

CITY OF LAREDO
Laredo, Texas
Special City Council Meeting
Civic Center Conference Room #3
2400 San Bernardo Avenue
9:00 A. M.

AGENDA NO: M88-S-33 Minutes DATE: September 24, 1988

I. MAYOR TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

(7.1) Mayor Aldo Tafangelo Chaired the meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

MAYOR ALDO TATANGELO

MAYOR PRO-TEM SAUL N. RAMIREZ, JR., DISTRICT III

COUNCILMEMBERS:

SANTOS BENAVIDES, DISTRICT I

DR. JACINTO P. JUAREZ, " II

BLAS CASTANEDA, " V

DAVID R. CORTEZ, " VI (Arrived at 11:00 A.M.)

HECTOR J. LIENDO, " VII (Left at 1:00 P.M.)

CONSUELO "CHELO" MONTALVO " VIII

HORTENCIA C. GONZALEZ, CITY SECRETARY

MARVIN TOWNSEND, CITY MANAGER

ANTHONY McGETTRICK, CITY ATTORNEY

ABSENCES:

COUNCILMEMBER MARGARITO BENAVIDES, JR., DISTRICT IV

(2902.2) Motion to excuse the absence of M. Benavides, Jr. from this meeting as well as Cm. David R. Cortez's tardiness due to doctor's appointment, and Cm. Liendo who asked to be excused from the afternoon session? Ramirez, Jr.
Second: S. Benavides
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

II. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED 1988-89 BUDGET.

(30.1) Both City Manager Townsend and his assistant Florencio Pena gave an overview of the proposed Police Dept. budget indicating that material had been distributed to City Council relevant to Police & Fire Collective Bargaining status of discussions. It was further indicated that there had been no Police contract for the past two years and no Fire contract for the past year. There is no change as far as salary increases for Police Dept., however, if the recommended across-the-board 4% increase is authorized would be then built-in to all budgets.

Mr. Pena indicated that Police Dept. budget is composed of three segments:

CIVILIANS & CRIME PREVENTION -

Two civilian positions were filled previously to release two officers doing civilian work. These two positions are recommended to continue in the 1988-89 budget. There are 20 non-uniformed police officers, 10 communications technicians.

POLICE OPERATIONS - Due to award of a Narcotics Task Force Grant of \$250,000, three officers were transferred from the Police operations budget to a narcotics activity. Therefore, strength has been increased to 170 for 1988-89 considering present five vacancies due to those 3 officers transferred and

the two released from civilian work.

(300.1) Mayor recommended that City Manager draft a letter to send to proper Narcotics Division authorities requesting continued grant monies to acquire additional police personnel because of our proximity to the border.

(2542.1) Cm. Castaneda voiced concern with up rising drug activity along our border communities and needed financial support to combat this problem which eventually will affect the State and country.

Motion that Resolution be prepared urging and requesting appropriate authorities for needed financial support to combat this problem; Castaneda

Second: Ramirez, Jr.

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Councilmembers Ramirez & S. Benavides voiced concern with overtime.

City Manager Townsend indicated that this process would be refined in the upcoming budget and that this year activity is still within the budget. Cm. S. Benavides requested a report of which officers were involved with overtime.

Chief Garcia also indicated that 12 cadets were hired for present class with 8 being lost to other agencies.

Cm. Castaneda voiced concern with turnover of officers to other agencies, especially Border Patrol, due probably to the wages factor.

Cm. Liendo expressed concern with adequate equipment especially in communications.

Chief Garcia explained that he had been in touch with Congressman Albert Bustamante who informed him that he and Congressmen from several border cities had united in efforts to secure funding (\$800,000) for added security to radio frequencies for six or seven cities along border. Laredo would probably receive approximately \$150,000 as "seed" money. The Senate bill is pending passage. He further expressed concern with another bill now pending which could curtail the amount of the narcotics grant because areas being prioritized are metropolitan areas. He urged Council support to appeal to Senate to retain appropriation levels as in prior year.

Cm. Liendo also proposed that used detective vehicles be retained for continued use and requested a report as to condition of these.

Chief Garcia indicated he had requested 27 new vehicles: 14 patrol cars, 9 for detectives and 4 for traffic division. Ten patrol cars, 1 traffic, and 8 detective vehicles were purchased previously with one being "totaled".

Mr. Baldo Granados, Maintenance Foreman, told of main problem being major repairs which "grounded" vehicles (sometimes up to 6) in shop approximately one week causing problems to the Patrol Division. He stressed the need for additional mechanics to cope with the operation not only of the Police but Public Works and other departments.

Cm. Ramirez indicated that perhaps added personnel should be acquired to maximize use of available equipment.

Mayor Tatangelo voiced concern with adequacy of available

personnel to address newly annexed areas and inquired as to how much was received in State Grants. He further urged management to strive to make the Police Dept. a strong one.

Mr. Florencio Pena, Asst. City Manager, stated that the Police Dept. receives three basic State grants:

- (1) Narcotics Task Force \$250,000
(Its impact will be know in the coming year)
- (2) Stepped-up Traffic Enforcement Seat Belt \$17,000
(This pays overtime & may also be phased out)
- (3) Final Year Crime Prevention Program..... 42,000
(Will phase out next year and 3 or 4 positions would no longer be financed by it, but could be replaced by another program)

City Mgr. Townsend responded to Cm. Castaneda's concern with Police response time to annexed areas by stating that the Department was situated in center of area of intensity and not too spread out with the problem being one of funding.

(1980.1)

Responding to Cm. Juarez' concern with response time and overall efficiency, Chief Garcia indicated that compared to the past year, response time has improved. Cm. Juarez also stressed need to coordinate efforts with the Sheriff's Department in all areas.

(2540.1)

Motion to take a 10 minute recess: Ramirez, Jr.

Second: S. Benavides

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(2585.1)

Motion to add \$27,000 SWAT Team equipment: S. Benavides

Second: Juarez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Officer J. Contreras, Police Assn., President, requested consideration of increase in amount of \$630,000 for Police officers which is approximately \$250/per officer/per month and that City absorb dependent coverage. He further recommended that City look into career enhancement to avoid turnover in Department as well as adequate equipment for officer protection and efficiency.

(Cm. David Cortez arrived at this time)

(105.3)

Cm. S. Benavides initiated a discussion regarding 14 patrol vehicles requested. He indicated that 10 vehicles had been purchased this year and the 1985 & 1986 vehicles would probably have over 100,000 miles by mid 1989 and it is felt that the 14 vehicles be proceed with rather than the recommended 8; that 5 vehicles for detectives be upped to 9; and to acquire 2 rather than the recommended 4 for traffic. Cm. Juarez voiced concern with acquisition of new radio equipment for new vehicles. Council concurred that vehicles should be equipped with new radios. Cm. Ramirez asked what the figure of all of above would be. City Mgr. Townsend indicated above would be approximately \$190,000.

Motion was to amend budget to include above equipment:

S. Benavides

Second: Liendo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(340.2)

Cm. Liendo asked about bullet-proof vests. Chief Garcia stated that 15 were for officers in a present program and 11 are for incoming officers replacement of older vests need to be looked into. There are about 13 officers who do not have vests and would like to have at least 12.

(370.2) Motion to include 12 bullet-proof vests for Police: Liendo
Second: Cortez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

(403.2) Motion to discuss Third Party Funding: Juarez
Second: S. Benavides
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

(420.2) Mr. Jose Compean made a presentation regarding Laredo Jr. College's performing ensembles and requested funding for both the dancing and music areas from Hotel/Motel funds.

(545.2) Motion to approve to increase from \$5,000 to \$7,000: Cortez
Second: Montalvo
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: Castaneda

(653.2) Motion that \$5,475 be transferred from Music to Performing Ensembles as recommended funding for this year: Ramirez, Jr.
Second: S. Benavides
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: Castaneda

(962.2) Mr. Miguel Lopez for the BASTA program requested that \$10,000 be again funded this year for their substance abuse program.

(986.2) Motion to approve \$10,000: Ramirez, Jr.
Second: Montalvo
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

(998.2) Mr. Luis Guerra, Chamber of Commerce President, requested approval of their budget of \$750,000 for Conventions and Visitors Council.

Cm. Cortez told of Councilmembers and staff having visited in San Antonio with VIA & Tourist and Convention facilities to seek an insight into their operations. This Committee will not have a forthcoming report until another week and would, therefore, ask this request deferred to the time they convene again.

Dr. Dianne Freeman requested direction from City Council as to transition that would occur should Council decide not to renew their contract. They are now operating on a limited budget and they have many commitments.

Cm. Ramirez also concurred with Cm. Cortez on decision to occur at the September 30th meeting with discussion as to the formula San Antonio uses which has interesting concepts.

(1260.2) Motion to fund Chamber's budget for \$752,965: Juarez
Second: S. Benavides

(2035.2) For: 4 Against: Ramirez, Jr., Cortez,
Montalvo
Abstain: 0

(Motion was defeated)

(2062.2) Mr. Andres Smith, Lifeline of Laredo, Inc. requested \$6,000 funding with program's primary purpose to save lives. Mrs. Dolores Vasquez, President, also spoke in favor of request.

(2256.2) Motion to approve \$6,000: S. Benavides
Second: Juarez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

(2284.2) Mr. Frank Leach, Director of Laredo Development Foundation, also gave overview of operations and requested approval of budget submitted to include an additional \$5,000 marketing.

(2417.2)

Motion to approve \$35,000 budget; Ramirez, Jr.,
Second; Cortez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

(2625.2)

Meeting was recessed at 12:30 P.M. for lunch break and will
reconvene at 1:30 P.M.

Mayor Pro-Tem Saul N. Ramirez, Jr., called meeting to
order until the Mayor's arrival.

(2830.2)

City Mgr. Townsend summarized the budgets and stated there
were basically no changes in the rest of the programs put
together.

(Mayor Tatangelo arrived at this time)

(2909.2)

Mayor Pro-Tem Ramirez requested that the Health Dept.
budget be discussed at this time. He also asked if the
County had been approached as to possible funding of part
of the health activities in satellite clinics.

Mr. Townsend told of the negative response received from
the County Judge, and which copy has been distributed
to Councilmembers.

(3075.2)

That the lack of spirit of cooperation would not solve the
problem and if there were no alternatives presented by the
County by September 30th, that the City would have to look
to funding of these Health Dept. activities.

(3240.2)

Com. Cortez requested that the City Mgr. for the next year
look into possibility of undertaking Health Department budget
100% to avoid these "pitfalls". In such a manner, the County
could reimburse the City for whatever services were provided
to County residents. He also stressed that he, for one, would
never allow health services cut or clinic closures to occur.

Com. Montalvo, serving on Committee, indicated that at the
last meeting, the County had indicated they would assist with
only a 10% share.

(3495.2)

Com. Juarez, a Committeemember, requested clarification
as to the County's \$5,000 contribution.

(3502.2)

Mr. Townsend explained that had been added to their dental
budget of approximately \$209,000 and had slightly increased
supplies for dental care. Mr. Roger Garcia indicated they
had increased the regular County budget from \$179,000 to
191,000.

(10.3)

City Mgr. Townsend indicated that the City's part of the
whole group of health/welfare activities is \$1,396,000 not
including salary adjustment which may happen this year.
This also includes \$769,532 for Health Department itself
and Animal Control, all welfare services, and Cowl Rehab
and other agencies.

Com. Ramirez asked that recommendations be first pursued and
that action be taken with additional motion with instructions
to carry on.

Motion that status quo remain as presented on the budget
(that no services be curtailed) after Sept. 30; Cortez
Second; Montalvo
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Mr. Jose L. Gonzalez, Health Dept. Administrator, urged
that requested \$165,000 were needed by October 1st. He

further indicated that approximately \$1,000,000 from County (60%) goes mostly to hospitalization of the indigent with a smaller percentage going to physicians. The County pays for 8 positions, the City pays for 38. Total positions at the Department are 192.

Com. Cortez suggested that Committee continue working with County to resolve this matter and return with operating alternatives regarding scope of activities.

City Manager Townsend indicated he felt that County would not meet again since apparently the last meeting held appeared to have been the last.

Com. Cortez recommended that \$165,000 be earmarked from the fund balance if the County does not provide those funds.

Motion to appropriate \$10,000 for Literacy Volunteers instead of the prior \$5,000: Castaneda

Second: Juarez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(1050.3)

Motion that two positions of Diesel Mechanics be created in Maintenance Shop budget: Ramirez, Jr.

Second: S. Benavides

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(1068.3)

Motion to authorize requested amount of \$2,500 for Laredo Art Assn. from Hotel-Motel Fund: Juarez

Second: Castaneda

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to continue budgetary discussions on September 30th during special session at 4:00 P. M. and place all other routine business to October 10th as the regular meeting: Ramirez, Jr.

Second: S. Benavides

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Com. Castaneda reminded management that the matter he had brought to Council regarding the Foreign Trade Zone be returned for Council consideration.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: S. Benavides

Second: Juarez

For: 6


Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Adjournment was at 2:30 P. M.

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED AT THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CORNER OF FLORES AND LINCOLN STREETS, LAREDO, TEXAS AT A PLACE CONVENIENT AND READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES. SAID NOTICE WAS POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1988 AT 5:00 P.M.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ABOVE MINUTES CONTAINED IN PAGES 01 TO 07 ARE TRUE, COMPLETE, AND CORRECT PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1988. A CERTIFIED COPY IS ON FILE IN THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.


 HORTENCIA C. GONZALEZ
 CITY SECRETARY

AGENDA NO: M88-S-33 Minutes DATE: September 24, 1988

MINUTES PREPARED BY: HCG

PASSED AND APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON: OCTOBER 10, 1988

CORRECTIONS: NONE