

CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

MINUTES

M97-R-39

NOVEMBER 17, 1997

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ROLL CALL

IN ATTENDANCE:

SAUL N. RAMIREZ, JR., MAYOR
JOSE R. PEREZ, JR., COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT I
LOUIS H. BRUNI, " , DISTRICT II
ALFONSO I. "PONCHO" CASSO, " , DISTRICT III
ELISEO VALDEZ, JR. " , DISTRICT V
JOE A. GUERRA, " , DISTRICT VI
MARIO G. ALVARADO, " , DISTRICT VII
CONSUELO "CHELO" MONTALVO, " , DISTRICT VIII
GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR., CITY SECRETARY
FLORENCIO PENNA, CITY MANAGER
JERRY CAIN, ASST. CITY ATTORNEY

ABSENCES:

City Attorney Jaime L. Flores.

Motion to excuse Cw. Moreno.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to waive the regular order of business and move up items

40-A(1), IX-C, IX-A, and D(3) for discussion and consideration at this time.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IV. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

- 2. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with St. Patrick's Church for the use of Veterans Field to conduct and promote a religious conference.
 - 1) Lease term is for 3 (three) days commencing on December 12, 1997 and ending December 14, 1997.
 - 2) Total rent will be \$3,000.00.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 3. Amending Ordinance No. 96-O-163, to authorize the City to accept water rights in lieu of payment of water availability fees, at a negotiated equivalency when the City intends to acquire real estate for a valid public purpose.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

V. FINAL READINGS

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinance #97-O-272, #97-O-273, #97-O-274, #97-O-275.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 4. 97-O-272 Repealing ordinance 97-O-149 dated July 7, 1997, Section 7; to decrease the fare on the EL LIFT Transportation Program from \$1.00 to \$0.75. Providing for publication and effective date of November 18, 1997. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #97-O-272.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 5. 97-O-273 Amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget

in the amount of \$50,000.00, and appropriate these funds to the Department of Telecommunications salary line item to establish the position of Telecommunications Network Specialist. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #97-O-273.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 6. 97-O-274 Amending the City of Laredo FY 1997-98 Annual Budget by reclassifying three firefighters to three Captains for the Airport Fire and Rescue Unit and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #97-O-274.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 7. 97-O-275 Amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget by authorizing the reclassification of one (1) Captain, two (2) Lieutenants, three (3) Sergeants and ten (10) Investigator positions at the Laredo Police Department and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget. (City Council) (As Amended)

Motion to approve Ordinance #97-O-275.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VI. RESOLUTIONS

- 8. 97-R-126 Supporting the designation of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo as an American Heritage River. (Sponsored by Mayor Saul N. Ramirez, Jr.)

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-126.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 6 Against: 1 Abstain: 0
Cm. Guerra

9. 97-R-136 Accepting a grant from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$415,388.00, in funds and \$31,200.00, in State direct assistance, for the Comprehensive Public Health Services Programming of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning Sept. 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998.
- Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-136.
- Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
10. 97-R-137 Accepting a grant from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$125,000.00, and in-kind match of \$58,388.00, for the School-Based Health Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, and August 31, 1998.
- Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-137.
- Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
11. 97-R-139 Accepting a grant from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$11,400.00, for the Border Area Survey facilitated by the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998.
- Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-139.
- Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
12. 97-R-140 Incorporating into the Street Closing/ Sales Policy Handbook, as Section 10, Provisions requiring the potential buyer or lessee of a former street right-of-way to submit a property improvement plan for said right-of-way when the proposed use is for commercial or any other use, other than residential.
- 1) The improvement plan shall provide, at no cost to the City, for the elimination of all indication that said property was previously a street by including and not limited to the removal,

- extension, closure, widening of curbs and gutters, landscaping and fencing, etc.
- 2) The street closing division will provide the Traffic, Engineering, Planning and Building Departments with copies of the proposed improvement plan for their review/comments, and recommendations,
 - 3) The improvement plan will be incorporated as part of the Street Closure/Sales Ordinances which will be submitted for Council approval.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-140.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

13. 97-R-141 Declaring the vote of the governing body of the City of Laredo for its nominated candidates to the Webb County Tax Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-141.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

14. 97-R-143 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$277,757.00 for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The U.S. Department of Justice's contribution will be \$249,981.00, with the City designating \$27,776.00, in matching funds. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1999.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-143.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

15. 97-R-144 Accepting a grant from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$450,000.00, for the Children's Health Insurance Pilot Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning December 1, 1997, through August 31, 1999.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-144.

Moved : Cm. Perez
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 16. 97-R-145 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute an interlocal governmental agreement between the City of Laredo and the Laredo Independent School District regarding a joint use and maintenance agreement for the Cigarroa Neighborhood Recreation Center as authorized by and pursuant to Chapter 791 V.T.C.A., Texas Government Code.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-145.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
 Cm. Perez

- 17. 97-R-146 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute an interlocal governmental agreement between the City of Laredo and the Laredo Independent School District regarding a joint use and maintenance agreement for the Farias and Katherine Tarver Neighborhood Recreation Centers as authorized by and pursuant to Chapter 791 V.T.C.A., Texas Government Code.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-146.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
 Cm. Perez

- 18. 97-R-147 Supporting the Calle Iturbide Redevelopment Project, Downtown Laredo, Webb County, Texas.
(Sponsored by Cm. Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo)

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-147.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 19. 97-R-148 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the University of Texas/Border Region Health

Professional Education Initiative in the amount of \$17,983.00, for the purchase of health related materials; and authorizing the City Manager to sign contracts and submit any and all related documents as required.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-148.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. 97-R-149 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Texas State Library for the 1998 MURL Grant Program in the amount of \$22,046.00, for the purchase of CD-ROM materials; and authorizing the City Manager to sign contracts and submit any and all related documents as required.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-149.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. 97-R-150 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Water Rights Sales Agreement for the purchase of 898.75 acre feet of Class A water rights from Certificate of Adjudication #23-582 for a total of \$258,840.00, from Winding Brook Corporation; authorizing the City Manager to make application to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission for their conversion to municipal use, establish a diversion point, and have the City of Laredo's Certificate of Adjudication #23-3997 amended.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-150.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. 97-R-151 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute an interlocal government agreement between the City of Laredo and the County of Webb to provide funding for the Meals on Wheels Program at a cost of \$18,750.00, contract term is for 12 months commencing retroactively on October 1, 1997; providing for

severability and effective date.

Motion to approve Resolution #97-R-151.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. MOTIONS

23. Approval of construction plans and authorization to advertise for bids for the Roof Repairs at the Center for the Arts Building Project. A tentative bid award is scheduled for January 5, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Approval of construction plans and authorization to advertise for bids for the Market Street Tennis Courts Improvements. A tentative bid award is scheduled for January 5, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Approval of bid specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the following:
a) Printing Services, Birth and Death Certificates - Health Department
b) SCBA Pak Alert Equipment - Fire Department
A tentative bid award is scheduled for December 15, 1997.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Approval of bid specifications and authorizing to solicit bids for the purchase of a high vacuum/high temperature garbage sterilization system for the new passenger terminal. This system is required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in order to properly discard garbage arriving in international

commercial passenger flights. USDA recommends using this sterilization method instead of an incinerator.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Authorizing the issuance of a Request for Proposals for architectural design and engineering services for the Paseo del Antiguo Laredo project.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Award of contract to the **LOW BIDDER**, Southwestern Bell Internet Services, San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$16,775.00, for the securing of a one year contract for Internet services for the Public Library. Internet access will be available for all patrons using computers at the new Library building and at the Santo Nino Branch facility. Only a one year commitment is needed due the construction of the City's Institutional Network (I-Net) which will provide Internet access for all City departments.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Award of six month supply contracts to the **LOW BIDDERS**, A to Z Tire & Battery, Laredo, Texas (\$41,164.86), Goodyear Auto Store, Laredo, Texas (\$46,577.76), and STR Tire Co., Laredo, Texas (\$2,040.77) to supply tires and tubes for all City vehicles. The bid pricing is approximately 3% less than the previous contract period. A total of three bids were received for this purchase.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Award of a construction contract to the LOWEST BIDDER, Molano Construction Company, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$788,068.00, for the Telecommunications Offices and Public Access Facility. Funding is available from the Reseve Appropriation. Additionally, the award is recommended subject to the approval of a transfer of \$375,000.00, from the Public Access Channel Restricted Funds Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Award of an engineering contract, for an amount not to exceed \$32,950.00, to EMCON Engineering and Environmental Services, Fort Worth, Texas, to provide professional engineering services for Mitigation of Methane Gas Migration at the City of Laredo Type I Landfill located at 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 the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Subtitle D Requirements of 30 TAC 330 Municipal Solid Waste Regulations. Funding is available in Landfill Engineering Fees Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to direct staff to include the partnering of gas production in the future with the private sector.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Refund of property taxes in various amount to the following individuals or companies:
- a. Clark Rental System, Inc. in the amount of \$2,439.60, as a result of a clerical error.
 - b. Mitsui Vendor Leasing (USA) in the amount of \$6,517.88, as a result of a double assessment, and
 - c. Westerham Co., Inc. in the amount of \$22,573.05, as a result of a final judgement on litigation.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 33. Approval of change order no. 1, a decrease of \$12,307.90 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, acceptance of the Paving Improvements on Hilltop Road Improvements on Hilltop Road Improvements Project (approximately 1250 L.F. from Interstate IH-35 to Wagner Court), and approval of final payment in the amount of \$40,737.70 to Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Funding is available in Street Fund -Hilltop Street Project.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 34. Approval of change order no. 1, a net decrease of \$12.70 to the construction contract with Ramex Construction Company, Houston, Texas, for the Santa Maria Avenue Drainage Improvements between Del Mar Boulevard and Markley Lane for a modification of the pavement section for the patch work along Markley and Island, the addition of compacted caliche with prime coat for patch work along Santa Maria Avenue, and additional junction boxes at inlet locations to avoid adjustments/ relocations of water transmission lines. The original contract amount was \$1,993,475.00 and this change order brings the total contract amount to \$1,993,462.30. Funding is available in Drainage Improvements - Santa Maria Drainage Improvements Account.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 35. Approval of General Fund Aid to Other Agencies Contracts for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998, in the amount of \$436,093.00.

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>FY 97-98 FUNDING</u>
1. Border Area Nutrition Council	\$ 22,500
2. Boy's and Girls Club	\$ 99,475
3. Communities in Schools	\$ 12,500

4. Catholic Social Services of Laredo, Inc.	\$ 11,250
5. Laredo Regional Food Bank, Inc.	\$ 18,000
6. Laredo State Center-Primavera	\$ 11,250
7. Laredo Webb County Food Bank	\$ 28,050
8. Lifeline of Laredo, Inc.	\$ 9,000
9. Literacy Volunteers of America-Laredo	\$ 7,500
10. Mi Laredo Goals for the 90's	\$ 9,300
11. Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center	\$ 75,000
12. Sacred Heart Children's Home	\$ 2,625
13. The Rio Grande International Study Center	\$ 6,375
14. Laredo Webb County Child Welfare	\$ 5,780
15. Webb County American Red Cross	\$ 6,675
16. Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc.	\$ 7,500
17. BEST-Bringing Everyone Special Together	\$ 14,063
18. Laredo Webb Neighborhood Housing Svcs.	\$ 15,000
19. SER Job For Progress, Inc.	\$ 2,250
20. Bethany House	\$ 12,000
21. Paisano Girl Scout Council	\$ 10,000
22. Stop Child Abuse and Neglect, Inc.	\$ 50,000
<u>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>\$436,093</u>

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

(Cm. Alvarado abstained on item #22 only)

36. Approval of Hotel/Motel Fund Aid to Other Agencies Contracts for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998, in the amount of \$360,264.00.

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>FY 97-98 FUNDING</u>
1. Border Olympics, Inc.	\$ 9,000
2. Laredo Children's Museum	\$ 40,000
3. Laredo Little Theater	\$ 11,839
4. Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra	\$ 37,000
5. LCC Dance Theater	\$ 5,000
6. LCC Dance Performance Troupe	\$ 5,000
7. LCC Music Department	\$ 12,600
8. LCC Guitar Ensembles	\$ 5,215
9. Laredo Center for the Arts	\$131,360
10. Los Caminos Del Rio, Inc.	\$ 10,000
11. Lulac Council #12	\$ 4,500
12. Webb County Heritage Foundation	\$ 27,390
13. WCHF/Republic of the Rio Grande Museum	\$ 25,360
14. Society of Martha Washington	\$ 4,500
15. Lulac Council #7	\$ 2,500
16. Latin American Int'l Sports Hall of Fame	\$ 4,000

17. San Augustine Church	\$ 20,000
18. Ballet Folklorico	\$ 5,000
TOTAL HOTEL/MOTEL FUND	<u>\$360,264</u>

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

37. Approval of change order no. 1 to increase the contract time by 100 working days to the construction contract with Ramex Construction Company, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for the Manadas Creek 24 Inch Wastewater Interceptor as part of the North Laredo/Webb County Infrastructure Improvements Project (McPherson Road Extension) Economic Development Administration (EDA) Project No. 08-01-02878. The recommended additional construction contract time is due mainly to delays associated with additional Federal and State Requirements on Environmental Assessment and an antiquity assessment required by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Historical Commission, respectively, and also to unexpected subsurface conditions not revealed by the geotechnical subsurface exploration. The original contract amount of \$2,229,445.00 remains the same, and the original construction contract time of 260 working days, is increased by 100 working days, therefore, the project is scheduled for completion by March 1998.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

38. Authorization to cancel the last City Council Meetings for the months of November (November 24, 1997) and December (December 22, 1997) as a result of activities due to the holidays.

Motion to authorize to cancel the last City Council Meetings for the months of November (November 24, 1997) and December (December 22, 1997) as a result of activities due to the holidays.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

39. Discussion and possible action regarding planning for a special election for the Office of Mayor, City of Laredo.

Motion to instruct staff to proceed to prepare the necessary ordinance calling a Special City Election to fill the vacancy of Mayor for January 17, 1998.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Presentation by Larry Collette of the General Services Administration regarding the design of the proposed new U.S. Courthouse to be built in Laredo.

Mr. Collette made a presentation of the design for the proposed U.S. Courthouse which will be located to the northwest corner of City Hall. They have presently acquired half of the site and are continuing to purchase the rest of the property and they are still continuing negotiations on the remaining portion of the site. The project is anticipated to be completed by March 1998.

Note: The following is a verbatim requested by GSA on the item.

Mayor Ramirez - "We have under communications IX. item a. presentation by Larry Collette of the General Services Administration regarding the design of the proposed new U.S. Courthouse to be built in Laredo."

Mr. Collette: "Good evening Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Larry Collette I work in the Portfolio Management Division, of the Greater Southwest Region of the General Services Administration in Forth Worth. Thank you for the opportunity to present the design for the new court house in Laredo. Roger Curtis the Project Manager and members of the design team from the A/E firm that's the Architectural Engineering Firm, HDR will be making the presentation shortly. First, it is my pleasure to announce that the government has recently purchased half of the site that is the block surrounded by Salinas, Washington, Juarez and Victoria. Negotiations are continuing in the remaining

portion of the site, the block immediately east of the purchased block and west of the County Court House. GSA hopes to complete the site acquisition by March 1998. Now..I'll let Roger and the design architect...Rob West make the presentation."

Roger Curtis - "Thank you Larry. This project started quite sometime ago, about six years ago, as a matter of fact. In June of '96 there was a study done in which to determine what was the best way to provide a U.S. Courthouse here in Laredo and at that the time, the HDR the design team presently doing the design conducted a study and contacted many of the local people and organizations to develop a study. From their study, it was determined to build the new Courthouse downtown, in which we are in the process of designing at this time. The design was started in January, its been designed under an.. a design excellence program. This is a program that GSA has ---- and tried and make our buildings better buildings not only for the tenants, but also for the community in which it resides. Important difference in the design excellence program is that we now incorporate nationally recognized experts, we call them peers in our design process and they have been involved all the way up to this point. As a matter of fact we have a meeting tomorrow with John U---on of the peers to further develop the design. We are presently at approximately 50% of the design, what that means is that we've pretty much established what the building is gonna look like as far as the general shape or where its gonna be, that sort of thing. We're working now on the refinements of that design.

At this time I'd like to introduce Rob West who's the project architect, project architect from HDR....Thank you very much."

Rob West -"We just have uh...uh...a few slides, I don't know maybe ten or twelve just sort of show how the building is organized, where it is and uh....I'm sure we're going to need to turn off this lights, if possible."

Mayor Ramirez - "Sure...we can take care of that....Marcos...we'll fix it up."

Rob West - "We included just a couple of slides here that I'm sure you are all quite familiar with... when we started the process and working with a lot of the people in the court system here, tried to get a sense of the community which is always where we try to start. This is such a wonderful community, the heritage that exists here is something that I think the whole design team was pretty excited about. What we were trying to do was to blend two basic issues in the appearance of the building. First of all, we were dealing of course with the heritage of Laredo, and also the heritage of federal court houses and of course you have a very beautiful example of new classical design in the limestone court house currently on Jarvis Plaza. We...as...I believed Larry mentioned I don't know if you can see the area outlined in red is the site we are looking at now, it will front on Victoria Street...thanks Roger...of course if you can maybe point to where we are right. One of the things that we are really looking to, to take advantage of, is the opportunity on Salinas Street which will now terminate at the entry to the site to have a very inviting and open courtyard or plaza facing south towards the historic downtown district. Also, to front the front door of the new courthouse on the Victoria Street and reflect the existing organization of this sort of institutional area...this building, the county court house and so on also fronting on the same street. Its sort of dark isn't it...initially we looked at six or eight schemes of which again, as Roger mentioned, thru a very intensive process working with people in the local court, as well as architects from around the country trying determine which of three basic approaches would be most suitable. Now as you can perhaps imagine a lot of that was driven by the function and the security requirements of a courthouse, I think we all remember the

tragedy in Oklahoma city and a lot of the issues that have driven courthouse designs since then, have a lot to do with security. I'll point out certain features, in any event this is one scheme that shows the building set to the west of the site, you can perhaps see on the background the existing Webb County Court House. It was the second scheme that was fronted exactly on the closure of Salinas Street and I was attempting to break the scale of the building down onto smaller elements doing with more...uh...I guess you could say...with more specifics Laredo architectural features, protocol and the central courtyard, and the buildings were broken down into basic three pieces sort of arranged around the center. This one is a lot of promise and a lot of discussion unfortunately in terms of its functional accommodation of the needs of the court, it was determined finally that it wasn't, it didn't provide us with this functionally as clean a solution. This shows an early example of what was finally determined to be the scheme which...that's not at...this is a more refined version. What we are looking at again, this is a view of Victoria Street again with the county court on the background and on the right the city hall. What we are trying to do is to situate the plaza that you see on the ---ground there directly on the Salinas Street corridor so what one would see coming up that street is an open plaza, there would be trees water features and the rotunda which you can see in the f--- ground of the building. It an "L" shape building around, to the left there is a wing that houses all the office components, the U.S. Attorney's office, the Clerk of Court and so on...and behind the rotunda are the courts themselves and...again, that's a very st-----t sort of security and functional requirements that drove a lot of the decisions on this scheme. This shows a site plan...again...the plaza in the center...the building in sort of an "L" shape configuration around it and heavy planning along Victoria Street because we were conscious of the fact that the facade to the right was a solid wall for security

reasons and so what we wanted to do is soften that wall and really focus the attention of public to the courtyard in the rotunda. This shows an elevation looking at it from the south and again you eye coming from Salinas would be at the rotunda and the plaza. This is the north, the east side facing the Webb County Courthouse, this is a view from the north, this are the office components ---along the north as well as loading docks and some mechanical areas. This is a view...although we looking at the plantings the top of the rotunda has gotten a lot of debate...I think the ---- was brought up ...we are looking at...and some other features that'll be looked at tomorrow, but in any event this shows to a certain the degree the character looking in the courtyard and this is sort of a bird's eye view again with Victoria Street in the fair ground heavy plannings to the right and left and formal courthouse steps coming up to a --- -courtyard into the building. I think this is my last...slide.

Mr. Curtis -"I failed to mention the fact that during this entire process we've been working with the State Historical Commission and we have a memorandum of agreement with them and have had many meetings with them...in working with them."

Mayor Ramirez -"Let me just for the record read a letter we received on Friday from the Webb County Historical Commission and is addressed to me and the councilmembers and it reads as follows. They weren't able to be here cause they were having some sort of gathering, but they've all concurred with this is says:

"The Webb County Historical Commission wishes to express its concern regarding the proposed design of the new Federal Courthouse of Webb County-Laredo. This design, which was prepared without any community input, undercuts local efforts to maintain consistency in the architecture of our historic downtown area.

As to its overall appearance, the design does not incorporate Border regional architectural components. As to its material, limestone is planned, which is not keeping with the local materials.

We would recommend softening the northern elevation, as it provides, a "fortress-like appearance" as presently designed. Also we would recommend a change in the proposed blue tinted windows, which are not permitted in the Department of Interior guidelines for our historic areas.

We respectfully request your consideration and assistance in providing these recommendations brought forth by community members of Laredo, Webb County, to GSA and Henningson, Durham and Richardson, Inc., who are responsible for the design. We thank you for encouraging the Federal Courthouse to remain in our downtown as it will significantly contribute to our overall revitalization efforts. Sincerely.... and its signed by the Chairman, Nina Nixon-Mendez, and endorsed by the members of the board.

Mayor -So may I suggest, Mr. Collette that perhaps you can get in contract with the Historical Commission members and I'd be glad to give you a copy of this letter...you have one already?.

Mr. Collette -"I just was given one tonight."

Mayor Ramirez -"o.k. well....it was sent Friday but it got to my office today. So I just wanted to read it for the record since we are like 50% into this that we bring these folks in and perhaps see what we can work out."

Mr. Collette -"If I could?"

Mayor Ramirez -"sure...sure..."

Mr. Collette -"A lot of these comments are those that.... like I said, we've been working with the State Historical Commission and a lot of these

comments are the same as what the State Historical folks have presented. The mention of limestone, limestone is a material at the present courthouse and so we wanted to keep that...uh...you can't see this very well but on the front of the courthouse there was very small windows and this same ----- on the other side. This original design, since that design we have met with the State Historical Commission and we are working to get away from the fortress look, we certainly are, we are working on the rotunda and r----- and the finish--- and we will get in contact.

Mayor Ramirez -"I surely appreciate that...thank you very much, any question for the representatives of GSA, if not, thank you so much for your presentation.

- b. Presentation by Armando Hinojosa, Artist, of a portion of the design of the "Campfire Scene" to be placed at the Laredo International Airport.

Mr. Hinojosa exhibited a set of two horses which represents 1/3 lifesize of the project. The completion date is one year.

- c. Mayor Ramirez tendered his resignation from the Office of Mayor effective as of this date. The letter read as follows:

Dear Colleagues:

I officially tender my resignation from the Office of Mayor of the City of Laredo.

It has indeed been an honor for me to serve the citizens of this City as both a City Council Member and most recently as Mayor. I take with me a great sense of pride for having in some small way contributed to the great strides that Laredo has made over the past few years, and look forward to seeing my City continue to grow and prosper as its prominence as an International Trade Center is maintained and expanded.

I have enjoyed working with each of you, as well as with the members of previous City Councils that have served before you. The experience has been both fruitful and rewarding, and together we have been able to move the City forward. I leave you with my best wishes, and wish you God's Speed in the months to come as you tackle the hard issues facing Laredo. Thank you and God Bless You.

- d. Cm. Guerra publicly congratulated the United Longhorns for the

United High School Football Team for reaching district play.

- e. Mayor Ramirez publicly congratulated the District Champs J.W. Nixon Mustangs.

X. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

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

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

1. Presentation by Curtis Grace, H.E.B. Store Director and Jesse Castillo, H.E.B. Store Director inviting of H.E.B. concerning the annual "Feast of Sharing" to be held at the Laredo Civic Center on Thursday, November 27, 1997, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Curtis Grace and Jesse Castillo from H.E.B. invited the Mayor, Council, and the general public to their "Feast of Sharing" on November 27th.

2. Presentation by Jesus Hernandez regarding support for a project to develop the banks of the Rio Grande.

Mr. Hernandez expressed his concern that the river banks have not been given the attention necessary to clean the Rio Grande River and to provide a walkway along the river. He urge the council to place a priority to the river project and to utilize the Corps of Engineers.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of a Citizens Marine Corps Reserve Project Review Committee.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to proceed to appoint a working Citizens Marine Corps Reserve Project Review Committee to do some work at United South School, plus other smaller projects for the city.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Requests by Councilmember Louis H. Bruni

1. Discussion and possible action directing staff to develop a funding mechanism to complete the sidewalk around Newman Elementary School.

Cm. Bruni said he has been trying to secure the funding to build the mentioned sidewalk. They had instructed staff to go out on bids at the last meeting and they do have information on the bids. Subsequently, last week he was able to secure an additional donation besides the \$15,500 that has been secured from Sonat Exploration. He was able to secure an additional \$2,000 from Capital Aggregates, LTD in San Antonio, and in addition to that he has also secured an extra \$5,500 from H.B. Zachry bringing up the amount to the total contributions to \$23,200. He is anticipating additional contributions from other oil companies for the sidewalk. He wants to see the status in terms of shortfall. He said we also have a commitment from UISD of \$25,000 so he would like to see where we are at so that they can award the bid at the next meeting and start construction during the Christmas Holidays.

Florencio Peña, Interim City Manager, stated this project had already gone out on bids and that the lowest bid received was Pete Gallegos with \$83,275.50.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer quoted the breakdown on the financing of this project was as follows:
He said they received a low bid of \$ 83,275.50 from Gallegos Paving, the pledge donation from Sonat of \$15,712, left a balance for construction of \$67,563.00, Cm. Bruni has approximately \$7,500, UISD has a pledge \$25,000, which would leave a shortfall of about \$35,000.00.

Cm. Bruni asked if they could find some funding to at least cut this \$35,000 in half to see if he can find the rest, he wants this uncommitted to building the sidewalk.

Motion directing staff to find funds and approve half of the balance (\$17,500) as the City's share.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Casso

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

At this time Cm. Casso announced that he would take item C(2) first because it would lead into item C(1).

C. Requests by Councilmember Alfonso "Poncho" Casso

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the re-routing of all commercial traffic to the Colombia/Solidarity Bridge. (Co-sponsored by Cm. Louis H. Bruni and Cm. Joe A. Guerra)

Cm. Casso stated that the reason he brought this item up was because he is trying to get some debate in this community on this issue. It has gotten out of focus and they have a total different direction than he expected. He added that the majority of the citizens want something done and is seeking alternatives to resolve this problem. He said that there is no traffic coordination on IH-35 and that it is affecting retail sales. He wants some serious dialogue about what options are available. He added there are three options:

(1) The building of the bridge, this is a long term solution. it will be built in two years and in two years the traffic is going to get worst, going beyond Del Mar Blvd.

(2) He would try to get a staging area, he does not know how staff is doing on the requested study, but he is serious about it.

(3) He stated if they don't go with the staging area then that they re-route all the commercial truck traffic through Columbia, close Bridge I to all commercial truck traffic and only allow traffic to flow through Bridge II between midnight and 6:00 a.m.

He said these are only options, but needs help from the community. If the answer is to leave everything on IH-35 for two more years, the citizens in the community are not going to tolerate it because it is a serious environmental hazard and it is dangerous.

Alfonso "Poncho" Casso, Jr., local businessman and importer, stated re-routing the trucks to Columbia means an additional cost to them and suggested that if destination of goods is Mexico then that's fine, but if the origin is Laredo then they should export through Nuevo Laredo.

Gustavo Quintanilla, local attorney representing the Agentes Aduanales and its 230 members, stated their concern is the increase in cost if they have to go through Columbia. He said that an increase of about \$14 million would have to be passed on to the customers and that they in turn may look at other ports and this is their main concern.

Gary Jacobs stated that the shippers will decide, if Council wants a shock treatment, then they'll go elsewhere and Laredo stands to lose this business. He added that the roads on the Mexican side from Columbia to Nuevo Laredo are hazardous for

drivers and that we should push the contractor on IH-35 to finish the construction and place more signals. He concluded by stating that IH-35 needs more policing.

Carlos Zuniga spoke in opposition to re-routing the trucks, because theirs is a very competitive market and may lose their business to Eagle Pass, McAllen or elsewhere.

Tom Wade, Vice-President of the Laredo Truckers Association, spoke against removing IH-35 as their truck route into Mexico because will lose trucking business if they divert to Columbia and urged that we wait for completion the of IH-35.

Alejandro Garcia, Nuevo Laredo Mayor, stated that it is good that we have this problem because it shows we are experiencing good business and for this reason we need to construct the new bridge. Some of his concerns are problems with the Federal Government and with their problems in concluding the construction of the new bridge, but there are problems with sending the cargo through Columbia Bridge.

Mayor Ramirez suggested that an ad hoc committee be created and that they come out with 24-month solutions to the traffic problem on IH-35.

Motion to create a Bridge Task Force Ad Hoc Committee with a 90 day life to explore this issue and include Cm. Bruni, Cm. Alvarado, Cm. Casso, Chairperson Cw. Montalvo, Mayor from Nuevo Laredo, Fire Chief, Police Chief, DPS representative, Brokers representatives and anyone who wants to sign up tonight.

Moved : Cm. Casso

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The following persons signed:

Glaforo Salinas Mendiola, Sergio Lujan C., Sergio E. Rivas, Fernando Mejia A., Mario Sanchez M., Alfonso Casso Jr., Enrique T. De La Garza, Cesar Valdez, Gustavo Quintanilla, Alberto Alarcon, Aldo Tatangelo, Mercurio Martinez III, Anthony Stahl, Jose Suarez, Fernando Alarcon, Mario Alejandro Garcia, Eusebio San Miguel S., Roque Godines, Daniel R. Barrera, Amanda Soler, and Hector Garcia.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the facilities required for the U.S. Border Station by the General Services

Administration (GSA).

Cm. Casso - "I want to take item #2 first, cause it'll lead into item 1 and that's **Discussion and possible action regarding the facilities required for the U.S. Border Station by the General Services Administration (GSA)** and...uh... I placed this item on the agenda because there is a letter dated November the 7th from Betty S-----coordinator for the U.S./Mexico Border Affairs. She addressed it to Mr. Pena and it says its subsequent to my October 29th letter we had the opportunity to discuss with the General Services Administration the conversations with the City of Laredo concerning the facilities required for the U.S. Border station. It was clear that this issue is not fully resolved, we will need the city, the federal inspection agencies and GSA to reach an understanding on this issue before the diplomatic notes may be exchanged. I have urged GSA to continue working constructively with the City so that a resolution can be found. Now...we've been h---- with this for the last sixty to ninety days where I think U.S. Customs wanted about 71 acres or 75 acres and then we were only... we have only...we planned for 61 acres...I think...or 63...somewhere around there. Uh...what is staff doing? I say just give them what they want, and then if you need another environmental assessment you can do it separate and apart it won't interfere with this, but what exactly is going on here because uh.... obviously and...also when I saw Betty S---in Santa Fe New Mexico she mentioned that we had a problem with this....and then we went to Washington she didn't bring it up and now she's bringing it up again. So what's staff gonna do? And I'd also like to...before you answer...I want to know...I think you ought to brief this council on the possibility that we may have to absorb the cost of the border stations and what its gonna do to the interest cost to this city, since we are gonna be discussing the CIP tomorrow in a special meeting.

Florencio Pena - "Uh....o.k...uh...Mr. Casso, basically in

regards to the GSA letter, Betty S----'s letter what she's referring to there is uh...the requirement that the GSA...the border station consists of 75 acres. That was the original intent when the city filed this Presidential Permit for 75 acres, however, with the approval of all the federal agencies it was reduced down to approximately 58 acres and that's the way the Presidential Permit was approved. We have since met with the property owners and adjusted the border station to accommodate for 62 1/2 acres and in our meeting of October the 18th here in Laredo with the various inspection agencies we thought we had an agreement with them at that meeting, that the 62 1/2 acres would be adequate and that we would provide the 12 1/2 additional acreage at a later date, and that we would be committed to providing that. Uh...we explained that to Betty S----- at the meeting in Washington and she provided us a letter...I think addressed to the Mayor addressing five areas that we needed to get a diplomatic note all of which we thought would be reasonably...could be reasonably obtained by the first week or second week of December. Since, that time then, she's followup with a second letter, stating that the 75 acre issue is still a concern and that we need to resolve this matter with GSA. We have spoken to GSA last week and we are trying to schedule a meeting with them here in the next week...the following week..to continue the dialogue on this matter. The fact is that the property is not configured such that the property is not configured such that the 12 1/2 acres can be easily be obtained in order to get that magical figure of 75 acres. We've shown them and proven to them (GSA) and the inspection agencies, the entire Border Master Plan fits within the 62 1/2 acres and as long as it fits we've been told by Washington, GSA and even the local GSA...as long as it fits that....that's what they're concerned about, but frankly there has been, uh...with GSA...uh..a kind of a Peter and Paul and talk to Mary... type of conversation and we are very much concerned about it. We

feel that on the one hand we had a committed the 62 1/2 was adequate, with a separate Memorandum of Understanding that we would provide the additional 2 1/2 that seems to....according to Betty S----- not to be adequate so we need to address that issue. Uh...we submitted a map to GSA, Jessie Covarrubias, showing where this 12 1/2 acres additional can be...uh...gained or obtained. And its basically on the north side going towards Mines Road and also on the west side where the staging area is gonna be. That might not be the area that they feel that they want the 12 1/2 acres, I'm not sure....uh...but they have those maps and we're ---- to go next week to visit with GSA to confirm that. The problem with this property is that on the southside of that property there's a creek and those 12 1/2 acres may have an environmental impact because there is a creek that borders the property on the southern side. That deals with the 75 acre, I believe we can get it resolved, Mr. Casso. I believe GSA is mentioning things like they've hired a Transportation Consultant, recently to begin looking at all the border stations as it deals with the design of these facilities. Well that's all fine, but you know we received our Presidential Permit in December 1994 and we feel that we've got a commitment from the Federal Government to proceed with the project and if we can show that if its within 62 1/2 acres that it should be adequate. And that's the position we're taking and we will continue to pursue that and if we receive any more resistance to this then we may have to take other measures involved in our Congressional Delegation, but I feel that we're gonna be able to work this out. As it deals with the financing of the bridge, the financing of the border station which includes the dock, the toll facility, and the parking lot for the tractor trailers we have met on October the 18th and we are gonna have another meeting on December 2nd here in Laredo with the inspection agencies to finalize the Master Plan. We've divided

the project up into phases and we think the first phase will run anywhere from eight to ten million dollars. GSA has advised us that at the present time they do not have funds available to construct those facilities into the year 2000 or 2001 which means that the city 1) either have to build the facilities for GSA or 2) obtain some type of rental agreement which we have initiated discussions with GSA where we will build the facilities for them and they will rent the facilities, but we do not have that contract. They have tentatively said that would be willing to do that, but we're in the negotiation stage at the present time. If in fact we are not able to reach an agreement..uh..to rent the facilities, then the facilities will have to be built by the city in which case the impact on bridge fares may..may...may..be required in order to offset that cost."

Cm. Casso

-"Thank you...."

Mayor

-"Alright...the next item..."

Cm. Casso

-"The next item is **Discussion and possible action regarding the re-routing of all commercial traffic to the Colombia/Solidarity Bridge. (Co-sponsored by Cm. Louis H. Cm. Bruni and Cm. Joe A. Guerra).**"

Mayor

-"We've got a citizen who wants to comment on item 2..so..."

Cm. Casso

-"on item two?...ok...."

Gary Jacobs

-"Also...the next item...My name is Gary Jacobs. On this GSA item, uh...it seems to me that GSA is always been a problem for us on bridges and..uh..and the commercial community whose here tonight loses lots of money and employees in this town lose lots of money because of GSA. GSA sits in an ivory tower and tries...in my opinion, dictate, ..uh...things to Laredo, so we have huge delays in solving problems...I mean, its just been...we've come to meeting after meeting, and when we argue with GSA over putting an

inspection station to make a Customs Inspector life easier to move trucks quicker...uh...we've been fortunate in this huge increases and freight volume thru this community. I would urge the council to consider telling GSA "thank you" "no thank you" we will build the facility that the commercial community wants and that customs is in agreement that they can occupy and own it and keep GSA out of the picture if possible you possibly can. I don't know if there is a way to do that or not, but if you can I would urge you to do it."

Mayor Ramirez -"GSA has to rent, they you know...they... they know...they...they would be unprecedented for them not to want to rent, the way they hold this project back is by saying that as the agents for the other governmental entities customs, agriculture, and INS that if they don't feel ready to move on the project, that they won't move on the project.

----- "-----"

Mayor Ramirez -"I know...we know that...we know that...uh.. but we feel that with the people that we've hired to construct this bridge, not to construct, but to design this bridge with the prior experience that've had with GSA, in dealing with this matter that GSA is going to be hard pressed to delay this project anymore than necessary without them being backed into a corner by the City of Laredo, because we have the expertise at all levels of the design of this facility that we've hired to be able to adequately justify our position as to what we feel we need in relation to the traffic that we currently have and the projections that we anticipate for the future. And so, for them to take that hard of a position...uh...is...uh...I think...I would tend to agree more with my...our city manager that we will a find a solution to this before it gets to that points because it is a give and take, but one where if we have to we will build it but we're not gonna build

- it for free...they're gonna have to pay, one way or another. Mr. Schwebel..."
- Mr. Schwebel -"Mr. Mayor thank you very much...members of the council, I'd like to add a comment to Mr. Jacob's bring up a point that's a very important point, that needless to say we still have to work with this agencies... uh...I don't understand why the reluctance of giving these agencies, their the ones that are going to approve this bridge. The reluctance of giving them the 12 acres more now, we know that if we...if we...work on the premise that if all of these...if all of these...it was easy to get all these bridges...you know..."
- Mayor Ramirez -"There is no reluctance the problem is that this 12 acres are gonna require an additional environmental assessment and so that means that...that if we just go through that process alone, that's another 18 months on this ticket. And so what we are saying is look, guys we're showing you here...we can build you everything we told you we were going to build based on the agreements that were acknowledged by you that were on the Presidential Permit as it was, as it was..authorized by the President of the United States to build it. You can't change the rules half way through the game, and if you're going to change the rules we're saying well o.k. change the rules, but everything we've done up to this point has to keep going and the 12 acres we'll secure 'em for you but we're going to have to put those on a different track because we can't wait 18 more months to start construction on our bridge. We want to start construction by the end of this year."
- Jerry Schwebel -"I understand....I understand..."
- Mr. Pena -"Jerry...Jerry...and one other comment, in that regard is that finding those 12 1/2 acres where they want it is not going to be an easy task because there is a creek on the ...and I just feel that if we don't need to complicate this issue, it fits within the 62

1/2, we'll get you the additional 12 1/2 but lets not get hung up on exactly where all that is gonna be right now...cause..its going to delay the project"

Mayor Ramirez -"We've even gone as far as to do this, as to say we will take our staging area out of the facility and we may, we'll take our area, our...250 or 300 trailers that we'll be able to handle eventually headed south on our side, and lets build that on the other side of the Mines Road and we'll stage 'em over there and release them from there to go south ---

(end of tape #1)

Mr. Schwebel -" ----the person that says that not o.k. yet is the one that's gonna issue the Diplomatic Notes to the State Department their the ones are that writing the letter saying we need the 75 acres. And as long as you replay this give and take game we're gonna delay this thing more than the 18 months if thats the case..."

Mayor -"And I'll tell you why its not gonna be delayed more than 18 months, our Presidential Permit will expire...all right..."

Mr. Schwebel -"all right."

Mayor -"all right....we're prepared to take them to court and prove to us, that we've been able to design with the necessary timetables in place, to prove to us that we can't proceed in constructing this bridge that we need. And I'm telling you that right now we don't think its gonna go that far, but we are prepared if necessary to go that far."

Mr. Schwebel -"well...I hope we're not Mr. Mayor...because I think if we use the example of the other city, of our neighbors up river at Eagle Pass where they got their presidential permit... 8-9 months ago, and they stand to gain their diplomatic notes here sooner than we are, then obviously they're doing something different than we are, lets find out what it is because we're not getting there."

- Mayor -"Let me just say that the underline factor here, whether we want to say it or not is item 1, item 1...the Colombia Bridge."
- Mr. Schwebel -"Well, I hope we can...I hope we have a chance to review that because its very important...that impact..."
- Mayor -"no...no...its not our problem, is the problem in Washington."
- Mr. Schwebel -"Well...but it becomes our problem...we have to face it."
- Mayor -"I know that... no...no...but understand what I'm telling you...you're asking me why are they being able to do something in Eagle Pass that we are not? I'm trying to tell you that the reason why is Number 1, the're still not convinced that Colombia is being used the way it could be used."
- Mr. Schwebel -"You don't believe that if we were to give them 75 acres right now, based on whatever..."
- Mr. Pena -"They would find something else, Jerry.... My only concern here is that if we, if we're getting the ---- but if its out side the parameters of the existing land that we have, it just lends the points to create another environmental assessment and we don't want to delay the project. We're not doing this to delay, we want the bridge done as soon as possible and we're concern that, now they give it to us in writing and it will require an environmental assessment and we may be able to do that, but...I..they won't be able to do that...I just..."
- Mayor -"The thing is that we've got all the facts are in our favor....the presidential permit was issued the way we've developed the project, they can't change it on us half way through the whole process, we are just weeks literally weeks, away from finalizing what we feel is the exchange of this Diplomatic Notes and they are not gonna be able to hold it back

with this delay tactic we're convinced of it but we feel that we can sit at the table and as reasonable men and women rationalize this through and work it through without having to work it through without having to go thru the strategies that I've mentioned to you in general because we need to build this bridge and we're ready and we can't afford to continue have GSA drag their feet and if you got ideas or solutions that we haven't pursued share them with us Mr. Schwebel.

Mr. Schwebel -"Well I would say, then thats my whole point, my whole point is that eliminate this points of contention on their part, eliminate the fact that they're asking for 75 acres and we would rather negotiate telling them what we believe it is that they need, and don't give them that excuse anymore.

Mayor -"We already did, we told them we'll get you the additional 12 acres...."

Mr. Schwebel -"but that's not what the letter's saying...."

Mayor -"What they are saying is that, we've said we'll give you the additional 12 acres, we know what that means to us, it means 18 to 24 months of environmental assessments...Mr. Schwebel"

Mr. Pena -"I think there is a misunderstanding here, but we've offered them the additional 12 1/2 acres, they don't want it in that location. So we are not at the point now, where we are talking in general avenues anymore we are talking about design and....those 12 1/2 acres it appears they want them in a certain area and there is a creek bed there....uh...you know..."

Mr. Schwebel -"---- need for the environmental assessment"

Mayor -"Plus the fact that what do they want a creek for...is what we are saying.. and why do they want a creek?"

Mr. Schwebel -"well I'm saying....eliminate these reasons

for them to block us"

- Mayor -"I agree with you...I agree with you...and that's what we're trying to do as best as we can"
- Mr. Schwebel -"make it easy...make it easy so they don't give us any more road blocks and lets get this things done"
- Mayor -"we have done...we have done everything except give away the kitchen sink....to GSA... and if we're throwing it away....I don't think we're ready cause we're going to draw the line and say its the City of Laredo that comes first, not GSA."
- Mr. Schwebel -"I think we can...I think that we would hope that the moment that we get one more road block that everybody in this room hops on and moves up there and park ourselves till we get this bridge done"
- Mayor -"hey...that's the way we got Colombia built."
- Mr. Pena -"This is why I mentioned...Jerry...a second ago, that by December 2nd we're having a meeting here again with these agencies. If this issue is not resolved by that week, then...there's alot of people here and the council, we'll hop on a need to get congressional litigation involved because we got a Presidential Permit and..."
- Cm. Casso -"Let me just tell you...you're going to have problems, I can tell you right now...you are gonna have resistance because I've already spoken to the Port Director here and you are gonna have resistance they say they need the space and the additional acreage and that's the only reason that I'm bringing it here...I'm on the side of the city, but I'm telling you you're gonna have resistance and that's why I placed it on here because you are gonna have resistance and you better start getting prepared because if you say that if we were to give them the additional acreage that they would put on a road block I don't feel

they would, why don't call their bluff and see if they are gonna do that. Put it in writing, we'll give them the acreage and do what the Mayor says we won't tie it in, the environmental assessment will be separate and apart from the existing project so we won't delay it. And an other thing that I'm opposed to I'll tell you right now, is cutting into our staging area because the Mayor said 200-300 trailers and that's not gonna cut it, we need enough for at least 600 trailers. We start giving space away...for get it, we're gonna have the same problem that we're gonna talk about in a few minutes..."

- Mayor -"what I would say is move the staging area further up on property on the other side of the Mines Road..."
- Cm. Casso -"that will be fine, but we just....but we don't want to give up. ..
- Mr. Pena -"Mayor...we've shown them...if it was that easy to say here's 12 1/2 acres, we've got it, but its...they don't want it, they don't want to tell you where they want it, and where they want it appears to be at the present time is outside of the confines of the permit."
- Cm. Casso -"then that's the issue, the issue is not the amount of acreage, but the location of those acreage well then we need to settle it."
- Mayor -"And the thing is, the bottom line is this, that they are asking for something thats outside of what the President authorized, and we're saying you can't do that, you can ask for it but you can't change the rules of a Presidential Permit. A Presidential Permit is very defined and you agreed on this and so if you want to change it, amend it the Presidential Permit on us and tell us that its amended to incorporate an additional 12 acres, but as it stands right now we have move ahead in good faith trying every possible technic of persuasion and again Mr. Schwebel I encourage you and invite you when we fall in short or you've got ideas please bring them to us

because we are really trying to make this work as quickly and as effectively as we can."

- Mr. Schwebel -"Well I had proposed this for sometime Mr. Mayor, that this is one item we are at the tail end of this project. We cannot afford for them to write a letter to give us an answer we should be working on this every single day having someone right there pushing this thing every single moment, we're at the tail end of this deal why do we want to wait lets go ahead and negotiate...we should be talking about this today and tomorrow and the day after....until we get this bridge.."
- Mayor -"but we are..."
- Mr. Pena -"Jerry...Jerry...."
- Mr. Schwebel -"I just ----- because we get this letters, we get this comments and we're don't seem to be getting somewhere, that's my...that's my sense of urgency that I'm looking for is, hey folks what do we got to do? If the action plan is for us come that date of December that the next day or the day before or if we find out anything sooner we're all up there, but you know what? All the congressional delegation ----- are gone, we're gonna be dealing with the agencies same bureaucrats we are dealing with right now, are the same ones we're going to be dealing two weeks from now. So why -----"
- Mr. Pena -"they don't have to be in Washington to be effective...uh..Jerry...I mean we can call them on the phone, but uh...we're doing everything we can...we sent GSA where this 12 1/2 acre sites are, there're evaluating it, I'm hoping they'll accept those locations, or one of those locations and to get this issue 75 acre behind us, but when they tell you one thing, then they come back and tell you another...you know...uh...they told us as long as it fits, the Master Plan fit, the final build out we're o.k. and Washington told us that...I'm talking about that at the highest level at customs and GSA as well, and we've

done that our engineering, Jessie Covarrubias has prepared a final build out and it fits. They've hired Transportation Consultants that they're saying that they want to relook at it, well again I think that on December 2nd I... we'll have a much better feel we will have report for council and you Jerry...and everyone...else to, if we need to get on the phone with the Congressional people that'll be the time to do it and we'll have to start....

Mr. Schwebel -"I think we should plan for united...I think everyone is united in this effort...I think we consider it the most important in our top three priorities, are the bridge, the bridge, and the bridge and that's what should be following as far as what we are concern... Thank you"

Mayor -"Thank you Mr. Schwebel....o.k....item one..."

D. Requests by Councilmember Eliseo Valdez Jr.

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the use of signs to notify the general public of proposed zone changes in their immediate area. The sign would be posted in front of the property to be rezoned providing the citizens additional notice of the proposed action.

Motion to instruct staff to draft an ordinance adopting the requirement of posting a sign in front of properties to be rezoned as additional public notice.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the City developing an area to be used by tractor owners/operators who regularly take their vehicle home.

Motion to instruct staff to encourage some of the operators to use the Park and Ride facility to overnight their tractors, find a way of charging them a fee, have them park in certain area of the Park and Ride (not the whole area) possibly towards the back of the Park and Ride and possibility have another gate opened to let them out.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Casso

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion and possible action regarding parking violation fine collections.

Ms. Patti Cruz, of 504 Merlin, stated that she is a volunteer to issue tickets to violators of handicap places and that no collections have been done. She said that over \$68,000 are uncollected and that there is no recourse for multiple violators. She asked that the city make it a priority in its collection and avoid a massive abuse of the law.

Florencio Peña, Interim City Manager, reported that he had just become aware of this situation and he will look into the issue of the repeated offenders, and will have a full report to say what course of action will be taken.

Mayor Ramirez suggested that maybe we should look at contracting a private collection agency to collect once they have been assessed so that we accelerate the collection efforts and be more aggressive.

E. Requests by Councilmember Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo

1. Discussion and possible action instructing staff to communicate with TxDOT personnel to install "Do Not Block Intersection" signs in both English and Spanish at the intersections of Houston/I.H. 35, and Matamoros/I.H.35 to minimize the blockage of these intersections. **(Co-sponsored by Cm. Louis H. Bruni)**

Mayor Ramirez suggested that they not just prepare signs that indicate "Do No Block Intersection", but also to say that they are subject to "x" amount of dollars for blocking the intersection where those signs are put up. He also suggested that we once again we try to get the Department of Public Safety engaged with the City when it comes to enforcing traffic on IH-35 since this is a state maintained federal interstate. He said they have been asked time and time again and that it is time again to go out there and ask them to come before council on the record and state why they don't feel they should engage on this endeavor.

Motion to send a letter to the Corporal and ask them what the scenario is on this issue, that we also include and explanation

of what we have done to further patrol and enforce our laws on IH-35, to see what kind of detail can be set up to work with them and share the duties the same as it is done with Border Patrol, U.S. Customs, because we want to setup a pilot program that would be an example to the rest of the border communities in Texas of what the Department of Public Safety can do with the City to help enforce commerce. Also, that they ask DPS to help the City in the enforcement of traffic violations on Hwy. 59.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
 Second: Cm. Bruni
 For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

41. Public hearing concerning the application by Arguindegui Oil Company, authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit for above ground storage of flammable liquids, on Lot 13, Block 2, Tex-Mex Industrial Park, located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Andy Ramos Road and Aguila Azteca Drive. 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 above ground storage of flammable liquids, on Lot 13, Block 2, Tex-Mex Industrial Park, located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Andy Ramos Road and Aguila Azteca Drive.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
 Second: Cm. Bruni
 For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Perez

42. Public hearing concerning the application by Alicia Lopez, amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by

rezoning Lots 29, 30, 43, 44, 45, and 46, El Rancho Subdivision, located on the south side of SH 359, east of Wildcat, from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this zone change.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 29, 30, 43, 44, 45, and 46, El Rancho Subdivision, located on the south side of SH 359, east of Wildcat, from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Perez

43. Public hearing concerning the application by Frank Rodriguez, amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for a pawn shop on Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, Block 926, Eastern Division, located at 1718 Guadalupe Street. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this Conditional Use Permit.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for a pawn shop on Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, Block 926, Eastern Division, located at 1718 Guadalupe Street.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ron Whitehawk, on behalf of Frank Rodriguez

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Casso

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Casso

- 44. Public hearing concerning the application by Aurelia D. Garza and Gerardo Garza, amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 354, Eastern Division, located at 302 E. Lyon Street from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this zone change.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 354, Eastern Division, located at 302 E. Lyon Street from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Perez

- 45. Public hearing concerning the application by Federico and Juanita Nieto, amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 5, Block 665, Eastern Division, located at 1220 E. Bustamante Street from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this zone change.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 5, Block 665, Eastern Division, located at 1220 E. Bustamante Street from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ron Whitehawk, representing Federico and Juanita Nieto, spoke in favor of the zone change request.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Valdez
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Valdez

- 46. Public hearing concerning the application by Corona Land Development Co., Prisilliano Siller, amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 6.9741 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located on Molly Drive, south of Shiloh Drive, from AG (Agricultural District to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this zone change.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 6.9741 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located on Molly Drive, south of Shiloh Drive, from AG (Agricultural District to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Guerra

47. Public hearing concerning the application by Fasken Estate, Norbert Dickman, amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 2,800 square feet as further described by metes and bounds, located on the west frontage road of I.H. 35, north of the Bob Bullock Loop, from AG (Agricultural District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this zone change.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 2,800 square feet as further described by metes and bounds, located on the west frontage road of I.H. 35, north of the Bob Bullock Loop, from AG (Agricultural District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Alvarado

48. Public hearing amending Ordinance No. 97-O-108, Section 1, dated June 16, 1997, to add a \$10.00 overnight parking fee to the established schedule of fees at the Laredo Transit Center.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending Ordinance No. 97-O-108, Section 1, dated June 16, 1997, to add a \$10.00 overnight parking fee to the established schedule of fees at the Laredo Transit Center.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 49. Public hearing regarding an ordinance transferring Restricted Fund Balance to Unrestricted Fund Balance and amending the City of Laredo FY 1997-1998 Public Access Channel Fund Balance to appropriate from the Unreserved Fund Balance \$375,000.00, as a reserve appropriation for the awarding of a contract for the construction of a new Telecommunications Building; and authorizing the City Manager to implement said annual budget.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance transferring Restricted Fund Balance to Unrestricted Fund Balance and amending the City of Laredo's FY 1997-1998 Public Access Channel Fund Balance to appropriate from the Unreserved Fund Balance \$375,000.00, as a reserve appropriation for the awarding of a contract for the construction of a new Telecommunications Building; and authorizing the City Manager to implement said annual budget.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
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. Bruni
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 50. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo FY 1997-1998 Annual

Budget in the amount of \$22,046.00 for a grant awarded by Texas State Library - Major Urban Resource Library (MURL) program for CD-ROM materials for the period beginning October 1, 1997 and ending September 30, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo FY 1997- 1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$22,046.00 for a grant awarded by Texas State Library - Major Urban Resource Library (MURL) program for CD-ROM materials for the period beginning October 1, 1997 and ending September 30, 1998.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 51. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo FY 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$17,983.00 for a grant awarded by the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for the South Texas/Border Region Health Professional Education Initiative for health related materials.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo FY 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$17,983.00 for a grant awarded by the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for the South Texas/Border Region Health Professional Education Initiative for health related materials.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 52. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget in the amount of \$277,757.00, for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the first year of funding for this grant for the period of October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1999, and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget in the amount of \$277,757.00, for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the first year of funding for this grant for the period of October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1999, and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 53. Public hearing approving an amendment of a contract with the Texas Department of Health and two-year budget in the amount of \$450,000.00, for the continuation of the Children's Health Insurance Pilot Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning December 1, 1997, through August 31, 1999; and increase revenue line item 226-0000-323-4074 from \$0 to \$235,000.00 each fiscal year and expenditure line item 226-6075 from \$0 to \$225,000.00, each fiscal year.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approving an amendment of a contract with the Texas Department of Health and two-year budget in the amount of \$450,000.00, for the continuation of the Children's Health Insurance pilot Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning December 1, 1997, through August 31, 1999; and increase revenue line item 226-0000-323-4074 from \$0 to \$235,000.00 each fiscal year and expenditure line item 226-6075 from \$0 to \$225,000.00, each fiscal year.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

54. Public hearing for approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and Budget in the amount of \$415,388.00, in funds and \$31,200.00, in State direct assistance for comprehensive public health services programming of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998, and increasing revenue line item no. 226-0000-323-4033 from \$0 to \$415,388.00, and increasing expenditure line item no. 226-6067 from \$0 to \$415,388.00.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and Budget in the amount of \$415,388.00, in funds and \$31,200.00, in State direct assistance for comprehensive public health services programming of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998, and increasing revenue line item no. 226-0000-323-4033 from \$0 to \$415,388.00, and increasing expenditure line item no. 226-6067 from \$0 to \$415,388.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 55. Public hearing for approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and Budget revision in the amount of \$678.00, for the Immunization Action Plan Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997; and increasing revenue line item 226-0000-323-4056 from \$123,696.00, to \$124,374.00, and expenditure line item 226-6058 from \$123,696.00 to \$124,374.00.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and Budget revision in the amount of \$678.00, for the Immunization Action Plan Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997; and increasing revenue line item 226-0000-323-4056 from \$123,696.00, to \$124,374.00, and expenditure line item 226-6058 from \$123,696.00 to \$124,374.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 56. Public hearing for approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department Health and Budget in the amount of \$11,400.00, for the Border Area Survey facilitated by the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998, and increasing revenue line item no. 226-0000-323-4075 from \$0 to \$11,400.00, and increasing expenditure line item no. 226-6074 from \$0 to \$11,400.00.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department Health and Budget in the amount of \$11,400.00, for the Border Area Survey facilitated by the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998, and increasing revenue line item no. 226-0000-323-4075 from \$0 to \$11,400.00, and increasing expenditure line item no. 226-6074 from \$0 to \$11,400.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 57. Public hearing for approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department Health and Budget in the amount of \$125,000.00, and in-kind match of \$58,388.00, for the School-Based Health Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department Health and Budget in the amount of \$125,000.00, and in-kind match of \$58,388.00, for the School-Based Health Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period

beginning September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 58. Public hearing for approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department Health and Budget in the amount of \$13,000.00, for the Maternal and Child Health Program of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1996, through August 31, 1997; and reducing revenue line item no. 336-0000-323-4069 from \$121,667.00, to \$108,667.00, and reducing expenditure line item no. 226-6043 from \$121,667.00, to \$108,667.00; and increasing revenue line item no. 226-0000-323-4034 from \$492,000.00, to \$505,000.00, and expenditure line item no. 226-6042 from \$492,000.00, to \$505,000.00.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department Health and Budget in the amount of \$13,000.00, for the Maternal and Child Health Program of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1996, through August 31, 1997; and reducing revenue line item no. 336-0000-323-4069 from \$121,667.00, to \$108,667.00, and reducing expenditure line item no. 226-6043 from \$121,667.00, to \$108,667.00; and increasing revenue line item no. 226-0000-323-4034 from \$492,000.00, to \$505,000.00, and expenditure line item no. 226-6042 from \$492,000.00, to \$505,000.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Casso

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XII. MOTION TO RECESS AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

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

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 59. Award of contract to the **SOLE BIDDER**, Harvey Schulmeier, Canyon Lake, Texas, in the amount of \$20,000.00, per module, to conduct a "Transportation Journeyman Mechanic Certification Program". The intent of this program is to provide a means for maintenance employees to acquire expertise in different aspects of bus maintenance. This program will be conducted by this certified trainer at El Metro facilities and will include a handwritten and hands-on exam. All training will be conducted in accordance to the guidelines of the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI). Eighteen employees will be provided 120 hours of classroom worked and hands-on training.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 60. Approval of change order no. 7 to add 14 days to the construction contract, acceptance of the Intermodal Transit Center and approval to deduct \$8,260.00, from the final payment to Ramex Construction Company, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for late completion (28 days) and loss of rental income in lieu of liquidated damages of the Intercity Bus Facility of the Intermodal Transit Center. Also approval of the final payment to Ramex Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$428,537.97, which includes the deduction of \$8,260.00. Final construction contract amount is \$8,735,959.45. The original

completion date was August 6, 1997 and this change order will bring the completion date to August 20, 1997. Funding is available in the Transit System Retainage Payable Account.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XIII. MOTION TO RECESS AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MUNICIPAL HOUSING CORPORATION

Motion to recess as City Council and convene as The Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 61. Motion authorizing the Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation (LMHC) Director to submit an application to the Webb County Appraisal District for recognition of property tax exemption for the fifty (50) lots purchased at the Riverhills Subdivision, Unit I under the LMHC Lease/Purchase Program. This property tax exemption will allow LMHC to save the necessary funds that will be applied to closing costs for the Lease/Purchase Program.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 09

- 62. **97-RMH-138** Approval from the Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation (LMHC) Board of Directors to implement new rental rates on all fair market rental units and low income units at the Tomas Flores Apartments, located at 2300 Lafayette, effective January 1, 1998. The proposed rental rates are as follows: \$335.00 for a 2-Bedroom and \$495.00 for a 3-Bedroom

