

CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M98-R-31
AUGUST 3, 1998
5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elizabeth G. Flores,	Mayor
Alfredo Agredano,	Councilmember, District I
Louis H. Bruni,	Councilmember, District II
John C. Galo,	Councilmember, District III
Cecilia May Moreno,	Councilmember, District IV
Eliseo Valdez, Jr.,	Councilmember, District V
Joe A. Guerra,	Councilmember, District VI
Mario G. Alvarado,	Councilmember, District VII
Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo,	Councilmember, District, VII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,	City Secretary
Florencio Pena, III,	City Manager
Jaime L. Flores,	City Attorney

Motion to waive the regular order of business and move up items B(1), C(2), and E(1).

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IV. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE

2. Ordinance amending Chapter 31, Article II, regarding sewers and sewage disposal by deleting the provisions in Section 31-23 titled "Notice of Violations" of the Code of Ordinances or the City of Laredo; thereby eliminating the notice requirement when an infraction is detected and allowing a compliant to be filed immediately in Municipal Court.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Amending Article IV, titled "Liquid Waste Transportation," of Chapter 31, of the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, thereby correcting minor language problems in the article expanding the ordinance to include its application of secondary transporters; and adding a Section 31-170 regarding the requirements of a generator and disposal site operator; providing for severability and effective date and publication.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Closing as a public easement a 666.10 square feet parcel of land more or less (2' x 333.05') out of the 4200 block of Santa Cleotilde Avenue between the north right-of-way lines of Tacuba and Chicago Streets, said parcel of land, being encroached by the improvements situated on Lot 1, Block 1048-A, and Lot 1, Block 1091-A, both situated in the Western 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 \$1,225.62 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to effectively convey fee simple title to Eduardo Diaz and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Alvarado

5. Closing as a public easement a 17.7 feet wide alley dedicated for public use in Block 894, Eastern Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, which traverses the middle of said block from east to west through its entire length, and abuts the north side of Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12, and abuts the south side of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6; providing for the reversion of the public's interest in said alley to the abutting owners, and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

V. FINAL READINGS

Motion to waive the final readings of ordinances #98-0-195, #98-0-196, #98-0-197, #98-0-198, #98-0-199, #98-0-200, #98-0-201, #98-0-202, #98-0-203, #98-0-204, #98-0-205, #98-0-206, and #98-0-207.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 98-0-195 Ordinance granting Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc., its legal representatives, successors, lessees and assigns, as the grantee, herein, certain powers, licenses, rights-of-way, privileges and franchise to construct and maintain in the City of Laredo, Texas, as now or hereafter constituted, and electric power utility system in said city and to use the streets, avenues, easements, rights-of-way, alleys, highways,

sidewalks, bridges and other structures and places and public grounds in said City for a period of ten (10) years with one (1), ten (10) year renewal period subject to renegotiation by the parties; and prescribing certain rights, duties, terms and conditions herein mentioned and providing for the payment to said City of a percentage of certain receipts of grantee from its operations therein; and providing for the acceptance of this ordinance by grantee; and containing a savings clause, and providing for publication and an effective date.
(City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-0-195.

Moved : Cw. Moreno
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

7. 98-0-196 Ordinance amending Section 24-82.3(d), Off Premises Signs, of the Laredo Land Development Code.
(City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-0-196.

Moved : Cw. Moreno
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

8. 98-0-197 Ordinance amending Section 24-92, amendments or district changes, of the Laredo Land Development Code, by providing for notification to property owners within 200 feet of the site of a proposed zone change of an appeal to City Council of an unfavorable recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission.
(City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-0-197.

Moved : Cw. Moreno
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

9. 98-0-198 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 7.5076 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located on SH359 east of the Bob Bullock Loop, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District). **(Council member Alfredo Agredano)**

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-0-198.

Moved : Cw. Moreno
Second: Cm. Guerra
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

10. 98-0-199 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 10.8623 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located on SH359 east of the Bob Bullock Loop, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District). **(City Council except Council member Alfredo Agredano)**

Mayor Flores announced that the ordinance should read "from R-1 to B-3" instead of "R-1 to M-1".

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-0-199 as corrected.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. 98-0-200 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1 and the west 1/3 of Lot 2, Block 2156, Eastern Division, located on the 3100 Block of Mercer Street, from AG (Agricultural District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District). **(Council member John C. Galo)**

Motion to approve Ordinance #09-0-200.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. 98-0-201 Ordinance approving a contract with the Texas Natural Resource and Conservation (TNRCC) and budget in the amount of \$25,000 to continue the operation of a continuous air monitoring station (CAMS) by the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1998, through August 31, 1999. **(City Council)**

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-0-201.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. 98-0-202 Ordinance approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$95,483 for the HIV/AIDS Health and Social Services Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1998, through August 31, 1999. **(City Council)**

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-0-202.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. 98-0-207 Ordinance approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and Budget in the amount of \$155,809 (which consists of \$93,750 in direct funds from the State and in-kind services match of \$62,059) for the School Based Health Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1998, through August 31, 1999. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #98-0-207.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VI. RESOLUTIONS

19. 98-R-132 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute an interlocal government agreement between the City of Laredo and the Laredo Independent School District for the participation of the City of Laredo Police Department in the School Resource Officer Program, with compensation in the amount of One Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$147,740.00) to be paid by LISD for the 1998-1999 school year, commencing on August 13, 1998.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-132.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cw. Moreno

20. 98-R-135 The City Council confirmation of Mayor Flores appointment of John C. Galo to the Water Issues Committee.

Motion to approve Resolution #98-R-135.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

III. MOTIONS

21. Approval of bid specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the following:
a) Street Sign Replacement Project - Traffic Safety Department

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Award of contracts to the LOW BIDDERS MEETING SPECIFICATIONS, Texas State Distributors, Austin, Texas, in the amount of \$13,650.00 and C&G Wholesalers, Dallas, Texas, in the amount of \$8,945.00, for the purchase of practice and service ammunition for the Police Department. The City did receive lower bids, however, the Police Department is requesting specific brands of ammunition that have been tested and have been found to be safe and reliable. Seventy cases of practice ammunition and thirty one cases of service ammunition will be purchased. A total of three bids were received for this purchase. Funding is available in the Police Department - Ammunition account.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Award of contract to the SOLE BIDDER, Ceres Environmental Services, Inc., Brooklyn Park, MN., in the amount of \$29,025.00, for the grinding of wood waste materials at the City Landfill. The wood waste consists mostly of mixed tree branches, tree stumps, pallets, and Christmas trees. Approximately 19,000 cubic yards of wood material will be grinded. Funding is available in the Landfill Fund Budget.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 1
Cm. Galo

Abstain: 0

24. Award of contract to the SOLE BIDDER, Jack Harrison and Associates, San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$71,880.00. for the CNG (compressed natural gas) bi-fuel conversion of twelve, 1996 Ford trucks. The City has received grant funding from the Alternative Fuels Council for partial funding of these conversions.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 1
Cm. Galo

Abstain: 0

25. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, National Sanitary, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$23,800.00 for the purchase of 500,000 plastic bags for use in the City's Recycling Program. The per unit price is \$0.0014/bag more than the previous contract purchase. A total of four bids were received for this purchase. Funding is available in the Landfill Fund Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Union Metal Corporation, DeSoto, Texas, in the amount of \$26,151.00, for the purchase of traffic signal mast arm assemblies for installation at the intersections of Bartlett/U.S.59, Meadow/U.S.59, Arkansas/U.S.59, Bartlett/Bustamante, and Meadow/Bustamante. A total of four bids were received for this purchase.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Award of contract to the LOW BIDDER, Gateway Uniform Service, Laredo, Texas in the estimated amount of \$34,243.90, for the purchase of uniforms for the Bridge Department personnel. Full service contracts, which include alteration services, will be awarded to the low bidder. The City has included delivery deadlines in the contract documents requiring that the clothing be delivered within forty five days after receipt of order. The overall contract pricing is 16% more than the previous contract pricing. A total of two bids were received for this purchase. Funding is available in the Bridge System Uniforms account.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Award of an engineering contract to WSBC Civil Engineers, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$21,070.00, to design and prepare plans and specifications for (1) 1200 Frost Street at Lyon Avenue (Stone Avenue to McPherson Avenue) Drainage Improvements and for (2) 400 W. Plum Street at San Francisco Avenue Drainage Improvements along Plum Street from Barcelona Avenue to Zacate Creek. Both projects are to alleviate localized flooding. Funding is available in the 1998 CO Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Award of an engineering contract for an amount not to exceed \$16,000.00, to Howland Surveying Company, Inc., Laredo, Texas, to provide professional engineering services for surveying and providing metes and bounds descriptions and maps for the acquisition of a tract of land approximately 850 L.F. in length and 120 feet wide for the extension of the University Blvd., West of the Bob Bullock Loop to intersect the existing Casa Verde Road, and for the survey work and mapping required to vacate that portion of Casa Verde Road North of this intersection northward to the intersection of Casa Verde Road with the Bob Bullock Loop and for the design and preparation of plans and specifications for the road extension. Funding is available in the Capital Improvements.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Approval of change order no. 1, a net decrease of \$63,986.00, to the construction contract with Krueger Construction Company, Victoria, Texas, to delete storm Drainage improvements along the parking lot already constructed through Phase B, and to add the removal of clay subgrade, modifications to the parking lot elevations to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and other related items, and to add 39 working days for the Laredo International Airport Passenger Terminal and Related Airside/Landside Improvements Phase C Landside and Landscape. The original contract amount was \$2,097,481.75. This change order brings the total contract amount to \$2,033,495.75. Funding is available in Improvements Other Than Buildings.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Approval of amendment no. 2, for an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00, to the Resident Project Representative (inspection services) contract with Mejia Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, to add inspection services for the Laredo International Airport Passenger Terminal and Related Airside/Landside Improvements Phase D - New Parallel Taxiway to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Requirements. Mejia Engineering Company is providing inspection services for the Laredo International Airport Passenger Terminal and Related Airside/Landside Improvements Project Phase B. The original

contract amount was \$104,000.00. This amendment brings the total contract amount to \$165,500.00. Funding is available in Inspection Fees.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Acceptance of the Relocation of Utilities along the proposed Widening of U.S. Highway 59 between San Dario and Ejido Avenue and approval of final payment in the amount of \$30,541.35 to Price Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Funding is available in the Retainage Payable.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Acceptance of the Laredo International Airport Passenger Terminal and Related Airside/Landside Improvements Phase B as substantially complete; approval to retain \$50,000.00, for the completion of pending items and approval to release partial retainage in the amount of \$512,064.73, to H.B. Zachry Company, San Antonio, Texas, Funding is available in the Retainage Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Acceptance of the Santa Isabel Reverse Osmosis Facility Project, and approval of final payment in the amount of \$32,062.89 to Ramex Construction Company, Inc., Houston, Texas, which is the release of the retainage for the punch list items completed. Funding is available in the Retainage Payable.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Approving the submission of the 1998 Consolidated Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in request for funding through the 24th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$4,274,000.00 and \$39,900.00 in anticipated CDBG program income; the 1998 HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) in the amount of \$1,257,000.00; and the 1998 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) in

the amount of \$167,000.00 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents as a result of the Plan's submission.

24th AY Community Development Block Grant

Community Development Administration	\$.620,533
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$.128,196
Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program.	\$.350,000
Code Enforcement	\$.251,050
Paving Project 61 (includes anticipated program income \$39,900).	\$.316,900
School Sidewalk Approaches, District IV.	\$.150,000
Acquisition of Park Land	\$.200,000
East Hachar Recreation Center.	\$.700,000
Hamilton Hotel - Section 108 Loan Repayment.	\$.148,000
Tinaja/Chacon Pilot Channel.	\$.410,000
Graffiti Removal Program	\$. 28,359
Acquisition & Relocation Related to Lafayette Widening.	\$.675,000
Zacate Creek Linear Park (Saunders to Canal).	\$.200,000
Blaine/Milmo/Loop 20 Improvements.	\$. 90,000
Clark/Hendricks Street Improvements.	\$. 45,862

1998 Home Grant

New Construction	\$.345,997
Down Payment Assistance.	\$.600,000
15% Community Housing Development Organization Set Aside	\$.188,550
Administration	\$.122,453

1998 Emergency Shelter Grant

Homeless Prevention Program.	\$. 47,595
Homeless Shelter Program (Operations).	\$.111,055
Administration	\$. 8,350

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

36. Authorizing to award architectural/engineering consultant contract for the Paseo Del Antiguo Laredo Pedestrian Facility Project, an ISTEAA Enhancement Project, to Sprinkle Robey Architects, the contract amount is \$120,000.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

37. Status report for the Colonias Facility Plan with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that his department is presently working with the consultants on the scope of work that would incorporate the two possibilities:

1. looking at what we currently have, septic tanks; or
2. cost of developing a different system

He continued to report that preparations for the STEP (Small Town Environmental Program) are being made to incorporate it with the study and present it as an equity. We should be signing the contract this week, should get funding by April 1999, and possible completion of construction by Spring of 2001.

38. Status report on the Santa Isabel Water Well with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that at the last meeting Cm. Alvarado had requested that his department contact STEP (Small Town Environmental Program) for possible funding to bring water from the Santa Isabel Water Well to the residents of Mines Road who reside within the 1,000 foot. city limits. We were informed that they would consider if they were provided with a preliminary engineering report. Mr. Roman further added that the report would cost about \$2,000 so he offered to contribute \$1,000 to get this project going. He continued to explain that he was also informed that should the project be feasible the city should contact the county to look into the Los Minerales, Los Minerales Annex, and Colonia Beto Santos as dwelling units.

Motion to contribute \$1,000 to defray half of the cost of a preliminary engineering study for the feasibility of STEP for Mines Road residents.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to instruct utility staff to request assistance from Commissioners Court to secure funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and STEP and to discuss the setting up of a water point at the Mines Road area.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. Informing Council of the status of the Chacon Creek interceptor project. The EPA has outsourced the environmental review and expects to issue the findings of no significant impact (FONSI) by December 1998. Bids can be solicited immediately afterwards.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that the city had submitted an environmental information document to the EPA for review in March of this year. We were informed in May that it would take 6 to 8 months to review the project so we offered to pay to outsource the review for a quicker response but were told by EPA that they could not take our money.

By July 31, the EPA will outsource the Chacon Creek Interceptor and the consultant is expected to complete the review in 60 days. The EPA will then comment in 60 days and issue the FONSI (Findings of No Significant Impact) sometime in December 1998, but the EPA has now informed us that they have revised their review time from 6-8 months to 14-18 months.

40. Report on the Urban Empowerment Zone Application process.

Cindy Collazo, Director of Community Development, informed Council that Mr. John J. Kane, AICP, will be in Laredo from August 10th thru the 14th, and will be at the Laredo Civic Center on Wednesday, August 12th from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the community of the formulation of the Empowerment Zone application, and the activities to be supported. She further stated that in order to inform the public about the meeting on the 12th, she will be advertising through the media and doing some Public Service Announcements.

Mrs. Collazo further informed Council that she had hired a temporary employee who will be working full time with Mr. Kane. Ms. Susie Verdin is a 1994 United South High School graduate, is a recent graduate from Harvard University and a Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant from the Air Force.

41. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(A), to discuss contemplated litigation by Texas A&M International University, 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 by Texas A&M International University, and return to open session for possible action thereon.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

42. Advising the City Council of the transfer of line-item savings, mainly in the contractual services of the street construction division of the Capital Improvement Fund., to Construction projects of the same fund for \$155,000. This amount is in addition to the H.E.B. contribution of \$200,000 to fund in part the total cost of \$432,331 of the Calton Road widening project authorized by City Council on 7/20/98. The complement to the funding required will be in the form of in-kind services to be provided by the Traffic Department.

Motion to approve funding for the Calton Road widening project from the line-item savings in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

- 1 - Jennie Littleton, from the Laredo Little Theater Advisory Board, who invited the Mayor, Council, and Staff to their 10th Annual Sammy Awards on Saturday evening on the 15th day of August at 8:00 p.m. located at 602 Thomas Avenue.
- 2 - Cm. Alvarado reminded everyone of the National Night Out Event that will be taking place on Tuesday, August 4, which is tomorrow. The event is directed for crime prevention and activities for the community and the different neighborhoods. Cm. Alvarado further informed the public of the different locations that would be hosting the event.
- 3 - Cm. Galo reminded the public that there were only two days of early voting left and the election date of August 8th and asked that all registered voters express their opinion by voting on the sales and use tax of 1/4 of one cent.

X. CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

43. Requests by Mayor and City Council members for presentation and discussion.

A. Requests by Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores

1. Consideration and possible action to contract Judith Zaffirini, Ph.D. D.B.A. Zaffirini Communications to conduct a training workshop on August 29, 1998 with members of Council and various boards and commissions.
(See Attached)

Motion to approve the contract with Zaffirini Communications to conduct a training workshop on August 29, 1998

with members of the Council and various boards and commissions and to include other workshops that will benefit city staff.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Bruni instructed staff to find additional funds to include city departments in this program such as 911, Public Access, and Airport Information Booths and other departments that deal with the public.

Dan Migura, Administrative Services Director, reported that 300 employees had completed a series of workshops about three weeks ago in the area of customer service.

B. Requests by Council member Alfredo Agredano

1. Presentation by Concord Hills residents.

Yolanda Garcia, representing Concord Hills residents, thanked Council for the programs for affordable homes and for making it possible for them to purchase these homes. She further thanked the developer for providing a community center, basketball courts, and playgrounds. Ms. Garcia further expressed thanks to the Community Development Department for their assistance in the loan programs.

C. Requests by Council member Louis H. Bruni

1. Status reports on long term water supply projects with possible action.

(Co-sponsored by Council member Joe A. Guerra)

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported to Council that the city is pursuing a long term strategy to augment or conserve the water we already have. He continued to explain on each of the following:

1. Water Right Acquisition - the city needs to take a different position when negotiating water rights and the best alternative is to take the water because of how the water is distributed with 90% agriculture and 10% municipal,
2. Groundwater Resources - the city has received proposals from different firms that we will be contracting to identify aquifers with a volume of water for municipal supply that will be within a 30 to 35 mile radius of the Laredo area.
3. Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project - this is the reversal process of taking water from the ground, this is done when the water quality is not good. It is

stored under the ground and used in case of severe droughts.

4. USGS Aquifer Mapping - this is a \$650,000 contract, with the city paying for half. Phase I report is due, but it is five months late. This report will be used by the consultants who will help locate ground water.
5. Effluent Reuse Strategy - this is a long term strategy to develop a desirability index because reusing waste water today may not be as appealing as it would be 20 to 50 years from now.

Cm. Bruni stated that should a possibility exist staff should look into putting effluent into Lake Casa Blanca with whatever excess the city may have and maintain it as a constant level lake for emergencies. He continued to explain that this effluent could be reused by piping it back into the Jefferson plant or use a portable unit to purify it. Cm. Bruni then added that it would benefit Laredo to have utility staff contact state level offices to inquire about this matter.

6. Conservation Strategy - this could be done by severe restrictions on irrigation with severe enforcement. The city could save and recover 25% of its water.
7. Weather Modification - will be working with the Water Development Board to work out a program plan for the next season.

Motion to instruct staff to find a cost estimate to drill a well beneath the Wilcox Aquifer at the Jefferson Street Plant and look for a funding source to drill a test well with appropriate casings and if all four sands are there we can use it immediately.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion and possible action on the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Third Annual Colonia Clean-up in El Cenizo on Sunday, August 16. The department would like to request the City of Laredo's participation by waiving City fees at the landfill.

Ms. Nelda Barrera, from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, informed Council that this is the Third Annual Event that will be focused on El Cenizo; therefore, she requested support from City Council to use the landfill on Sunday and waive the City's fees.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, stated that next year staff will recommend that City Council establish an Enterprise Fund to be informed of the revenues that the landfill

generates.

Cm. Valdez suggested that the state be notified of the city's waiver of fees and establish some type of mandate that will allow the city to be credited for this service.

Motion to waive the city's fees and have the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs develop a long term solution and present to Council at a future date.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cw. Montalvo

D. Requests by Council member Eliseo Valdez Jr.

1. Status report from staff on IH35 Saunders Project.

Gabriel Martinez, Assistant City Engineer, reported that TXDOT had sent a letter to inform the engineering department that the IH35 Saunders Project was about 60% complete and 20% ahead of schedule. Their projected date of completion would be in 5 months.

2. Presentation by Jesse Ibarra and Fausto Sosa concerning a taxicab permit.
(Co-sponsored by Council member Joe A. Guerra)

This item was requested to be tabled by Mr. Ibarra due to the absence of their attorney Fausto Sosa and that it be placed back on the agenda at the next meeting.

E. Requests by Council member Joe A. Guerra

1. Discussion and possible action concerning a 100 foot right-of-way given by the Trautmann Investment Company for the purpose of Eden Lane through the Eden Subdivision Plat.

Mr. Jack Foster with Foster Engineering, stated that the 100 foot right-of-way was given to Webb County back in 1976 with the condition that a road be built--this road is now Eden Lane.

The Trautmann Family now requests that it be given back to use for parking at the building they have on the corner of Eden lane and Del Mar Boulevard.

Cm. Guerra informed Council that he had requested that administrative staff look into this matter over a week ago but that no one had taken the time to review it. Cm. Guerra then provided the Mayor with a letter from Mr. John Foster which contains a revised legal description and plat as had been requested by the City Engineering Department.

Mayor Flores requested that staff review the matter and come back to Council with a report.

2. Status report on the accident of July 18, 1998 at the entrance of Unitec Industrial Park, with possible action.

Police Chief Agustin Dovalina reported that on Saturday, July 18, 1998 at 4:25 P.M. at the 1100 block of Uniroyal an accident occurred involving two tractor trailers and the train. The investigation revealed that one of the tractor trailers was traveling west bound on Uniroyal and collided with the train which was traveling south bound. The second tractor trailer collided with the first unit that had collided with the train. Citations were issued to both drivers.

Mr. Jack Foster with Foster Engineering, stated that Unitec Developers had programmed for an overpass at this area which will cost \$1.25 million--because the money is now available they will now energize the movement on this project. An approximate time of completion should be about 6 months.

3. Presentation by Fidel Santos requesting funds for Del Mar Little League Baseball, with possible action.

Mayor Flores announced that Mr. Fidel Santos represented the Del Mar Little League but that he also is the coordinator for the City Wide All-Star League.

Mr. Santos proudly announced that the team did very well in the Laredo All-Star Tournament and was one game away from being a state championship team. He further explained that the team would be playing in Waco on Tuesday, August 4, and if the game is won would be going to Florida to continue with the tournament.

Mayor Flores and Cm. Guerra informed Mr. Santos that she was making a contribution to his team from the Mayor's Promotional Budget and presented him with a check.

F. Requests by Council member Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo

1. Presentation by the Laredo Custom Brokers and Freight Forwarders for the request of improvements to the existing road leading to the U.S. Customs Import Lot, with possible action.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, reported that Arturo Dominguez representing the US Custom Brokers Association and Mere Gonzalez representing the US Freight Forwarders Association approached the city to consider construction of an access road behind Bridge II which would give GSA, Customs, and Immigration another access into the Import Lot. By constructing this road the four commercial booths on the curb of Bridge II would be opened.

Mr. Pena continued to inform Council that engineering staff had done a preliminary study and have contacted GSA and have been advised by GSA that they are interested in accomplishing this project to allow the bridge to handle more north bound trucks. Brokers have committed to contribute \$10,000 to the \$54,000 actual cost to construct the road which could be completed in about 5 months.

Motion to instruct staff to search for funding for this project.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

44. Public hearing amending the Laredo Police Departments FY 1997-98 budget in the amount of \$92,100.00 to pay for the salaries and fringe benefits for six police officers that will be transferred from the COPS "Ahead" grant to the general fund due to the expiration of the grant. These police officers were hired under the COPS "Ahead" grant for a period of three years.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the Laredo Police Departments FY 1997-98 budget in the amount of \$92,100.00 to pay for the salaries and fringe benefits for six police officers that will be transferred from the COPS "Ahead" grant to the general fund due to the expiration of the grant. These police officers were hired under the COPS "Ahead" grant for a period of three years.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

45. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo Police Departments FY 1998-99 budget in the amount of \$3,000.00, to purchase a treadmill for the Police GYM.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo Police Departments FY 1998-99 budget in the amount of \$3,000.00, to purchase a treadmill for the Police GYM.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 46. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$3,000.00, and appropriate these funds to the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau regular salary line item to establish the position of a part-time information clerk for the information center at the Laredo International Airport Terminal.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's 1997-1998 Annual Budget in the amount of \$3,000.00, and appropriate these funds to the Laredo Convention and Bureau regular salary line item to establish the position of a part-time information clerk for the information center at the Laredo International Airport Terminal.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

47. Public hearing regarding the proposed reprogramming of 19th, 20th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Final Statements and the 1995 and 1996 Consolidated Plan as it pertains to the use of 21st and 22nd AY CDBG Grant funds for the purpose of reprogramming funds in the amount of \$377,500.00 for the acquisition of the Plaza Theater.

**19th Action Year Community Development Block Grant
(Fund Balances)**

Paving Project #51	\$15,733
J. Ortiz - E. Valdez Park	\$ 2,628
Tarver Improvements	\$ 3,483
East Central Park	\$ 2,604
Street Lights	<u>\$ 1,881</u>
	\$26,329

**20th Action Year Community Development Block Grant
(Fund Balances)**

Paving Project #57 Grants	\$ 7,042
Paving Project #58 Grants	\$ 5,896
Neighborhood Housing Services	\$28,090
Reserve Appropriation	<u>\$ 3,306</u>
	\$44,334

**21st Action Year Community Development Block Grant
(Fund Balances)**

Pace Street Drainage	\$74,206
Southgate Pilot Channel	<u>\$20,142</u>
	\$94,348

**22nd Action Year Community Development Block Grant
(Fund Balances)**

San Salvador/Pine/Chestnut Drainage	\$198,000
Paving Project #59 Grants	<u>\$ 14,012</u>
Graffiti Removal Program	\$ 477
	\$212,489

Total of Funds to be Reprogrammed **\$377,500**

The funds identified above are proposed to finance the following project:

Acquisition of the Plaza Theater \$377,500

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce the ordinance.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Galo

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Time: 8:14 p.m.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 to 22 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held on the 3rd day of August of 1998.



Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary