

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M-2012-R-13  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
JULY 16, 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 Salinas led in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

In attendance:

|                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Raul G. Salinas,         | Mayor                            |
| Mike Garza,              | Council Member, District I       |
| Alejandro Perez, Jr.     | Council Member, District III     |
| 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, Cm. Perez, Cm. Narvaez, and Cm. Rendon.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez arrived at 5:50 pm.

**IV. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of July 2, 2012.

Motion to approve the July 2, 2012 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## V. COMMUNICATIONS

### Communiqués

- a. Invitation to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Laredo International Sister Cities Festival set for July 20-22, 2012, at the Laredo Energy Arena.

Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Blasita Lopez announced that there were going to be 191 booths with over 450 registered attendees. She added that they would be signing a new sister city agreement with a city in Costa Rica, their first sister city in that country. She showed a schedule of events and stated that there would be performances throughout the day on Friday. She went on to say that on Saturday, the Spurs Fan Experience Caravan would be there with the Coyote and Silver Dancers. She announced that the San Miguel El Alto Ballet Folklorico would also perform on Saturday, and on Sunday there would be a local community talent showcase. She said that last year there had been over 14,000 people in attendance. She concluded that forty-two cities from thirteen different states would be participating.

- b. Presentation by the Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities on their progress during their first year of existence.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez and committee chairperson Lee Spain gave a presentation before City Council.

#### Mission Statement

To serve as advocates for those in our community with disabilities by promoting awareness, education and securing resources for their physiological, psychological and social well being. As a Blue Ribbon Committee, we also have the responsibility to provide guidance and serve as consultants to the City of Laredo officials regarding issues affecting people with disabilities.

#### Committee Members

- Mr. Francisco Martinez  
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) - Division for Rehabilitative Services - Area Manager
- Mr. Daniel G. Castillon  
Border Region Behavioral Health Center Executive Director
- Dr. Georgeanne Ramón- Reuthinger  
Consultant
- Ms. Martha M. Moke  
United Independent School District Executive Director for Special Education
- Mr. Cande Rodríguez

Veterans Affairs Representative  
Vietnam Era Veteran

- Mr. Lee Spain (Chairperson)  
Laredo Community College HR Director
- Ms. Adriana Haro  
BEST Executive Director
- Sandra Rodríguez  
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)  
Division for the Blind

#### Accomplishments

- Has met since June 2011
- Discussed Critical Needs for People with Disabilities
  - Accessible Parking
  - Workforce
  - Building Codes
  - Educational and Training Opportunities
  - Resources
- Developed PSA, Website and highlighted the Cherish Center
- Laredo Morning Times featured an article about the Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities during their meeting at the United Independent School District's Cherish Center.

A special message from the Laredo Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities:

*This new year, we want to remind all to respect those with special needs and disabilities. Please do not park in accessible parking areas. If you see violators, call 795-2800.*

Blue Ribbon Committee Website

<http://www.cityoflaredo.com/pwd/PWDindex.html>

#### **Citizen comments**

None.

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

- a. Appointment by Council Member Esteban Rangel of Mr. Hector "Tito" Garcia to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion to confirm the nomination of Hector Garcia to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- b. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez of Mr. Rogelio Romo to the Parks & Leisure Advisory Committee.

Motion to confirm the nomination of Rafael Romo to the Parks and Leisure Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- c. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez of Ms. Mirta Piña to the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee.

Motion to confirm the nomination of Mirta Piña to the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- d. Appointment by Council Member Johnny Rendon of Mr. Jesse Flores to the Drug & Alcohol Commission.

Motion to confirm the nomination of Jesse Flores to the Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24, Article 59 entitled “storm” water management ordinance adding agencies in §24.59.1.2, adding definitions in §24.59.1.3, changing criteria from five (5) acres to one (1) acre in §24.59.2.2, §24.59.2.12, §24.59.4.2, §24.59.5.1, and §24.59.5.4.4, changing “City” to “Developer” in §24.59.7.2 and providing for severability, publication, and an effective date, these amendments are a condition under the TPDES Municipal Storm Water Permit, as well as State and Federal Law.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo FY 2012 Airport Construction Budget to recognize additional revenues from a grant received from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program being Grant Project No. 3-48-0136-70-12 in the amount of \$8,617,353.00 for realignment of Taxiway F and rehab of G.A. Apron Phase 7 at the Laredo International Airport and appropriating said grant revenue and local match to the appropriate expenditure accounts and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget amendment. The City's local match of ten (10%) percent in the amount of \$957,484.00 is available. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund. (Action needed on item no. 9, Resolution 2012-R-054.)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza  
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza  
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo FY 2011-2012 annual budget for the Solid Waste Services Fund by appropriating expenditures in the amount of \$2,225,800.00 from available fund balance for engineering services to complete an expansion permit application and construction plans and construction quality assurance for the next disposal cell for the City of Laredo Municipal Landfill.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza  
Second: Cm. Vera  
For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.



There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Vera

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Vera

## VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

6. Authorizing the City Manager to exchange fee simple title with Mr. Rolando Garcia for the Northeast ¼ of Lot 8, Block 1174 Eastern Division, vacant property adjacent to municipal parkland in South Laredo in exchange for the Southwest ¼ of Lot 8, Block 1174, Eastern Division owned by the City of Laredo. Said tracts are further described by metes and bounds and boundary survey in attached Exhibit "A". Both parties have agreed to the mutual exchange of parcels to allow for the continued development of the South Laredo Municipal Library. Each party has agreed to cover their respective closing costs as applicable, with no monetary compensation to either party for the property exchange.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Elite Aviation, LLC, for approximately 150 square feet of office space in the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) located at 4719 Maher Ave., Laredo, Texas known as Suite No. 131 situated on property described as Block No.1 of subdivision plat of Laredo International Airport. Lease term is for one (1) five (5) year term commencing on August 01, 2012 and ending on July 31, 2017 and may be extended for one (1) term of five (5) years ending on July 31, 2022. However, it is agreed by the parties that the lease may be terminated by either party on or not less than ninety (90) days' written notice from the party terminating to the other. Monthly rent shall be \$780.00 and will be adjusted annually according to changes in the Consumer Price Index; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final readings of Ordinances 2012-O-097, 2012-O-098, 2012-O-099, and 2012-O-100.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. 2012-O-097 Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances Chapter 6 (Animals and Fowl) by adding additional definitions to Article I, Section 6-1 and amending Section 6-7 regarding management of

small animals and fowl, section 6-18 regarding cruelty to animals, Section 6-119 regarding registration, vaccination and permit fees, and implementing an adoption fee of \$60.00 to become effective sixty (60) days from public hearing and introduction; and providing for effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-O-097.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2012-O-098 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$22,974.89 from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), to appropriate the funds in fiscal year 2011-2012 under the Waterworks Fund, and to enter into a contract agreement (Exhibit A) with BECC to conduct the “Cease the Grease—South Texas FOG Abatement Workshop”, which will focus on the Border 2012 Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas Region and will address two (2) of the Regional 2011 Priorities: to reduce water contamination and to improve environmental health.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-O-098.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2012-O-099 Authorizing the City Manager to grant a License by and between the City of Laredo, Texas, an AT&T Corp., a New York Corporation, hereinafter designated as “Licensee”, dated July 2, 2012 for the use of one (1) innerduct in the Juarez Lincoln Bridge and 555.5 linear feet of right-of-way.

1. Term of the License shall be for five (5) years commencing 12:00 a.m. on October 1, 2012 and terminating at 12:00 p.m. on September 30, 2017.

2. Annual duct fee shall be \$21,696.78 and will increase by five percent (5%) every year the license is in place. In addition to the duct fee, Licensee shall pay a \$7.65 linear foot right-of-way fee, and will increase by five percent (5%) every year.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-O-099.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0



2012-O-100 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a License Agreement between the City of Laredo, Texas, and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC., a Delaware limited liability company, for space on the water tower located at 7803 Mines Road, Laredo, Webb County, Texas, for the installation and operation of antennae facilities. Term of the lease is five (5) years, with three (3) successive renewal terms of five (5) years. Annual license fee shall be \$15,000.00, with a four percent (4%) increase on each anniversary of the commencement date: and providing for effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-O-100.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **X. RESOLUTIONS**

9. 2012-R-054 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration to be known as Grant No. 70 in the amount of \$8,617,353.00 and to accept said grant to re-align Taxiway F and to rehab a portion of the General Aviation Apron, Phase 7 at the Laredo International Airport. The City's local match in the amount of \$957,484.00 is available.

Motion to approve Resolution 2012-R-054.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. 2012-R-055 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority in the amount of \$433,514.00 to fund the Laredo Auto Theft Task Force Grant Program. The Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority will fund the Laredo Auto Theft Task Force for the period of September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013. This grant pays salaries, equipment and supplies for Laredo Police Department personnel to combat auto theft in the City of Laredo.

Motion to approve Resolution 2012-R-055.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. 2012-R-056 Accepting the conveyance of the following utility easement, for a fire line, 8 inch water line at the new Sames Chrysler Dealership on Loop 20 and Sinatra Parkway, from:

Green Thunderbird, L.L.C. and Thunderbird Real Estate III Ltd.—  
Utility Easement as follows:

One 0.34 Acre Tract, a copy of which conveyance is attached as Exhibit 1; and directing that the said easement be filed of record in official property records of Webb County, Texas.

Motion to approve Resolution 2012-R-056.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. 2012-R-057 Amending Resolution no. 2012-R-001 by adding two (2) additional memorandums of understanding to the list of cooperative working agreements/mutual assistance agreements/memorandums of understanding between the City of Laredo Police Department and various federal, state and local agencies, including but not limited to: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), SCAN, STCADA, et. al., a comprehensive list is attached hereto as “Exhibit A”. The Police Department’s participation is part of the community service provided to our citizens, with no cost to the City of Laredo.

Motion to approve Resolution 2012-R-057.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **XI. MOTIONS**

13. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of June 2012, represent a decrease of \$4,130.75. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Consideration to approve an agreement between the City of Laredo and Jett Racing & Sales, Inc., regarding assumption of that lease, dated January 16, 1994, for Tract 5 at the Laredo International Airport under Jett Racing & Sales, Inc.’s, Chapter 11 Bankruptcy with the following respects:

- a. Post-Bankruptcy payment of rents in the aggregate amount of \$5,480.11;

- b. Pre-Bankruptcy payment of rents in the aggregate of \$34,005.68 over thirty (30) months at prime +2% interest;
- c. Removal of materials currently stored outside of the building walls;
- d. Compliance with parking fees for stored Boeing 727 Airplane;
- e. Compliance with other lease terms; and
- f. Accelerated provision for lease termination in the event of noncompliance.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 15. Adopting a schedule of hearing and proceedings for voluntary and unilateral annexations for calendar year 2012, in accordance with Section 43.052 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 16. Award of construction contract to the lowest bidder DEH Construction, L.L.C., Laredo, Texas, in the base bid amount of \$57,930.00 for the ADA Sidewalks and Ramps Project No. 48 (12 Blocks-District III) (Re-Bid) 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 September 2012. Funding is available in the 2010 C.O. Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 17. Accepting the Chacon Creek Hike and Bike Trail (CCHBT) remediation project from AI Divestitures, Inc., and authorizing the payment of \$61,951.00 as the City's contribution under the agreement approved by City Council in April 2011. The project includes preparation of the 2.3 miles trail and trail area, application of Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete ("HMAC") and concrete curbing to the trail and the access road (located north of the northern dead-end of Bartlett Avenue), surveying of Meadow Avenue Picnic Area to determine the presence of AA Base aggregate in the landscaped area or the adjacent dirt parking lot, consolidation of large chunks of AA Base aggregate into footprint of asphalt-covered trail, collection of soil

samples, and any and all other related actions more fully described in license agreement. The City's matching money is available in the 2007 Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

### **18. A. Request by Council Member Mike Garza**

1. Discussion with possible action modifying the wrecker service ordinance and/or creating a new ordinance addressing wrecker services and how they interact with the City and the public.

Cm. Garza stated that he had a call from a constituent whose car had been impounded. He added that the vehicle was taken without the permission from the parent; the driver did not have the proper documentation with him at the time. He explained that although the vehicle was insured, trying to gain access to it was the problem. He said that they needed to figure out when a vehicle was requested to be picked up and when it was available for retrieval. He mentioned that during investigation of a vehicle, he understood that some of these vehicles would sit there for a long time while the city paid the impound fees. He asked how many companies they had on the rotation. He concluded that there were issues relating to state law that required that impounded vehicles be allowed to be accessed at all times by the owner.

Acting Police Chief Gilberto Navarro reported that regarding a vehicle being held while insurance was verified, the wrecker services were required by state law to ask the owner of the vehicle to produce the insurance and the title. The wrecker service called would be the one on rotation for that particular week. The information on the vehicle would be split between the impound company and the Police Department. He concluded that individuals could call the police station and they could simply run the license plate to find where the vehicle had been impounded.

2. Discussion with possible action on the possibility of supporting retail centers/outlets in the City of Laredo.

Cm. Garza asked where they were in the process regarding the airport property, the proposed high-rise building on I-35, and the proposed mile marker 18 facility being considered.

Deputy City Manager Cynthia Collazo reported that they had been meeting and they would meet with one of those companies that had received a packet in about a week. She mentioned that there had been interest shown by a company in an outlet. She went on to say that another company had been looking at mile

marker 18. She concluded that there was very serious interest here and they were requesting information.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal said there had been active discussions with someone potentially interested who had asked to see figures. The company had seen buying power due to Laredo's low unemployment rate.

B. Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez

1. Discussion with possible action on fixing/repairing the Cigarroa building located at 1502 Logan Avenue, using discretionary and other funding sources.

Cm. Perez stated recently the group occupying this building had moved out and it was being vandalized. He was willing to put some of his discretionary funds towards getting the building fixed up and occupied.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal replied that some of the monies that they had already negotiated with the contractor for \$175,172 could be discussed.

Motion to look at repairing the Cigarroa building located at 1502 Logan Avenue, using discretionary and other funding sources.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

2. Discussion with possible action on the installation of a splash park at Market Street Tennis Courts, construction to be accomplished "in house."

Cm. Perez asked if the design for the Civic Center could be copied since it had been done in house.

Parks Director Osbaldo Guzman said that they were looking at about \$65,000 for materials. He added that they were looking at about four months after the Thomas pool would be completed.

Motion to transfer funds from discretionary to the splash park at Market Street Tennis Courts in the amount of \$65,000.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

3. Discussion with possible action on ordering signage in the amount of \$250,000.00 to be placed within the proposed conservation district bounded by Corpus St., Arkansas, and Gustavos St., and any related matters.

Cm. Perez asked that signage and lights be considered to be placed within the proposed conservation district. He explained that this meant stop signs and brighter lights on the street corners. He wished for this to be put into his budget.

Traffic Director Roberto Murillo reported that this was not intended to be done in house because it was specialized work. He said that just in the installation of street name signs and stop sign assemblies would be an estimate of \$2,000 each. He added that they would need a design by an engineer.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

C. Request by Council Member Charlie San Miguel

1. Presentation and discussion with possible action regarding the Ethics Ad Hoc Commission based on weekly meetings held for over two years.

This item was combined with item #19.

2. Status report with possible action concerning low water pressure at the Woodland and Village Heights Subdivision.

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was not present.

### **XIII. STAFF REPORTS**

19. Discussion with possible action on the adoption of the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

Richard Rosell stated that he was present because the Ethics Committee had been left in limbo for years.

Dr. Hector Farias, Jr. stated that VIDA had been present many times on the subject of the Ethics Commission. He stated that there had been denial of public information to one of their members, who asked for a draft copy of the work that the committee did but the City Attorney would not give it to them.

Richard Geissler understood that they had different versions of the draft of the ethics ordinance. He asked that they only consider the version done by the ad hoc committee.

George Altgelt stated that the ethics ordinance was well overdue. He added that there were some areas that needed some tweaking. He recommended that they look at Section 2.03 regarding gifts and lower the amount allowed from \$250 to \$75 or \$50 to be more consistent with the state. He concluded that he felt that the ad hoc committee should be reorganized and meet again to make those changes.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal reported that a booklet had been included in the Friday package including the final proposed Ethics Ordinance with workshop comments, staff comments, and committee revisions.

Amy Sanchez, City Secretary staff, gave a brief summary as follows:

The Ethics Ad Hoc Advisory Committee met from 2007 through 2009. They did a great deal of research to create a Code of Ethics. On January 11, 2010, they presented their work at a City Council workshop and listened to comments. Afterward, they appeared again on May 10, 2010, but at that meeting Ad Hoc Committee member Javier Montemayor had stated that they had not made any changes since the last workshop because they were advised that they would receive additional suggestions from staff.

Javier Montemayor, Tomas Izaguirre, Elsa Galvan and Miguel Zuniga from the Ethics Ad Hoc Advisory Committee appeared before the Council.

Tomas Izaguirre stated that it was a fair document and wished for Council to consider their final draft.

Miguel Zuniga reported that they had put a lot of hard work into this Code of Ethics. He said that in a community with ethical standards where city officials are held up as role models, everyone benefits and this was their goal. He asked Council to consider making this Code of Ethics public and official.

Cm. San Miguel asked the committee whether Section 2.03, Gifts, b, Exceptions to the Section 2.03, was meant to read, "Gifts or benefits of nominal value not to exceed \$250 and no more than a cumulative value of \$500 in a single calendar year," or if it were a typo.

Miguel Zuniga replied that it was a typo and that it was meant to read, "\$50."

Cm. San Miguel also asked about in Section 8.04, Complaints, (a) Filing, which states, "A person, who knowingly makes a false statement in a complaint or a proceeding before the Ethics Commission is subject to prosecution for the criminal offense of perjury or civil liability for the tort of abuse of process." He wished to know if that were possible because he believed that people could say anything, however untrue, about public servants without being liable for slander.





Second: Cm. Garza  
For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. San Miguel was 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 July 16, 2012.

---

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.  
City Secretary

# City of Laredo Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities



# Mission Statement

*To serve as advocates for those in our community with disabilities by promoting awareness, education and securing resources for their physiological, psychological and social well being. As a Blue Ribbon Committee, we also have the responsibility to provide guidance and serve as consultants to the City of Laredo officials regarding issues affecting people with disabilities.*

# Committee Members

- **Mr. Francisco Martinez**  
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) - Division for Rehabilitative Services - Area Manager
- **Mr. Daniel G. Castillon**  
Border Region Behavioral Health Center  
Executive Director
- **Dr. Georgeanne Ramón-Reuthinger**  
Consultant
- **Ms. Martha M. Moke**  
United Independent School District  
Executive Director for Special Education
- **Mr. Cande Rodríguez**  
Veterans Affairs Representative  
Vietnam Era Veteran
- **Mr. Lee Spain (Chairperson)**  
Laredo Community College  
HR Director
- **Ms. Adriana Haro**  
BEST  
Executive Director
- **Sandra Rodríguez**  
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)  
Division for the Blind

# Accomplishments

- Has met since June 2011
- Discussed Critical Needs for People with Disabilities
  - Accessible Parking
  - Workforce
  - Building Codes
  - Educational and Training Opportunities
  - Resources
- Developed PSA, Website and highlighted the Cherish Center

# Laredo Morning Times Article

By **STEPHANIE IBARRA**  
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

The recently appointed Blue Ribbon Committee appointed by the mayor met at the newly inaugurated Cherish Center on Thursday afternoon at UISD to talk about ways to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and special needs.

"The dream is very simple. We want to enhance the quality of life, the education, the opportunities, as well as better choices, for people with special needs in our community and I feel it's very vital that we coordinate these efforts and look to every resource that we have," said committee chairman Lee Spain.

The committee used its regularly scheduled meeting to highlight the new center, made a reality through the allocation of federal funds.

"(The center) is really a program that fills in a void. Most of our special needs children can go through other pathways. ... This program is specifically designed for students that don't fit into any other program," said Martha Moko, executive director for special education at United Independent School District.



Photo by Guate Santos | Laredo Morning Times

Gracie De La Fuente, center, a student in the commercial food preparation class at UISD's Cherish Center, looks on as Sandra Rodriguez fills in her information on a sign-in sheet during Thursday's Blue Ribbon Committee meeting.

facilitates the instruction of 50 special needs high school students from across the district.

While the students remain enrolled at their respective high schools, those who meet criteria attend Cherish Center vocational training classes, Moko said.

"It's the perfect setting. It's a dream come true. It's something we've always wanted. Every school dis-

Cherish Center: Gutierrez has more than 32 years' experience working with special needs students.

"It's sad. In the past, we've had kids graduate, and they wind up going to adult day cares. A lot of other kids just stay home, and here we're teaching them skills, trades to be able to ... sustain themselves," Gutierrez continued.

Vocational trades such as

tality and business media are offered at the state-of-the-art facility.

Students are taught to make a variety of items, from creatively crafted stationary to meticulously potted plants, with all proceeds returning to the center.

Cherish Center also houses a medically fragile unit, designed for students requiring constant supervision and care.

Laredo Morning Times featured an article about the Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities during their meeting at the United Independent School District's Cherish Center.

## **A special message from the Laredo Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities:**

***This new year, we want to remind  
all to respect those with special  
needs and disabilities. Please do not  
park in accessible parking areas. If  
you see violators, call 795-2800.***



# Accessible Parking PSA





# Blue Ribbon Committee Website

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website for the City of Laredo Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.cityoflaredo.com/pwd/PWDindex.html>. The website header includes the title "City of Laredo Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities" and the address "City of Laredo, 1110 Houston St, Laredo, Texas 78040". A navigation menu contains links for "Home", "About Us", "Resources", "Calendar", and "Contact Us". A central "Mission Statement" section contains the text: "To serve as advocates for those in our community with disabilities by promoting awareness, education and securing resources for their physiological, psychological and social well being. As a Blue Ribbon Committee, we also have the responsibility to provide guidance and serve as consultants to the City of Laredo officials regarding issues affecting people with disabilities." Below this, a circular graphic features icons for a hearing aid, a wheelchair, a hand, and an eye. Four green buttons are arranged around the graphic: "Educate" (top-left), "Promote" (bottom-left), "We Can Help" (top-right), and "Inform" (bottom-right). A sidebar on the right lists "Survey", "Projects", and "Meetings". The browser's taskbar shows several open applications, including McAfee.

<http://www.cityoflaredo.com/pwd/PWDindex.html>

# Questions or Comments?



Phone: (956) 795-4900

Lee Spain, Chair

