

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

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

MINUTES

M98-R-02

JANUARY 19, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present Mayor Protem Jose R. Perez, Jr. called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Protem Perez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

IN ATTENDANCE:

JOSE R. PEREZ, JR., COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT I
LOUIS H. BRUNI, " , DISTRICT II
ALFONSO I. "PONCHO" CASSO, " , DISTRICT III
CECILIA MAY MORENO, " , DISTRICT IV
ELISEO VALDEZ, " , DISTRICT V
JOE A. GUERRA, " , DISTRICT VI
MARIO G. ALVARADO, " , DISTRICT VII
CONSUELO "CHELO" MONTALVO, " , DISTRICT VIII
GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR., CITY SECRETARY
FLORENCIO PENA, III, CITY MANAGER
JERRY BRUCE CAIN, CITY ATTORNEY

ABSENCES:

City Attorney Jaime L. Flores.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. City Council Meeting of November 18, 1997
- City Council Meeting of December 1, 1997
- City Council Meeting of December 15, 1997
- City Council Meeting of December 19, 1997
- City Council Meeting of December 22, 1997

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

V. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

- 3. Closing as a public easement a 227.50 square feet parcel of land more or less (3.5' x 65') out of the 700 block of Hendricks Avenue between Cortez and Guatemozin Streets, said parcel of land being encroached by the improvements of the abutting property being the North 1/2 of Lot 1, Block 605, Eastern Division, City of Laredo, County of Webb, and authorizing the sale of "The Surface Only" of said parcel of land at the adjusted fair market value of \$395.85 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to effectively convey fee simple title to Irma Yolanda Garcia and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 4. Establishing a 20 MPH maximum speed limit zone on Springfield Avenue from 150 feet south of Bustamante Street to 150 feet north of Ryan Street during the specified hours of operation starting at 7:15 A.M. to 8:30 A.M., and 2:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. to provide for a safer crossing of students attending Alma Pierce Elementary school, prescribing penalties for violations and providing for publication and effective dates.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

Mr. Rico Flynn stated that 20 MPH speed limit should be establish for every school.

VI. FINAL READINGS

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinances #98-O-001, #98-O-002, #98-O-003, #98-O-004, #98-O-005, #98-O-006, and #98-O-007.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 5. 98-O-001 Closing as a public easement a 15 foot wide section of Diana Avenue between Hillside Road and Aurora Street dedicated as a public easement as per the Jesus G. Sepulveda Replat of Block Four (4), Calton Gardens

Subdivision, Number One (1), Northern Division of the City of Laredo, County of Webb, Texas recorded in Volume 2, Page 201 of the Webb County Plat Records and upon closing of the street, the City will retain the entire property as a utility easement and providing for an effective date. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-001.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 98-O-002 Street Improvements Project 60; declaring the necessity for and ordering the paving and improvements of certain streets in the City of Laredo, Texas; approving the Street Paving Assessment Roll and cost estimates as prepared by the City Engineer; and directing the City Secretary to file this ordinance with the County Clerk as a notice of its enactment and ordering and setting a public hearing on the 17th day of February 1998. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-002.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. 98-O-003 Adopting the provisions of the return to work policies and procedures for all city employees including civil service employees pursuant to their collective bargaining agreement and civil service rules and authorizing the City Manager to implement the policies and procedures identified herein pursuant to the City of Laredo's Code of Ordinances. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-003.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. 98-O-004 Authorizing the City Manager to grant a Right-of-Entry Permit to the U.S. Government for military construction, training, and operations in the area encompassed by the following City-owned blocks, including any public right-of-way abutting said

blocks: all of Block 672A WD, all of Block 666 WD, all of Block 677 WD, all of Block 667 WD, all of Block 676 WD, all of Block 668 WD, all of Block 675 WD, all of Block 669 WD, all of Block 670 WD, all of Block 671 WD, all of Block 672 WD, all of Block 660 WD, all of Block 659 WD, all of Block 657 WD, all of Block 658 WD, all of Block 645 WD, all of Block 644 WD, all of Block 630 WD, all of Block 629 WD, all of Block 416 WD, all of Block 415 WD, all of Block 414 WD, all of Block 425 WD, and all of Block 426 WD. Said Right-of-Entry Permit being described and providing for an effective date. (City Council)

Motion to table this item until after item #52.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Casso
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to table the item.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Casso
For: 3 Against: 4 Abstain: 0
Cm. Bruni Cw. Moreno
Cm. Casso Cm. Valdez
Cw. Montalvo Cm. Guerra
Cm. Alvarado

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-004.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 4 Against: 3 Abstain: 0
Cw. Moreno Cm. Bruni
Cm. Valdez Cm. Casso
Cm. Guerra Cw. Montalvo
Cm. Alvarado

- 9. 98-O-005 Rescinding Ordinances dated December 22, 1981, closing, vacating, and abandoning as a public easement that portion of San Ignacio Avenue between Matamoros and Houston Streets in the Western Division of the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas; and Ordinance dated June 21, 1982, authorizing the City Manager to enter into the necessary contract and to execute a deed for certain City property formally known as the 800 block of San Ignacio Avenue between Houston and

Matamoros Streets to Pablo Lozano and hereby reopening as a public easement the above mentioned street and providing for an effective date. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-005.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

10. 98-O-006 Authorizing the City Manager to accept modification of lease agreement to an existing lease with Panorama Broadcasting Company approved by Ordinance 84-O-160b; which was previously executed November 29, 1995 without City Council authorization. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-006.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

11. 98-O-007 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a certain lease agreement between the City of Laredo, as lessor, and the Laredo Children's Museum, Inc., a Texas Non-profit Corporation, as lessee, for a tract of land containing approximately 3.5189 acres or approximately 153,283.28 square feet, located at the New Laredo Public Library site located at the intersection of McPherson Road and Sandman Road, for a primary term of twenty-five (25) years commencing January 5, 1998, through January 4, 2023, at the annual rental rate of ten and no/100 dollars (\$10.00) with one (1) twenty five (25) year renewal option. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-007.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

12. 98-O-008 Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to effectively convey title to the State of Texas to the "Surface Only" of two parcels of land at the intersection of IH35 and FM3464 (Milo Interchange) for the construction of two turning lanes. Said parcels being situated in Porcion 20, Webb County, Texas; being generally described below and more

particularly described by metes and bounds;
PARCEL 1 - Being a 15,678.00 square feet (0.35992 of an acre) tract of land, more or less, out of and a part of the Barbara T. Fasken 489.11 acre tract of land lying and being in Porcion 20, Abstract 48, original grantee, Bautista Garcia, as executed by Palafox Exploration Company to Barbara T. Fasken by deed dated December 17, 1984, and recorded in Volume 1089, Pages 391-392, Webb County Real Property Records, save and except 8.68 acres conveyed to the State of Texas by deed recorded in Volume 1308, Pages 728-735, Webb County Real Property Records.
PARCEL 2 - Being a 5,000.00 square feet (0.1148 of an acre) tract of land, more or less, out of and a part of the Barbara T. Fasken 489.11 acre tract of land lying and being in Porcion 20, Abstract 48, original grantee, Bautista Garcia, as executed by Palafox Exploration Company to Barbara T. Fasken by deed dated December 17, 1984, and recorded in volume 1089, Pages 391-392, Webb County Real Property Records, save and except 8.68 acres conveyed to the State of Texas by deed recorded in Volume 1308, Pages 728-735, Webb County Real Property Records. (Mario G. Alvarado)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-008.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

13. 98-O-009 Amending the City of Laredo's Special Police Program 1997/1998 manyears by reclassifying two police officers from general fund to Special Police Program for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. This grant will be in its second year of funding for the period of October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-009 amending the City of Laredo's Special Police Program 1997/1998 manyears by transferring two police officers from general fund to Special Police Program for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

14. 98-O-010 Ordinance transferring Designated Fund Balance for Construction to the Bridge Construction Projects for Fiscal Year 1997-98 and amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Bridge Construction Fund for said purpose in the amount of \$371,061.00, and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-010.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. 98-O-011 To create a special revenue fund in accordance with the provisions of the new proposed hazardous material ordinance which requires that all fees collected shall revert to a hazardous materials management permit fund and shall be used for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of such ordinance and for the planning and development of hazardous materials emergency response measures. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-011.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. 98-O-012 Amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget by increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the general fund by \$3,445.20, and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget, providing for publication and effective date. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-012.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. 98-O-013 Amending the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$78,916.00, for the HIV/AIDS Prevention, Counseling and Partner Elicitation/Notification (PCPE) Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-013.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

18. 98-O-014 Amending the City of Laredo's 1996-1997 Annual Budget in the amount of \$62,712.00, for additional salary, overtime, fringe benefit costs and direct operating expenses for the Multi-Financial Disruption Task Force awarded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy for the period of July 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 1998. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-014.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

19. 98-O-015 Repealing Ordinance No. 97-O-275 and amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget authorizing the reclassification of one (1) Lieutenant for one (1) additional Captain, reclassification of two (2) Sergeants for two (2) additional Lieutenants, reclassification of three (3) Investigators for three (3) additional Sergeants, and reclassification of (10) Police Officers/Cadets for ten (10) additional Investigator positions at the Laredo Police Department and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-015.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VII. RESOLUTIONS

20. 98-R-010 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Governor's Office for funding of personnel and direct operating expenses for a Multi-Agency Narcotics Task Force in the amount of \$830,135.00, with the City designating \$423,985.00, in matching funds for a total of \$1,254,120.00, and authorizing the City Manager to sign any and all

documents pertaining to this grant application.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-010.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

21. 98-R-011 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$173,829.00 for the Immunization Action Plan Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-011.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

22. 98-R-012 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$142,492.00, for the Neural Tube Defects Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-012.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

23. 98-R-014 Concurring with the findings of the Environmental Assessment regarding Loop 20 (F.M. 3464) from I.H. 35 to the proposed Laredo Northwest International Bridge and urging the Texas Department of Transportation to initiate construction of this project in order to coincide with the construction timetable of the Laredo Northwest International Bridge.

Cm. Bruni wanted briefing on right-of-way amendments for the Fasken property and the Muller property. He said the communication page indicates we are saving \$4.13 million and wants that staff brief them on the amendments and how much these addendum to the right-of-entry are going to cost the city.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, reported that there is a provision in the environmental study that refers to a \$4.1 million savings and that is one of the justifications used in supporting alternative #2.

In addition there are two or three more reasons, in regards to the Fasken interest for the right-of-entry which is for the bridge head only, not for the right-of-way that they entered an agreement with. The contract provided, in the addendum, certain conditions that the city had to comply with. They have costs associated within, but his opinion as staff, none of those costs are cost that would have been borne have it not been for this development. In other words, as the property is being donated there are certain improvements that have to be made to the property. He discussed the negotiations that they had on this right-of-entry and what the cost of those items are.

First item, approximately \$25,000 cost to relocate utilities in the area. Since the property has utility lines, in order to continue servicing the property of the Faskens, they need to be moved from the property that is being purchased and we are doing it at our cost. Since he is donating, it would not be something we would require of the person that is donating the property.

Another cost is the \$180,000 for the extension of an 18" sewer main. This main is to service the property of the bridge and the auxiliary uses of the bridge which include customs and immigration. Any oversizing that will be required for that line to require future development of the area would be at the cost of the developers. There is no cost there, but the cost of that extension is approximately \$180,000.

He further pointed that the other is a \$250,000 cost for a lift station, he believes it is a 250,000 gallon a day lift station. He said that basically it is a force main, that lift station is needed for the development, they cannot build the bridge and have customs, immigration, and all the activities of the trucking without getting rid of sewer, so a lift station was required for the project. It is being built, it is built 50% greater than what would be required, so half the cost is being over sized all ready. In discussing this with the engineers it is

more economical to build a 250,000 gallon facility than to go in there and tear up and build additionally.

There is a \$300,000 water line, there is a 12" water main on Mines Road that needs to be extended to service our facility, it cannot be serviced with anything less than that because of the pressure (the PSI) required to service the bridge facility. Any oversizing would have to be paid for by the developers, so if developers ties into that line, and we are not able to handle their capacity, at that point if it needs to be oversized the developers will have to pay the cost of that.

Finally, there is a perimeter fence around the entire bridge footprint, they concur with it and think it is needed, and customs would require it so there is a cost associated with the perimeter fence anyway. The only difference is that the people donating the land are asking for it to be concrete fence (block/brick) and to provide a berm in order to provide additional noise breaks for the surrounding areas. The estimated cost is \$176,000, for fence and berm.

He concluded by saying that those are the cost elements. In general he is advising that those costs would have been borne by the city in any case, in the development of that bridge property. He further gave a chronology report of the environmental assessment. The city's time frame is no later than July of 1999 to be under construction with the bridge and to be finished maybe by October 1999 to be fully operational, in the worst scenario maybe January 2000.

The total amount of figures is approximately \$1,009,000.00 which is what the city is going to have to put in for development requirements.

Cm. Casso stated we are going to put \$4.13 million in cost savings, there are people saying that the city is not doing an appraisal on the land is that correct or false?

Mr. Pena stated that the environmental assessment required an appraisal to be done and they have the appraisal available.

Mr. Pena answered that is correct.

Cm. Casso stated that just to set the record straight, however you are saying to reconstruct on a new road, how much more is that going to cost? In other words he is trying to get to the cost of the savings because if Mr. Pena is saying \$4 million and the \$4 million is just coming from the saving of the right-of-way, and it doesn't include the relocation of utilities, he wants to know what the true cost is because the \$4.1 million does not give you the true cost.

Mr. Pena stated the \$1 million he just identified were cost that would be included in that project whether the land is donated or not. For us to develop the bridge at that location, and provide the water, and sewer to that area would cost us this amount, so it does not matter. If we keep it there it will cost us \$1.9 million and if we move it to the new alignment it will cost \$1.9 million.

Cm. Casso said that what needs to be stressed and to set the record straight for the public is that this council is going to be blamed if this bridge is delayed. He added that Mr. Hurd is going to sue the City of Laredo, and he is going to delay the project. He stated for the record, "that this council, and this administration, primarily is not to blame for the delay of that bridge....it is the previous administration because it failed to acquire the right-of-way, they should have acquired it two years ago and they never did." He added that he does not think that this administration should be blamed for that, it is not their fault that you have two landowners at each others throat.

Cm. Bruni stated that his concern is that there is no traffic study to support the need of three roads approximately 1,000 feet away between IH-35 and the Mines Road. There is no engineering report telling council that F.M. 3464 will in fact be disrupted by building a new road, and also this \$4.13 million savings is coming out of thin air because in 1995 we were told that it was going be \$8.5 million savings and that number has changed. He thinks it makes no sense to accept the conclusions of the environmental assessment without having an opportunity to review the basis for those conclusions and under those

circumstances he would suggest that this resolution be tabled.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Guerra

Second withdrew his motion.

Motion dies for lack of second.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-014.

Moved : Cw. Moreno
 Second: Cm. Alvarado
 For: 5 Against: 2 Abstain: 0
 Cm. Bruni
 Cm. Guerra

- 24. 98-R-015 Authorizing the City Manager of the City of Laredo to accept an agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation to widen and reconstruct the South Meadow Bridge at Chacon Creek and to authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-015.

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

- 25. 98-R-017 Canvassing the returns of the Special Election held on January 17, 1998; approving the results; and ordering a Special Run-Off Election, if necessary.

City Secretary Gustavo Guevara, Jr. read the following election results for the record:

MAYOR	TOTAL VOTES	MAJORITY (Percentage)
Betty G. Flores	5,819	38.82%
John L. Cabello	37	.24
"Rico" Flynn	23	.15
Juan Ramon Barrera	19	.12
Felipe A. Castaneda Sr.	23	.15
Poncho Casso	4,506	30.06

Fausto Sosa	<u>4,563</u>	30.44
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES	14,990	

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-017.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

26. 98-R-018 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00, for the Speed STEP grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$9,750.00, with the City designating \$5,250.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance awarded to the Laredo Police Department. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-018.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

27. 98-R-019 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00, for the Occupant Protection STEP grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$5,000.00, with the City designating \$5,000.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance awarded to the Laredo Police Department. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-019.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

28. 98-R-020 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$37,500.00, for the "El Protector" grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$24,375.00, with the City designating \$13,125.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance (75%) awarded to the Laredo Police Department.

The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-020.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. 98-R-021 Appointing an interim member to the Policy Board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. This member will serve for the duration of Mayor Pro-Tem Jose R. Perez, Jr.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-021 confirming Louis Bruni as the interim member to the MPO.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. 98-R-022 Requesting that the Texas Water Development Board include a representative of the City of Laredo as a member of the initial water planning group for area "M" of the State, and adopting nominations, pursuant to Senate Bill No. 1 of the 75th Texas Legislature.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-022.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VIII. MOTIONS

31. Approval of bid specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the following:
- a) Car Wash Services, Annual Contract - Public Works, Fleet Maintenance Division
 - b) Dry Cleaning Services, Annual Contract, Police Department
 - c) Manholes/PVC Pipe - Utilities Department, Wastewater Collection Division
 - d) Steel Pipe Casing - Utilities Department, Water Distribution Division
 - e) Vehicles and equipment as listed in the schedule of capital outlay from certificates of obligation for FY98
2 - 1 1/2 ton trucks with aerial device (Parks-1, Traffic 1), 2 - dump trucks (Public Works - 1,

Parks -1) 1 - riding mower, with a 72 inch cutting deck
(Parks)

A tentative bid award date for the Car Wash/Dry Cleaning Services, Manholes/PVC Pipe/Steel Pipe Casing - Utilities Department is scheduled for February 16, 1998 and for Vehicles/Equipment the bid award is scheduled for March 2, 1998. Funding is available in the respective Department's operating budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Authorizing the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the West Laredo Traffic Circulation Study. This study will analyze and identify traffic patterns and provide alternatives for improved circulation and the resolution of traffic congestion. It will be funded through L.U.T.S.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Authorization to advertise for Request for Proposals (RFPs) for consulting engineering services to include a feasibility study, surveys, design and preparation of plans and specifications for the Laredo Bridge Department Security Systems with an option for providers of security systems to provide and install all equipment and materials for a complete project at the three Laredo International Bridges and the proposed Fourth International Bridge. Funding is available in the Laredo Bridge System Toll Plaza Improvements.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Approval to reject the sole bid received for the Extension of a Fence at the City of Laredo Cemetery and approval to modify the construction plans, and re-bid the project. Funding is available in the Cemetery Fence Improvements.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Authorize the rejection of all bids received for the annual contract for ready mix concrete and authorize that new bids be solicited. New bid specifications will be modified to include provisions for damages caused by substandard materials and will provide for higher penalties for failure to deliver materials within the time frame required.

Mayor Protem Perez stated there were three bidders, two did not comply and the last one they had problems with. His question is why if the third bidder complied with all the information, yet they are having problems with him, yet he did comply with all the information why was his bid not accepted? Why are we penalizing one person and the others didn't comply.

Mr. Meza, Purchasing Director, said that the recommendation brought forth by the department is that they need to review the specs and make them more tighter as far as some of the requirements for complying with the delivery time, delivery of substandard materials, and penalizing for those standard materials. There are some provisions that need to be strengthened.

Cw. Moreno questioned why didn't they take care of that before putting out the specifications, why are they doing it after the bids are in?

Mr. Meza said he could not answer that question, specs were reviewed and submitted to his office, they were published as they were presented to his office.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, stated that they had discovered that in the specifications, that when a concrete fails a test and we have to go in there and tear it out, and the supplier comes back and puts concrete, that there is no penalty included in the contract or to reimburse the city the cost of the labor to re-paved that sidewalk, etc. and with this particular contractor it happened so many times.

Cm. Perez suggested that staff ask for those requirements from him.

Mr. Pena stated he would have to voluntarily agree to it, we

could not require it of him or the contractor, they can ask him if he could consider a provision.

Motion to table and ask the vendor if he would consider complying with our requirements or provision, and if he does not comply with the requirements then re-bid the item.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

36. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the IBM Corporation in the amount of \$12,589.44, for the purpose of providing maintenance to the AS400 computer and the uninterruptedly power supply (UPS) equipment at the Health Department for a one year period. Funding is available from Health Department program income.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

37. Award of contract to the SOLE BIDDER, Rankin Automatic Transmission, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$50,000.00, for an annual contract for transmission repairs for the Fleet Maintenance Division. The bid pricing will be firm during the contract period and all repair work will be secured on an as need basis. The price is the same as last year.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

38. Award of annual service contract to the SOLE BIDDER, Cantu Electric, Inc., Laredo, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, for electrical services for traffic signals and street lights (Section I); and \$100,000.00, for construction and underground work associated with new and/or upgraded traffic signals and maintenance of street lights (Section II).

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. Award of an annual contract to the LOW BIDDER, Gateway Auto Glass, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$15,000.00, for providing glass replacement service for the Fleet Maintenance Division. A total of four bids were received for this service.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Juan Flores Roofing Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$11,500.00, for roof repairs needed at the Jefferson Street Water Treatment plant. The City received three bids for this contract. The repairs will be completed within two weeks after award of contract. Funding is available in the department's operation budget.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS, Duro-Test Corporation, Fairfield, NJ in the amount of \$22,575.00, for the purchase of high quality, low maintenance traffic signal lamps.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Award of twenty four month copier rental contract to the Xerox Corporation and Best Office Solutions, Laredo, Texas, in the monthly amount of \$1,095.00, for providing three copiers with coin vending devices. These three copiers will be rented in accordance to the provisions of the State of Texas ADA copier rental contract, class 713-A3. These copiers are designed specifically for library use as they are designed with a beveled edge so that the spines of books are not damaged during the copying process. The monthly rental cost includes

the use of the machines, consumable supplies except paper, and full maintenance.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Approval of: (1) change order no. 3, a decrease of \$74,744.97, which includes \$53,900.00, for liquidated damages at the Santa Isabel Reverse Osmosis Project, and \$20,844.98, for decreased items of construction, (2) Acceptance of the Sierra Vista 5 Million Gallon Ground Water Storage Tank and approval of final payment in the amount of \$192,150.26, to Ramex Construction Company, Inc., Houston, Texas; and (3) approval of retaining \$32,063.71, for pending punch list items for the completion of the Santa Isabel Reverse Osmosis Facility Project. Final construction contract amount is \$3,960,430.23. Funding is available in the Water - Santa Isabel Waterwell and Water South Laredo Ground Storage Tank.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. Approval of amendment no. 2, for an amount not to exceed \$9,400.00, to the engineering contract with Structural Engineering Company (SEA), San Antonio, Texas, for the Laredo Northwest International Bridge (Fourth Bridge) for additional survey work made necessary by the increase in the area for the bridgehead. The original contract amount is \$70,450.00 and this amendment brings the total contract amount to \$679,850.00. Funding is available in Bridge System Architectural Fees.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

45. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City's contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., for Environmental Assessment (EA) Service associated with the Laredo Northwest International Bridge (Fourth Bridge) and connecting roadways

at an increased labor cost of \$13,861.00, plus expenses to *compensate for project tasks not covered by the current contract* and to extend the contract period from January 15, 1998 to April 30, 1998. Contract price will increase from \$113,426.00, plus expenses to \$127,722.00, plus expenses.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 46. Renewal of lease agreement with Casa Beto, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$16,800.00, for the lease of a warehouse facility located at 702 Davis. This warehouse is being utilized by the Health, Finance, Bridge, and Engineering Departments as a central storage facility of records and documents. This will be the third year that the City has occupied this facility. The lease cost of \$0.16/sq. ft. is prorated based on the square footage utilized by each operation.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 47. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division in the amount of \$159,543.00, with the City designating \$70,343.00 in matching funds for a total of \$229,886.00, for funding a Domestic Violence Grant under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for the period of June 1, 1998 through May 30, 1999.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 48. (1) Acceptance of the City of Laredo and the Laredo Independent School District (LISD) Sidewalk Program (13 LISD Schools) for Buenos Aires Elementary, Ochoa/Sanchez Elementary, J.C. Martin Elementary, D.D. Hachar Elementary, Kawas Elementary, Ligarde Elementary, Daiches Elementary, and Zachary Elementary Schools, for Cigarroa Middle, Memorial Middle and Lamar Middle Schools, and also for Cigarroa and

Nixon High Schools, (2) Approval of payment in the amount of \$30,718.58, to Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo, Texas, and (3) Approval to retain \$6,496.54 in the sidewalk program, for pending sidewalks along Ejido Avenue at Zachary Elementary School where (LISD) is proceeding with work on a retaining wall. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund Retainage Payable and in Capital Improvement Fund School Sidewalks.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to waive the regular order of business and move up items D(1), A(1), and C(1).

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- 49. Return of Medicare overpayment for ambulance billings for the period of July 1, 1995, to June 30, 1996, in the amount of \$137,316.01. The overpayment is resultant from:
 - (A) Medicare policy that limits payments for strictly defined medically necessary ambulance transports with periodic changes to the definition;
 - (B) yet, they pay all claims as submitted and one or two years later audit and determine how much they overpaid that must be returned.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to waive the rules of order and move item #52 at this time and consider item #8 afterwards.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 50. Update on the status of the Colonias Facility Plan and

financial application, to update contractual provisions with the consultant, Paul Garza and Associates with possible Request for Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071(1)(A) of the Texas Government Code to consult with legal counsel concerning contemplated litigation regarding contractual provisions with the consultant Paul Garza and Associates, and return to open session for possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that as per authorization from council to give the consultant 10 days before they took any action, including legal action, if he did not pay. To this date Mr. Garza has paid about half of the monies that he owed to the environmental firm and has finished the facility plan. He is ready to turn in the facility plan to the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Garza has expressed to him that he has obtained the money from the bank and he will be issuing checks tomorrow to the consulting engineers on the technical side, and that he will be assigning the remaining of the money (about \$15,000 to the environmental company). In the meantime, they have the assurances of the environmental firm that have continued with the project but that they are not ready to release it until they have been paid. They will have it ready so when they get the check they will send it to the state. Unofficially, they had February 1st deadline to turn in this documents. He asked if they can extend that deadline of 10 working days that they were granted the last time, to maybe this Friday to allow the consultants the opportunity to pay if indeed he has the money in his hand to issue the checks and then if that is not the case, then we would take the action required.

Motion to extend the deadline until Friday, February 23rd to allow the consultant the opportunity to pay if indeed he has the money to issue the checks and then if that is not the case, then they will take the action required.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Note: Supplemental agenda item was taken at this time.

51. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code to consult with legal counsel concerning the pending litigation styled Royal Joint Venture, a Texas Joint Venture Comprised of LPC Capital Partnership, L.C.I. Group, Inc., Sawco, Inc., a Texas Corporation, and Modern Form Co., Inc. vs. Louis H. Bruni, Individually and in

wide area and will result in the construction of a 10 feet wide driving surface with a caliche base. He said that they would assist the City of Laredo in preparing a request for additional funding in the following year to construct an additional 10 feet wide caliche-based roadway with the city providing the materials for a blacktop. He advised that the military is being used to construct this roadway and assured the public that they are not armed and added that this project is for the purpose of Border Patrol usage and not for military troops. The issue on the erosion is that it is natural and not due to the road, this issue has been addressed and taken care of.

Cm. Alvarado stated some constituents were concerned as to how this is going to affect the area, the environment, and the impact it will have. He said he went to planning and there is an existing path, and because of the illegal activity it can no longer be used for anything. If they can work something jointly, with the city they can develop it as a scenic route in the future. He is in favor of the project as it stands at this point.

Cm. Bruni had several concerns as follows:
Item 1(b) says, restoration of the area in construction is not required and waived by the owner. He said we are waiving the right of restoration and the damage done by the U.S. Government, we are waiving that right.

Item 2, Exhibit "A" says the permit includes the right of ingress and egress on other lands if necessary and not otherwise conveniently available to the government. In essences what we are doing there is allowing the government to go into any street they want to in the City of Laredo.

Item #4 talks about damages and he thinks there has already damage done to the ecology. Why was the U.S. government not required to get a permit from the International Boundary and Water Commission. Also, why our counterparts in Mexico, ICLA, were not advised?

He wants to see the contract with LCC and why the public hearings were not initiated for the environmental impact study.

Cm. Bruni quoted, "Mr. Mayor Pro-temp and fellow Councilmembers: I am opposed to the U.S. Government's proposal to militarized our border. This is an idea whose time never should have come. Militarization only bodes bad

news for Los Dos Laredos. We only have to look at the shooting death of an innocent west Texas goatherder at the hands of the military and to think that this tragedy could happen in Laredo if the military come in. I fear that water will not be the only thing floating down the river.

Furthermore, the area they want to set up shop in is highly ecologically sensitive. We are already suffering contamination and erosion problems with the river. Why are we going to hurt a bad situation even more?

This proposal is also going to thwart our plans to construct a river walk that would bring positive economic development to the long neglected part of Laredo. What kind of beauty are we going to have if the only things our citizens and tourists see along the river are olive green army trucks and vans with machine guns hoisted on top of them? So much for our planned beautification if this happens. And finally this whole proposal reeks of a bad waste of tax payer money.

Therefore, Mr. Mayor Pro-temp and council members I CANNOT in good conscious support a measure that would threaten the safety of innocent lives, hurt both the highly sensitive ecology of the river, our plans for positive development in the area and shoot tax payer money down the drain. Lets put a stop to this NOW."

He added there is talk about a minimum of about 500 troops, that are going to be set up and down the river, and also of 200 personnel vehicles being bulldozers and other equipment, there is talk of setting up as many as 15 helicopter pads so we are going to have helicopters coming up and down the border. Also, I want to go on record as saying that I am against drugs...I am against infiltration of drugs to enter the United States and to get into the hands of our school children, but not at the cost of setting up a military presence in the City of Laredo and on the river banks. I think that what we are gonna do here is open the door for the military to set foot on City owned property and stay there, and my idea of the river is to beautify the river and to beautify it for economical...economic development and to have like San Antonio Riverwalk area, and not have the military there."

Cm. Casso stated for the record that he is opposed to the City of Laredo granting a right-of-entry permit to the military for construction training and operations in this area for many reasons. 1) Operation hardline has disrupted the

flow of commerce in this community, its been a disaster and the federal government has not done much to help this community in expediting the flow of commerce. If the government is going to spend a lot of money on 240 miles of road, then why is it that they don't put money in this community for infrastructure? He added that he is opposed to drugs, but this is a phony drug war.

He had concern with the environment, said he spoke to Dr. Earhart from LCC, and he was opposed to it, there have been several articles in the newspaper where he has presented concerns. He wants to revitalize the riverfront, maybe a convention center there, parks and trails, but he just doesn't think that we should grant the military the right-of-entry just like that. He does not believe that we should have the military here right now, it is creating an adversary posture with Mexico. He said that before we know it, we will have military all the way across the border, the flow of drugs will not be stopped, it is a poor anti-drug initiative, as long as there a demand for it, they will not stop because it is a billion dollar industry how are we going to stop it, not by clearing roads.

Cm. Bruni stated the only thing that it would create would be setting up a military problem on both sides.

Cm. Guerra disagreed with his colleagues and said we are loosing the war on drugs on illegal immigration and we need to put a stop to that. He further stated he thinks this is a step in the right direction and supports the efforts by the Border Patrol and the Department of Justice.

Cm. Alvarado wants that city staff meet with border patrol so that we can have the scenic route that has been spoken of, so that we can beautify the area and make sure that all the environmental concerns discussed preivously are being looked.

Cm. Bruni wants item #8 and #52 tabled until they have more information from staff and from the U.S. Government. He also wants answers to his questions and wants clarification on "Exhibit A" item B and in item 2.

Mayor Protem Perez stated they will ask the City Manager to follow-up on those items.

Mr. Jesus Ponce spoke on the issue and stated the council needs to stop these congressmen from telling us or giving

these rulings that hurt the communities along the river more than they help.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Candalario Viera appeared before the council to request an extension for his injury leave.

Dan Migura, Administrative Services Director, summarized on Mr. Viera's request. He said that on August or September of 1997 they had this item on the agenda, Mr. Viera was requesting an extension, he had exhausted the prior extension that was requested and had a summation of how much time had been spent on leave with pay. On November 13th Mr. Viera went to the doctor and the doctor gave him an indication that he would not be able to work and that was an indefinite ruling. His next appointment is on February 12th, so they do not have any indication as to what his status his or ability to return is, currently the records indicate that he has used 110 days of his sick leave and approximately 45 days of sick leave accrued is remaining, and 66 days of annual leave is remaining.

Mr. Viera stated he had a letter from the doctor which he submitted to city staff.

Mr. Gilbert Sanchez stated the letter Mr. Viera provided does not indicate that he can return to full duty and that has been the underlined issue all along, (whether or not he can be released back to full duty). He added that Mr. Viera has been out since 11-18-92.

Mayor Protem Perez requested a complete analysis from staff and a recommendation, then council will make a decision for the next agenda on whether or not grant the extension.

- B. Dr. Earhart spoke in reference to the item #52 and said there is great concern for the quality of life, has worked on this problem for 25 years. He is concerned about what is taking place and believes that there are things that are very easy to see, we reside upon deep layers of river silt. He spoke of the condition of the soil, water quality, erosion and the environmental assessment. He said we need governmental help, we need the expertise of Corp of Engineers to help us understand the problems.

- C. Cm. Casso stated for the record that he is not endorsing any candidate for the run-off election and announced he will be running for May 2nd.

XI. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

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

A. Requests by Councilmember Louis H. Bruni

1. Presentation by Tex-Mex Railroad representatives regarding the donation of a parcel of property situated between Arkansas Avenue and New York Avenue to provide traffic access to area residents.

Larry Fields, President of Tex-Mex Railroad, announced to council that they were officially donating this property valued at \$85,000 to the City.

The second item Mr. Fields spoke of road consolidation and closures of railroad crossings. He said Laredo is a Transportation Center, the trains and trucks built Laredo, they are history and will be our future. He stated that Tex-Mex is moving out of town. They are moving to the other side of Loop 20, they are building a \$7 million yard, they will get out there and there won't be any road crossings, they are building 15 miles of track and this will help the City of Laredo, but they still need to close some of these roads. If you go from Loring to Seymour it's 300 feet, 300 feet from one crossing to the other, they don't need every 300 feet and they don't have them every 300 feet. They do not expect this council, or any council, or the citizens to support closing all road crossing. Recently, they hired 101 people, increased their payroll by \$5 million, those are real jobs and are jobs that pay taxes, those jobs average to \$15 per hour, 82% of those people of citizens of Laredo, with that growth comes some pain and that is road crossing and its closures. In almost every case Tex-Mex was there first in Laredo for the exception of two or three where the road existed before they got here, but if the railroad was there first then they are grandfathered. If people want a road crossing, it is the city, state and county's responsibility to provide it, not the railroads. He added that they want to work with the city, they want to get ISTEPA funds, to build some overpasses/underpasses to help the citizens in South Laredo. They were seeking help from council, because there will be more traffic generated and they need to think about what they will do on a

long term, are they going to make every one happy when they consolidate or close the road, of course not, and they don't ask that and expect that, but they do think they need to look at closing some of them and doing some things to improve that, they were seeking help and will work with city when it's time to do that.

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

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that the Chacon Creek Interceptor is very close to being a project under construction. They have the design complete and they are just waiting for a permit by the railroad and arrangements with the three land owners along the route. They will have the money for the complete project by mid February and are awaiting the finding of no significant impact from the environmental report. They have had all the public hearings and will be bidding this project by late February. He said they have \$9.8 million of which \$6 million come from EPA as a grant and they will be floating an issue of \$5.4 to supplement.

3. Status report on the extension of Arkansas Avenue with possible action.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, reported that they have received the pre-construction on this project Friday. They have been given orders to proceed commencing today and they have asked the contractor to coordinate the start-up with the outgoing construction contract that TxDot is doing on Highway 59. The project is about 7- 1/2 months and the actual construction might take place by this coming week.

Note: Cm. Alvarado's items were taken at this time.

B. Requests by Councilmember Alfonso "Poncho" Casso

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the hiring of Mario Martinez and Associates as a legislative consultant for the City of Laredo. (Co-Sponsored Cw. Consuelo Montalvo)

Motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the contract with Mario Martinez and Associates.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the cleaning of creeks citywide.

Cm. Casso requested that staff look at a Rosales Street and take appropriate measures to clean it, and maybe try to improve it. He said that U.S. Cellular is close to this home where the creek is, there is some property there and they are dumping all kinds of debris. He asked that staff go out and clean it up and hold owners accountable to that property because it's a fire hazard to the homes of the area. He asked for a creek report by the next meeting.

Cm. Bruni requested that the creek report include all districts including city easements.

C. Requests by Councilmember Joe A. Guerra

1. Discussion and possible action concerning a request by Texas A&M International University to provide additional fixed route bus service on weekdays and implement service on Saturdays.

Gilbert Segovia, El Metro Manager, stated that pursuant to last council direction, he had communicated formally with TAMIU to see what their ability and inclination to fund this and any other service increases. Mr. Segovia said they are in the process of evaluating all our routes to determine what the productivity is of all routes in order to determine where the most productive routes are in order to identify where they might direct modifications during the next budget year. They intend to discuss those preliminary findings with the Ad Hoc Committee next month. They are also evaluating another service which is the LCC shuttle to determine if they need to do anything with that one. The last time he was not in the position to recommend the increase in service because it does come at the beginning or the middle of the budget year and this service was not contemplated when they went to the budget workshops. For him to recommend an increase on that issue, would have not been to the best interest to the city. Several other reasons for that, are that there are several revenue sources that of which the realization are still in question. The sales tax fortunately is coming in very well, but they have other revenues that they are looking at, primarily federal revenues. The ISTEA was extended for a few months, they do not know what the final outcome is on the federal funding.

In summary he thinks that to increase service, and any other

service at this time, he is not the position to recommend this because of the budgetary implications.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, stated that he recommends that we look at all the routes because there might be some routes that are not as efficient and maybe they can be changed some way, but that requires more time to get that information together. There was a committee appointed by council, the Metro Committee, and they would like to share this with them because there is concern where they do not want to be in a situation next year where they do not intend to fund the El Metro with general fund monies.

Cm. Alvarado stated that he sits on the Ad Hoc Committee and the next meeting will be held on February 3rd. He added that these issues were brought up at a previous meeting, they have asked Mr. Segovia to start looking at a five year plan so they can look at the growth, demand, and how they expect to finance this growth.

Arturo Sanchez III, TAMIU Student President, said that it's important that they have transportation to and from the University especially on Saturdays. The need is for the students living on campus and students needing the campus facilities on Saturdays and he asked council to look at this issue.

Mr. Pena said they will bring a budget amendment for the next meeting to amend the budget with a cost of \$14,000.00 to implement that route.

Motion to instruct staff to look for a solution and implement a route immediately on Saturdays.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

D. Requests by Councilmember Mario G. Alvarado

1. Report by the South Texas International Summit Committee on the Youth Conference held on the January 8 and 9, 1998, and acknowledgment of local businesses and entities who helped with the conference.

Cristelo Garza, from the International Summit Committee, gave a report on the President's Summit in Laredo in which there were 800 participants which included both school districts

from Laredo, students from Zapata, Hebbronville, and some students from Nuevo Laredo. The summit took place at TAMIU on January 8th and at LCC on the 9th. He reported that they opened the ceremonies with entertainment, students were treated for lunch at campus, after that they were taken to several areas in the city where they did volunteer work, clean-up on the Zacate Creek area, after they finish the activities for the day, the boarded the buses back to school. They following day the met at LCC where they had group session, workout sessions where the students discussed several items, foremost on those items for the break out sessions, were things that came out of the President's Submits which is that every child in America needs a marketable skill through education, an ongoing relationship with the carrying adult which would be a mentor, a tutor, a coach, a safe places and structured activities, during non-school hours, a healthy start, and an opportunity to give back through community service. After the breakout session at LCC students game out with some suggestions which they took back to their schools and now they will work through their schools to implement their suggestions for these five resources which came out of the President's Summit as something that the students/children of America need in order to succeed.

Note: There was a video presentation of the events that took place.

Mayor Protem Perez recognized entities involved in this endeavor: International Bank of Commerce, Texas A&M International University, Mercy Regional Hospital, U.S. Cellular, Laredo Community College, Colombia Doctors Hospital, ITT Automotive, Alexander Pay Phone Communications, Inc., Texas Department of Transportation Tourist Bureau, Office Communications Systems, and H.E.B.

2. Report from staff on the Lafayette Bridge area relocation project.

Cindy Collazo, CD Director, reported that on Phase I they completed all the acquisition. On Phase II they lack one family that is still there, they are building a house that should be out by April. Regarding the demolition, they have released several contracts. They had to survey the area because of the lead base paint and the asbestos. They have a contract already that council awarded in December for the abatement process. They also have another contract that they have asked Mr. Pena to sign for the demolition. Three of the units did not contain and lead base or asbestos so those will

be sold by the contractor. The gentleman that got the bid will be selling some of the units. There is a 60-day turn around. On Phase II they have already sent the letters, the appraisals are underway and they expect some appraisals by the end of the month and the remaining four by February so they can start making the offers and get those people moved.

Cm. Alvarado stated he has received calls on traffic concerns on Lafayette and Pinder asked that Mr. Landin look into this matter and make recommendation.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

54. Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$173,829.00, for the Immunization Action Plan Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$173,829.00, for the Immunization Action Plan Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Casso not present

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

55. Public hearing regarding approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$142,492.00, for the Neural Tube Defects Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning

October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance regarding approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$142,492.00, for the Neural Tube Defects Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Casso

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

56. Public Hearing authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 1998-B, in the principal amount of \$16,160,000.00, for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the City's Contractual Obligation for the construction of drainage improvements; construction of street improvements and repairs; construction of a New Public Works Building; repairing and remodeling the Canizalez Gym, Old Library Building, and Municipal Court Building; acquisition of municipal vehicles and equipment for municipal departments, together with a Landfill Collection System, and the acquisition of land for a Municipal Landfill, and for paying legal, fiscal, architectural, and engineering fees in connection with such projects; and other matters relating thereto.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 1998-B, in the principal amount of \$16,160,000.00, for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the City's Contractual Obligation for the construction of drainage improvements; construction of street improvements and repairs; construction of a New Public Works Building; repairing and remodeling the Canizalez Gym,

Old Library Building, and Municipal Court Building; acquisition of municipal vehicles and equipment for municipal departments, together with a Landfill Collection System, and the acquisition of land for a Municipal Landfill, and for paying legal, fiscal, architectural, and engineering fees in connection with such projects; and other matters relating thereto.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Jesus Ponce reminded council that last year there were several bonds that were extended and was mentioned to cut down the premiums of those bonds I hope if these bonds go through to have improvements to our community, however we're going deeper into the hole in debt, ask that we make sure that they are well spent.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 57. Public hearing authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas Combination Tax and Sewer System Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 1998-A, in the principal amount of \$6,415,000.00 for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the City's Contractual Obligation for improvements and extensions to the City's Sewer System, and acquisition of land in connection therewith, and for paying legal, fiscal, and engineering fees in connection with this project and other matters relating thereto.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas Combination Tax and Sewer System Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 1998-A, in the principal amount of \$6,415,000.00 for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the City's Contractual Obligation for improvements and extensions to the City's Sewer System, and acquisition of land in connection therewith, and for paying legal, fiscal, and

engineering fees in connection with this project and other matters relating thereto.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
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

- 58. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$345,000.00, for the sale of three motor graders to Holt Co. of Texas under the re-purchase program and the purchase of two new motor graders and the lease or purchase of a loader. Providing for publication and effective date.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$345,000.00, for the sale of three motor graders to Holt Co. of Texas under the re-purchase program and the purchase of two new motor graders and the lease or purchase of a loader. Providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
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 : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

59. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget by increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the Paseo Del Antiquo Laredo fund by \$1,345,198.00, and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget, providing for publication and effective date.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget by increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the Paseo Del Antiquo Laredo fund by \$1,345,198.00, and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget, providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

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 : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

60. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$15,000.00, for the Speed STEP grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$9,750.00, with the City designating \$5,250.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance awarded to the Laredo Police Department. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$15,000.00, for the Speed STEP grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas

Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$9,750.00, with the City designating \$5,250.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance awarded to the Laredo Police Department. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

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. Alvarado
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 61. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$10,000.00, for the Occupant Protection STEP grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$5,000.00, with the City designating \$5,000.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance awarded to the Laredo Police Department. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$10,000.00, for the Occupant Protection STEP grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$5,000.00, with the City designating \$5,000.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance awarded to the Laredo Police Department. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 62. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$37,500.00, for the "El Protector" grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$24,375.00, with the City designating \$13,125.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance (75%) awarded to the Laredo Police Department. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$37,500.00, for the "El Protector" grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation's contribution will be \$24,375.00, with the City designating \$13,125.00, in matching funds. These funds reflect the remaining balance (75%) awarded to the Laredo Police Department. The funding for this grant will be from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

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

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

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

63. Adopting Resolution No. 98-RMH-09 to amend the Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation (LMHC) as recommended by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in order to be considered for tax-exempt status under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The LMHC Board of Directors authorized the submit of an application for recognition of tax exemption under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code on September 2, 1997.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Casso

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

XIV. 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. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

64. Authorization to solicit bids for awarding a two year uniform rental contract for maintenance personnel. The contract will include weekly laundry service and includes forty four employees assigned to the maintenance division. This service is provided in accordance to the terms of the collective

bargaining agreement. A tentative bid award date is scheduled for February 16, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 65. Public hearing regarding the realignment of the El Metro #5 Marcella bus route in order to increase its efficiency and remove a difficult turning maneuver from Bartlett Street to Jarvis Street.

MOTION

Approval of a motion to realign the El Metro #5 Marcella bus route in order to increase its efficiency and remove a difficult turning maneuver from Bartlett Street to Jarvis Street.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close and table.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Casso

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Casso

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTES

IX. CITY MANAGERS REPORT

- a. Consideration and action regarding a request from the Laredo National Bank of dedication as public right-of-way and paving improvements with sidewalks on a strip of City property

adjacent and west of the South Laredo Fire Station and parallel to the former 2500 block of South Malinche Avenue between Zacatecas and Chacota and to include parking improvements and landscaping to the area South of the Fire Station. Total cost of the City's participation is \$50,000.00, to be allocated from the 1998 C.O.'s and the dedication of the right-of-way appraised at approximately \$50,000.00, and the engineering services. The Laredo National Bank's share is approximately \$97,460.00. The total cost of the project is \$197,460.00. A presentation regarding these improvements will be made.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XV. ADJOURNMENT


Motion to adjourn.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Adjournment time: 9:20 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES CONTAINED IN PAGES 01 TO 43 ARE TRUE, COMPLETE, AND CORRECT PROCEEDING OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1998. A CERTIFIED COPY IS ON FILE AT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.


 GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.
 CITY SECRETARY