

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M-2014-R-09  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
JUNE 2, 2014  
5:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Mayor Raul G. Salinas called the meeting to order.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Raul G. Salinas led in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Raul G. Salinas,	Mayor
Mike Garza,	District I
Esteban Rangel,	Mayor Pro-Tempore, District II
Alejandro Perez, Jr.,	District III
Juan Narvaez,	District IV
Roque Vela, Jr.,	District V
Jorge A. Vera,	District VII
Cynthia Liendo,	District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.	City Secretary
Carlos Villarreal,	City Manager
Cynthia Collazo,	Deputy City Manager
Horacio De Leon,	Assistant City Manager
Jesus Olivares,	Assistant City Manager
Raul Casso,	City Attorney

Motion to excuse Cm. Liendo, Cm. Garza, and Cm. San Miguel.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Liendo and Cm. Garza arrived at 5:40 pm.

**IV. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of May 19, 2014.

Motion to approve the May 19, 2014 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

### **Recognitions**

- a. Recognizing seven (7) local high school students from LBJ, Nixon, United, and United South High Schools who have signed their letter of intent to play college soccer at Texas A&M International University, Maple Woods Community College, University of Houston-Victoria, and Western Texas College.

Mayor Salinas and City Council congratulated Alexa De Leon, Kimberly Flores, Ana Karen Jeronimo, Yahajaira Lara, Jaquelin Moreno, Aneles Quiroz, and Esmeralda Villarreal and presented them with certificates of recognition.

- b. Recognizing Louis Ramos for qualifying to compete in the National History Bee competition to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on June 7, 2014.

Mayor Salinas and City Council congratulated Louis Ramos and presented him with a certificate of recognition.

- c. Recognition by the Laredo Commission for Women of Dr. Marcus Nelson and IBC Bank for their assistance with the 2014 Laredo Commission for Women Hall of Fame events.

Laredo Commission for Women Chairperson Diana Rodriguez, first Vice-President Linda Garcia and Alice Herrera presented plaques to Dr. Marcus Nelson and representatives of IBC Bank.

### **Citizen comments**

Rolando Herrera from LULAC read a note as follows: There were 5,000 graduates this year; however, he was addressing kids at-risk due to absenteeism. He said that it was very damaging because they started falling behind and dropping out and breaking laws. He added that he wanted to see if some would be interested in meeting with school board members regarding this issue of absenteeism.

**VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

- a. Appointment by Council Member Mike Garza to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion to approve the nomination of Jose Murillo to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- b. City Manager's appointment to the Civil Service Commission.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- c. City Council Member nominations with confirmation by the City Council to the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Board of Directors.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 1. Public hearing allowing interested persons to comment on the proposed amendment to the City of Laredo's 2014 Consolidated One-Year Action Plan for the purpose of reprogramming Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds totaling \$163,331.00 for the Cigarroa Recreation Area Improvement Project. It is further proposed that the newly created project will be funded through the use of fund balances from the 38th Action Year (AY) as listed below:

Administration	\$98,275.00
Housing Rehabilitation	\$479.00
Code Enforcement	\$61,149.00
Graffiti Removal	\$3,428.00



3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning all Lots of Blocks 1024, 1024A and 1025, Western Division, located at 4100 San Bernardo Avenue, from B-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. District VIII

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vela was not present.

George Hachar, the property owner, said that he would appreciate Council's support to diversify the center.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Liendo

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Liendo

### **VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

4. Authorizing the City Manager to accept FY 2014 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Planning (PL112) funds in the amount of \$1,117,087.00 and amending the City of Laredo's 2013-2014 General Fund Budget to reflect the PL112 funding allocation for the Laredo Urban Transportation Study, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), by increasing revenues and expenditures by \$617,087.00 from \$500,000.00 to \$1,117,087.00. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

5. Authorizing the City Manager to approve a sublease of 9,056 square feet of air cargo warehouse space constructed by Air Trade Laredo, L.L.C., on the leased premises approved by Ordinance No. 2011-O-148 dated November 07, 2011 between the City of Laredo as LESSOR and Air Trade Laredo,

L.L.C., as LESSEE, for the premises consisting of 1.973 acres, located at 4603 Maher at the Laredo International Airport, said lease provides for the right to sublease subject to City approval, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. This proposed sublease is to Vent Airlines, Inc. as SUB-LESSEE. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

**IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES**

Motion to waive the final readings of Ordinances 2014-O-064, 2014-O-065, 2014-O-066, 2014-O-067, 2014-O-068, 2014-O-069, 2014-O-070, 2014-O-071, 2014-O-072, 2014-O-073, 2014-O-074 and 2014-O-075.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 2014-O-064 Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances Chapter 33, Environmental Protection, Article VIII, Plastic Checkout Bag Reduction, by changing name to checkout bag reduction, adding single-use paper bag to definitions, changing the effective date to April 30, 2015, Deleting sec. 33-457, and providing exemptions to further clarify exemptions that are listed under definitions.

Diana Ruelweler of the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee hoped that there would be a positive outcome to this discussion, explaining that the committee had worked on this ordinance since December 5, 2007. She added that many different merchants and citizens such as the Chamber of Commerce, environmental groups, grocery stores such as H.E.B. and Wal-Mart and convenience store owners had attended their thirty-nine public meetings regarding the plastic checkout bag ordinance.

Jessica Davila Burnett, Public Relations Director for Stripes Convenience Stores in Laredo, stated that some Council Members had been surprised by Stripes' participation in the formation of this ordinance; however, they were not aware of the final revision of the paper bag ban until they learned it from the *Laredo Morning Times*. She urged Council not to take any action until they had vetted this out to the local businesses.

Douglas Gonzalez, H.E.B. Regional Director, stated that they appreciated that the Council had decided to move forward with

the April 2015 time frame; however, they were very concerned about the ban on single-use bags. They felt that this would impose a hardship on their customers and that there were other viable solutions such as a recycling program and a \$1 for single-use bags.

Susan Gherther, H.E.B. Director of Environmental Affairs, stated that if people were walking or taking the bus, they may have to pay up to five dollars for their bags and they could not use the food assistance card to pay for it. She added that their business had a very low profit margin and that they worked hard and efficiently to earn that money.

Miguel Angel Inclan reported that he lived in Brownsville and went to Stripes often; he had never seen Stripes do away with paper bags there.

Daniel Monahan stated that they were there to support the currently proposed ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags at 4 mil or less and paper bags.

Alberto Sandoval said that he was an employee of the Rio Grande International Study Center and supported the ban proposed. He also felt that recycling was just as important as banning plastic bags and that there had been too much time spent on this ordinance.

Edward Ovidedo gave a presentation before Mayor and City Council.

Plastic Bags and their effects on Laredo  
Photos from Laredo and others.

- They threaten wildlife.
- They poison wildlife.
- They kill our fauna.
- They'll be around for many...  
... many...  
... many years.
- They poison our river.
- They interfere with flood control.
- They ruin our green areas.
- Keep them off our lawns.
- Keep them off our trees.

Laredo, is this the image we wish to portray???

Lakshmana Viswaty stated that he felt that H.E.B. had done a lot for the community and thanked them for what they had done in the past. He added that people would be able to walk through downtown with the reusable bags. He asked that Council put an end to the discussion and pass the ordinance to ban plastic bags.

Cm. Garza said that the point of clarification was that they had mentioned a ban on all plastic, but they were approving a 4mil bag and even cloth bags had some plastic in them.

Environmental Services Director Riazul Mia explained that they looked at any kind of bag including bags from Wal-Mart made from plastic bottles, and most of them were mixed with plastic and cloth. Therefore, they defined reusable bags, checkout bags, and checkout paper bags in the ordinance so that heavy paper bags were reusable. He added that the ordinance allowed tacos from Stripes, for example, to be bagged in paper bags.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-064.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 6

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Liendo

2014-O-065 Amending Chapter 24 Section 24.78 of the City of Laredo Land Development Code, entitled Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements, specifically Chapter 24, Section 24-78.3 Parking Space Formulas by the addition of types of uses and revised formulas; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-065.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2014-O-066 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1A and 1B, Block 1, North Star Square Subdivision, located at 6910 and 6950 McPherson Road, from B-1 (Limited Commercial District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-066.



Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Vera  
For: 7                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

2014-O-067 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 11, Block 4, San Isidro Northeast Subdivision, Phase 7, located at 119 Simon Bolivar Boulevard, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-067.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Vera  
For: 7                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

2014-O-068 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 48, Block 2, San Isidro Northeast Subdivision, Phase 11, located at 11101 International Boulevard, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-068.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Vera  
For: 7                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

2014-O-069 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for an amusement redemption machine establishment on all of Block 4, Rancho Viejo Subdivision, Unit 1, located at 605 Rancho Viejo Drive; providing for publication and effective date. (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-069.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Vera  
For: 7                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0

2014-O-070 Amending Ordinance No. 2014-O-017 dated February 03, 2014 to modify lease agreement between the City of Laredo, as LESSOR and Harmony Public Schools, as LESSEE to (1) clarify that the Rent Abatement Term is for up to thirty-one (31) years if LESSEE exercises the first and second

consecutive ten (10) year renewal options by giving LESSOR written notice ninety (90) days prior to June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2035 of its intent to exercise the renewal options and (2) to amend the amount of monthly Rent Abatement from \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00 for the first five (5) years of the lease term, all other terms of the lease agreement remain in effect. (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-070.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2014-O-071 Authorizing the City Manager to approve a sublease of the leased premises approved by Ordinance No. 2001-O-278 dated November 26, 2001 between the City of Laredo as LESSOR and ASA Group, LTD., as amended by Ordinance No. 2010-O-0081 dated June 21, 2010, assign L.A. Ventures Terminal, LTD., as LESSEE, for the premises described as Warehouse Suite C2, which consists of approximately 12,850 sq. ft. located at 5802 Bob Bullock Loop, Suite C2 to Conn Appliances, Inc., a Texas Corporation SUB-LESSEE, said lease provides for right to sublease subject to city approval, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-071.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2014-O-072 Authorizing the City Manager to approve a sublease of the leased premises approved by Ordinance No. 2001-O-278 dated November 26, 2001 between the City of Laredo as LESSOR and ASA Group, LTD., as amended by Ordinance No. 2010-O-081 dated June 21, 2010, assign L.A. Ventures Terminal, LTD., as LESSEE, for the premises described as Warehouse Suite C3, which consists of approximately 12,850 sq. ft., (consisting of 950 sq. ft. of offices and 11,900 sq. ft. of warehouse) located at 5802 Bob Bullock Loop, Suite C3 to PGW Auto Glass, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company as SUB-LESSEE, said lease provides for right to sublease subject to city approval, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-072.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2014-O-73 Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to convey the “surface only”, of a property described as a 7,716.73 sq. ft. tract of land, more or less, out of the south one half section of the former Jarvis Ave. between Santa Barbara and Napoleon Streets situated in the Eastern Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas to Daniel Garcia, at its established market value of \$39,000.00. Said property being described on attached Exhibit “A”; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-073.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2014-O-074 Amending ordinance 89-0-96, paragraph 1(c) to modify the City of Laredo’s reversionary interest in 70.53 acres located between Laredo International Airport and Lake Casa Blanca requiring the acreage to revert to the city if not used as a Webb county park so as to allow Webb county to construct and operate a central fire station there.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-074.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2014-O-075 Authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas Subordinate International Toll Bridge System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 for the purpose of refunding a State Infrastructure Bank loan with the Texas Department of Transportation, approving and official statement, authorizing the execution of a purchase contract and the execution of an escrow agreement, and making provisions for the security thereof, delegating authority to the City Manager to approve all final terms of the bonds and authorizing amendment to the City's Budget to appropriate such proceeds for the purposes authorized herein; and ordaining other matters relating to the

subject.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-O-075.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## X. RESOLUTIONS

7. 2014-R-54 Authorizing the City Manager to execute this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the South Texas Development Council (hereinafter STDC) and the City of Laredo Fire Department in the amount of \$20,000.00 to form a management and administration structure to oversee, implement, and maintain the WebEOC for the South Texas Region 19. WebEOC is a web-based crisis information management system improving the ability to share awareness of available resources throughout the state and provide access to regional medical operations centers, local emergency operations centers, local health departments, hospitals, emergency medical services, fire departments, and other emergency operations centers across the state. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2014-R-54.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Vela were not present.

8. 2014-R-56 Accepting the conveyance of the following Utility and Access Easement, for an 8 inch waterline out of Lot 1E, Block 1, Replat of Lot 1D & 1E, Block 1, Lago Del Mar Subdivision, Unit 8, from:

Oradel Investments, Inc. (Edgar O. Martinez) - Utility easement as follows:

19,908.7 Square Feet, a copy of which conveyance is attached as Exhibit A:

And directing that the said Easement be filed of record in official property records of Webb County, Texas. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2014-R-56.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Vela were not present.

9. 2014-R-57 Authorizing the City Manager to seek designation as a management agency for wastewater collection and treatment within its district boundaries – (WW CCN No. 20485) in accordance with the requirements of Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended. In order to be eligible to receive a loan from Texas Water Development Board's state revolving loan funds program, the City must be recommended for designation as a management agency. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2014-R-57.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Vela were not present.

## **XI. MOTIONS**

10. Authorizing the City Manager to grant multiple public Fireworks Display permits for special events at the Uni-Trade Stadium Laredo Lemurs Baseball games during the 2014 season. The technician for the display will be Magic in the Sky, L.L.C. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Liendo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Vela were not present.

11. Consideration to award a two (2) year supply contract to the sole source provider Xylem Water Solutions, Carrollton, Texas for the purchase of replacement submersible water and drainage pumps, parts, and service for the Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment plants and lift stations for the Utilities Department. This contract will be for an estimated annual

amount of \$650,000.00 and is subject to future appropriations. All pumps, parts, and services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel  
Second: Cm. Liendo  
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Vela were not present.

## **XII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved: Cm. Liendo  
Second: Cm. Garza  
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Vela were not present.

### **XII (a) RESOLUTIONS**

12. 2014-R-58 Authorizing fee waivers and a tax abatement agreement between the City of Laredo and Laredo Centro Properties, LTD., for a commercial project located at 901 Iturbide St., N6' of 5 & N6' of the E37.25' of 4 & all of 6-7 Block 25 Western Division that consists of rehabilitation of the existing structure for a proposed Restaurant and Bar with Outdoor Patio, in accordance with authorized guidelines and criteria established for the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ). This agreement will be for a ten (10) year period and will abate taxes on rehabilitation improvements for the purpose of economic development. The project has an estimated capital investment total of \$472,262.73, estimated annual tax abatement total of \$2,036.51 and estimated total fee waivers of \$2,774.50. Guidelines and criteria for the agreement are set forth in the attached agreement and information.

### **XII (b) MOTIONS**

13. Consideration for approval of the Laredo International Airport Chiller Replacement as complete, approval of change order No. 1, an increase of \$117.00 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$30,565.45 to

R.E.C. Industries, Inc., Bryan, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$609,086.00. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund - FAA Grant No. 75.

14. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Dallas, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$487,896.00 for design and preparation of plans and specifications for the Laredo International Airport Taxiway G Reconstruction. Design work is to be done on a fast track basis. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund – Improvements Other Than Building.
15. Consideration to award contract FY14-054 to AECOM Technical Services, Los Angeles, California in an amount not to exceed \$341,020.00 for Laredo Bridge System Toll Collection System Assessment and Upgrades Consulting Services. This consulting services contract for the Toll Collection System Upgrade Project includes a complete assessment of the bridge toll collections system's upgrade recommendations at all four (4) international bridges for the City of Laredo. Construction / implementation phase is not part of this contract. Funding is available in the Laredo Bridge System Budget.
16. Consideration to renew the existing annual contracts FY14-002 for the purchase of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts/service for the City's Case and John Deere equipment currently awarded to:
  1. RDO Equipment, South Fargo, North Dakota, in an amount up to \$90,000.00; and
  2. Nueces Power Equipment, Corpus Christi, Texas, in an amount up to \$50,000.00.

All parts will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.
17. Consideration to award contract number FY14-062 to the sole bidder, Lozano Body Shop, Laredo, Texas to provide automotive and truck body shop repair services for the Fleet Department. The contract amount is for approximately \$225,000.00 annually and is for a three (3) year term and is subject to future appropriations. All repair services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.
18. Consideration to award a two (2) year contract FY14-057 to primary vendor Industrial Property Brokers, L.L.C., (IPB), Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$130,000.00 and secondary vendor La Flecha Material Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$60,000.00 for the purchase of red top soil and fill

dirt for maintenance and improvement projects by Parks & Recreation, Utilities and other City departments. This contract is subject to future appropriations and items will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

19. Consideration to renew contract FY12-058 to Test America Laboratories, North Canton, Ohio in the estimated annual amount of \$150,000.00 to provide laboratory analytical services for water and wastewater samples in accordance to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved standard methods. Sample testing is done on a daily, monthly, and quarterly basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Budget, Water and Wastewater Treatment Divisions.
20. Consideration to award annual service contract FY14-052 to Delta House Electric & Motor, Freer, Texas in an amount up to \$350,000.00 to provide electric motor repair service for the Utilities Department. Repairs are for motors with horsepower ratings from 1/8 HP to 400 HP that are used in water and wastewater operations. All services will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.
21. Consideration for approval of change order No. 7, for a net increase in the amount of \$5,105.50 to the construction contract with Western Summit Contractors, Inc./McAllen Construction, Inc., a Joint Venture Contractor, Fort Worth, Texas, for El Pico Water Treatment Plant 20 MGD. This change order includes various project modifications to electrical, heating, and pump systems, and other aspects of the project, plus an additional two (2) working days due to weather. The new contract amount is \$85,501,169.10 and total working days are six hundred fifty-seven (657). Funding is available in Water 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, & 2012 Revenue Bonds.
22. Authorizing City Manager to execute a construction contract with the lowest bidder, AC-DC, Inc., of Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$65,220.25 for the construction of Jefferson Street Water Treatment Plant Slope Erosion Protection Project. The construction time is one hundred-twenty (120) calendar days. Funding is available in the 2012 Waterworks Revenue Bond.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

### **XIII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

23. A. Request by Council Member Jorge A. Vera
  1. Discussion with possible action on removing gravel from the playground surface area of all parks within the city and replacing it with



an alternative material that will ensure the safety and protection of the general public. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Mike Garza and Council Member Roque Vela, Jr.)

Cm. Vera reported that there was an incident at one of the parks where a little boy was playing on the gravel and was poked by a syringe. He explained that this had scared both the family and him; therefore, he wished to remove the gravel from the parks for safety reasons.

Parks Director Osbaldo Guzman reported that currently there were forty-two parks with pea gravel, sand or mulch, which would cost \$35,000 per playground to replace with padding. He added that a quote for artificial turf was \$21,000.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal stated that they would have to take an inventory and prioritize which parks were doable first. He added that in some parks, astroturf may not work.

Motion that future parks be equipped with padding or artificial turf rather than gravel.

Moved: Cm. Vera

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action regarding raised pavement markers (red) being placed in the middle of the street where fire hydrants are located.

Cm. Vera stated that they were looking at doing the older developments and he knew there had been an idea that as they resurfaced, they would put those out there as they closed the streets. He felt it was important for the fire department to be able to identify fire hydrants that were operable upon arrival.

Utilities Director Tomas Rodriguez reported that they had come up with a suggestion that if Council agreed, they could complete the work in three years so that every waterline that would be repaired would also have the blue pavement markers added to the hydrants.

#### **XIV. STAFF REPORTS**

24. Recognition by the Mayor and City Council Members of employees that retired from the City of Laredo with 20 or more years of service.

Human Resources Interim Director Monica Flores announced that they were

going to honor employees who had retired after twenty years or more of service with the city, and that tonight they had 619 combined years of service with the twenty-three employees being honored. She announced five retirees present: Jesus Garza, Bridge Department, with 36 years of service; Erasmo Villarreal, Building Development Services, 23 years of service; Francisco Meza, Jr., Finance/Purchasing Department, 25 years of service; Hector Garcia, Police Department, 35 years of service; and Luis Balderas, Traffic Department, 28 years of service. She also announced the following retirees who were not present: Berta Rivera, Bridge Department, 32 years of service; Joel Saucedo, Building Development Services, 29 years of service; Roberto Martinez, Engineering/Fleet Department, 32 years of service; Julio Martinez, Finance/Purchasing Department, 34 years of service; Norma Garza, Health Department, 33 years of service; Sylvia Esquivel, Health Department, 27 years of service; Antonino Flores, I.S.T./Telecommunications Department, 26 years of service; Isabel Ibarra, Municipal Court, 20 years of service; Sergio Dominguez, Parks and Leisure Services Department, 27 years of service; Geraldo Gonzalez, Police Department, 22 years of service; Juan Rivera, Police Department, 27 years of service; Melinda Guerra, Police Department, 20 years of service; Norberto Cardenas, Police Department, 32 years of service; Ricardo Martinez, Police Department, 27 years of service; Lino Sanchez, Police Department, 20 years of service; Edna Lopez, Public Library, 22 years of service; Rogelio Duque, Public Works Department, 20 years of service; and Adrian Montemayor, Utilities Department, 22 years of service.

## **XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

25. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(A) to consult with City Attorney on potential litigation involving suits for Injunctive Relief against all local restaurant establishments determined to be unlawfully operating as bars in violation of the City's applicable zoning ordinance as authorized by §211.012 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(A) to consult with City Attorney on potential litigation involving suits for Injunctive Relief against all local restaurant establishments determined to be unlawfully operating as bars in violation of the City's applicable zoning ordinance as authorized by §211.012 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Moved: Cm. Liendo

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garza, Cm. Rangel and Cm. Narvaez were not present.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal stated that they wished to have the discussion in the open rather than going into executive session. He added that some felt that they were zeroing in on specific bars, so he felt that it was better that everyone know that they were applying the rule of law fairly to everyone.

City Attorney Raul Casso reported that two weeks ago, there was a raid using a task force that went to numerous establishments throughout the city due to health and safety violations such as food being kept overnight without refrigeration, no working sinks, and restaurants with no kitchens. He went on to explain that thirteen establishments were in violation and were cited by the police department and city departments, and even the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission issued five of their own citations for minors in possession of alcohol. He listed seven bars in the wrong zones, three establishments without certificates of occupancy, two with insufficient parking, two that exceeded the allowed occupancy loads, three nonregistered businesses, five allowing smoking indoors and several with minors in possession. He concluded that they must access the courts to proceed with their uncompleted work.

Cm. Vela stated that this all started as bars masquerading as restaurant bars. He added that they finally were able to use the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission red and blue signs to identify businesses that were out of compliance. He concluded that if they could not be brought into compliance, then they were not doing their jobs.

Health Department Director Dr. Hector Gonzalez reported that some did not have permits and some did not have running water or a kitchen. He added that some of these places were allowing their trash bins to overflow, which attracted rodents and flies. He concluded that all food handlers had to renew their permits annually and underwent two or three inspections at a minimum.

Motion to authorize the City Attorney to proceed with legal recourse.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Perez were not present.

## **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Vela  
Second: Cm. Vera  
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Perez were not present.

# Plastic Bags and their effects on Laredo

Photos from Laredo and others.

They threaten wildlife.





They poison wildlife.





They kill our fauna.



They'll be around for many...



... many...



... many years.



They poison our river.



They interfere with flood control.



They ruin our green areas.



Keep them off our lawns.





Keep them off our trees.



Laredo, is this the image we wish to portray???

