

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2010-R-13
AS AMENDED
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
JULY 6, 2010
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Raul Salinas led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Raul G. Salinas,
Mike Garza,
Hector Garcia,
Michael Landeck,
Juan Narvaez,
Johnny Rendon,
Gene Belmares,
Jose Valdez, Jr.,
Cynthia Liendo Espinoza,
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,
Carlos Villarreal,
Cynthia Collazo,
Horacio De Leon,
Jesus Olivares,
Raul Casso,

Mayor
Council Member, District I
Council Member, District II
Council Member, District III
Council Member, District IV
Mayor Pro Tem, District V
Council Member, District VI
Council Member, District VII
Council Member, District VIII
City Secretary
City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Assistant City Manager,
Assistant City Manager,
City Attorney

Motion to excuse Cm. Garza and Cm. Landeck.

Moved: Cm. Rendon
Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Liendo Espinoza joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m. and Cm. Garza at 5:53 pm.

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of June 21, 2010.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions

- a. Recognizing Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Co. for its 100th Year Anniversary.

Mayor Raul G. Salinas and City Council publicly recognized the Coca-Cola Bottling Company for its 100 years of contribution to our community. The company was represented by Tino Villarreal, General Sales Manager.

Citizen comments

Rene De La Viña thanked the City Council for his appointment to the Civil Service Ad Hoc Committee.

Enrique Diaz, City of Laredo bus driver, stated he was not able to speak at the last meeting regarding the failure of the insurance policy for non-union employees of El Metro. He said that the human side of the situation was that people were left without any protection or benefits to their families.

Maria San Miguel, a worker for El Metro, spoke on the insurance issue which was cut off to the employees.

City Attorney Raul Casso stated that during Citizen Comments, a dialogue is not allowed between Council and the public because the item being discussed is not on the agenda. The most that the governing body can do is a brief statement of policy, but not by way of dialogue.

William Koehn, El Metro Union Representative, reported that the voluntary life and accidental death and dismemberment policies had been cancelled since October of 2009 but that the employees had been paying premiums through payroll deductions. He went on to say that the company had never informed the employees about the cancellation. He concluded that had an employee been affected during that time, they would have had to file a lawsuit in order to receive coverage.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance accepting a supplemental grant awarded and amending the City of Laredo FY 2009-2010 Financial Task Force grant budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the operational expenses awarded by the Office Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Funds will be used to pay overtime expenses for The Laredo Financial Narcotics Enforcement Team Task Force agents and Laredo Police Officers from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

(Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- Public hearing allowing interested persons to comment on the 2010-2014 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 2010 One-Year Action Plan which identifies the projects proposed to be funded by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. The City anticipates receiving \$3,936,450.00 in 36th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; \$1,381,796.00 through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and \$159,618.00 through the Emergency Shelter Grant. An additional \$96,066.00 is anticipated to be received through CDBG program income; \$70,000.00 through Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan funds; and \$20,000.00 in HOME program income. The following projects are proposed:

36th AY Community Development Block Grant (\$3,936,450.00+\$96,066.00 PI)

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Community Development Administration | \$ 723,615.00 |
| Housing Rehabilitation Administration | \$ 250,539.00 |
| Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (\$96,066.00 in PI) | \$ 500,000.00 |
| Code Enforcement | \$ 498,465.00 |
| Graffiti Removal Program | \$ 54,300.00 |
| Hamilton Hotel - Section 108 Loan Repayment | \$ 144,570.00 |
| ADA Sidewalk Improvements | \$ 150,000.00 |
| Heritage Park Improvements | \$ 215,000.00 |
| El Eden Park | \$ 215,000.00 |
| Riverhills Parkland Acquisition | \$ 215,000.00 |
| Sidewalks – District V | \$ 215,000.00 |
| Sidewalks – District IV | \$ 215,000.00 |
| Sidewalks – District VII | \$ 215,000.00 |
| San Francisco Javier Neighborhood Park | \$ 215,000.00 |
| Downtown Façade Restoration Program | \$ 106,027.00 |
| Bethany House Center for Hope | \$ 100,000.00 |
| Total | \$4,032,516.00 |

Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program (\$70,000.00)

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Administration | \$40,930.00 |
| Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loans | \$29,070.00 |
| Total | \$70,000.00 |

HOME Investment Partnership Grant (\$1,381,796.00+\$20,000.00 PI)

| | |
|---|----------------|
| HOME Program Administration \$138,179.00 | |
| Downpayment Assistance (\$20,000.00 in PI) | \$516,347.00 |
| Tenant-Based Rental Assistance \$340,000.00 | |
| Bethany House Transitional Housing Project | \$200,000.00 |
| Habitat for Humanity (CHDO set aside) | \$207,270.00 |
| Total | \$1,401,796.00 |

Emergency Shelter Grant (\$159,618.00)

| | |
|---|--------------|
| ESG Program Administration | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Bethany House Shelter Complex Homeless Prevention | \$ 33,000.00 |
| Bethany House Shelter Complex Operations | \$ 58,832.00 |
| Casa de Misericordia Operations | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Bethany House Shelter Complex Essential Services | \$ 39,786.00 |
| Total | \$159,618.00 |

(Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

3. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Laredo Little Theater for approximately 5,801 square feet constituting Building No. 52 located at 4802 Thomas Avenue at the Laredo International Airport; 1) Lease term is for ten (10) years commencing on October 1, 2009 and ending on September 30, 2019 and may be extended for one (1) term of five (5) years ending on September 30, 2024; 2) Monthly rent shall be \$500.00 and will be adjusted annually during the primary and extension term of this lease according to changes in the Consumer Price Index; providing for an effective date. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

VIII. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances 2010-O-078, 2010-O-083, 2010-O-84, 2010-O-85, 2010-O-086, 2010-O-087, and 2010-O-088.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. 2010-O-078 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a first amendment to a ground lease (Flores Street) by and between the City of Laredo, a Municipal corporation (landlord), and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, (tenant), formerly known as or a successor-in-interest to Texas/Illinois Cellular Limited Partnership, by its general partner, Southwestern Bell Wireless, Inc., dated July 19, 1999 and attached hereto; to allow landlord to modify landlord's lease area location described in exhibit A with area location as described in exhibit A-1; to modify the base rent from \$14,740.00 to \$16,939.96 yearly; and to allow tenant to modify the notice section therefore; all other terms and conditions remain.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-078.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2010-O-083 authorizing the addition of a collection fee in the amount of 30% to debts and accounts receivable such as unpaid fines, fees, court costs, forfeited bonds, and restitution ordered paid by a court serving the municipality and amounts in cases in which the accused has failed to appear as provided for by Article 103.0031, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-083.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2010-O-084 Amending the City of Laredo's Land Development Code to reflect the creation of an Arts and Entertainment Zoning District by: Amending Article IV, Section 24.62.1(a) Land Use Zoning District Establishment; amending Section 24.62.2 Zoning District Purpose; amending Section 24.63.2 Permitted Land Uses; amending Section 24.65 Supplementary Zoning District Regulations; amending Section 24.77 Dimensional Standards; amending Section 24.78 Off-Street Parking & Loading Requirements; amending Appendix "A", Definitions; and providing for publication and effective date. (As Amended)

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-084.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2010-O-085 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for the storage of flammable and explosive products on Lot 9, Block 1, Fesco Business Park, Unit One, located at 4801 Fesco Boulevard; providing for publication and effective date. Staff supports the application and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Special Use Permit. District II

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-085.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2010-O-086 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 8, Block 536, Eastern Division, located at 902 & 904 E. Locust Street, from B-1 SUZD (Limited Commercial District – Special Use Zoning District) to B-1 (Limited Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date. Staff supports the application and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change. District IV

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-086.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2010-O-087 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 6.2 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit “A”, located at 9600 McPherson Road, from R-O (Residential/Office District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date. Staff supports the application and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zone change. District VI

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-087.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2010-O-088 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for electronic displays on Lots 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10, Block 281, Western Division, located at 1 South Main Avenue;

providing for publication and effective date. Staff supports the application and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Special Use Permit. District VIII

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-088.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. RESOLUTIONS

5. 2010-R-059 Authorizing the City Manager to apply for a grant 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 Multi-Agency Drug Related Public Corruption Task Force. 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 Finance Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2010-R-059.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. 2010-R-060 Accepting an Easement Deed without Warranty for 15' area from the United States of America. This Easement is revised to include the purpose of operating, maintaining, inspecting, replacing, constructing, upgrading and repairing Storm and Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure. The said Easement is a 15' area, more or less out of a portion between Block K and L, conveyed to the United States of America in Volume 230, Page 361, Webb County Deed Record; and described by survey attached as Exhibit "A". Said easement is being provided for the Flores Avenue Drainage Improvements and Sanitary Sewer and Water Line Rehabilitation Project.

Motion to approve Resolution 2010-R-060.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. 2010-R-061 Authorizing the purchase of the surface only of 1.4 acres of land from Andrea Treviño, Norma S. Herrera, Velia C. Herrera, Jeffrey J. Czar, Cesareo R. Porras and Armando E. Garcia as described by metes and bounds in the attached exhibit for the purpose of providing for municipal

improvements. The purchase of this tract in the amount of \$40,000.00 plus applicable closing costs is made possible through funding from Environmental Services-2007 C.O.

Motion to approve Resolution 2010-R-O61.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. 2010-R-062 In support of and requesting the United States Congress create a federally designated United States - Mexico Border Health Region with direct funding from the federal government to adequately support prevention, security, and emergency preparedness services which are fundamental necessary to protect and safeguard our community, the state and the nation.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X. MOTIONS

9. Authorizing the City Manager to approve change order no. 1 for the South Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant Interim Improvements and expansion project to Wright Construction Co. with a total cost of \$59,412.03, due to unforeseen underground utilities conflicts. This change order will not increase the Contract Cost Estimate, as contract as bid includes a line item allowance for \$123,000.00 of approved change request and additional work. (Finance Committee has recommended item be sent to Council)

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. Authorizing the City Manager to accept the dedication of the following utility easement: Laredo Independent School District-A tract of land containing 0.01 acres (556 sq. ft.) tract of land, more or less, situated within Block 1131 Eastern Division of the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas (J.W. Nixon High School). This 0.01 acre tract of land being more particularly described by metes and bounds in Exhibit "A", attached hereto.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. Consideration for acceptance, approval of change order no. 2 and release of retainage in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Price Construction, Ltd., Laredo, Texas, for the TxDOT Wastewater Relocation Bore along Loop 20 (Cuatro Vientos Project). Change order no. 2 was for an extension of 40 more calendar days with no increase on the contract amount.

Funding is available in the 2008 Utility Bond Account TXDot Improvements. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. Consideration to award contract FY10-057 to the sole bidder, Delta House Electric and Motor Rewind, Freer, Texas, in the amount of \$300,000.00 for providing electric motor repair service for the Utilities Department. Repairs are for motors with horsepower rating from 1/8 HP to 400 HP that are used in water and wastewater operations. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. Consideration to authorize a purchase contract with Motorola Inc. and RZ Communications through the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC) cooperative purchasing program, in the amount of \$940,240.10 for the purchase of fifty (50), mobile data terminals, mobile radios, and digital video camera systems for the Police Department. Funding is available in the Police Trust Fund. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Authorizing the City Manager to approve a request from Jett Racing and Sales, Inc., to amend the sublease agreement with Elite Aviation, Inc., effective September 1, 2005, for an approximate 10,000 square feet of hangar space. The lease premises are located on Tract No. 5 consisting of 80,000 square feet located at the Laredo International Airport. Amending the term of the sublease to extend for fifteen (15) months commencing on June 10, 2010 until August 9, 2011. The lease agreement provides that Jett Racing and Sales, Inc., shall have the right to sublease all or any part of the space demise provided Lessee first obtains Lessor's consent, such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in effect; providing for an effective date. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. Award of contract to the lowest qualified bidder Wunderlich-Malec Systems, Inc.; Carrollton, Texas, in the bid amount of \$562,838.80 for the Laredo International Airport Security Access Control and Camera System upgrades; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund – Grant No. 53. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve contingent FFA concurrence.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Award of construction contract to the lowest bidder Zertuche Construction, LLC., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$560,000.00 for the North Central Park Trailhead Facility with a construction contract time of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Funding is available in the 2008 and 2009 C.O. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Award of construction contract to the lowest bidder Modern Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the base bid amount of \$6,505,000.00 for the Northwest Laredo Community Center with a construction contract time of four hundred twenty (420) calendar days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Funding is available in the 2007, 2008, and 2009 C.O. Bond. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Authorizing the City Manager to allocate \$23,516.07 to pay for legal services rendered and to be rendered by the Law Firm of Denton, Navarro, Rocha & Bernal in the matter of Fructuoso San Miguel V. City of Laredo, Cause No. 2008-CVF-000993-D3, in the 341st Judicial District of Webb County, Texas. Funding is available in General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

19. A. Request by Mayor Raul G. Salinas

1. Discussion with possible action to increase surveillance and police patrols at all city parks, in an all effort to enhance the public safety, and encourage citizen involvement.

Mayor Salinas stated that he had received a letter from some students from J. C. Martin Elementary that indicated that they had seen people doing drugs at the Seven Flags park next to the school. The letter indicated that they had cut themselves with broken glass from beer bottles and found drug syringes in the park. Mayor Salinas continued that he would like to ask for more surveillance and police patrols.

Police Chief Maldonado reported that there was a variety of things that they continue to do. He continued that there was not enough manpower to be at the parks all of the time, but he asked for partnership with the community and with Crimestoppers. He stated that law enforcement could not handle this issue alone and needed help from the public. He advised that as of June 2010, they had issued 252 curfew citations, 9 park curfew citations, 19 citations for minors in possession of tobacco, 54 citations for possession or consumption of alcohol on City property, and 9 graffiti arrests.

Cm. Liendo Espinoza stated that she had sent a request to Police Chief Maldonado to implement the TEXT-A-TIP program and was hoping the Council would support it.

Police Chief Maldonado responded that this option was something that they would explore.

Motion to bring back a report by the next Council meeting.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garza and Cm. Garcia were not present.

2. Presentation of the upcoming Pet Pooch Parade Fundraiser.

Joe Carvalho reported that he felt that they should do something as a community to help the animal shelter. Therefore, he hoped that a small effort from KGNS, Petland and the Animal Shelter would encourage other businesses and community members to help the animal shelter to get some of the things it needed. He went on to say that the first event would be the Pooch Parade that would be held that Saturday at North Central Park. Cm. Gene Belmares would be the parade Grand Marshall.

B. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Johnny Rendon

1. Discussion with possible action regarding the opening ceremony of the Bartlett Avenue Extension Project.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, reported that the project was complete and they were only lacking the striping. He concluded that they would conclude everything next week.

2. Recognition of District V Scholarship recipients.

Mayor Pro Tem Rendon recognized Blas Castañeda, Eliseo Valdez and Javier Santos who helped him with his scholarship project. He presented the scholarships to Felix Cruz IV, Karen Cristina de la Garza, Gladys Placencia, Samantha Trevino, Joseph Elias Valdez, Ernesto Parra, David Soto, Jr., Martha Alexandra Cavazos, and Nichole Solis.

C. Request by Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to provide support for the upcoming Texas Brokers Conference.

Cm. Valdez reported that there would be brokers coming in from all over the United States for this conference. He continued by saying that he wanted the City's support with bus passes and things of that nature.

Motion to support the Texas Brokers Conference.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to create a softball field in District VII.

Cm. Valdez stated that he wanted to use the savings coming out of the Recreation Center to go toward this softball field.

Motion to approve the creation of a softball field in District VII.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action on installing speed cushions on Elk St., between Riverbank and Center Road, as part of the ongoing pilot project using District VII discretionary funds.

Motion to approve the installation of speed cushions on Elk Street between Riverbank and Center Road, as part of the ongoing pilot project using District VII discretionary funds.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Rendon

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

D. Request by Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza

1. Discussion with possible action on implementing TEXT-A-TIP for reporting vandalism

at our city parks utilizing current mobile number used for calling in same reports.

This item was discussed with item A (1).

2. Discussion with possible action on establishing a committee to create a comprehensive incentive package for prospective new businesses. (Co-sponsored by Mayor Raul G. Salinas)

Cm. Liendo Espinoza stated that the reason she put this item on the agenda was because she wished to create additional incentives to bring new businesses to the city. She went on to say that many businesses were researching Laredo to find out what they had to offer, so she wished to have a catalog of incentives to offer them.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal said that what he thought was important was that the basis for decision needed to come from the Laredo Development Foundation. He went on to say that that they needed to provide a side-by-side as to what other communities were offering so that they would not be undercut by anyone.

Cm. Liendo Espinoza responded that they should create a committee to create a package or to formulate a group so that they could move forward.

Cm. Valdez said that he felt that currently when companies would come in, that is when discussion would occur on a situation-by-situation basis. He continued saying that he felt that abatements could be improved. He hoped that abatement improvements could be part of the incentives offered. He agreed that a side-by-side comparison with other cities should be placed on the City of Laredo website.

Roger Creary, Laredo Development Foundation Director, reported that in surveys regarding why companies would choose a certain location would be because the location fit their business model. He went on to say that incentives helped but only if the location fit the business model already. He continued saying that Laredo compared very well except in two areas, one being the 4A-4B tax opportunities, because Laredo had gone with the limiting sports venue tax. He concluded that it took a 4B mechanism to attract certain companies. He mentioned that the other area was that Laredo was a double free port community, meaning city-county abated only, and triple free port was important to have for auto manufacturing companies.

Cm. Landeck said that their committees worked very well in a number of areas. He advised that a committee could go into much more detail than City Council could during one of their regular meetings. He went on to say that he wished for it to be an Economic Development Advisory Committee with one of its objects to be incentives but also to include other topics in the future.

Motion to create a committee with two appointees from each Council Member so as to have a broad participation in the group with the purpose of creating a comprehensive incentive package to bring businesses to Laredo and also discuss economic development as amended.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. STAFF REPORTS

20. Discussion with possible action to consider Police Sergeant Armando Elizondo, Jr.'s first request for an extension of Injury Leave with Pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Discussion with possible action to consider a third request for an extension of Injury Leave with Pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Investigator Jesus Muñoz.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to reconsider.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Discussion with possible action on City of Laredo list of consideration surplus properties.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal reported that they had been discussing the possibility of acquiring the building called the Dodge dealership on Loop 20. He went on to say that they wanted to have an exchange of surplus City properties that would constitute 80% of the cost with the other 20% being cash. The properties listed in the Subject Properties for Surplus Consideration were Pinto Valle Property, Green Pastures Ranch, 6511 Sinatra Parkway, Acreage adjacent to Main Library, Del Mar Human Resources Building, and Fleet/Traffic Facility.

The complete booklet regarding subject properties for surplus consideration can be viewed at the City Secretary's Office, 1110 Houston St., Laredo, TX 78040.

Ronnie Acosta, Community Development Director, reported that in the event that a City Hall annex would be developed, there would be an opportunity to move some of the departments currently located within City Hall to a different location. She concluded that they would provide an exhaustive list of City properties.

Motion to instruct staff to start the appraisal process.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: None

Motion dies.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Report Business Future of the Americas Conference, Lima, Peru, June 21-24th.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council hereby reserves the right to go into executive session at any time during this public meeting, if such is requested by the City Attorney or other legal counsel for the City, pursuant to his or her duty under Section 551.071(2) of the Government Code, to consult privately with his or her client on an item on the agenda, or on a matter arising out of such item.

24. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (1)(A) to consult with attorney on the pending case of Juan Jose Flores d/b/a JJ Flores et al vs. City of Laredo et al; 2009CVQ000528-D2; in the District Court 111th Judicial District of Webb County, Texas; and return to open session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (1) (A) to consult with attorney on the pending case of Juan Jose Flores d/b/a JJ Flores et al vs City of Laredo et al, 2009CVQ000528-D2, in the District Court 111th udicial District of Webb County, Texas, and return to open session for possible action.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

After Council returned from Executive Session, Mayor Salinas announced that no formal action was taken.

XIV. RECESS AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and convene as the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. 2010-RT-002 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and execute the United States Department of Transportation (TXDot), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant, Section 5307, TX-90-X891 in the amount of \$4,299,663.00 to be used for operating assistance in the El Metro Operations Fund. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve 2010-RT-002.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Motion to adjourn as the Laredo Mass Transit Board and Reconvene as the Laredo City Council and adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

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 16 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on July 6, 2010.

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary