that limits them to go ahead as much of the corrective and disciplinary action as they would like to take, and of course that is due to a due process that each and everyone has, they are trying to do the best they possibly services.

Cm. Casso stated they will help in any way they can, if it requires more monies that they let them know because something needs to be done to restore faith, he wants the image to be improved.

Cw. Montalvo stated that she wants the chief to ask for whatever he needs.

C. Requests by Councilmember Louis H. Bruni

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the development of some type of mechanism to set a flight path for all incoming and outgoing air traffic as well as time windows that they must follow.

Cm. Bruni showed a video on the kind and type of dramatic increase of air traffic coming into our airport, the purpose of showing this to the public is to show the increase of air traffic the city is receiving which is good news to the city, but to a certain part of District II it is impeding in their sleeping habits.

He said that the jets are landing from south to north and would like to show the public the reason for noisy nights at this district and to show them the type of aircraft coming in, that is generating the same noise as the 727's.

He would like to see if staff can have a dialogue with the transportation/aviation people that are using the runways and also the increased number of private and corporate jets that leave our airport on a daily basis. He stated it is inappropriate where it puts the residents in District II at a disadvantage that they are constantly bombarded 24 hours a day with incoming/outgoing jet and commercial airlines. He wants to meet with staff and have the Airport Director to set some

kind of parameter or develop some plan for incoming/outgoing freight, airlines, corporate and private jets, and have some kind of guidelines that they must follow when approaching and departing our airport.

He directed staff to meet with FAA and set some kind of guidelines for these traffic so that in an orderly fashion they depart the runway and arrive in Laredo, plus maybe looking at the parameters or the possibilities of giving the people in District II on the south part of the runway at least a couple of hours of sleep.

Jose L. Flores, Airport Director, stated that indeed traffic has gone up in the airport, that is why the city authorized a noise study to be made and basically that noise study is a perquisite to obtain federal funds to help mitigate some of the noise concerns. Part of the noise abatement plan calls for the acquisition of some noise impacted residential structures, sound proofing the homes, and buying aviation easements from the impacted residents. They have not placed that plan into effect (the acquisition part) because of the funding limitations, it would cost approximately from \$35 million-\$50 million to do the whole project that the plan recommends. On the airport side, they are reconstructing runway 35R, 17L, 35R that will shift the noise contour slightly further to the east and a little bit further away from the south end of the airport and the more heavily residentially impacted areas. They have noise abatement signs to remind the pilots to be conscientious about the residents on the south end of the airport. He said that they hope to one day extend the runway to also help mitigate the noise impact south of the airport, by the year 2000 they will have to phase out all the noisier aircraft and implement the Stage III aircraft which is a more quiet operating aircraft.

2. Discussion and possible action on instructing staff to conduct a traffic flow study around the Lamar Middle and Ryan Elementary school area. (To include Musser, Martin, Texas, Louisiana and Milmo Street).

Motion to instruct staff to conduct a traffic flow study around the Lamar Middle and Ryan Elementary School area to include Musser, Martin, Texas, Louisiana and Milmo Street.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Casso

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report on the Chacon Creek wastewater interceptor with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, stated that the project is on schedule. On the right-of-way acquisition, they have the assurances that 26 out of the 32 tracks will give an easement or a right-of-way. On the six (6) left, CD staff have stated that by the end of the month they should be done with that. That assurance would allow them to proceed with a potential bid date sometime in December, the environmental report was finished, they will hold a public hearing on October 28th and bearing any comments and investigations, the finding of no significant impacts on something called the F--- by the EPA would come 30-60 days later, they will be able to bid this process by December.

D. Requests by Councilmember Joe A. Guerra

1. Presentation by Diana L. Martinez regarding the re-painting of the water tank located on Del Mar Boulevard to read: J.B. Alexander Bulldogs Football Bi-District Champions '96-'97, with possible action.

Motion to instruct staff to look at water towers in the area of J.B. Alexander to find a suitable water tower for the school.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

54. Public hearing concerning the application by Zachry Exploration, Inc., authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit for Gas Extraction on 5.0 acres out of Porcion 35, as further described by metes and bounds, located east of Highway 83 and south of Southgate Boulevard, known as the Zachry No. 3 Well. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this Special Use Permit.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit for Gas Extraction on 5.0 acres out of Porcion 35, as further described by metes and bounds, located east of Highway 83 and south of Southgate Boulevard, known as the Zachry No. 3 Well. Providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Cm. Bruni stated that the Oil and Gas Review Committee had met and approved this request.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Perez

- 55. Public hearing concerning the application by Plantation Centre Ltd., amending Ordinance No. 94-O-077, authorizing the issuance of Special Use Permit for a gas extraction facility on Lot 1, Block 1, Plantation Centre Subdivision, Unit 1, located on the northeast corner of the intersection of McPherson Road and Del Mar Boulevard, amending Section 3, (1), by changing the distance requirement for placement of structures near the well-head from 250 feet to 100 feet. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this amendment to the Special Use Permit for gas extraction.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending Ordinance No. 94-O-077, authorizing the issuance of Special Use Permit for gas extraction facility on Lot 1, Block 1, Plantation Centre Subdivision, Unit 1, located on the northeast corner of the intersection of McPherson Road and Del Mar Boulevard, amending Section 3, (1), by changing the distance requirement for placement of structures near the well-head from 250 feet to 100 feet; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Cm. Bruni reported that the Oil and Gas Committee had met and approved this request.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Guerra

- 56. Public hearing regarding an ordinance amending the City of Laredo FY 1997-98 Annual Budget to increase the revenues by an amount of \$2,000,000.00 received from the Federal Aviation Administration Grant Offer No. 3-48-0136-20 and appropriating \$2,222,223.00, comprising of the \$2,000,000.00, grant plus the local match of \$222,223.00, to the Airport Capital Outlay/Improvements other than Buildings account for the purpose of purchasing four passenger boarding bridges for the new airport passenger terminal and to acquire a portion of the Runway Protection Zone to Runway 35L. The local match to the grant is available in the Airport new passenger terminal reserve account line item.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo FY 1997-98 Annual Budget to increase the revenues by an amount of \$2,000,000.00 received from the Federal Aviation Administration Grant Offer No. 3-48-0136-20 and appropriating \$2,222,223.00, comprising of the \$2,000,000.00, grant plus the local match of \$222,223.00, to the Airport Capital Outlay/Improvements other than Buildings account for the purpose of purchasing four passenger boarding bridges for the new airport passenger terminal and to acquire a portion of the Runway Protection Zone to Runway 35L. The local match to the grant is available in the Airport new passenger terminal reserve account line item.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cw. Moreno
 For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Bruni

57. Public hearing approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budgets in the amount of \$492,000.00, for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program and \$146,000.00 for the (Community) Health Education Project (total \$638,000.00) of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budgets in the amount of \$492,000.00, for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program and \$146,000.00 for the (Community) Health Education Project (total \$638,000.00) of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998; and increase revenue line item 226-0000-323-4034 from \$0 to \$492,000.00, and 226-000-323-4069 from \$0 to \$146,000.00, and expenditure line item 226-6065 from \$0 to \$492,000.00 and 226-6066 from \$0 to \$146,000.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Casso
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

58. Public hearing approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budgets in the amount of \$42,000.00, for the Chronic Disease Prevention Program, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Project, of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budgets in the amount of \$42,000.00, for the Chronic Disease Prevention Program, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Project, of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998; and increase revenue line item 226-0000-323-4055 from \$0 to \$42,000.00, and expenditure line item 226-6068 from \$0 to \$42,000.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 59. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$330,110.00. The Department of Justice will provide \$297,099.00, and the City will match \$33,011.00, for the first year of funding. This supplemental award is under the "Universal Hiring" Grant for the COPS Ahead Grant which will fund the salaries and fringe benefits of ten police officers for a period of three years. The total amount of the grant is \$750,000.00, with the City's match being \$407,650.00, for a three year period (August 1, 1997 through July 31, 2000).

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approving amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$330,110.00. The Department of Justice will provide \$297,099.00, and the City will match \$33,011.00, for the first year of funding. This supplemental award is under the "Universal Hiring" Grant for the COPS Ahead Grant which will fund the salaries and fringe benefits of ten police officers for a period of three years. The total amount of the grant is \$750,000.00, with the City's match being \$407,650.00, for a three year period (August 1, 1997 through July 31, 2000).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 60. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1996-1997 Special ordinance to amend City of Laredo's 1996-1997 Special Police Program Budget in the amount of \$98,391.00, for an agreement with the Drug Enforcement Administration for the funding of an HIDTA Intelligence Unit for the period of October 1, 1997 and ending September 30, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approving amending the City of Laredo's 1996-1997 Special ordinance to amend City of Laredo's 1996-1997 Special Police Program Budget in the amount of \$98,391.00, for an agreement with the Drug Enforcement Administration for the funding of an HIDTA Intelligence Unit for the period of October 1, 1997 and ending September 30, 1998.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

