

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M-2012-R-09
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
MAY 21, 2012
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

In attendance:

Raul G. Salinas,	Mayor
Mike Garza,	Council Member, District I
Esteban Rangel,	Council Member, District II
Alejandro Perez, Jr.	Council Member, District III
Juan Narvaez,	Council Member, District IV
Johnny Rendon,	Council Member, District V
Charlie San Miguel,	Council Member, District VI
Jorge A. Vera,	Council Member, District VII
Cynthia Liendo Espinoza,	Mayor Pro Tempore, 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. Rangel.

Moved: Cm. Narvaez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel joined the meeting at 5:50 pm.

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of May 7, 2012.

Motion to approve the May 7, 2012 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions

- a. Recognizing Cuauhtemoc “Chito” Rodriguez, one of the most dedicated and respected baseball executives in Mexico, on being named the “2011 King of Baseball” at the Annual Baseball Winter Meetings Banquet held in Dallas, Texas on December of 2011. The “King of Baseball” is a long-standing tradition in which Minor League Baseball salutes a veteran from the professional baseball world for long-time dedication and service.

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized Cuauhtemoc “Chito” Rodriguez and presented him with a plaque.

- b. Recognizing LPD Sgt. Eduardo Cabello, leader of the Police Department Explorer Program, for placing first and second place during the local Border Patrol at the South West Competition held March 31, 2012 at Lamar Middle School.

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized Sgt. Cabello and presented him with a certificate of recognition.

- c. Recognizing United High School Football team for their 2011-2012 Season accomplishments.

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized United High School Football team players and coaches and presented them with certificates of recognition.

- d. Recognizing All Star Academy girls for their numerous competition achievements held at the American Cheer Power Spring Fever Championship held Sunday, April 29, 2012 at Sea World in San Antonio, Texas.

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized All Star Academy students and presented them with certificates of recognition.

- e. Recognizing the Fasken Elementary Cheerleaders for their distinguished awards earned during the 2011-2012 Season.

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized Fasken Elementary Cheerleaders and presented them with certificates of recognition.

Citizen comments

None.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept and appropriate the City of Laredo Special Police FY 2011-2012 budget for an additional \$200,000.00 under 2009 Operation Stone Garden, funding will be available on a reimbursement basis through the Webb County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). This funding will be used for the purchase of equipment used for Stone Garden operations. The term of this grant agreement is from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2012. (Approved by the Operations and Finance Committees)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance ratifying the acceptance of a contract from Migrant Clinicians Network, Inc., (MCN) and amending the City of Laredo Health Department FY 2011-2012 Annual Budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$10,160.00 for "Moving Against Cancer: a Collaborative Health Promotion, Education and Training Effort to Assist Local Latino Mobile Poor", to increase the rate of cancer screening and follow up within the Laredo Community through appropriate public education, provider training and patient navigation assistance through August 31, 2012. (Approved by the Operations and Finance Committees)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Narvaez

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract amendment from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to align the grant consolidation process and amending the City of Laredo Health Department FY 2011-2012 Annual Budget by increasing in the amount of \$58,299.00 for a total of \$306,835.00 for the continuation of local public health system, Office of Public Health Practices (OPHP) Grant to continue to provide prevention services, disease control, early detection, patient care and health promotion activities through August 31, 2012. (Approved by the Operations and Finance Committees)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Rendon

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract amendment from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to align the grant consolidation and amending the City of Laredo Health Department FY 2011-2012 Annual Budget by increasing in the amount of \$22,962.00 (\$20,873.00 in Direct Funds and \$4,089.00 in-kind match) for a total of \$488,289.00 for the continuation of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program and extending the term period through August 31, 2012. (Approved by the Operations and Finance Committees)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

12. Motion to exercise the City’s option to renew its contract with the firm Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. (the “Firm”) for the collection of Delinquent Municipal court Fees & Fines for the first of up to two (2) additional, one-year periods on the same terms and conditions as the original contract; directing the City Manager to proceed with requisite notice requirements; and, authorizing the City Manager to execute all relevant documents.

Cm. Vera stated that he knew they were supposed to receive all citations or fines over ninety days, and he wanted to make sure that this was happening. He wished for collections to begin immediately.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X (a) RESOLUTIONS

13. 2012-R-040 Authorizing the City Manager to submit an Enterprise Zone Program application, on behalf of the City of Laredo, pursuant to the Texas Enterprise Zone Act, Chapter 2303, Texas Government Code (Act), providing tax incentives, designating the City Manager for communication with interested parties, and nominating Laredo Regional Medical Center, L.P., to the Office of the Governor Economic Development and Tourism (EDT) through the Economic Development Bank (Bank) as an Enterprise Project (Project) and providing for an effective date.
14. 2012-R-041 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract amendment from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to align the grant consolidation process and adjust the grant amount by \$6,216.00 (\$5,642.00 in direct funds and \$574.00 in-kind match) for a total of \$88,934.00 for the Office of Border Health (OBH) Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS) Project and extending the term period through August 31, 2012.
15. 2012 R-042 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract amendment from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to align the grant consolidation process and adjust the grant amount by \$15,674.00 for a total of \$186,533.00 in direct funds for continuation of the City of

Laredo Health Department-Tuberculosis Elimination Program through August 31, 2012.

16. 2012-R-043 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a contract amendment from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to align the grant consolidation process and adjust the grant amount by \$47,632.00 for a total of \$95,261.00 for the Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program and reducing the term period through August 31, 2012.
17. 2012-R-044 Authorizing the fee simple purchase of the surface only of Lots 9 and 10, Block 1034, Western Division from Laredo Eastern Division, L.L.C., in the amount of \$55,952.00 plus applicable closing costs in support of the Chicago Pedestrian Bridge Project. The purchase of these lots is made possible through funding from 2012 Certificate of Obligation Funds.

X (b) MOTIONS

18. Authorizing award of 2011 HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) set-aside funds in the amount of \$182,844.00 to Habitat for Humanity of Laredo, Inc., to assist in the construction of approximately eight (8) homes for the Tierra Prometida a 50 home project; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents in support of the same.
19. Consideration to exercise the renewal option for annual contract FY11-071 awarded to HD Supply Waterworks, Atlanta, Georgia, in the amount of \$217,046.25 for the purchase of fire hydrants for the City of Laredo's Utilities Department. This contract renewal includes a 4.6% price increase from the previous contract period due to a price increase of materials. This is an annual supply contract that allows for the purchase of fire hydrants on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.
20. Consideration to award contract number FY12-058 to Envirodyne Laboratories, Houston, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$150,000.00 for providing laboratory analytical services for water and wastewater samples in accordance to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved standard methods. The testing laboratory will be responsible for sample handling, analysis and reporting for a wide range of environmental parameters in soil, water and sludge samples for both water and wastewater applications. Funding is available in the Utilities Department budget, Water and Sewer Treatment Divisions.

Motion to postpone.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Award of construction contract to the lowest bidder ALCE Construction, LLC., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$31,281.30 for the El Metro ADA Sidewalks and Ramps Project No. 49 (5 Blocks - District IV) with a construction contract time of fifty (50) working days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Completion date for the project is scheduled for mid-August 2012. Funding is available in the Transit New Freedom no. 51222F7094 Grant – Improvements Other Than Building.
22. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$21,614.00 to the professional services contract with Castle Engineering & Testing, LLC, Laredo, Texas, for the Laredo International Airport Reconstruction of General Aviation Apron Phase 6 and Realignment of Taxiway F to provide additional laboratory, sampling and testing services of materials for quality assurance. Current contract amount with this amendment is \$84,489.00. Completion date is scheduled for October 2012. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund FAA Grant No. 68.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

XI. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

23. A. Request by Mayor Raul G. Salinas
 1. Resolution in support of Senate Bill 1925, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Cynthia Liendo Espinoza)

Mayor Salinas reported that recently the House of Representatives had voted 220-205 in favor to reauthorize the 1994 Violence Against Women Act for five years, almost along party lines. He added that the bill had improved a bit but had been protecting the confidentiality of undocumented immigrants. He went on to say that the reason that was important for them was that they did not want a single domestic violence crime affecting women to go unreported since the perpetrator would continue to hurt women. He added that the Senate bill was different. He concluded that they encouraged that bill 1925 be supported by Council.

Motion to support the resolution.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on encouraging developers to name the subdivision for “Laredo’s Fallen Heroes” with the naming of corresponding streets for local individuals/heroes who have died in the line of duty.

Mayor Salinas stated that he did not know how many times they had been approached about naming a street after a fallen hero. He said that it was the

right thing to do and that they could encourage the developers to take the proper steps to ensure that their fallen heroes were not forgotten.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal said that they could have a fallen heroes subdivision and everyone who had died in the line of duty could have a street named after them. He added that he would like for the Planning Department to send a letter indicating the gist of this resolution and for future naming of subdivisions.

Planning Director Nathan Bratton reported that some time back this item had been discussed, and they had put together a list of fallen heroes with assistance from the Department of Defense.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Request by Council Member Mike Garza

1. Discussion with possible action regarding trash pickup days throughout the City of Laredo.

Cm. Garza stated that he felt that the fair thing to do would be to implement the switch so that the north would have Mondays and Thursdays and the south Tuesdays and Fridays, only for the next few years.

Motion to implement the switch to have Monday and Thursday service in the north and Tuesday and Friday service in the south starting October 1, 2012 and lasting five years.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member Esteban Rangel

1. Status report on the traffic light located between Las Misiones and Hwy. 359, with possible action.

Traffic Director Roberto Murillo reported that they had updated the traffic study and the result had warranted a traffic light; however, a warrant did not necessarily mean that they had to install the traffic light. He added that they had submitted the information to TxDOT, and one of the concerns was putting traffic lights on major roadways. He went on to say that they would have a meeting on Thursday to explore other options.

2. Discussion with possible action regarding adding a City Council Meeting per month for recognitions only.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal said that if there were only three, they should limit it to three recognitions and carry on as such.

Motion to approve the first Thursday of every month for a City Council recognitions meeting to be held at the Civic Center at 5:30 pm.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report regarding bus stops in District II, with possible action.

El Metro Manager Mark Pritchard reported that he would have to go back and check with his staff.

Cm. Rangel stated that he would like to see options of different bus stops that he could fund to have shaded areas and benches.

- D. Request by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez

1. Discussion on new updates of the utilities automatic pay system, with possible action.

Tax Assessor/Collector Elizabeth Martinez reported that they were currently at the end of a \$20,000 upgrade in which they were going to the latest version of the software, receiving a new server, and replacing the twelve lines from analog to digital thereby eliminating the gateway conversion. She added that they did the requisition in September but then with the move to the City Hall Annex, they had to put a hold on it. She concluded that they started the upgrade in January and were now at the thirty-day testing phase before they would go live.

- E. Request by Council Member Johnny Rendon

1. Discussion with possible action on the installation of Vietnam Veteran’s signage on State Highway 83.

Mr. Joe Lopez thanked the Council on behalf of all veterans, especially those who were not welcomed back from Vietnam forty-five years before.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rendon

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- F. Request by Council Member Jorge A. Vera

1. Status report on staff’s determination of the availability of property for the creation of tractor trailer parking facilities in south and west Laredo, with possible action.

Cm. Vera stated many owner/operators did not have a place to park their tractor trailers, which meant they had to park them at their residences. He went on to suggest that they find property in south and west Laredo to provide a parking lot especially for Laredo residents that they could utilize at a monthly rate. He added that they had found a three-acre property in a prime location on Mines Road that would create 172 parking spaces that would cost, together with upgrades, just under \$1 million. He went on to say that if they charged at 80% occupancy at \$125 per month, the monthly income would be \$171,250. He continued saying that after one year, they would have made a profit and would continue to receive profit afterwards.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal said that revenue bonds were harder than certificates of obligation to obtain. He concluded that they would have to find out where to get the money.

G. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Cynthia Liendo Espinoza

1. Recognizing the local, national and international winners from St. Peter's Memorial School in various art, essay, photography, and poetry contests, including: Catholic Daughters of America; Try Prayer! It Works! and the Pentel Art Contest.

Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza congratulated Catholic Daughters of America contest winners Marbel Garcia, Jaqueline Lozano, Cesar Navarrete, Alexa Padilla, Rebekah A. Morales, Arianna Rivera, David Gonzalez, Nineth Martinez, Osvaldo Valdez, Vanessa Sigrist, Luisa Meraz, Carla Gonzalez, Marie June Piñeda, Emilio Flores, Valeria Garcia and Mary Lorraine Cavazos; Holy Cross Family Ministries' Try Prayer! It Works! Contest winners Diego Regino, Joey Garcia, IV, and Vanessa Sigrist; Pentel's 42nd International Children's Art Exhibition contest winners Vanessa Sigrist and Edgar Cruz; and Laredo Public Library's 9th Annual Poetry Festival contest winners Michael Zavala, Mia Montemayor, Joey Garcia, Cesar Navarrete, Luis Angel Campos, and Carla Gonzalez and presented them with certificates of recognition.

2. Discussion with possible action regarding a proposed Logistic Cities World Forum. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Raul G. Salinas & Council Member Juan Narvaez)

Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza reported that she brought this to Council because she was contacted by a Laredo logistic company. She said that the proposal was to develop the first logistic cities world forum which would bring important logistic growth from around the world. She added that the proposed panelists were CEO's, university PhD's and people with great influence in the world of logistics. She concluded that it would generate overnight stays, community activities, shopping and products with five hundred participants staying for four to five nights. She asked for Council's support.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal replied that his recommendation was that Council give him \$25,000 with the possibility of releasing another \$5,000 if

everything went in accordance with the plans and then come back and report to them within three months.

Motion to instruct the City Manager to allocate \$30,000 for the sponsorship of the proposed Logistic Cities World Forum and come back and report within three months.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. STAFF REPORTS

24. Discussion with possible action to inform the City Council on the 2012-2013 budget.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal reported that, looking at preliminary figures related to the budget, it didn't look very good. He wanted to let them know so that if any endeavors were brought to Council during the budget process, they could make sure to have a recommendation as to where the revenue would be coming from. He added that they were starting this budget at a deficit of \$11,132,783 million, not taking into consideration the police contract and additional costs of the Haynes Recreation Center. He concluded that this would bring it up to a negative \$11.5 million and therefore anything added to the budget would be a hard sell.

Motion to put a moratorium on any type of request added to the budget unless there would be a corresponding revenue that would offset that cost.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vera and Cm. Perez were not present.

25. Discussion with possible action on determining the qualifications important to City Council regarding the recruitment of the Police Chief.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal reported that he was requesting a direction of what type of candidate would be the ideal candidate for the next Police Chief. He added that he knew that they had diversified opinions among Council as to the qualifications. He went on to say that they were looking at hiring a headhunter who would screen the candidates, but his own recommendation was that Council give them information in general that they could all agree to and incorporate it into the qualifications. He added that they would advertise for thirty to forty-five days and then set a time frame for making a selection, and then set up a meeting to interview. Afterward, they would allow the candidates to present themselves to Council and respond to questions during a regular meeting. Finally, in three-and-a-half to four months they could bring a recommendation to City Council.

Cm. Garza replied that he agreed regarding the additional expenditure of the headhunter that he would not suggest it, either. He said that the only thing he would do differently from the last process would be, rather than meeting the individuals informally on a social basis, to have an open meeting for people from the community who wanted to come and meet them.

Cm. San Miguel said that they had received in their packages what the Human Resources department had used in the past to look for a new Chief. He said that there was already a model that could be used in the search.

Mayor Salinas said that they wanted someone with previous experience, top qualifications, and a good understanding of the border. He added that the Chief of Police should be accessible in the community.

Cm. Rangel said that hopefully they could find someone within the community of Laredo that understood their needs and what had not been touched in the past years. He added that he thought that to work well with both the LPO and FOP associations was very important. He concluded that perhaps they could consider the number of years of experience in lieu of a degree; for example, twenty-five years of experience could be considered in lieu of a Bachelor's degree.

Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza said that experience should count for years of education, but she also felt that the years of required experience should be put higher or else their applicant pool would be too large. She added that other training should be included such as FBI or other types of training, and perhaps even some college if there were no degree.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Narvaez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez and Cm. Vera were not present.

I, Gustavo Guevara, Jr., City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 to 15 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on May 21st, 2012.

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary