

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M-2011-R-07  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
APRIL 18, 2011  
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,	Mayor Pro Tempore, District V
Charlie San Miguel,	Council Member, District VI
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.,	Council Member, District VII
Cynthia Liendo Espinoza,	Council Member, 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. Garza and Cm. Rangel.

Moved: Cm. Narvaez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garza arrived at 6:00 pm.

Cm. Rangel joined the meeting at 6:04 pm.

#### **IV. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of April 4, 2011.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel was not present.

#### **V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

##### **Recognitions**

- a. Recognition of Laredo Junior Bucks, Laredo Youth Association, on their 2010-2011 hockey season.

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized the Laredo Junior Bucks and Laredo Youth Association and presented them a certificate of recognition.

- b. Recognizing St. Peter's Memorial School for the following achievements:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade City Basketball Champs
- Joe Garcia, IV, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, for placing 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and;
- JoeEllen Rodriguez, 4<sup>th</sup> grader, for tying 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the National Catholic Schools Week Try Prayer! It Works! Art, Poetry and Essay Contest

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized the St. Peter's Memorial School and presented certificates of recognition.

- c. Recognizing Alexander High School for its 2010-2011 accomplishments.

- Band competed at State Level in marching, and placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 38 bands held October 23, 2011 in McAllen, Texas. Band Director Jose Valenzuela; Assistant Directors: Lyle Perkins, Christopher Lunsford, and Patrick Louis.
- Drumline competed on April 2, 2011 and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at State Level out of 6 bands. Drumline Director: Chris Lunsford, assisted by Teresa Jarrell.
- Color Guard placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at State Level on March 26, 2011. Color Guard Director: Daniel Lopez, assisted by Jorge Espinoza and Felma Gonzalez.

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized Alexander High School and presented certificates of recognition.

##### **Citizen comments**

Mark Schuster from Ventura Sports Group announced that tomorrow they would be holding a press conference to announce their first employee that they hired for the new baseball team, Pete Incaviglia.

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

- a. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez to the Transportation & Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Motion to appoint Erik Rodriguez to the Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Perez  
Second: Cm. Garza  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo FY10-11 annual budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$807,353.00 respectively, in the Laredo Police Department Trust Fund. The revenues are from lease purchase proceeds related to the financing of thirty (30) marked police patrol units for the Laredo Police Department. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Valdez  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon  
Second: Cm. Narvaez  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance accepting a grant awarded by the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in the amount of \$736,104.00 to fund the Laredo Financial Narcotics Enforcement Team and a grant in the amount of \$99,916.00 to fund the Laredo Drug Related Public Corruption Task Force, and to amend the FY 2011 Financial Task Force Budget by reducing Revenues and Expenditures in the amount of \$ 22,734.00. Both grants are funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office

of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) at no cost to the City. Funding will be used to pay personnel salaries, fringe benefits, overtime, travel and operating expenses from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Funding for the STX Multi Agency Drug Related Public Corruption Task Force will be used for payment of fringe benefits, overtime, and operating expenses from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance prohibiting any person from intentionally or knowingly displaying or distributing any obscene materials visual representations or performances with reckless disregard about whether a person is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Minister Toni Gamboa, Women of Destiny Ministries, accompanied by a group of local ministers and pastors from the community, stated that she was speaking in favor for the ordinance. She went on to say that she had been following the situation of these types of businesses for over a year and that they wished to bring this public issue forward because the matter was out of hand. She concluded giving examples where the businesses had weekly specials such as white bikini day, dental floss bikini day, and "paint your hand on me" day, saying that these events were exposing women to danger.

City Attorney Raul Casso stated that once this was finalized by way of ordinance, then it would be up to the police department to enforce it, which would be the tricky part.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Rangel  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

4. Designating as a one-way northbound the 1700 and 1800 block of Loring Avenue, between Galveston Street and Lane Street, during the peak hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, during school days, providing for the installation of appropriate signs to indicate one-way traffic and providing for publication and effective date. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2011-O-045, 2011-O-046, 2011-O-047, 2011-O-048, 2011-O-049, 2011-O-050, 2011-O-051, and 2011-O-052.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Valdez  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. 2011-O-045 Authorizing City Manager to accept a grant from the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Ranger Division for the purpose of funding The Local Border Security Program (LBSP) and to amend Special Police FY 2010-2011 budget in the amount of \$300,000.00. Funding will be used to pay for overtime and fringe benefits to increase patrol security along the Texas-Mexican border for the period of April 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2011-O-045.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2011-O-046 Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances Chapter 26—Police, Article III—Disposition of Unclaimed Property, Section 26-58 through 26-65 by Designating Property Officer, establishing notice procedures to known and unknown owners, as well as notice to bidders; allowing for internet auctions of property; providing for publication and an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2011-O-046.



Motion to adopt Ordinance 2011-O-050.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2011-O-051 Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Amendment to the Foreign Trade Zone Operator Agreement with NYK Logistics Americas, Inc., approved by Ordinance no. 2009-O-164 dated September 21, 2009. Said Amendment is for the purpose of changing the name of the Foreign Trade Zone Operator Agreement from NYK Logistics Americas, Inc., to Yusen Logistics (Americas) Inc. Therefore, the second paragraph of the Foreign Trade Zone Operator Agreement and Section 12 titled "Notices" shall be amended to read Yusen Logistics (Americas) Inc. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in effect; providing for effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2011-O-051.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2011-O-052 Consideration to award contract FY11-030 to Decobarn Inc., d/b/a Hachar Billboards, Laredo, Texas, sole proponent meeting all specifications for the management and operation of the Airport advertising concession in the Airport passenger terminal building. The contract will be for a five (5) year period commencing on June 01, 2011 and ending May 31, 2016 and may be extended at the City's sole discretion for one (1) term of five (5) years; with the Airport receiving fifty percent (50%) of the gross revenues derived from the sale of static, backlit poster advertising as well as gross revenue derived from the sale of video motion, computer operated and other high technology advertising from the concessionaire's gross; providing for effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2011-O-052.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **X. RESOLUTIONS**

6. 2011-R-029 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into contract with the Texas Department of State Health Services through the South Texas Development Council (STDC) for continuation of the Health Department's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Project





10. Consideration to rescind the contract awarded to Texas Energy Services, Alice, Texas (FY11-016) due to non compliance with the City’s permit requirements; and authorizing that this contract be awarded to the next lowest bidder, Mo-Vac Environmental, McAllen, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$460,000.00 for furnishing vacuum truck services to transport domestic sewage, sewage sludge, and/or sludge for the Utilities Department. Texas Energy Services was unable to submit the required liquid waste transportation permit which is a requirement of the contract. Funding is available in the Utilities Department—Waste Transmission and Distribution divisions. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. Consideration for acceptance, approval of credit change order and final payment in the amount of \$11,285.50 to Utility Service Company, Inc., for the Highland Elevated and East Corridor Ground Storage Tank Coating and Repairs. Revised project cost is now \$112,855.00. Funding is available in the Waterworks Operational Construction Fund. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. Authorizing the City Manager to terminate the existing contract between the City of Laredo and Rhino Builders, Ltd., for the construction of 8 inch diameter sanitary sewer line along Horizon Loop. The City will re-bid the project. The total contract price is \$96,748.50. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. Consideration for approval of change order no. 3 in the amount of \$370,213.74 to Pepper-Lawson Construction L.P., in Katy, Texas, for the Jefferson Street Water Treatment Plant 65-mgd Process and Electrical Upgrade. This change order is required to upgrade the existing facilities to provide operation flexibility in operation, replacement of corroded slide gates, use of suitable materials for weir that meet TCEQ requirements, and upgrading of equipment. The total contract amount is \$35,424,992.54 as the allowance of \$1,500,000.00 in the contract is sufficient to cover this change order. Funding is provided by grant funding from

the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, subject to Texas Water Development Board approval. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Consideration for approval of change order no. 3 to Pesado Construction, Schertz, Texas; for the Hendricks, Milmo and Lyon Water Booster Pump Station Improvements Project in the amount of \$239,883.38. The contractor for this change order will provide additional labor; equipment and materials to upgrade the booster stations on Milmo & Hendricks Booster Stations (see background for the scope of services). The construction time is amended from three hundred fifty-six (356) working days to 386 working days (Substantial Completion) and from three hundred seventy-eight (378) working days to four hundred eight (408) working days (Final Construction). The new contract amount is \$4,339,532.17. The project is subject to Texas Water Development Board approval. Funding for this change order is available from the 2009 Utility Bond. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. Consideration for approval of change order no. 3, an increase of \$236,134.80 for additional tunnel excavation between Grant and Iturbide Streets due to utility conflict, change of manhole from precast to cast-in place, payment for delay of work due to the utility conflicts and additional contract time of seventy-eight (78) days to the construction contract with Menendez-Donnell & Associates, Houston, Texas, for the Flores Avenue Drainage Improvements and Sanitary Sewer and Waterline Rehabilitation Project. The revised cost of the construction contract with this change order is \$2,265,034.97 and the total contract time is four hundred fifteen (415) days. Funding is available in Water & Sewer Fund and Environmental Services Fund. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Consideration to award contract FY11-051 to the low bidder meeting specifications, Southern Tire Mart, Dallas, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$189,469.65 for the purchase of police pursuit tires and regular passenger tires. All

tires will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Fund. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to authorize the purchase of two (2) street sweepers from TYMCO International, LTD., Waco, Texas, in the total amount of \$349,410.00 utilizing the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC) Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing. These sweepers will be assigned to the Public Works Department. Funding is available from the 2009 Certificates of Obligation Bond proceeds. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration to authorize a purchase contract with Digital Safety Technologies, Morrisville, NC, through the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC), Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract number EF04-11, in the amount of \$181,869.00 for the purchase of thirty (30) digital video camera systems for the Police Department. Funding is available in the Police Trust Fund. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Authorizing the City Manager to donate two (2) Harley Davidson, 2000 model motorcycles to the Laredo Independent School District Police Department. The motorcycles will be used for law enforcement purposes. The City of Laredo Police Department donates these motorcycles as is and does not assume any liability associated with their use after they have been transferred. The motorcycles were purchased with Police Trust Fund using forfeiture monies and a transfer of asset notice has been issued to the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section of the United States Department of Justice. (Operations Committee requested that the recipient receive proper training prior to placing motorcycles in service.)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1, an increase of \$88,627.80 to the construction contract with Reim Construction, Inc., Alton, Texas, for the Airport Truck Route – Thomas Avenue Extension to repair/reconstruct the existing pavement surface of the four (4) west side entrance drives that access from Maher Avenue to be consistent with the adjacent roadway improvements currently under construction in the area. These entrances include the main Hillside and Pappas entrances, entrances to the Fire Station, to the future Federal Inspection Station, and to add twenty-five (25) working days to the construction contract time. Current construction contract amount with this change order is \$479,216.30. Funding is available in the Airport Thomas Avenue Extension. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Approval of the amendment of the professional services contract with Alliance Transportation Group, Inc., for the performance of professional services related to the development of the Del Mar Corridor Study, such that: the fee is increased by \$45,418.08 from \$90,000.00 to \$135,418.08, for project Phase B services. Funding is available in the Planning Grant Account. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to award a contract to Antares Development Corporation in the amount up to \$80,000.00 utilizing the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program contract no. 331-09 to finish Phase III of the data management system. This will allow completion of the Animal Control Services automation to improve field operations, inspections and permitting and to develop a functional electronic medical record and archiving system for the Medical Clinics and Laboratory to improve patient care and customer service through improved records management and archiving. Funding is available through the Health Department Budget. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Consideration to reject all bids received for FY11-054, for the purchase of one (1) truck tractor with vacuum trailer for the Utilities Department; and authorizing staff

to solicit new bids with revised bid specifications. The bid documents will be revised to clarify specifications for this purchase.

Motion to accept the bid from Santex Truck Centers LTD for one truck for the Utilities Department.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Authorizing the City Manager to accept the fee of \$975,000.00 for the Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) proposal as submitted by Leyendecker Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for the City of Laredo Minor League Ballpark, and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) firm is to provide pre-construction schedules; provide a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP); and perform complete construction services consistent with the CMAR construction delivery process as requested by the City of Laredo. Funding is available in the Baseball Stadium Fund.

Mayor Pro Tem Rendon reported that the last time that they had gone out for bids on this project, there was a \$1,500,000 bid and there were opportunities to negotiate the price. He went on to say that that there were three companies that bid \$300,000 less than this company's \$975,000 price.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal stated that it was not a matter of the low bid in this case, but rather what the company brought to the table. He explained that the time table was also being taken into consideration.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Consideration to authorize the installation of speed cushions along Cuatro Vientos Drive, between Guaymas Avenue and Chacota Street, under the special provisions of the speed hump installation policy. Project costs are estimated at \$10,000.00 and funding will be made available from Capital Improvements Discretionary funding—City Council District I.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amount to be adjusted for the month of March 2011, represent a decrease of \$15,757.11. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

### 27. A. Request by Mayor Raul G. Salinas

1. Discussion with possible action regarding the ongoing crime prevention initiatives being conducted by the Laredo Police Department, Community Relations Unit.

Police Chief Carlos Maldonado reported that he was proud of the community relations unit and that they did a good job with community awareness with a whole host of topics. He went on to say that the community relation played an integral role in the community oriented-policing initiative.

Police Officer Laura Montemayor gave the following presentation:

#### Laredo Police Department Community Relations Crime Prevention Unit

- ✓ Getting involved with the community and knowing your neighbors is an effective way to help prevent crime. By getting involved with the community you know what is happening and know where and what crimes are occurring. Knowing your neighbors helps awareness of suspicious activity in your neighborhood. As well, in case of a natural disaster, it is helpful to know which of your neighbors may need assistance i.e., elderly, physically handicapped, non-English speaking, etc.
- ✓ The purpose of the Laredo Police Crime Prevention Unit is to educate the community on how to prevent crimes from occurring in the first place. It is also designed so that the community can interact with the police department in a positive way. The Unit consists of five officers and one Sergeant. Officer's are available to assist you in your needs; they can be reached at 956-795-2837.
- ✓ The Crime Prevention Unit has a variety of programs in which to teach people of all ages. All the programs are a FREE service to you and a phone call away.
  - Business Security Survey
  - ✓ Home Security Survey
  - ✓ Personal Safety Training
  - ✓ Neighborhood Watch
  - ✓ Educating the Elderly

- ✓ The following presentations are conducted by the Community Relations Crime Prevention Practitioners. The presentations consist of interior and exterior, landscaping, lighting, locks, doors and window inspections. We cater to over 2,000 people each year and this service is provided at no charge.
- ✓ Blue Santa Charity Program
- ✓ Child Safety Seat Program
- ✓ PSA's – General Safety Topics
- ✓ School PTC Presentations
- ✓ The Community Relations Unit is always trying to raise awareness by reminding them of preventive measures and support programs
- ✓ Each year we are able to reach out and help over 10,000 community members
- ✓ Career Day
- ✓ 8th Grader of the Month
- ✓ McGruff
- ✓ Through these programs we are able to educate and recognize the youth of our community. The career days have proven to be a great source of communication between the kids and Law Enforcement. CRU visits with over 12,000 Kids each year with the McGruff Show and recognizes over 200 8th graders for being the positive role models in their schools.
- ✓ Haunted House
- ✓ Accessible Parking Program
- ✓ Special Olympics
- ✓ Parade
- ✓ Through these projects we are to give of our time to our community. We help keep our community safe during Halloween, certify volunteers to help us enforce handicap parking laws, help our special needs children raise funds to participate in the Special Olympics and participate in our WBCA Events.

#### National Night Out, National Police Week

National Night Out is designed to :

- ✓ Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- ✓ Generate Support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs
- ✓ Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- ✓ Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back
- ✓ The City of Laredo Police Department Community Relations Unit organizes its annual Law Enforcement National Police Week. We recognize and thank all local law enforcement agencies for our great success due in large part to their generosity and partnership. Presently we are in the process of preparing for this years event s to begin on Sat. May 7, 2011 through Friday. May 13, 2011. In total we visit with over 15,000 people

The rest of this presentation can be viewed at the City Secretary's Office, 1110 Houston St., Laredo, TX 78040.

2. Discussion with possible action to pass a resolution in opposition of any state budget cuts affecting education. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Request by Council Member Mike Garza

1. Status report with possible action on the Weatherization Program and approved projects completed or under review by Council districts.

This item was combined with Item C(2) (Request by Cm. Alex Perez).

Community Development Director Ronnie Acosta reported that their weatherization program was off the ground and that they had transitioned from using a priority list to the NEAT Audit System Software Program to rank energy efficiency measures which allowed more improvements to be made to the home. She continued saying that they had completed forty-five homes to date and currently had thirteen under construction. She concluded saying that their goal was to complete twenty per month.

2. Discussion with possible action on changing the Policy and Procedures Manual addressing appointments for City Commissions.

Cm. Garza wanted to remove the limitations on time restrictions for the commissioners so that they would serve at the pleasure of the Council Member who appointed them.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez

1. Status report on the tax collection contract. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Esteban Rangel)

City Manager Carlos Villarreal reported that they were going out for Request for Proposals currently and would receive them on May 12, 2011. He went on to say that the current contract was valid until September 30, 2011 so that there would be plenty of time to make whatever changes would be necessary.

2. Status report on the Weatherization Program.



This item was discussed with item B(1) (Request by Cm. Mike Garza).

3. Discussion with possible action regarding the construction of sidewalks in District 3, using discretionary funds.

Motion to approve a transfer from discretionary funds of \$50,000.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Discussion with possible action to place “reduce speed” signs/barriers on the 600 block of south Meadow Avenue.

Traffic Director Roberto Murillo reported on improvements done recently and showed some photographs including striping and arrows to guide drivers.

Cm. Rangel and Cm. Garza left the meeting at 8:45 pm.

D. Request by Council Member Juan Narvaez

1. Discussion with possible action to donate one El Metro Lift bus for the use of the Webb County Drug Court.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action regarding the repainting and placement of the San Agustin School logo on water tank located on the corner of Lyon Street and Meadow Street. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez)

Tomas Rodriguez, Utilities Director, reported that they had some funds that they could use to paint the 6,000,000-gallon north tank at Lyon. He advised the City Manager that the elevated tank at United High School cost \$14,000 and a ground storage tank should be somewhere between \$15,000-18,000.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal stated that they were not cutting out any schools and that the cost to be able to paint one of those tanks was huge. He went on to say that it was not easily accomplished because money needed to be tied down to the request which would cost between \$15,000-20,000 each, or \$137,000 total. He stated that they could give them what would be included with all the tanks at the next meeting and bring back the logos and cost for each one.

Dr. Rosa Maria Vida, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Laredo, said that they would be willing to partner with the City of Laredo if their logo could go up. She concluded that they would meet them halfway.

E. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Johnny Rendon

1. Presentation by Trisha Cortez regarding a gardening project to be held at Blas Castañeda Park.

Trisha Cortez, Assistant Director of the Rio Grande International Study Center, said that if their mission was protecting the watershed basin and greenspaces in Laredo, people asked why they did community gardens. She said their answer was that anything that was positive for the watershed basin they would do, and also that their work tended to be an advocacy for something tangible that they could give back to the community. She gave a presentation to show the scope of the project.

RGISC-Webb County Community Gardens, A Joint Demonstration Project of the Río Grande International Study Center and Webb County.

Scope of the Project

- One demonstration garden project per county precinct
- Spring and fall plantings
- Garden construction complete by mid-March 2011

Garden Sites

- Precinct 1: Sacred Heart Children's Home
- Precinct 2: Nutrition and Health Learning Center (Hwy 359)
- Precinct 3: N.E. Hillside Recreation Center
- Precinct 4: Laredo Regional Food Bank

Assembly

- Raised beds assembled on-site by student and community volunteers
- Soil mix: Asmussen compost, peat moss, red/black dirt
- RGISC provided gardening instruction

Planting Day

- LCC Phi Theta Kappa honor society members
- Alexander HS Beta Club
- Church Youth Groups
- Volunteers and RGISC Board members

Self-Management: Community Ownership

- Each site is responsible for daily maintenance of garden
- Each site can customize and name their garden
- Each site can decorate their raised bed gardens
- Each site can decide to keep or sell produce

Health

- Enjoy tasty, clean, pesticide-free produce
- Introduce more fresh foods into our diet
- Improve our city's high incidence of diabetes

Economic

- Lower grocery bills
- Counter rising prices of food and gasoline/transport costs

#### Benefits

##### Social

- Strengthen bonds of friendship through teamwork
- Learn the joy of growing fresh fruits and vegetables
- Beautify neighborhoods; instill pride in community
- A Learning Environment for Children and Adults
- Many returns of hands in soil, hearts to the earth

##### Harvests

- Spring Planting: Tomatoes, Peppers, Radishes, Zucchini and Calabacitas, Cucumbers, Melons, Cilantro, Mint, Oregano, Basil, Chives, Rosemary
- Fall Planting: Tomatoes, Peppers, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Eggplant, Broccoli, Radishes, Carrots, Lettuce and Salad Greens

##### Community Building

- Show leadership in sustainable living
- Inspire other elected officials and residents to grow locally
- Participate in new Farmers Market

##### Environmental – all positives!

- Greatly reduce carbon footprint on the planet
- Reduce use of commercial pesticides and chemicals that end up in our bodies, on the soil of the watershed, and in the river
- Eat healthy, locally produced food
- Create living green gems throughout Laredo and Webb County

The rest of this presentation can be viewed at the City Secretary's Office, 1110 Houston St., Laredo, TX 78040.

#### F. Request by Council Member Charlie San Miguel

1. Update from Planning, Utilities, Engineering and Environmental Departments regarding the Shenandoah and Wyndum Subdivisions and an update on the completion of the construction work on Piedmont Drive.

Nathan Bratton, Interim Planning Director, reported respecting the subdivision sign in the right-of-way area that, together with the Traffic Department, they came up with a scenario that they thought would work and displayed a map of the scenario. He explained that they would need to do a license for the construction of the sign and also so that the stakeholders would develop an agreement to continue to maintain it.

Cm. San Miguel responded that he felt that it was too far back and that the residents were willing to make it shorter if necessary. He asked Planning Director Nathan Bratton to come back with more options.

Riazul Mia, Environmental Services Director, reported that the Friday packet contained a report regarding drainage and that they had been working with the

landowners respecting a piece of land next to Shenandoah and another where Piedmont Street ends.

Utilities Director Tomas Rodriguez reported that the contractor had agreed to lift the 24-inch wastewater line in a few places where it had sagged. He said that it would take ten days after that to complete the patch, or three and a half weeks as a worst-case scenario. He explained that they had three meetings with the contractor in the last week.

2. Discussion with possible action to pass a resolution opposing H.B. 1604 relating to the regulation of subdivisions in counties, including certain border and economically distressed counties.

Cm. San Miguel stated that his concern was that they would be in a situation that would be conducive to the creation of Colonias. He explained that it required costly infrastructure improvements. He said that now a substitute bill had been submitted.

Motion to postpone this item so that staff can review the substitute bill and come back with a report.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- G. Request by Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to extend the deadline for Third Party funding applications for FY 2011-2012.

Motion to approve an extension of 1 ½ weeks.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- H. Request by Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza

1. Presentation by Ali Hrcir, regarding Farmer's Market, with possible action.

Motion to postpone.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with the possible action on adding bleachers, lights and other items as needed to the San Ignacio Soccer Fields in the Ladrillera Neighborhood. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez)



Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. San Miguel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Staff report on naming a street or public right-of-way in honor of ICE Special Agent Jaime Zapata, with possible action.

Interim Planning Director Nathan Bratton reported that they had looked at several potential roadways that could be used and found two that could be suitable. He explained that one was Sinatra Drive, a city street, and the other was a portion of Loop 20 from 359 to 83 which was going to be renamed by the State of Texas as Spur 260. They had discussed the possibility of adding the name “Jaime Zapata Memorial Highway” to it if the Council so desired.

Motion to instruct staff to draft a resolution to add the name “Jaime Zapata Memorial Highway” to Spur 260.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Status report on the Bruni Plaza Fountain renovations, with possible action.

Interim Planning Director Nathan Bratton reported that as a result of Council’s interest in the fountain, they submitted paperwork to the Texas Historic Commission, and they were about fifteen days into that process. He went on to explain that they were looking to get replacement tile and any other items necessary to renovate the fountain. He concluded that they would receive a report from the Texas Historic Commission.

#### **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

#### **XV. ADJOURN AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD AND RECONVENE AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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 22 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on April 18th, 2011.

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Gustavo Guevara, Jr.  
City Secretary

**To protect  
and to  
serve**



This website is  
dedicated to the men  
and women in uniform

# Laredo Police Department

Community Relations  
Crime Prevention Unit





## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**It is the mission of the Laredo Police Department to enhance the quality of life in Laredo by establishing a partnership with the community in an effort to preserve life, protect property and enforce the law.**

**Getting involved with the community and knowing your neighbors is an effective way to help prevent crime. By getting involved with the community you know what is happening and know where and what crimes are occurring. Knowing your neighbors helps awareness of suspicious activity in your neighborhood. As well, in case of a natural disaster, it is helpful to know which of your neighbors may need assistance i.e., elderly, physically handicapped, non-English speaking, etc.**

**The purpose of the Laredo Police Crime Prevention Unit is to educate the community on how to prevent crimes from occurring in the first place. It is also designed so that the community can interact with the police department in a positive way. The Unit consists of five officers and one Sergeant. Officer's are available to assist you in your needs; they can be reached at 956-795-2837.**

**The Crime Prevention Unit has a variety of programs in which to teach people of all ages. All the programs are a FREE service to you and a phone call away.**



# Crime Prevention

- ✓ Business Security Survey
- ✓ Home Security Survey
- ✓ Personal Safety Training
- ✓ Neighborhood Watch
- ✓ Educating the Elderly

The following presentations are conducted by the Community Relations Crime Prevention Practitioners. The presentations consist of interior and exterior, landscaping, lighting, locks, doors and window inspections. We cater to over 2,000 people each year and this service is provided at no charge.

# Community Support

- Blue Santa Charity Program
- Child Safety Seat Program
- PSA's – General Safety Topics
- School PTC Presentations



The Community Relations Unit is always trying to raise

Awareness by reminding them of preventive measures and support programs

Each year we are able to reach out and help over 10,000 community members

# Youth

- Career Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grader of the Month
- McGruff

Through these programs we are able to educate and recognize the youth of our community. The career days have proven to be a great source of communication between the kids and Law Enforcement. CRU visits with over 12,000 Kids each year with the McGruff Show and recognizes over 200 8<sup>th</sup> graders for being the positive role models in their schools.



# Special Programs/Volunteers

- Haunted House
- Accessible Parking Program
- Special Olympics
- Parade

Through these projects we are to give of our time to our Community. We help keep our community safe during Halloween, certify volunteers to help us enforce handicap Parking laws, help our special needs children raise funds to participate in the Special Olympics and participate in our WBCA Events.



# National Observance Programs

- National Night Out
- National Police Week

National Night Out is designed to :

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate Support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back



The City of Laredo Police Department Community Relations Unit organizes its annual Law Enforcement National Police Week. We recognize and thank all local law enforcement agencies for our great success due in large part to their generosity and partnership. Presently we are in the process of preparing for this years event s to begin on Sat. May 7, 2011 through Friday. May 13, 2011.

In total we visit with over 15,000 people





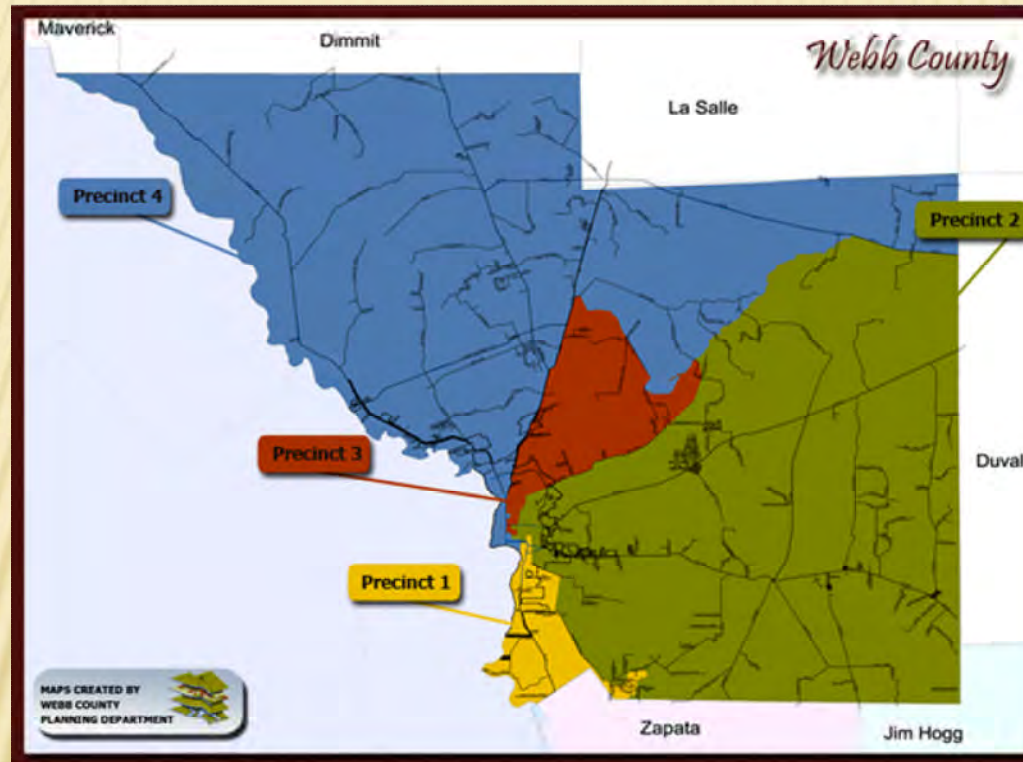
# SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

- One demonstration garden project per county precinct
- Spring and fall plantings
- Garden construction complete by mid-March 2011





# GARDEN SITES



*Precinct 1:* Sacred Heart Children's Home

*Precinct 2:* Nutrition and Health Learning Center (Hwy 359)

*Precinct 3:* N.E. Hillside Recreation Center

*Precinct 4:* Laredo Regional Food Bank

# ASSEMBLY

- Raised beds assembled on-site by student and community volunteers
- Soil mix: Asmussen compost, peat moss, red/black dirt
- RGISC provided gardening instruction



# PLANTING DAY

- LCC Phi Theta Kappa honor society members
- Alexander HS Beta Club
- Church Youth Groups
- Volunteers and RGISC Board members



# SELF MANAGEMENT

## – COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

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# BENEFITS

## Health

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## Economic

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- Beautify neighborhoods; instill pride in community

## A Learning Environment for Children and Adults

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# BENEFITS



## Harvests

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- Participate in new Farmers Market

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- **Eat healthy, locally produced food**
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# SACRED HEART CHILDREN'S HOME



# GUADALUPE AND LILIA MARTINEZ NUTRITION AND HEALTH LEARNING CENTER (Hwy 359)



# N.E. HILLSIDE RECREATION CENTER





# LAREDO REGIONAL FOOD BANK





Thank you!



GRACIAS!

