

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2008-R-08  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
APRIL 21, 2008  
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,  
Mike Garza,  
Michael Landeck,  
Johnny Amaya,  
Johnny Rendon,  
Gene Belmares,  
Juan Chavez,  
Juan Ramirez,  
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,  
Carlos Villarreal,  
Cynthia Collazo,  
Horacio De Leon,  
Jesus Olivares,  
Raul Casso,

Mayor  
Council Member, District I  
Council Member, District III  
Council Member, District IV  
Council Member, District V  
Mayor Pro Tem, 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. Hector Garcia.

Moved: Cm. Amaya  
Second: Cm. Rendon  
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**IV. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of March 24, 2008 and April 11, 2008.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rendon  
Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

### Recognitions

Recognition of Mr. Gilberto Urdiales for his United States Patented invention of the Lifting Elongated Objects Tool.

Mr. Urdiales presented his wife, son, and daughter who were accompanying him, to receive the Certificate of Recognition for his two crescent pipe tongs which received a U. S. Patent.

### Communiqués

Mayor Salinas asked for a moment of silence for Fernando Estrada Mendiola, Enrique Mendoza, Mike Kazen, Simon Martinez and Arturo Salinas. He said that he has had a busy week including a trip to New York for the bond sale. He said that he was very impressed with the presentation from the City. He congratulated everyone who participated in the bond sale. He said he also traveled to Washington D. C. for a trip to the White House. He noted that he was invited to attend a briefing on trade, the state of the economy, and housing. He advised that he was the only Democrat in attendance. He shared that it was very refreshing to have Congressman Henry Cuellar there to represent the City of Laredo. He congratulated the Public Works Department on their hard work in repaving the streets of Laredo.

Cm. Garza said that on Friday he was able to have a formal ribbon cutting for the concession stand and restroom facility at the Mario Tijerina Park. He announced that they would be holding another ribbon cutting for the Cigarroa Boxing Gym. He informed that the project was 100% funded through the Community Development Block Grant Funds and provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Cm. Landeck announced that the Rotary International's first project was to build a public toilet in Chicago. He shared that while he was in New York it was not an easy task to try to secure \$18 million dollars for the City of Laredo. He too agreed that City Staff did a fantastic job on the finances. He added that they put great emphasizes on two areas that everyone in the City knows that we need which are more improvement with our water and sewer systems.

Cm. Amaya said that he was unable to attend and the Park Dedication Ceremony in District VI honoring Andres "Andy" Ramos because he had a prior commitment. He thanked Mr. Ramos for a great job throughout his terms in office for the City of Laredo and Webb County. He also thanked the Mayor and City Staff for hosting the even in his district.

Cm. Rendon mentioned that the dome at the Eistetter Park is getting good use because he has been visiting the site and there are a lot of people at the park. He thanked City staff for making the dome possible for the people in that community. He also thanked John Orfila, Public Works Director, and his employees for working on the streets in District V. He thanked Oscar Medina for initiating a pilot project regarding recycling bins.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares thanked Cm. Rendon for substituting for him on Saturday at the Del Mar Little League Opening Ceremonies. He congratulated the Del Mar Little League for doing such a phenomenal job in representing the City of Laredo. He went on to say that while the Mayor was in Washington, he went to the Bond Agencies in New York. He stressed that despite the unstable market and interests rates, the Bond Agencies recognized that the City of Laredo has done an excellent job in managing funds for the past ten years and they still have resources to pave streets, build parks and continue with projects. He recognized the Chairman of the Airport Advisory Committee who was in attendance at the City Council Meeting. He said that Blas Martinez has been a guiding force with the Planning and Zoning Committee and the Airport Advisory Committee.

Cm. Chavez said that it has been a very busy month. He thanked Tomas Rodriguez, Rogelio Rivera, John Ofilia, and Roberto Murillo for working hard in his district.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, announced the five finalists for the position as Chief of Police: Raymond Garner, Fructose San Miguel, G. E. Martinez, Carlos Maldonado, and Richard Martinez. He said that he will be undergoing formal interviews with the candidates on Thursday. He advised that the meeting has been posted at City Hall. He added that on Friday he has posted another meeting with City Council at 12:15 p.m. so City Council can have a certain amount of time with each candidate. He said that City Council will be able to ask questions from each candidate. He went on to say that at this point they have placed the item with possible action. He pointed out that he would set a Special City Council Meeting within ten days of the two meetings. He said that he feels that it is important that City Council participate in talking with the candidates. He advised that he would distribute video conferencing with each candidate. He encouraged Council Members to review the video at their earliest convenience so they can have a smooth process in hiring the new Chief of Police.

Cm. Landeck congratulated the City Manager for going above and beyond what is required of the City Charter in the selection of a new chief. He thanked him for changing the process and getting the City Council involved in the early stages of the selection.

### **Citizen comments**

All citizens spoke under item G. (1).

## **VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into license agreements with local little league associations for the use of playing fields. The valid public purpose agreement authorizes the use of league fields at no fee for a term of three (3) years. The purpose of this agreement is for instituting baseball and softball programs at each site for the benefit of the youth of Laredo.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance accepting a contribution in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the State Farm's Child Safety Day Clinic Program for the purchase of child safety seats and to amend the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 General Fund Police Budget for said amount in order to provide child safety inspections and replace any that are unsafe. The Laredo Police Department will conduct a child safety seat inspection event that will take place on May 3, 2008 at 4500 San Bernardo Avenue.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept a \$10,050,231.00 grant and a \$915,000.00 loan for a total of \$10,965,231.00 from the Texas Water Development Board Economically Distressed Areas Program and amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Utilities Department Colonias Fund 451 in the amount of \$10,965,231.00 in the form of a grant and loan for the design, construction and installation of water and sewer improvements for the colonias on HWY 359 (Pueblo Nuevo) and Mines Road Area (Los Minerales, Los Minerales Annex, Antonio Santos and Peñitas West) in Laredo and Webb County as approved by the Texas Water Development Board on October 23, 2007, and amending the Utilities Department Colonias Fund 451 by \$10,965,231.00 for a total of \$27,736,151.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## VII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

4. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Scheduled Airline Operating Agreement and Terminal Building Lease with ExpressJet Airlines, Inc., for exclusive and non-exclusive joint use space located at the Laredo International Airport passenger terminal for the purpose of conducting commercial air transportation services. The term of the agreement is for three (3) years effective January 1, 2008, and ending on December 31, 2010. However, it is agreed by the Parties that this agreement may be terminated by either party without cause on not less than ninety (90) days' written notice from the party terminating to the other. The monthly rent is \$2.50 per enplaned revenue passenger for the first 20,000 enplaned revenue passengers, \$2.25 per enplaned revenue passenger for the next 10,000 enplaned revenue passengers, \$2.00 per enplaned revenue passenger for next 10,000 enplaned revenue passengers and \$1.75 per enplaned revenue passenger for 40,001+ enplaned revenue passengers. The airline's landing fee obligation shall be \$0.75 per thousand pounds Maximum Certificated Gross Landing Weight of the airline's aircraft; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

5. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Scheduled Airline Operating Agreement and Terminal Building Lease with American Eagle Airlines, Inc., for exclusive and non-exclusive joint use space located at the Laredo International Airport passenger terminal for the purpose of conducting commercial air transportation services. The term of the agreement is for three (3) years effective January 1, 2008, and ending on December 31, 2010. However, it is agreed by the Parties that this agreement may be terminated by either party without cause on not less than ninety (90) days' written notice from the party terminating to the other. The monthly rent is \$2.50 per enplaned revenue passenger for the first 20,000 enplaned revenue passengers, \$2.25 per enplaned revenue passenger for the next 10,000 enplaned revenue passengers, \$2.00 per enplaned revenue passenger for next 10,000 enplaned revenue passengers and \$1.75 per enplaned revenue passenger for 40,001+ enplaned revenue passengers. The airline's landing fee obligation shall be \$0.75 per thousand pounds Maximum Certificated Gross Landing Weight of the airline's aircraft; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

6. Authorizing the City Manager to execute Supplemental Lease Agreement No. 2 to Lease No. GS-07B-15259 approved by Ordinance No. 2002-O-325 dated December 16, 2002, and as amended by Ordinance No. 2005-O-112 dated May 16, 2005, with General Services Administration for approximately 1,313 square feet constituting office space

occupied by the Transportation Security Administration located at 5210 Bob Bullock Loop at the Laredo International Airport. Said Supplemental Lease Agreement No. 2 extends the lease term of one (1) year until November 17, 2008, and revises the monthly rent amount to \$3,939.00. All other terms and conditions of lease remain unchanged and in effect; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. Ratification of the City Manager's execution of all necessary documents granting an easement and right-of-way to AEP Texas Central Company for the installation of electrical facilities to serve the City of Laredo Health Department building located at 2600 Cedar Avenue. Said easement and right-of-way being situated in the south one-half of block number 338 and the south one-half of block 339, Eastern Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, and being depicted on attached Exhibit A; and providing for an effective date. Execution of said easement was necessary due to project timeline.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## VIII. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances: # 2008-O-084.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. 2008-O-084 Amending Chapter 24, Article IV, Supplementary Zoning District Regulations Section 24-65.14: B-4 Highway Commercial District, paragraph (16) Amusement Redemption Machine Establishment provisions, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c), of the Laredo Land Development Code, by amending subparagraphs (a), which establishes location requirements of one thousand (1000) feet from another Amusement Redemption Machine Establishment, a church and a public park or private park; and amending (c), which establishes measurement criteria for Amusement Redemption Machine Establishment; Section 24-65.15 : M-1 Light Manufacturing District, by creating paragraph (6) Amusement Redemption Machine Establishment provisions; Amending Section 24-94.5: Conditional Use Permit Application Submittal Criteria, by adding paragraph (13) to exclude Amusement redemption establishments from eligibility for a Conditional Use Permit; and Amending Chapter 24, Article V, Off-Street Parking & Loading Requirements paragraph (p) Parking Space Requirements by creating subparagraph (3) (f) Amusement Redemption Machine Establishments; providing for an effective date and publication. (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-084.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0



roadway designation on the section of Loop 20 from its intersection with State Highway 359 to its intersection with U.S. Highway 83 and supporting the re-designation of this roadway as a Spur on the state system.

Cm. Garza asked if it was possible to name a section of the roadway after Cesar Chavez.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, said that the City of Laredo has had discussions with the State and they are immune to naming streets or roadways. He recommended contacting the State to make recommendations for the roadway.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2008-R-033.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. 2008-R-035 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute an Interlocal government agreement between the City of Laredo and United Independent School District for the participation of the City of Laredo Police Department in the United Independent School Resource Officer Program. The Laredo Police Department will provide ten (10) officers that will be assigned to various middle and high schools for the 2008-2009 school year. Five (5) officers will be transferred back to regular duty at the Laredo Police Department at the end of the February 2009; due to COPS in schools grant stipulations and the other five (5) officers will be assigned to UISD for the entire 2008-2009 school year.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2008-R-035.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. 2008-R-037 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a Grant application to the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the amount of \$40,000.00 with no matching funds. Funds will be used for a litter reduction campaign and household hazardous waste collection of fluorescent Light bulbs.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2008-R-037.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## X. MOTIONS

16. Authorizing the award of a contract in the amount of \$120,000.00 to Parsons



Brinckerhoff for the development of the Transit Development Plan. Funding for the project is available through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) account using federal planning grant (PL 112) funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) backhoe from Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas, in the total amount of \$55,153.85 through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC) cooperative purchasing program's contract pricing. This equipment will be assigned to the Public Works Department. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration to renew contract number FY08-022 awarded to HD Supply Waterworks, San Antonio, Texas in the estimated amount of \$250,000.00, for the purchase of PVC pipe used by the Utilities Department. This contract renewal includes a 5% price increase from the previous contract period due to the unstable pricing climate for PVC materials. This is the second of four (4) sixty (60) day supply extensions. These materials are purchased on an as needed basis for construction and repair projects. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Consideration to authorize the purchase of camera equipment for the sewer line television inspection truck in the total amount of \$60,000.00 from Texas Underground Inc, Pearland, Texas through the BuyBoard's cooperative purchasing program's contract pricing. This equipment will replace the damaged camera equipment which is beyond economical repairs. Funding is available in the Utilities Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Consideration to exercise the renewal option for one (1) additional year for contract FY07-064 to vendor Resource Recycling Services, Ingleside, Texas, for the

collection, transportation, and disposal services for used automotive motor oil and filters from City of Laredo's Do-It Yourself Centers, and the Fleet Maintenance and El Metro Shops. The term of this contract will be for a one (1) year period with an option to extend this contract for two, one (1) year terms. The City will be paid \$0.75/gal for used motor oil and there will be no charge for the other services. Funds will be deposited in the respective department's revenue account.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Consideration to award a three (3) year service contract to AT&T Corporation, Laredo, Texas in the estimated amount of \$77,214.00 for providing internet access communication, a range of registered public IP address, and a second tier domain network service (DNS) for Web-Name record hosting. Funding is available in the Information Technology & Support Services Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to award contract number FY08-062 to Laredo Rock Tech Sand & Gravel, LP, Laredo, TX and La Flecha Materials Inc. Laredo, TX. in the estimated amount of \$150,000.00 for providing red top soil and fill dirt for maintenance and capital improvement projects being constructed by the Parks and Leisure Services and Utilities Departments. The term of this contract will be for a six (6) month period. Laredo Rock Tech Sand and Gravel will be the primary vendor and La Flecha Materials will be the secondary vendor for the purchase of the needed materials. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Consideration to award contract number FY08-060 to the low bidder meeting specifications, Southern Tire Mart, Dallas, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$364,230.00, for the purchase of truck tires for all City vehicles. All tires are purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Consideration to authorize the purchase of traffic signal poles and arms required for the traffic signal upgrades of the following locations: Corpus Christi at Meadow, Corpus Christi at Seymour, Corpus Christi at Bartlett and Corpus Christi at Malinche, from Pelco Structural LLC, Claremore, Oklahoma in the total amount of \$50,636.00. The items are being purchased through the State of Texas - Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS) Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding is available from the 2007 Certificates of Obligation Bond Proceeds Transit System 2004 Certification of Obligation Bond Proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Consideration to authorize the purchase of five (5) traffic signal cabinets from the sole source vendor Naztec Inc., Sugarland, Texas in the total amount of \$75,500.00 for traffic signal upgrades at the following intersections: Corpus Christi at Meadow, Corpus Christi at Seymour, Corpus Christi at Bartlett, Corpus Christi at Malinche, and San Bernardo at Calton. Funding is available from the 2007 Certificates of Obligation Bond Proceeds and the Transit System 2004 Certification of Obligation Bond Proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Consideration to award contract FY08-055 to Pips Technology, Inc., Knoxville, TN in the amount of \$55,335.00 for the purchase and installation of two (2) mobile law enforcement automated license plate recognition systems for the Police Department. Funding is available in the Police Department's Justice Assistance Capital Outlay Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Authorizing the amendment No.6 in the amount of \$10,000.00 to Crane Engineering for additional engineering work services for Colonias Work Order 3 which includes water distribution lines and wastewater collection lines in seven (7) Colonias on Hwy 359. The amendment brings the total contract amount to \$470,517.28. Funding is available in the Colonias Project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Consideration for approval of change order #1 and acceptance of the project to Kiewit Texas Construction L.P., Laredo, Texas to deduct \$2,115.00 to the total contract for the relocation of the 8” sanitary sewer line at Loop 20 from Campos Rd. to Fairfield Dr. This change order consists of the additional work required to install sanitary sewer manhole risers on the existing 8” sanitary sewer line in the amount of \$6,885.00 and the credit of \$9,000.00 for the manhole not installed. The revised contract amount is \$67,787.44.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for the purchase of 45 ac/ft of Municipal water rights from S.D.K. Farms, LLC, at a cost of \$2,250.00 per ac/ft for the sum of \$101,250.00. Funding is available in the Waterworks Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest bidder ALC Construction, LLC, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$187,578.00 for the Esperanza Road Drainage Improvement Project. Contract time is one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Funding is available in the 2007 Certificate of Obligation Bond Proceeds.

Manual Rios, resident of Belmont, expressed that he is concerned with the Esperanza Road Drainage Improvement Project. He said that he looked at the items on # 30 and # 33 and he was advised that there was \$600,000 allocated for this project. He said that item #30 calls for \$187,578 and item #33 calls for \$50,000 plus \$105,000. He went on to say that it is a total of \$342,578 or 57.10% of the \$600,000. He said that his neighbor’s property was purchased for \$148,000 plus \$15,000 for demolition and that brings a total of \$84.26% of the entire \$600,000 which would leave \$94,440 left for Belmont. He asked City Council to move forward with the project. He said that he was concerned about the property that is adjacent to his home. He added that the City has purchased the property to run an underground drainage system. He wanted to know what the City’s commitment is to keeping the lot clean. He further stated that Belmont has been neglected over the years. He requested safety and protection for his area.

Cm. Rendon assured the property owner that the City of Laredo would not be building a home on the vacant lot adjacent to his home.

Riazul Mia said that the City of Laredo purchased the lot to construct a detention pond to assist in alleviating the flooding in the Belmont area. He said that the Esperanza Project is a two phase project and the \$600,000 will only include Phase I.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, explained that the City of Laredo would be able to create a document that would assure the home owner that the City would maintain the lot as a drainage area and no home would be built on the vacant lot.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Authorizing the City Manager to donate (2) two 2000 Harley Davidson motorcycles to the Webb County Constable's Office, Precinct #4. 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 bequeathed. The motorcycles were purchased from the Police Trust Fund using forfeited monies and an approval to donate has been issued by the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section of the United States Department of Justice.

Cm. Chavez asked to amend the motion to allow all constables the opportunity to receive a motorcycle from the City of Laredo.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, informed Council that he has talked with several Council Members and they are going to provide the funds from their discretionary funds in order to purchase additional motorcycles for other constables. The following Council Members will donate their funds: Cm. Garza, Cm. Rendon, and Cm. Chavez.

Cm. Garza said that he had made contact with the Constable in the South and he was not interested in obtaining a motorcycle; however the constable in Precinct I and IV are interested.

Motion to approve as amended.

Moved: Cm. Chavez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Consideration to approve amendments No. 1 to Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam (LAN), Inc., Houston, Texas, in association with Premier Engineering, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$98,560.00 for the final design, preparation of plans and specifications for the bidding, additional geotechnical and surveying for the River Road Pipe Replacement Project, Phase 2 for the City of Laredo, Texas. The project is to repair the existing 9.5 feet diameter corrugated metal pipe with fiberglass slip lined pipe at the river road adjacent to Santa Cleotilde north of Water Street, approximately 1,100 linear feet. The total contract amount with this amendment will be \$218,820.00. Funding is available in the 2007 Contractual Obligation Bond Proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Consideration to approve amendments No. 1 to Harry Jewett Associates for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the design of Esperanza Road Drainage Improvement Project, Phase II for the City of Laredo, Texas. The phase consists of installation of new storm drainage system at Sage Street south of Esperanza Road through the drainage easement of Laredo Morning Times property to reduce the localized flooding. The total contract amount with this amendment is \$105,000.00. Funding is available in the 2007 Contractual Obligation Bond Proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of March 2008 represent an increase of \$10,304.99. These adjustments are determined by Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Refund of property tax in the amount of \$4,157.87 to the following taxpayers:
1. A refund in the amount of \$811.08 payable to Wilshire Credit Corporation due to an overpayment. Account #969-10001-335.
  2. A refund in the amount of \$550.20 payable to Jose F. and Sandra De Jesus Arroyo due to an overpayment. Account #968-40005-040.
  3. A refund in the amount of \$518.03 payable to Challenger Battery, Inc. due to an overpayment. Account #105-00238-060.
  4. A refund in the amount of \$1,096.58 payable to Border Title Group due to an overpayment. Account #662-01915-050.
  5. A refund in the amount of \$680.72 payable to Land America Tax and Flood Service due to an overpayment. Account #968-61004-170.
  6. A refund in the amount of \$501.26 payable to Land America Tax and Flood Service due to an overpayment. Account #941-42003-120.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Consideration to ratify the emergency purchase order issued to Larecon LLC, Laredo, Texas, in the total amount of \$217,500.00. The City Manager has authorized an emergency purchase order to replace an 8” sewer line on San Bernardo Avenue between Madison and Baltimore Streets that has collapsed and is currently out of service. The service will require by pass pumping, asphalt paving, trench and traffic safety. Funding is available in the Utilities 2007 Revenue Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. Authorizing the City Manager to approve payment from the City’s Arena Renewal and Replacement Account for the purchase of air handler motors, eliminator replacement kit, pipe and drape, video camera, surveillance camera, parts for chairs and repairs to generator in a total amount not to exceed \$72,000.00. Funding is available in the Sports and Community Venue Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

### **38. A. Request by Mayor Raul G. Salinas**

1. Status report and possible action on the Public and Health Issues Blue Ribbon Committee priority recommendations to the mayor and city council: 1) health care access to meet the growing needs of Laredo in the future (including mental health and substance abuse services; 2) water quality, and 3) infectious diseases especially adolescents and young adults. The BRC will also work with the health department on cancer support resources for children and their families.

Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Director of Health Department, reported that the City of Laredo has been working with the Blue Ribbon Committee for a year and a half. He said that the Committee has recently met with the Mayor to give him an update on a number of issues that they have reviewed. They have done a lot of work including building their mission statement and reviewing different health care issues from their perspectives. They have also asked the City to present a profile of what the City sees in the future concerning current critical and emerging issues so they can develop a priority list. He advised that their three priorities are health care access, water quality, and infectious diseases.

2. Discussion with possible action regarding the synchronization of traffic lights throughout the city.

Traffic Manager, Roberto Murillo, reported that he had provided the Council the information in the Friday Package regarding how the department synchronizes traffic lights. He said that the City has 237 traffic lights. He added that 124 traffic lights are connected to the remote system which is located at the administration office. He went on to explain that 99 traffic lights are in a specific system because there are different systems. Basically, he obtains information from different intersections within the system and then they are provided numbers through a report from the system. He mentioned that the department physically monitors the traffic lights too.

**B. Request by Council Member Mike Garza**

1. Discussion with possible action on installing new street lights on S. Ejido Avenue, between Columbia Drive and Lomas Del Sur, by using District I Discretionary funds.

Motion to install new lights on S. Ejido Avenue between Columbia Drive and Lomas Del Sur using District I Discretionary Funds.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on installing new street lights in the area around Century City Boulevard by using District I Discretionary funds.

Motion to install new street lights in the area around Century City Boulevard by using District I Discretionary funds.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action on conducting a study for the extension of roads in District I specifically Ejido Avenue, Zacatecas Street and Merida Drive to include cost summaries.

City Engineer, Rogelio Rivera, reported that he submitted a short report of the three items. He said that they are currently negotiating the right-of-way. The department has been working on Ejido, but when they first started the project they were going to extend it all the way to Cielito Lindo. They had problems with one of the property owners so they had to cut the project at what it is right now to a cost of 1.7 million dollars and 8,000 linear feet. He said that 3,000 linear feet and a cost of over a million dollars remain, but they need the right-of-way. Staff has not made contact with the property owner.

Cm. Garza said that the reason that he brought this to the table is because he understands that the property owner is willing to work with the City so they can complete the extension.



Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, said that the City has a contract for a design of the connection from Ejido to Las Americas. He noted that there are several property owners that booted the City of Laredo off their properties. He advised that the City consultant has not been able to visit the site.

Cm. Garza notified the City that the said property is for sale. He asked the City Manager to check on that issue. He also asked about Merida.

City Engineer, Rogelio Rivera, said that the City of Laredo received a proposal from the Engineer. He explained that the roadway is 1,800 linear feet and it contains a huge pond.

Cm. Garza asked if a low water crossing would be feasible.

The Engineer said that the consultant is looking at the possibility of a roadway.

Cm. Garza stressed the importance of the creation of a smoother vehicular flow in that area.

Jesus Olivares, Assistant City Manager, said that in consideration of the low water crossing the City must be able to connect both sides through a trail underneath the overpass.

Cm. Garza confirmed the dangers of the low water crossing, but stressed the biggest issue is mobility and getting people in and out of their subdivision.

### **C. Request by Council Member Dr. Michael Landeck**

1. Discussion with possible action on upgrading street lights by using District III Discretionary Funds up to \$15,000.00 for the following locations:
  - \* Meadow Avenue, between Barrios Street and Highway 83
  - \* Meadow Avenue, between Willow Street and Chacon Creek.

Motion to approve the action of upgrading street lights by using District III Discretionary Funds up to \$15,000 for the following locations:

- \* Meadow Avenue, between Barrios Street and Highway 83
- \* Meadow Avenue, between Willow Street and Chacon Creek.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

### **D. Request by Council Member Johnny Rendon**

1. Discussion with possible action on addressing the issue regarding the re-routing of traffic to residential areas on Sunday evenings.

Gilberto Navarro, Interim Chief of Police, said that cruising on Sunday evenings started years ago with lowriders. He said that they congregate along the strip and inhibit traffic

flow which causes congestion. He said that the congregations add to the violence, because you have certain groups taking certain spots and someone else tries to take over. Over time the Laredo Police have tried certain tactics to try and move them away from their mindset and their way of setting up, so the Department diverts the traffic. The department does divert them to certain areas as strategic points in traffic flow to defuse the traffic. The department changes the diversion weekly.

2. Status report on the roadway that connects the two residential areas of Lakeside Subdivision, with possible action.

Vanessa Guerra from the Planning Department reported that she had talked with Keith Selman, City Planner, regarding this issue. She said that he mentioned that not much has changed since the last time he reported on this issue. She said that the Brittinghams are in the middle of preparing cost estimates for the proposed roadway and once those estimates are available the City will have a meeting with all of the appropriate parties to discuss costs sharing.

Cm. Rendon asked if this was new information. He said that he had talked with Keith Selman today and he reported that the Brittinghams are not willing to start any type of project. He said that he would like to continue with the second option which was to start negotiating with TxDOT to see how we can work the light at Lakeside Subdivision.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, said that the City of Laredo can take the monies out of bond and return to City Council with recommendations.

#### **E. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Gene Belmares**

1. Status report regarding the Laredo Animal Shelter in North Central Park, with possible action.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares said that he wanted to make sure that the City of Laredo is proceeding with the Animal Shelter project in North Central Park. He said that he knows that the City of Laredo already owns the land. He asked the City Manager if the City would need to use the monies allocated for the purchase of the land since it is still in a public use. He said that the City Manager had told him that there was a possibility that the City would not have to repurchase the land or repay the bond back. He asked the City Manager to validate that information. He added that if the monies needed to be reimbursed the City staff could use his discretionary.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, told Mayor Pro Tempore that he would have the Bond Council take a look at whether or not the City would need to pay the monies back to the bond. He said that a team of Laredo Department Directors visited San Antonio and they have different scenarios. He said that he would return to City Council in thirty days with a full report of their visit and answers from the bond issue. He also advised Council that he would be in communication with HEB to see what their guidelines are in receiving donations for the animal shelter.

Hector Gonzalez, Laredo Health Department Director, congratulated the City Engineer for doing a fantastic job in putting a schematic together. He said that the City used the San Antonio foundation and superimposed it to be the Laredo shelter and adding an

additional 45,000 sq. ft. He said that it is a state of the art project to handle current needs and needs of the future. He said that we are going from 10 observation sites to 40 then to 75 sites. He said that the structure was structured to accommodate the City of Laredo's weather and topography.

2. Status report regarding the uninsured and unlicensed towing enforcement, with possible action.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares requested a workshop of this ordinance or at least a draft copy.

Raul Casso, City Attorney, said that he has the basic tools in place for the ordinance. He noted that he has an information sheet that will be given to anyone that is affected. He said that the sheet would advise the offender of their rights redeeming the car and their due process concerns. He advised that the department has the proposed amendment to an existing ordinance that has to cover the issues of costs that are incurred so an administrative cost can be considered. He also said that the actual ordinance that is being referred to should be addressed in the future.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares asked staff to return to City Council within thirty days.

Cm. Garza suggested working with the insurance companies in re-evaluating the cost for the community.

3. Status report on the North Central Boys & Girls Club Little League lease agreement, with possible action.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares said that the agenda item was incorrect and should not read Little League. He went on to say that the reason that he brought this item to Council is because he wanted to make sure that the Boys and Girls Club is off the property (5 acres) so the City of Laredo would take control of the property next to Divine Mercy so they can proceed with the park in that area.

Miguel Pescador, Parks & Leisure Manager, said that the motion was approved by City Council to renew the lease and they are working on the current lease at North Central.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares asked if the Boy's and Girl's Club has been notified.

City Manager said that the City will be sending a notice.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares asked where staff is at in the new agreement for the 45,000 sq. ft. of International on the North Central Park.

Miguel Pescador, Parks & Leisure Manger, advised that the lease agreement has been drafted by City Staff and has been reviewed with the Boy's and Girl's Club of Laredo. He said that the lease has been preliminarily approved. He added that the lease is being reviewed by the Legal Department. He informed that he would return to City Council with an agreement in May.

## **F. Request by Council Member Juan Chavez**

1. Discussion with possible action regarding a wrestling event in Veteran's Field.

Cm. Chavez said that he would like to initiate the wrestling event in Veteran's Field in conjunction with the Cinco De Mayo Celebration.

Motion to approve the wrestling event and have the amount of \$3,200.00 funded through the promotional account. The amount will be reimbursed through the entry fee charged at the door and any left over money will be donated to a particular cause.

Moved: Cm. Chavez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **G. Request by Council Member Juan Ramirez**

1. Discussion with possible action on instructing staff to proceed with legal procedures with a possible injunction against the Laredo Town Center to prevent them from destroying our wetlands.

Dr. Antonini said that he was in attendance to support the reservation of the wetlands and to request that City Council allocate funds for the enhancement and prompt initiation of a regular maintenance program. He said that he is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee who met with CEAC on two different occasions to discuss the details of their plan to mitigate damages caused by the destruction of the wetlands. On both occasions, CEAC felt that the developer failed to provide sufficient information to support the effectiveness of the proposed plans. Moreover, the proposals did not adequately address the potential for flooding on the Bob Bullock Loop. The wetlands have provided a mechanism to store the storm water from the Laredo International Airport and the Loop. Any additional influx of water will not only come from the Laredo Town Center, but also from the Airport itself. All available Airport Properties has been platted for development and it includes a parking lot three times as big as the car lot. There is no other mechanism for storm water run off from the Airport and the adjacent portions of the loop. Furthermore, it is highly improbable that the Federal Aviation Administration will allow the construction of water retention facilities within every property as water has become a safety hazard to airplanes. He said that any additional water on the loop would end up with vehicular accidents and fatalities. Should the City Council allow the Laredo Town Center to destroy the wetlands the City would have to provide the Texas Department of Transportation with an improbable plan to handle the storm water runoff or at best one that would be economically feasible.

Maria Moore said that she thinks that it is a disgrace that the City Council agreed to the Laredo Town Center. She voiced that everyone is a citizen of the earth. She mentioned that this is a big issue and should not be taken lightly. She asked City Council reconsider their actions regarding the Laredo Town Center.

Pamela Warren, Director of Public Advocacy for the Rio Grande International Study Center, mentioned that she was pleased to read that the environmentalist had prevailed

their fight to reserve the Casa Blanca Wetland; however, she noted that the Laredo Town Center still intends to destroy the Laredo wetland. She said that they intend to bulldoze the mountain of dirt down into an ecosystem that provides vital functions of drainage and attention to the airport and the loop. It also filters storm water going into the lake. Laredo Town Center still intends to pave it over and allegedly better hold that will destroy half of the stream associated with the wetland and half the woods that line that stream. If this obstruction is allowed to go forward no body will win. The people of Laredo will loose a valuable and irreplaceable natural resource.

Dr. James Earhart, representing the Rio Grande International Study Center, said that when he was a young man there were places for him to go to hunt and fish. He said that he believes that having parkland to visit is important in making responsible citizens. He said that he would venture to say that many of the Council Members grew up playing in one of the creeks. He asked the Council not to sell the future of children to the highest bidder. We stressed that the children of today deserve wetlands.

Remy Salinas expressed his concerns regarding the opportunities to take back the wetlands. He said that the time was fast approaching that the Council's time is running out. He further displayed a map that illustrated that the all of the rain water from the airport and loop were designed to run to the wetlands as a filter before running to the lake to avoid contamination. The cleaning process is very important. The main issue of the flooding is that the City of Laredo has an obligation with an agreement with TxDOT to take care of any drainage from the airport.

Bryan Swartz stated that he is for the development of the Town Center and that the City needs it.

Gilberto Sanchez opposed the Laredo Town Center.

George Mapus asked Council to stop the injunction and allow the continuation of constructing the Town Center.

Raul Molina spoke in favor of the Laredo Town Center development.

Jose Luis Holguin also spoke in favor of the Laredo Town Center.

Fred Lloone said that the environmentalist has misrepresented information to the community regarding the wetlands. He said that the wetland is not a part of Lake Casa Blanca. He encouraged City Council to move forward with the Laredo Town Center. He said that it would be good for the City of Laredo.

Juan Herrera spoke in favor of the Laredo Town Center.

Brandy Smart, Environmental Consultant from the Laredo Town Center, advised that when she did the study three years ago she found a man-made detention basin that was 3.5 acres that had a vegetated wetland fringe along the edges of it that amounted to one-third of an acre. Along with that, she found sixteen hundred feet of stream and a one acre forest of wet land. Through multiple redesigns of development after listening to the public and their concerns the development changed so that they would impact the detention basin which is a man-made detention basin which has not been cleaned out.

There was also going to be an impact on seven hundred feet of the stream and every thing else will be left alone which includes a one acre forest of wetland and five acres of buffer around the forest, stream and wet land. They determined that it was important to link the one acre forest of wetland and stream because it does act as a natural filter. She said that they are compensating for the loss of the wetlands that would be impacting with forty four acres of wetlands adjacent to the property. It will contain open water areas of nine acres and 21 acres of buffer to protect the wetland area and sixteen hundred linear feet of stream. The new detention basin that will be built has 3.5 acres and will have a capacity of 1.1 # million cubic feet. The engineers advised that they only need 870,000 cubic feet. She further stated that she had talked to the Corp of Engineers and they are finishing up their decision document.

Raudel Garza, Merchants Holding, said that there has been a misrepresentation or misinformation regarding the Laredo Town Center. He illustrated a picture that had been misinterpreted because the environmentalists are saying that there is 20 acres of wetlands and there is five acres. He went on to illustrate the correct picture of the future Laredo Town Center.

Blas Martinez, Chairperson of the Laredo International Airport Advisory Committee, commended the effort that the people that are trying to reserve the wetlands are putting forth into this effort. He said that they are to be commended in the fine work and effort, but he also said that a lot of us have been trying to save wetlands and bring in the perfect soil more than 40 year ago. He said that he was there to represent and clarify their intent and purpose on the issue relating to the property immediately to the east of the present terminal which was declared by the FAA that it is no value for the aviation purposes any longer and the property is leased to the Laredo Town Center. The Laredo International Airport Committee unanimously approved this lease by a motion Council approved and the action was thoroughly discussed and amply examined before they took their action. All of your appointees took part in this discussion. The motion passed unanimously. I made sure that every member of the committee discussed the consequences of making this recommendation to Council.

Ricardo Mireles said that the world is in an environmental crises. He noted that if global warming does not stop it would bring a water crisis. The Ice Mountains are melting and also the snow in Colorado Mountains. If the ice and the snow continue to melt the river would loose a large input of water and there will be less water available. Contamination will be more concentrated. If a fence is to be constructed the public will not have access to test water quality and that would put both people and river in danger of being contaminated. Laredo has Lake Casa Blanca which is located in front of the airport which is a source of pollution to the lake. If there is a spill of some type the contaminates will be trapped and so will plastic bags. The U. S. Department reported that the wetlands carry 50% of pesticides and reduced flooding. A lot of construction has already been done so the City should work with what is left and improve it. The more that is kept of the lake, the better the water quality will be. Saving the wetland will benefit the water quality and recreational attraction from visitors. If we loose our river water it would be very expensive to buy water from another city or an ocean. That is why it is better to keep our water as clean as possible.

Alejandro Medina, Biologist at TAMU, advised that the main feature of the wetland offers to the community is a non-renewable ecological service which is filtration. He

said that what this ends up being is a quarter that filters all types of pesticides as well as some of the fuels that come from the airport. It is unfortunate that the Laredo Town Center does not take all the thousands of signatures that has been submitted into consideration. It is very unfortunate that it is just a wetland. These types of ecological services that are not renewable affect the City. He went on to say that it is not about jobs. We are for sustainable development. The environmentalists are in favor of new development, but it must be in a way that will not affect future generations and/or present generations.

Blas Martinez continued his presentation. He went on to say that the members of the Airport Advisory Committee had every opportunity to express their opinions. Since the action called for a 40 year lease he wanted to make sure that each member reflected and discussed the consequences of recommending this item to the City Council. The Laredo City Airport Committee gave the Laredo Town Center their total support in assisting them in the development of the land and he said that they have not kept their word. He said that a substantial amount of time and money has been expended in trying to compromise with the group that is not opposing this venture. The City Council and the community must come together in a conciliatory move and work out the differences that are presently stalling the process of the City of Laredo. The state of the economy needs much to be desired and the down trend is upon us and as a community we are experiencing an increase in the unemployment rate and housing market. He said there is a huge increase in home foreclosures and reduction of sales. The people in the front lines including the minimum wage earners need our obligation and responsibility to offer them relief. The current melt down will also affect the professionals. He said that this business venture will employ hundreds of citizens from Laredo. He noted that it would bridge the economic down turn that is upon us. The document that was executed by the City and the Laredo Town Center is totally a safeguard to make sure that the people in our community are safe from any type of damages that could occur from the construction of this mall. The contract clearly states that the developers must adhere to all the federal, state, and city ordinances.

Jerry Pratz, RGISC, said that he wanted to clarify that the RGISC is not against the development of the Town Center. It is against removing the wetlands or negative impact on the wetlands. He asked the City Council to monitor the Laredo Town Center Developers to ensure that they keep the ecological environment in tack and use whatever legal means it has to do so.

Penny Warren stated that we do not want to stop the development of the mall. She said that she does not want anyone to do without a job. She too asked City Council to direct and take action so that the development of the mall will be limited to the original 53 plus acres offered for sale. The other issue mentioned was the control of an irreplaceable resource. She said that you cannot move a pond. The plan calls for the destruction of the existing pond and the destruction of half of the existing wood land and stream. The pond and its associated stream and wetland acts as a vital filtration system from run off coming from the airport and from Bob Bullock Loop which also prevents flooding.

Francisco Quintanilla said that it is not the time for people to invest their money in large ventures. He said that the economy is getting worse. He noted that the only place that the citizens can go is to Casa Blanca Lake.

Motion to instructed staff to meet with Mr. Garza from the Laredo Town Center to be able to reach some type of an agreement where they may be able to leave the wetlands the way they are.

Moved: Cm Ramirez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on rescinding the former action taken from City Council on the Swimming Pool Ordinance in reference to the \$1,000,000.00 insurance bond requirement.

Cm. Ramirez said that he brought this to City Council because the City of Laredo has eighteen more companies that operate in Laredo building swimming pools. He said that it represents totals of four hundred members of the society.

Dago Gutierrez asked City Council to reconsider the Swimming Pool Ordinance in reference to the \$1,000,000 insurance bond requirement.

Mayor Salinas stressed the importance of providing the pool coverage that people need.

Motion to decrease the bond swimming pool business bond to \$250,000 a year to insure a \$1,000,000 coverage in four years.

Moved: Cm. Ramirez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 2

Against: 5

Abstain: 0

Motion fails

Motion to start the bond restriction to \$500,000 the first year then \$250,000 the second year and \$250,000 the third year for swimming pool bond issuance.

Moved: Cm. Rendon

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0and

3. Discussion with possible action regarding the acquisition of the Cabello-Canales (2305 Ventura Street) and Union Pacific (located on the east side of Eagle Pass Road and west of International Blvd.) properties.

Motion to acquire the Cabello-Canales (2305 Ventura Street) and the property located on the east side of Eagle Pass Road and west of International Blvd.

Moved: Cm. Ramirez

Second: No second.

Cm. Ramirez explained that he would like to acquire the Cabello-Canales for a detention center and the Union Pacific for a soccer field/basketball court.



Ronnie Acosta, Community Development, said that following the Council's requests the staff had the properties appraised and the Block 411 is owned by Union Pacific and is appraised at \$117,293 for a vacant land. She went on to say that Block 618 is owned by the Cabello-Canales family and it is appraised at \$367,000 with a two story building on it. She reminded City Council that these properties are appraised values and would still need to be negotiated.

The City Manager said that Council would be considering more than a half a million dollars for the properties. He stressed that all the monies that the City of Laredo would be receiving have been earmarked by City Council. He noted that there is no open-ended money available.

Ronnie Acosta, Community Development, said that there are no CDBG funds available for the project. She said that the funds should be taken from discretionary.

Mike Pescador, Parks & Leisure Manager, explained that staff has a master plan that has been updated. The master plan has been broken down by District. He said that District VIII shows a projected slow growth for the next ten to twenty years. He said that the City has a lot of undeveloped park land under District VIII that is in inventory. He said that the City of Laredo can use open outdoor recreation facilities, but not recreation centers.

4. Discussion with possible action on installing sidewalks by using District VIII Discretionary Funds on the following streets:

- \* 2500 Convent-west side
- \* 2900 Flores-east side
- \* 1700 Garcia-south side
- \* 1500 Benavides-south side
- \* 1400 Juarez-west side
- \* 1400 San Agustin-west side

Motion to approve using the Discretionary Fund for District VIII for the following streets:

- \* 2500 Convent-west side
- \* 2900 Flores-east side
- \* 1700 Garcia-south side
- \* 1500 Benavides-south side
- \* 1400 Juarez-west side
- \* 1400 San Agustin-west side

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **XII. 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.

39. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (1) (A) to consult with attorney on the pending eminent domain case of City of Laredo v. Luis Montano, et. al. Cause No. 2006CVQ002207C3, in County Court Law at Law No. 2, Webb County, Texas; and return to open session for possible action.

Not considered by City Council.

40. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (1)(A) to consult with attorney on the pending case of Marigloria Gonzalez v. City of Laredo, Cause No. 2005CVQ000905D2, in the 111th District Court, 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 Marigloria Gonzalez v. City of Laredo, Cause No. 2005CVQ000905D2, in the 111th District Court, Webb County, Texas; and return to open session for possible action.

Not considered by City Council.

41. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071 (1)(A) to consult with City Attorney regarding the contemplated litigation regarding the Laredo Town Center's wetlands, and return to open session for possible action.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
Second: Cm. Amaya  
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

## **XIII. 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. Garza  
Second: Cm. Amaya  
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Consideration to exercise the second year renewal option for Contract FY04-047 for bus exterior and interior advertising service contract between the City of Laredo (City)

and Bus Ads (Contractor). Contractor shall be entitled to maintain, and place advertisements on and inside El Metro Buses for the renewal option term of one (1) year commencing on June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009 for the greater of the minimum annual guaranteed revenue or fifty percent of net billings as described in the contract.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

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

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I, Gustavo Guevara, Jr., City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 to 27 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on April 21, 2008.

---

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.  
City Secretary