

CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

MINUTES

M98-R-14

MARCH 16, 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
CECILIA MAY MORENO,	"	, DISTRICT IV
ELISEO VALDEZ,	"	, DISTRICT V
JOE A. GUERRA,	"	, DISTRICT VI
MARIO G. ALVARADO,	"	, DISTRICT VII
CONSUELO "CHELO" MONTALVO,	"	, DISTRICT VIII
GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.,	CITY SECRETARY	
FLORENCIO PENA, III,	CITY MANAGER	
JAIME L. FLORES,	CITY ATTORNEY	

ABSENCES:

Motion to excuse Mayor Elizabeth Flores due to out-of-town business commitment and Cm. Casso.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Protem Perez was chairing the meeting and not voting.

Motion waive the regular order of business and move up items A(1), #5 and #38, D(1), and #14.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. City Council Meeting of February 2, 1998
- City Council Special Meeting of February 9, 1998
- Workshop on Economic Sales Tax February 11, 1998
- City Council Meeting of February 17, 1998
- Workshop Financing Bridge IV February 23, 1998
- Tour of River Road Project February 26, 1998

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Guerra had left the meeting.

V. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

3. Amending Chapter 2, Article II, Division 6, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, entitled pay administration, by amending Sections 2.87.7(d) (15) (b), thereby adopting a revised pay schedule increasing all steps in all grades in the pay schedule from two and one half percent (2 1/2%) to three and one-half percent (3 1/2%) with an effective date of implementation of April 1, 1998; and Amending Section 2.87.7(d) (15) (c), thereby adopting a revised pay schedule decreasing all steps in all grades in the pay schedule from two and one half percent (2 1/2%) to one and one half percent (1 1/2%), with an effective date of implementation of September 30, 1998.

Motion to amend the ordinance to increase to 5% pay increase effective April 1, 1998.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 2

Against: 2

Abstain: 1

Cm. Bruni

Cm. Alvarado

Cw. Moreno

Cm. Valdez

Cw. Montalvo

Motion to amend the ordinance fails.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Ordering and proclaiming a general city election to be held on Saturday, May 2, 1998, designating polling places, designating the run-off date, and providing for publication.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

5. Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Laredo, Texas calling a Section 4B Sales and Use Tax Special Election to be held within the City on May 2, 1998, making provisions for the conduct thereof and other provisions relating thereto. The proposed Section 4B Sales and Use Tax would create a Development Corporation to undertake economic development projects to create jobs and improve the quality of life in Laredo, Texas. A one-fourth cent (1/4 cent) Sales and Use Tax is proposed. **(This item is related to Agenda Item No. 38 and should be considered simultaneously).**

This ordinance was postponed for August 8, 1998 election, subject to changes upon final reading in June.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

VI. FINAL READINGS

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinances #98-O-058, #98-O-076, #98-O-077, #98-O-079, #98-O-080, #98-O-081, and #98-O-082.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 98-O-058 Ordinance to create two new positions as required by a grant, awarded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency through the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to develop a "HazMat Education and Enforcement Program" for the period from January 1, 1998 through August 31, 1999 and authorizing the City Manager to implement changes within the budget. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-058.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 7. 98-O-076 Establishing a 15% penalty on delinquent tax accounts as of July 1, 1998, to defray cost of collection pursuant to Section 33.07(a) of the Property Tax Code. (City Council)

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cw. Montalvo
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 8. 98-O-077 Approving the amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$235,954.00, in additional funds for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period September 1, 1997, through August 31, 1998. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-077.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cw. Montalvo
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 9. 98-O-078 Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances by creating Article IX of Chapter 21, titled "Noise Nuisances," thereby establishing an article regulating excessive noise, declaring noise nuisances and providing for a penalty thereof; deleting subsection 21-17(5) concerning general nuisances which having been incorporated into Article IX.; deleting Chapter 28, Article IV. titled Sound Amplification Devices, which having been incorporated into Article IX. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-078.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cw. Montalvo
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 10. 98-O-079 Amending Section 24.82 of the Laredo Land Development Code by allowing for the use of temporary signage along US and State Highways during times of reconstruction on those highways. (As Amended) (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-079.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

11. 98-O-080 Amending ordinance 96-O-198 of the code of ordinances of the City of Laredo to permit two-way traffic northbound and southbound on the 100 to 300 blocks of San Pablo Avenue on a three (3) block segment between Iturbide and Water Streets and authorizing the City Manager to take the necessary steps to enforce this ordinance.
(Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-080.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

12. 98-O-081 Amending the City of Laredo's FY 1997-98 Annual Budget by authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment (increase) to the Laredo Municipal Transit Systems FY 1997-98 operating budget (revenue and expenditures; Fund 558) in the amount of \$5,998.00, to \$7,037,495.00 to \$7,031,497.00; transferring funds from the transit sales tax proceeds budget reserve account (Fund 518).
(City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-081.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

13. 98-O-082 Amending the City of Laredo's FY 1997-98 Hotel-Motel budget in the amount of \$36,454.00, to be used for direct advertising and other related expenditures. These monies result from excess FY 1996-1997 balances in the Hotel-Motel fund from prior year collected taxes; and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget.
(City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-O-082.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VII. RESOLUTIONS

14. 98-R-03 Declaring the public necessity to acquire the "Surface Only" of one parcel of land needed as Right-of-Way for the widening of Gallagher Avenue from the North right-of-way line of Calton Road, north to the South right-of-way line of Hillside Road. Said parcel being the **East fifteen feet** of Block No. 19 in the Calton Gardens Subdivision No. 1, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, and authorizing the City Attorney to initiate eminent domain proceedings to acquire said parcel as Right-of-Way if staff is unable to acquire through negotiations due to inability to agree to a purchase price, conflict of ownership, owner's refusal to sell, and/or inability to locate the listed owner.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-03.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to excuse Cm. Guerra.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Cm. Guerra left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

15. 98-R-035 Authorizing the use of surplus proceeds from the contractual obligation series 1995 in the amount of \$72,597.06 to purchase vehicles with CNG System, in addition to the February sale of \$16,160,000.00, Certificates of Obligation.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-035.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Approval of the specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the Pre-Engineered/Prefabricated Steel Pedestrian Bridge for the Northeast Hillside Recreation Center and Park, and approval to seek Request for Proposals for structural engineering services for the design of bridge abutments; and proposals for geotechnical (subsurface) evaluation, if needed, with tentative award on April 20, 1998. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund Northeast Hillside Park.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Authorization to advertise for Request for Proposals (RFPs) for consulting engineering services to identify alternative alignments for the extension of Bartlett Avenue from Hillside Road to Del Mar Blvd., approximately 16,500 linear feet, and to include surveys/plats for the right-of-way acquisition, and ultimately for the design and preparation of construction plans and specifications for the project. This is a Certificate of Obligation Bond Project and funding is available from the 1998 Contractual Obligation Issue Construction Projects.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Acetylene Oxygen Company, Alice, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$20,880.00, for the purchase of trichlor tablets needed for the chlorination process for all the City's swimming pools. The bid pricing is approximately 18% less than the previous contract pricing.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Award of annual contract to the LOW BIDDER, S.L.C. Hydro-Metric, Inc., Waterford, MI., in the estimated amount of \$12,650.00, for rebuilding water meters for the Utilities Department. The contract pricing is approximately 40% less than the previous contract. Meter repairs are requested on an as need basis.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Laredo Discount Metal Building Components, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$35,396.68, for furnishing prefabricated wrought iron fence sections for the City Cemetery. The contract vendor will deliver ten foot fence sections to the City for installation by City crews and contract labor. Approximately 970 linear feet of fence will be required to match the existing wrought iron fence installed by Mercy Regional Center. A total of five bids were received for the purchase of this fence. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund Cemetery Improvements.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Award of contract to the following LOW BIDDERS, for the purchase of vehicles authorized in the FY98 capital equipment budgets:

Sames Motor Co., Laredo, Texas:

8 - 1/2 ton extended cab trucks (dedicated CNG)	\$173,200.00
4 - midsize sedans (conventional due to limited range)	<u>72,780.00</u>
	\$229,980.00

Philpott Motors, Port Neches, Texas:

9 - 1/2 ton trucks (bi-fuel)	\$169,776.00
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2 - Cargo Van (dedicated CNG) 43,396.00
\$213,172.00

Powell Watson Motors, Laredo, Texas:

3 - 3/4 ton trucks (dedicated CNG) **\$ 57,924.00**

Brown Chevrolet, Devine, Texas:

1 - 4 wheel drive utility vehicle
 (conventional engine for Fire
 Department use) \$ 24,521.06
\$525,597.06

Delivery is expected within ninety days. \$453,000.00 was allotted for this purchase in the February 2, 1998, Bond Sale. The difference of \$72,597.06, will come from surplus funds in previous CO issues. (Please refer to Resolution No. 98-R-035)

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Award of a construction contract to the **LOWEST BIDDER,** Dominguez Development, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of amount of \$83,487.00, for the Laredo Independent School District (LISD) Ochoa-Sanchez Park located at Locust Street and Monterrey Avenue. This is a City of Laredo/LISD Project with funding available from the Community Development CDBG Ochoa Elementary Park.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Award of an engineering contract to G.G. Salinas Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$106,384.32, to provide surveys, design and preparation of plans and specifications for Paving Project 61 (36 Blocks) City of Laredo Capital Improvements Projects for FY 97-98. Funding is available in Community Development CDBG Paving Project 61 and Capital Improvement Fund Paving Project 61.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Award of an professional services contract to Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$41,928.00, to provide Laboratory, Sampling and Testing Services of materials for quality control for the Father Charles McNaboe Recreational Complex. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund Father Charles McNaboe Park.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Award of an professional consulting services for an amount not to exceed \$27,000.00, to Sepulveda Associates, Inc., Laredo, Texas, to develop, design and prepare engineering plans and specifications for implementing the Storm Water Management and Ecology Demonstration park at Laredo Community College Campus on fast tract basis. Funding is available in NPDES Funds Purchase Professional Services - Ecology Grant project.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$29,648.00, to the engineering contract for the Toll System Upgrade and Electronic Toll Collection Implementation to include conceptual plan, design, construction implementation, system testing phases with B.W. Zimmerman and Associates, Harrisburg, PA, to add the design and construction management of the toll system at the proposed Fourth International Bridge and to increase the contract time by fourteen (14) months to test prototype of the proposed system, to implement final design, installation phase, and oversee final checkout of all the equipment, and includes two months for the proposed Fourth International Bridge. The original contract amount was \$105,517.00. This amendment brings the total contract amount to \$135,165.00. Funding is available in the Bridge System Toll Plaza Improvements.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 33. Approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$60,000.00, to the engineering contract with Sherfey Engineering Company, L.C.C., Laredo, Texas, for additional engineering services to design and prepare plans and specifications to include analysis and sizing of belt filter press and related appurtenances and building to house unit for the North Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant Odor Control Project. Original architectural engineering amount of \$12,000.00, is amended to \$72,000.00. Funding is available in the Sewer System Oxygen/Hydrogen Sulfide Control.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 34. Approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$94,000.00, for additional engineering surveying services to the engineering contract with G.G. Salinas Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, for the Reconstruction of Santa Maria Avenue between Markley Lane and Del Mar Blvd. The additional engineering services are due to project changes required by the City. The Santa Maria Avenue Reconstruction Project was intended to be designed and constructed in conjunction with the Santa Maria Avenue Drainage Project, however, due to funding issues, the project is now being done in two phases; Also additional surveying of twenty (20) individual parcels of land for right-of-way acquisition and/or to identify encroachments. The original contract amount was \$189,500.00. This amendment brings the total contract amount to \$283,500.00. Funding is available in the 1998 Contractual Obligation Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 35. Approval of amendment no. 3, an increase of \$13,640.00 for additional Resident Project Representative (inspection services) to the engineering contract with Mejia Engineering

Company, 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 additional 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 to contract time added to the construction contract. Amended architectural engineering contract amount is \$536,273.42. Funding is available in the Sewer System Manadas Creek Interceptor.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado
 Second: Cw. Montalvo
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 36. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Health for continuation of the **La Familia** Health Care Program of the City of Laredo Health Department.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
 Second: Cw. Moreno
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 37. Acceptance of the Sidewalks Project at B.P. Newman Elementary School and approval of final payment in the amount of \$18,898.32, to Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Total contract amount is \$80,850.00. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund Newman Elementary Sidewalks.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
 Second: Cw. Moreno
 For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- 38. Presentation with possible City Council action regarding the proposed one-quarter cent (1/4 cent) Section 4B Sales and Use Tax by the City's Economic Development Advisory Council.

Elmo Lopez, Economic Advisory Boardmember, stated that the Business Council, The Laredo Business Council, Laredo Development Foundation, Chamber of Commerce and other business entities have worked closely with the Economic Development Council of the City to build consensus on the future economic development needs of Laredo. One thing is clear and unanimous, Laredo needs additional tools in order to attract the high paying steady jobs that allow a community to grow. With high unemployment in Laredo our focus needs to be not just to be on any jobs, but on the types of jobs that come as a result of attracting companies and business interests in a long term relationship for Laredo. At this time the only legal way to provide the types of incentives we need to attract the businesses that will bring jobs to Laredo is through the creation of an Economic Development Corporation. Laredo has lost business opportunities to other cities in Texas because of our inability to compete. The creation of the Economic Corporation will provide us the level plain field we have long needed, therefore they support the proposed 1/4% increase in sales tax to fund the EDC and to provide other needed projects in Laredo. Currently council is considering a May Election on this initiative to coincide with the municipal elections and at this time they believe that May election is too soon to gather the public input that is critical to a project of this nature. He added that three times the City of McAllen proposed an Economic Development package similar to what is they are proposing, three times they failed to provide accountability by refusing to tell voters how they planned to spend the money, for how long the tax would be collected and whether the money was being spent wisely, three times the voters rejected the proposal. In Lubbock the same thing happened, McAllen learned its lesson, last year they prioritized projects and guarantee voters the opportunity to help re-prioritized projects every few years. Voters have a right to know how their money will be spent, and for what projects, through hearings and forums the public will have an ample opportunity to provide input on the projects on which they start. He encouraged council to amend the date of this proposal from a May election to an August election and to allow amendment to the ballot as far as the language is concerned. They need the extra time to build consensus city wide because they cannot move forward until they move together.

39. Report advising City Council that unidentified utilities deposits in the amount of \$98,384.22, for the Waterworks

System would be transferred to a miscellaneous revenue account. The audit firm of Baum & Mejia CPAs, in their Letter to Management, recommends that such deposits be applied or refunded.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, gave an overview of the report to the Council. He said these are old, antiquated, deposits that have been in the waterworks system for many years and they have not identified any person or companies that it belongs to and therefore the audit firm recommends that they acknowledge those as revenues.

Motion to proceed with the recommendations of the audit firm.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Bruni was not present.

40. Discussion and possible action regarding the acquisition of three Utility Easements from Ms. Mary F. Gomez and Mr. Rafael Gomez. Said easements being described as a thirty-foot-wide Utility Easement consisting of Part 1 (0.19 of an acre of land), more or less, Part 2 (0.02 of an acre of land), more or less; and a thirty-foot-wide Utility Easement consisting of 1.7218 acres of land, more or less, respectively, in Webb County, Texas; with possible Executive Session for deliberations regarding real property as authorized by V.T.C.A. Government Code Section 551.072 and return to Open Session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session for deliberations regarding real property as authorized by V.T.C.A. Government Code Section 551.072 and return to Open Session for possible action.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

After Executive Session Mayor Protem announced that no formal action was taken.

Motion to direct staff to proceed to negotiate with Ms. Mary F. Gomez for the acquisition of three Utility Easements, in exchange for street parcels, payment of just compensation, or through eminent domain proceedings, if necessary.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Bruni was not present.

41. Discussion and possible action regarding the acceptance of the donation of Blocks 1717, 1718, 1778, 1873, 2159, 2160 and 1630, Eastern Division, from the Laredo Noon Optimist Club, Inc., from which a Utility Easement needs to be acquired out of Blocks 1778, 1873, and 2159, Eastern Division. Said easement being described as a thirty-foot-wide Utility Easement consisting of Block 1778, part 1 (0.19 of an acre of land), more less, Block 1873, Part 2 (0.08 of an acre of land), more or less, and Block 2159, Part 3 (0.18 of an acre of land), more or less, and Block 2159, Part 3 (0.18 of an acre o land), more or less, and being situated within the area comprising the Dryden Memorial Park grounds, Eastern Division, Webb County, Texas; with possible Executive Session for deliberations regarding real property as authorized by V.T.C.A. Government Code Section 551.072, and return to Open Session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session for deliberations regarding real property as authorized by V.T.C.A. Government Code Section 551.072.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

After Executive Session Mayor Protem announced that no formal action was taken.

Motion to direct staff to proceed to accept Blocks Nos. 1630, 1717, 1718, 1778, 1873, 2159, and 2160, Eastern Division, from the Laredo Noon Optimist Club, Inc., in-lieu-of delinquent property taxes for Lots 1-6, Block 1630, Eastern Division, and to pay said taxes out of the City Utilities Department funds.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Bruni was not present.

42. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(a) to discuss contemplated litigation

regarding Fleet Maintenance Investigation, and return to open session for possible action thereon.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(a) to discuss contemplated litigation regarding Fleet Maintenance Investigation

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

After Executive Session Mayor Protem announced that no formal action was taken in Executive Session.

43. Discussion regarding a request to amend the terms of a parking lot lease located on River Vega Land, dated August 7, 1979 between the City of Laredo and Lar-Hill, Inc., by extending the primary term of said lease which terminates on August 6, 2007, by thirty (30) years together with an adjustment of rent to increase the fair market rental value to current rates plus annual consumer price index increases and discussion regarding possible assignment of this parking lot lease as amended, to Kabir Investments, Inc., as the prospective purchaser of the Holiday Inn on the Rio Property, together with possible Executive Session for deliberation regarding real property, as authorized and pursuant to Section 551.072, of the Texas Government Code and return to open session, for possible action thereon.

Motion to go into Executive Session for deliberation regarding real property, as authorized and pursuant to Section 551.072, of the Texas Government Code.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

After Executive Session Mayor Protem announced that no formal action was taken.

Motion to instruct the City Manager to have staff negotiate and finalize the terms of an amended lease agreement with up to 30 year extension term and possible assignment, and have the City Manager return with the terms and conditions of the negotiated lease agreement for review and approval by this council, upon the completion of said negotiations.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Bruni was not present.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Danita Benavides spoke before the council on the creation of a Tree Board and that this board needs to work together with CPL to stop the damaging of the trees.

Mr. Manuel Jordan with the Texas Forest Service spoke of the idea of the Tree Board and looking at the potential of the city becoming Tree City U.S.A. and the requirements.

Cm. Alvarado informed Mrs. Benavides to prepare a list of names that are interested in serving on the Board and submit them to the City Secretary.

Miss Linda Cantu from CPL stated that they are committed as role partners with the City of Laredo to get the Tree City USA going and are willing to help facilitate the filing forms and participating on the board itself.

- b. Dr. Michael Landeck asked that council clarify the specific purpose and time and whether it's one (1) year of more and if it is a single project or multiple projects on the sales tax increase proposal. He thanked the Council for postponing the election.
- c. Jesus Longoria spoke before the Council and informed them of present railroad problems. He passed a copy of a ticket issued by a Texas Railroad Police to Jose Luis Castillo on a violation of interference with railroad property and for jumping on a moving train. He said it when the train stops and it stops for a long time, and residents of the area are forced to do creative things either coming under the railroad car or over the railroad car, in this case he came over the railroad car. He was cited to appear before the JP Court and issued a ticket, he was unable to attend the court session and sent a letter from the judge's office. If he needs to plea guilty to avoid a long trial he is to pay \$109.75 and of course the court costs. He has to pay \$232.00 or in the event he decides to make a personal appearance, the court will not be bound by the stated amount which means he can even end up in jail. He hopes that for the next agenda, this item be put and discussed. He added that the man

that issued the ticket issued it under a public law and under certain legal right because he was to take it to Judge Valdez. He wants that this item be brought on the next agenda so that it can be fully discussed with the railroad people.

- d. Dr. Jose G. Garcia, President of the Laredo Day Break Rotary Club, explained they have approach each member of the organization of Americans States which are 34 countries, about the fact that Laredo has been already been designated as "The Gateway of Las Americas" and Mr. Duarte member of the Rotary Club came up with an idea of proposing that each of the councilmembers of the organization of American States donate a crest or coat-of-arms for their particular country so that one of the avenues where most of the traffic between ourselves and the sister republics to the south is maintained and proposing that the avenue could be named as "Avenida de las Americas" where our citizens and other citizens of other countries that travel through our gateway are reminded of all the countries that are part of this hemisphere.

In addition, they asked from each of the member countries, to donate to our city a copy of a book of geography of their own country, a book on the history of their country, and three representative books by either poets, philosophers or different literary artists for their country so that a potential goal of developing a hall of the Americans at the new library. The idea is to promote greater understanding of the philosophy, the ideas and goals of all of our sister republics which will give the city an additional presence in the international forum.

XI. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

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

A. Requests by Councilmember Louis H. Bruni

1. Status report on the ongoing construction on Hwy 59 (Saunders) with possible action.
(Co-sponsored by Councilman Eliseo Valdez).

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, stated that the contract was awarded to Price on the last council meeting and has taken effect, they have been given the order to proceed, they

have started to mobilize on Thursday transporting materials back and forth. He added that they have never left the site except for rain, they have continued to install the 18" line as they started, at this point they are east of Valencia Street. As soon as the contractor gets in place and begins working they will continue working with them installing the services on that line to provide the sewer services.

Regarding the recent rains, on Friday they spent much of the day putting caliche on top of trench to facilitate the access to the people on the areas where they were working.

The 18" line construction will continue for next month under Price Construction, then they will continue approximately 2,500 feet of 8" line also going east. They will be with them to help them install the services as they advance which is the fastest way that they can advance. The one thing that they ask of Price is that no business will be blocked for more than one day total at a time. They will do everything possible to give them access.

On the water side, they are also working all along Highway 59, lowering the services to where the storm sewer lines are going to be.

Mr. Juan Villarreal, TxDOT Engineer, stated that on Highway 59 the contractor has nailed asphalt from Ejido to McPherson. They have layed pipe as far as storm sewer from Ejido to Texas Avenue and will begin working at Bartlett which is the second system for the project. They have done excavation from Ejido to Texas, the project is approximately 10% complete, 7% of the time has elapse, so they are ahead of schedule by 3%.

Cm. Bruni stated he has a concern with the recent rains, the using of flexible base versus black base, many people could not get to work or their customers couldn't get to there because the contractor had gone in there and put a layer of caliche flexible base slashed up and cars were getting stuck in the flexible base. He asked if there is any way they can use black base material to expedite the project and to facilitate the egress/ingress to this businesses? He added that we need a contingency plan by working all future projects with the City, County, and TxDOT so these problems will not occur again and he would like to see 24 hour construction days.

Mr. Villarreal stated what was slashed up was the same

material that was escavated and a lot was clay, as of right now they are going to use caliche base plus asphalt with the motion on it which should make it better if there is another rain.

Cm. Bruni questioned if the time frame can be lowered or reduced in the amount of working days.

Mr. Delgado stated they can make them work at night, but the cost will increase and instead of doing a project that might take two years they might have to escalate that project to six years. He explained that if they force the contractor to work 24 hours a day the cost will increase tremendously. Instead of doing six miles they would only do two miles. One of their concerns is safety, one of the disadvantages of not allowing them work at night is because it is so narrow, the artificial light would be more of a hindrance to the travel public, the noise level would be bad and they would have to try and explain why they don't let them go to sleep.

Mr. Villarreal stated they did say they will be looking at working at night once they are done with the storm sewer and the underground work.

Hector Delgado, Appraisal District Manager, reported that they are reviewing economic circumstances on the businesses on Saunders Avenue and on Webb County. The board is very concerned with regards to what is going on and they asked for a report from the Appraisal District as to what their intents were for that situation. They are very concerned that the construction has had an impact on these individuals, because as you know when an growth, expansion and an improvement takes place those circumstances also bring sorrow and hardship for individuals. The Appraisal District's job is to make sure that we are aware of those circumstances and if there is an economic affect on the property that they try and reflect that accordingly. The Appraisal District job is to appraise property, to provided benefits to the property owners and to assist property owners whenever possible, and possibly they can do those three things. He stated that all these situations apply to all property owners within Webb County. What they will be doing on the Saunders construction and throughout Webb County is seeking legal opinions so they can determine what the framework and what the boundaries are for the Appraisal District as they work towards finding solutions and assistance for these property owners. They are conducting an economic survey from other Appraisal Districts of the State of Texas to see how they address these

particular issues. They are also trying to complete an economic survey which will be trying to gather information in regards to the market value of properties along the construction thoroughfares, sales losses, and any other pertinent information so they can try and establish the effects of the ongoing construction. They will also be gathering information from the City Engineer, TxDot and they will be looking at information brought to their attention in regards to possibly additional right-of-way that have been taken. They are also conducting site inspections on Saunders and other major thoroughfares under construction to look at those situations so they can make a note of how its affecting those properties. They will be correlating all the data and trying to come up with a solution. They believe the timeframe is approximately 45 days, they are looking at the 1998 appraisal year, they effects of what they are doing won't be felt until the end of this year, but they are moving at this time to review that along with all the other projects. He reminded property owners that when they send out the survey, that they will play a very important part in their ability to gather information, because they will be the ones answering the questions and providing the type of economic information that they give to council, in trying to express their concerns and their hardships and everything else that has an effect on their property. He reminded property owners that they do have rights. They have a right to visit with their staff, they have a right to a fair, equal, and impartial appraisal. They have a right to meet with the Appraisal District Review Board if they have any questions with regards to those processes. They are trying to gather first quarter losses, and will try and reflect all year round effects.

Cm. Valdez asked staff to look into the Economic Development in Austin to see if there are any type of economic re-adjustment programs, or low and/or no interest loans to help some of these businesses survive.

Jorge Cedillo, from Commerce Bank, stated that they had conducted a preliminary survey on some of the businesses on Saunders, they took the initiate to have their staff call some of the businesses along Saunders and they were able to make contact with 57 businesses. He shared information acquired from that survey, they found out that out of the 57 businesses they talked to 47 or 82% of these businesses have been affected by the construction on Saunders. Out of those 47 businesses the they interviewed and made contact with, they found out that 7 of those business which is 16% had at

least a 10% drop income or revenue, approximately 13 of those businesses which equals 23% had a 20% in their revenues, and about 61% or 35 of those businesses had a 50% drop in their revenues. They have seen the impact that they are having, the project is just getting underway, some of the people that have been impacted are on the north side of the construction so they still have to see the other side. He added that Commerce Bank has also had some impact, most of the customers are complaining about the situation, especially the congestion and the possibility of a traffic accident. They have noticed a 7% difference in the number of activity or number of customers using the motor bank.

He discussed some of the ideas discussed in the survey such as:

- 1) Extending and keeping the green lights longer on the east/west traffic lanes.
- 2) Having more traffic control by the Police Department having police officers standing on those main intersections.
- 3) They would like to see the increase of man hours and manpower for the project, by adding more workers or extending their daily schedules possibly working Saturdays, Sundays and nights.
- 4) City and County need to offer some sort of relief in the Ad Valorem taxes.
- 5) They need to have the utility companies provide a level payment plan during the construction.
- 6) Maybe the media can contribute by issuing daily traffic report announcements throughout the day. They need to have the medias be more sensitive to the merchants, that instead of continuing negative reports maybe they can provide special discount rates for the merchants in Saunders wanting to advertise or provide advertising promotional packages with special incentives for the people on Saunders. Many want to advertise but it is an uphill battle trying to promote their businesses with all the bad publicity going on.
- 7) Businesses along Saunders need to form a united group or a coalition and initiate a promotional program to attract shoppers to their stores.
- 9) Seek help from existing civic groups like the Chamber of Commerce and develop a marketing plan for the area maybe providing discount coupons or opening on Sundays as incentives.
- 10) Setup a "Hotline" with TxDot and with the City for emergencies.

One of the most common suggestions was "Why can't the project be done in blocks instead of two or three mile strips?"

He believes that a contingency plan needs to be established. There needs to be more planning and that the private sector be included in the planning, there needs to be more communication with the private sector and government to get this projects underway with less problematic situations. He sees the need for more economic relief in the months to come for some of these businesses. He asked that the City and the County join forces in creating a short term/long term loan revolving loan program or a guarantee program of some sort for some of the business that need help. As far as the bank is concern, he extended an open welcomed hand to all the businesses to use all their facilities for any future meetings that the business owners may need in the future.

Mr. Jesus Sandoval spoke in reference to elevations and right-of-ways issues and wanted explanation on these issues from TxDot Engineers.

Mr. Hector Alvarado appeared before council wanted to know who is in charge and responsible when something is wrong, who is profiting from it and at whose expense is all this progress being done? He quoted that "fast" is not good enough for merchants on Saunders and asked that they are kept in mind when something is being done, because they are the ones suffering the consequences.

2. Status report on the lack of waste water infrastructure on the north side of Highway 59 between Ejido Street and the entrance of Casa Blanca State Park.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, said that the present project will not touch that section, that will probably be in a year or two when they go on the other side of Ejido, however the infrastructure needed can be installed on the outside of the pavement, there is sufficient room. They have been contacted by some business owners who say that with failing septic systems they have two choices, to try to put some type of infrastructure and the other is to repair the septic system and make it functional again.

Looking into this issue and in talking to Mr. Pena they costed out the project to serve five properties along 1,500 feet of unserved frontage would be approximately \$47,000. If they can go the right of a sewer assessment of some type of fund raising mechanism they could a portion the cost on other

property owners. One of the property owners had mentioned through correspondence that he would be willing to pay up to \$12,900. He added he has not been able to correlate the cost. He said if they can raise some of the money from them earlier it will be easier for them to do it. They will explore the alternative of sewer assessment and notify them if they can fund this project. It would require that the city fronts the money to do the job.

Cm. Bruni suggested that we move away from the septic tanks because they are failing and the wastewater is going underneath 59 and down to the south part.

Mr. Roman stated that in this case when the septic tanks were installed there was nothing else, there were no alternatives, the level of activity was very low, and he agrees that by going to the sewer assessment that it opens up the possibility of us doing the work and then recovering the money later on. He suggested that if the business owners are willing to pay or if they can get them to raise a larger amount of money maybe instead of having to pay \$47,000 exposure they can reduce it to \$15,000-\$20,000.

Cm. Bruni suggested that Mr. Roman explore that possibility, he wants a cost estimate and that a report on the issue be brought on the next council meeting. He added that some of these residents are being charged for wastewater services and they are paying yet they don't receive no wastewater services. He wants staff to talk to the property owners and come back with a recommendation on how to help these people because septic tanks are failing and if they do a water test on the opposite side of the highway, water it is contaminated. He said he does not want money invested in fixing the septic tanks, he wants them removed.

3. Status report on the ongoing infrastructure improvements on the 2800, 2900, and 3000 blocks of Lane with possible action.

Mr. Roman reported that they had finished the replacement of the line and are ready to go, the 2800 and the 2900 block had the most broken pipes replaced. They are not going to touch the 3000 block, but Mr. Rivera informed him that there has been a pre-construction meeting for the resurrecting of the streets which means they might be mobilizing and working within 20 days.

Cm. Bruni stated his only concern is whether they are going

to resurface the street because they are in deplorable condition right now.

Mr. Roman answered that they will be resurfaced.

4. Status report on the ongoing activities that are being conducted by different departments related at Heritage Park.

Mr. Roman reported on the water pressure problems. He said they are buying materials to re-configure the service area, and hopefully within 30-60 days they can have a continuous pressure from a different point.

Luis Landin, Traffic Director, reported that they have already installed the signs that were needed and they are planning to write a proposal for three (3) additional security lights to illuminate the area and with that they will have complied with the needs of that area. They will be installing the crime watch signs as soon as the Police Department identifies the sites where they are needed.

Cindy Collazo, CD Director, reported that regarding the junk vehicles, they were eight identified, five have been removed and staff is working on the other three, to get them operational. Regarding the two violations on the basketball court, those have been removed. In reference to the notices for the vacant lots, there were two and those have been complied with. In reference to the skirting, that is a zoning issue but they will follow through with that.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, stated that the problems that Cm. Bruni observed have been taken care of.

Police Chief Dovalina reported that they will continue their policing services, the POPS detail out there, they have initiated the neighborhood watch program in the area, and will be identifying the areas for the Traffic Department to install the crime watch signs.

B. Requests by Councilmember Alfonso "Poncho" Casso, Jr.

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the creation of a Tree Board with possible appointees.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the EMS Division of the Fire Department.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Requests by Councilmember Eliseo Valdez, Jr.

1. Consideration and possible action directing staff to begin preliminary analysis on the widening of McPherson Road between Calton Road and Saunders Avenue with possible inclusion into the 1999-2003 Capital Improvement Program. **(Co-sponsored by Cm. Louis H. Bruni)**

Motion to begin a preliminary analysis and directing staff to incorporate it into the CIP, with the inclusion into the 1999-2003 Capital Improvement Program.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

D. Requests by Councilmember Joe A. Guerra

1. Status report concerning the progress of the infrastructure work being done along Gallagher Street in the Calton Gardens area.

Cm. Guerra read a letter from Paragon Builders and signed by Juan Martinez addressed to Abraham Rodriguez which read as follows:

"This letter is in reference to the construction of the Gallagher Gardens Project. Due to the lack of utilities like sewer, water, and storm sewer drainage we have lost valuable construction time. Every time it rains we don't only lose the day's that rain, but also the days it takes job site to dry, since drainage of project was engineered to drain to inlets to be installed, water has no place to go. Recent rains like in February, it rained one we lost three days. March it rained 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th and expect to lose another three days of work until it dries. That is if it

doesn't continue raining. Also the lack of not having utilities has caused us the inconvenience and the delay of time having to get water from the neighbors. We at this time are behind schedule installing necessary utilities in project this time cannot be made up. Also the increase of cost on labor and materials for the utilities installation, as you well know we already have had an increase of costs due to the delay on commencing project. I would suggest we have a meeting so we can get into an agreement on this problems. There is still a lot of work needed to complete project. We have had a lot of problems trying to test our sewer and water lines without having the necessary utilities from the City."

Fernando Roman reported that had originally been scheduled for February 15th to begin, they were delay a month because they haven't finish on other projects that they expected to finish. They are mobilizing the wastewater crew and will be ready to do it on Wednesday. They have one thing to do and that is to ask for the alignment of the water line. Engineering staff informed them that as soon as they have the right-of-way issue settled they can proceed to install the fire hydrants, but they are proceeding to mobilizing the material, string it on the side and be ready. The right-of-way is a paper issue and they will not install the fire hydrants until the issue is settled.

Cindy Collazo stated that regarding the right-of-way, they have been working diligently with the attorney of one of the property owners. She spoke to the attorney prior to the meeting, he indicated there is an issue of concern that he has regarding the structure owned by the property owner, he did not like the terminology that we had proposed. He insists on having it re-worded. She said they will work with our attorneys, they will go to his office as soon as he arrives, he assures her that if the language is changed and if that is fine with our attorneys then he would have his client to sign that document tomorrow.

Regarding the other property owner, there is a resolution item tonight, they encourage council to approve it, and if council approves it she thinks the gentlemen will sign it tomorrow also. She hopes to wrap up this issue this week.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, stated that staff had met with the Housing Authority over the project on several occasions, they recognized that the biggest hurdle is the right-of-way concern which Mrs. Collazo referred to. Hopefully it will be resolved by tomorrow, but if it not resolved then there is a

council meeting on the 23rd where other action may be required in order to get the project on target because the El Metro Housing Project is under construction and so we need to get the utilities in by the time that they are ready to open the facilities.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the request by the EMS Division of the Laredo Fire Department to split the EMS District in two in order to have three additional EMS supervisors. This action would guarantee the presence of one supervisor per division at all times.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

E. Requests by Councilmember Consuelo Montalvo

1. Appointment of Jose Arrellano to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Motion to appoint Jose Arrellano to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

45. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget by increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the General Fund by \$3,500.00 to fund the production of a Laredo Area Cemetery Preservation Plan; and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget, providing for publication and effective date.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget by increasing estimated revenues and appropriations in the General Fund by \$3,500.00 to fund the production of a Laredo Area Cemetery Preservation Plan; 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: Cm. Alvarado
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 46. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget drawing down \$500,000.00, from fund balance and \$209,048.00, from salary savings reserve and transferring same to the Bridge Fund to appropriate said funds for amendment no. 3 on the engineering contract with Structural Engineering Company (SEA) and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 annual budget drawing down \$500,000.00, from fund balance and \$209,048.00, from salary savings reserve and transferring same to the Bridge Fund to appropriate said funds for amendment no. 3 on the engineering contract with Structural Engineering Company (SEA) and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

46a. MOTION

Approval of amendment no. 3, for an amount not to exceed \$1,379,197.28, to the engineering contract with Structural Engineering Company (SEA), San Antonio, Texas, for the Laredo Northwest International Bridge (Fourth Bridge) to provide professional services required to complete the design of the border station. Also included are additional architectural/engineering (A/E) services required to complete the scope of work in amendment no. 1 as a result of (1) Changes in size of the buildings and docks and the quantity of paving beyond initial estimates due to federal requirements. (2) The addition of GSA Temporary Facilities. (3) The amount of project management due to extensive required negotiations with Federal and State agencies. The original contract amount was \$70,450.00. This amendment brings the total contract amount to \$2,059,047.28. Funding is available in Bridge System Fourth Bridge Architectural Fees.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 U.S. Customs Service Fund budget in the amount of \$5,000.00, and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Department of Treasury/U.S. Customs Service for the reimbursement of \$5,000.00 for funding the Laredo Border Violence Task Force to assist U.S. Customs Agents in conducting official Treasury investigations. These monies will be used to pay overtime wages for Laredo Police Narcotics officers involved in this Task Force. This will be the first year the City has entered into this agreement and is at no cost to the City.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 U.S. Customs Service Fund budget in the amount of \$5,000.00, and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Department of Treasury/U.S. Customs Service for the reimbursement of \$5,000.00 for funding the Laredo Border Violence Task Force to assist U.S. Customs Agents in conducting official Treasury investigations. These monies will be used to pay overtime wages for Laredo Police Narcotics officers involved in this Task Force. This will be the first year the City has entered

into this agreement and is at no cost to the City; providing

for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 48. Public hearing altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo, for the voluntary annexation of additional territory of 400.5859 acres, located in Porciones 12, 13, and 14 as further described by metes and bounds, specifically the Unitec Industrial Park Tract, providing for the effective date of the ordinance, adopting a Service Plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo, for the voluntary annexation additional territory of 400.5859 acres, located in Porciones 12, 13, and 14 as further described by metes and bounds, specifically the Unitec Industrial Park Tract, providing for the effective date of the ordinance, adopting a Service Plan for the annexed territory, and establishing the initial zoning.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Keith Selman, Planning Director, made the presentation and stated that there are some provisions that need to be made on the ordinance and the service plan itself. The agenda reads correctly and the ordinance needs to read, "altering and extending the boundary limits of the City of Laredo for the voluntary annexation of additional territory".

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 50. Public hearing authorizing the City Manager to amend the 1997-98 Airport Fund Budget to appropriate \$1,491,897.00, being the proceeds from the sale of Airport non-aeronautical use land and to increase by \$245,000.00, the new airport passenger terminal construction line item to provide funding for a food sanitizer, restaurant and to finish out airline office space and ticket counters and to provide contingency funding.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the City Manager to amend the 1997-98 Airport Fund Budget to appropriate \$1,491,897.00, being the proceeds from the sale of Airport non-aeronautical use land and to increase by \$245,000.00, the new airport passenger terminal construction line item to provide funding for a food sanitizer, restaurant and to finish out airline office space and ticket counters and to provide contingency funding; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cw. Moreno

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

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 : Cw. Moreno
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 51. Authorization to solicit bids for the purchase of seven replacement para-transit vans. These vans have a capacity of eight passengers and will be used by the El Lift Program. A tentative bid award date is scheduled for April 20, 1998.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Moreno
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0


XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn. Time: 8:55 p.m.

Moved : Cw. Moreno
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 4

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES CONTAINED IN PAGES 01 TO 36 ARE TRUE, COMPLETE, AND CORRECT PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 16TH DAY OF MARCH, 1998. A CERTIFIED COPY IS ON FILE AT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.


GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

Minutes prepared by: Delia Rodriguez

Minutes approved on: April 20, 1998