

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2008-R-013
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
July 7, 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 Raul G. Salinas led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

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

Mayor
Council Member, District II
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. Garza.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IV. MINUTES

Approval of minutes for April 7, 2008, April 25, 2008 and June 17, 2008.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions

Recognition of the Financial Services Department Budget Division of the City of Laredo for their achievement in receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation award for the 17th consecutive year.

Martin Aleman, Budget Director, introduced his staff as follows: Gilbert Sanchez, Oscar R. Hinojosa and Laura Powell. He announced that the Budget Department has received the Government Finance Officer's Association Distinguished Budget award for seventeen years. He went on to express that the award reflects the significant achievement by the entity and it reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff meeting the highest principals of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budgeting award the entity has to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designated to assess how well an entities budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, and an operations guide and a communication device.

Communiqués

Mayor Raul Salinas thanked City staff for initiating and organizing the 4th of July events. He also thanked everyone for participating and attending the events.

Cm. Garcia congratulated Lite Productions on their premier of *101 Dalmations*. He also thanked the Laredo Little League for inviting him to throw the first pitch for the All-Star Tournament.

Cm. Landeck advised that he had been in the great City of Corpus Christi, Texas and he was interested in implementing some of their ideas in the City of Laredo.

Cm. Narvaez said that he is ready to serve his district.

Mayor Raul G. Salinas presented Cm. Narvaez with the Certificate of Election. He also asked for a moment of silence for Javier Montemayor Sr.

Cm. Rendon thanked the Laredo Veterans Coalition for the Sixth Annual Springfield Parade that was held during the 4th of July. He also thanked Judge Liendo and participants for their support during the parade. He noted that he was pleased that a "crack" house was removed from his district.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares thanked the LULAC and Parks & Recreation for a great 4th of July Celebration.

Cm. Espinoza thanked everyone who participated in the 4th of July parade. She said that the parade was a huge success. She thanked Roy Garcia, Code Enforcement, for initiating a clean up in District VIII. She invited the residents in District VIII to attend a town hall meeting on Wednesday at the Civic Center meeting rooms from six to eight. Finally, she wished her Dad a Happy Birthday.

Citizen comments

Citizens are required to fill out a witness card and identify themselves at the microphone. Comments should be relevant to City business and delivered in a professional manner. No derogatory remarks will be permitted. There is a time limit of three minutes per speaker.

Daniel Barrera said that the citizens of Laredo have been waiting for eight years for a bridge. He added that the faster the bridge, the better the commerce. He encouraged City Council to move forward on the bridge project.

Former County Judge Andy Ramos explained that he assisted in the process selecting two sites for a bridge when he was County Judge. He expressed his dissatisfaction of the Mexican Government because, according to him, they promised to construct a sewer facility that would protect the waters of the Rio Grande and build a road from Columbia bridge to Monterrey but they did not follow through. He encouraged the City Council to proceed with caution when dealing with the Mexico officials.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

a. Appointments by Mayor Raul G. Salinas of:

- * Council Member Juan Narvaez to the Veterans Affairs.
- * Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr. to the Sister Cities Committee.
- * Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza to the Veterans Affairs Committee.
- * Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza to the Laredo Commission for Women.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

b. Appointment by Council Member Hector J. Garcia, Jr. of Javier Montemayor, Jr. to the Ethics Committee.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

c. Appointment by Council Member Dr. Michael Landeck of Blas M. Martinez to the Airport Advisory Committee in place of John Bruce.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

d. Appointment by Council Member Juan Narvaez of:

- * Ignacio Alaniz to the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- * Laura Bailey to the Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- * Julio Sosa to the Citizens Environmental Advisory.
- * Rogelio Rodriguez to the Airport Advisory Committee.
- * Imelda Rodriguez to the Ethics Ad Hoc Committee.
- * Adriana Aro to the Para Transit Advisory Committee.
- * Carmela Alaniz to the Library Advisory Committee.
- * Javier Garza to the Historic District Landmark Board.
- * Pat Davila to the Third Party Funding Advisory Committee.
- * Francisco Javier Diaz Parks & Leisure Advisory Committee.
- * Coleen Guerrero and Martha Argais to the Laredo Commission for Women.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

e. Appointment by Council Member Johnny Rendon of David Cardwell to the Board of Adjustment Committee.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

f. Appointment by Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza of Lorenzo Garcia to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Board.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance allowing interested persons to comment on the 2008 Consolidated One Year Action Plan which identifies the projects proposed to be funded by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development through \$3,589,985.00 in 34th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and \$96,066.00 in CDBG Program Income; \$1,248,285.00 in 2008 HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, and \$60,006.00 in HOME Program Income; \$5,188.00 in 2008 American Dream Downpayment Initiative funds, \$159,922.00 in 2008 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds; and \$130,000.00 is projected to be received through the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan fund.

The projects proposed to be funded are as follows:

34th AY Community Development Block Grant

Community Development Administration	\$708,162
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$237,454
Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (\$96,066 derived from CDBG Program Income)	\$396,066
Code Enforcement	\$495,594
Graffiti Removal Program	\$ 51,486
Hamilton Hotel - Section 108 Loan Repayment	\$182,236
Anna Street Community Baseball Field	\$215,000
Sidewalks (District I)	\$120,000
Cielito Lindo Park Improvements	\$100,000
Azteca Zero Depth Splash Park	\$220,000
Bethany House Shelter Expansion	\$100,000
Riverhills Parkland Acquisition	\$220,000
East Hachar Parking Lot Acquisition and Construction	\$220,000
Eistetter Facility Expansion Improvements	\$125,000
Taylor Parking Improvements (Phase II)	\$ 80,053
Andy Ramos Park Improvements	\$215,000
Total	\$3,686,051

2008 HOME Investment Partnership Grant

HOME Program Administration	\$123,506
Down payment Assistance (\$60,006 derived from HOME Program Income)	\$657,542
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$340,000
Community Housing Development Organizations	\$187,243
Total	\$1,308,291

2008 American Dream Down payment Initiative Down payment Assistance	\$5,188
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2008 Emergency Shelter Grant	
ESG Program Administration	\$ 2,500
Homeless Prevention Program	\$35,000
Homeless Shelter Program (Operations and Rehabilitation)	\$81,316
Essential Services	\$41,106
Total	\$159,922

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- Public hearing and introductory ordinance Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances Chapter 31 (Utilities), Division 5 (Rates and Charges), Article II, (Sewers and Sewage Disposal), specifically section 31-92 (a) that provides for sewer rate charges, by adding the following;

Residential

Usage (gallons)

Current Rate

New Rate

<i>Residential</i>				
	Usage (gallons)		Current Rate	New Rate (Oct. 08)
B	0	2,000 gallons	\$8.50 base	\$8.75 base
1	2,000 gallons	4,000 gallons		\$1.36 / 1000 gal
2	4001 gallons	10,000 gallons	\$1.03/ 1000 gal	\$1.39/ 1000 gal
3	10,001 gallons	20,000 gallons	\$1.08/ 1000 gal	\$1.46/ 1000 gal
4	20,001 gallons	30,000 gallons	\$1.14/ 1000 gal	\$1.54/ 1000 gal
<i>Commercial</i>				
	Usage (gallons)		Current Rate	New Rate (Oct. 08)
B	0	2,000 gallons	\$13.00	\$13.38 base
1	2,000 gallons	4,000 gallons		\$1.25/ 1000 gal
2	4,001 gallons	10,000 gallons	\$1.25/ 1000 gal	\$1.69/ 1000 gal
3	10,001 gallons	20,000 gallons	\$1.31/ 1000 gal	
3	20,001 gallons	30,000 gallons	\$1.37/ 1000 gal	
3	10,001 gallons	30,000 gallons		\$1.77/ 1000 gal
4	30,001 gallons	40,000 gallons	\$1.43/ 1000 gal	\$1.93/ 1000 gal
5	40,001 gallons	50,000 gallons	\$1.48/ 1000 gal	
5	50,001 gallons	100,000 gallons	\$1.54/ 1000 gal	
5	100,001 gallons	150,000 gallons	\$1.60/ 1000 gal	
5	40,001 gallons	150,000 gallons		\$2.00/ 1000 gal
6	150,001 gallons	200,000 gallons	\$1.65/ 1000 gal	

6	200,001 gallons	250,000 gallons	\$1.71/ 1000 gal	
6	250,001 gallons	300,000 gallons	\$1.77/ 1000 gal	
6	150,001 gallons	300,000 gallons		\$2.23/ 1000 gal
7	300,001 gallons	350,000 gallons	\$1.82/ 1000 gal	
7	350,001 gallons	400,000 gallons	\$1.88/ 1000 gal	
7	400,001 gallons	450,000 gallons	\$1.94/ 1000 gal	
7	450,001 gallons	500,000 gallons	\$2.00/ 1000 gal	
7	500,001 gallons	550,000 gallons	\$2.05/ 1000 gal	
7	550,001 gallons	600,000 gallons	\$2.11/ 1000 gal	
7	300,001 gallons	600,000 gallons		\$2.46/ 1000 gal
8	600,001 gallons	650,000 gallons	\$2.16/ 1000 gal	
8	650,001 gallons	700,000 gallons	\$2.22/ 1000 gal	
8	700,001 gallons	750,000 gallons	\$2.28/ 1000 gal	
8	750,001 gallons	800,000 gallons	\$2.34/ 1000 gal	
8	800,001 gallons	850,000 gallons	\$2.39/ 1000 gal	
8	850,001 gallons	900,000 gallons	\$2.45/ 1000 gal	
8	900,001 gallons	950,000 gallons	\$2.51/ 1000 gal	
8	950,001 gallons	1,000,000 gal	\$2.57/ 1000 gal	
8	600,001 gal	1,000,000 gal		\$2.92/ 1000 gal
9	1,000,001 gal	Above	\$2.62/ 1000 gal	\$2.54/ 1000 gal

and an annual average increase in residential rates of 17% in 2009, 8% in 2010, 6% in years 2011 through 2014 and 2% thereafter until 2037; and commercial rates of 14% in 2009, 7% in 2010, 5% in years 2011 through 2013 and 2% thereafter until 2037 to these tiers to be automatically implemented starting on October 1 of each year up to 2037 specifically at the levels indicated in the rate tables provided within this ordinance; Providing for publication and an effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Pro Tempore chairing the meeting.

Tomas Rodriguez, Water Utilities Director, introduced Carl Schwing, Assistant Director; Jeff Stone, presenter; Larry Jordon from Estrada Hinojosa Financial Advisory; and Adrian Montemayor, Assistance Manager.

Jeff Stone compared the rates of the City of Laredo against twenty one other cities along the border and the state as a whole. He forecasted account growth which is consistent with the 75 months history. He said that they prepped the revenues to accommodate the issuance of 88 million dollars in bonds.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce as amended.

Moved: Cm Valdez

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance accepting a grant awarded by the Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in the amount of \$836,020.00 to fund the Laredo Financial Task Force and the Public Corruption Task Force at no cost to the City, and to amend the FY 2007-2008 Financial Task Force budget by \$60,000.00 to reflect actual grant amount. Funds will be used to pay personnel, travel, and operational expenses from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing..

Moved: Cm. Rendon

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Special Police Fund annual budget by increasing revenues and expenditures in the Special Police Fund in the amount of \$17,615.00. The increase is additional funding by the Laredo Housing Authority to reimburse costs for overtime incurred by the Laredo Police Department officers in providing resources for the Weed and Seed Community Building Program.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing..

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

5. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Assignment and Assumption Agreement between Laredo Car Rental, Inc. d/b/a Alamo Rent-a-Car, a Texas corporation, as Assignor, and Vanguard Car Rental USA, Inc., a Delaware corporation, d/b/a National and Alamo, as Assignee. Said Assignment and Assumption Agreement is to that Permit and Right of Entry for Access by an Off-Airport Rental Car Business between the City of Laredo and Laredo Car Rental, Inc. d/b/a Alamo Rent-a-Car, dated September 11, 2007, and approved by Ordinance No. 2007-O-152. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in effect; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

6. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with GIZ Investments LLC d/b/a El Patio Nursery for approximately 1.41 acres of land located at 1704 E. Hillside Road at the Laredo International Airport. Lease term is for five (5) years commencing on June 1, 2008, and ending on May 31, 2013, and may be extended for one (1) five (5) year option until May 31, 2018. Monthly rent determined by fair market appraisal shall be \$3,915.65 and will be adjusted annually according to changes in the Consumer Price Index; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease between the City of Laredo-Airport Fund, as Lessor, and City of Laredo-Utilities Fund, as Lessee, for an approximate 4.6148-acre tract of land located at 5812 Daugherty Avenue, Block No. 14, at the Laredo International Airport. Lease term is for twenty (20) years commencing on June 1, 2008, and ending on May 31, 2028, and may be extended for two (2) terms of ten (10) years each ending on May 31, 2028 and May 31, 2048. Monthly rent shall be \$6,229.00 and will be adjusted annually according to changes in the Consumer Price Index and by fair market rent appraisal at each ten (10) year anniversary; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease and Restaurant Concession Agreement with Carlos Bella d/b/a Villa Laredo Restaurant for approximately 1,116 square feet constituting suite number 101 on the first (1st) floor of the airport passenger terminal located at 5210 Bob Bullock Loop at the Laredo International Airport. Lease term is for five (5) years commencing on July 1, 2008, and ending on June 30, 2013. Monthly rent shall be \$3,000.00 and will be adjusted annually according to changes in enplaned revenue passengers; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

9. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Assignment and Assumption Agreement between Laredo Car Rental, Inc. d/b/a National Car Rental, a Texas corporation, as Assignor, and Vanguard Car Rental USA, Inc., a Delaware corporation, d/b/a National and Alamo, as Assignee. Said Assignment and Assumption Agreement is to that Rental Car Agency Concession and Lease Agreement between the City of Laredo and Laredo Car Rental, Inc., dated August 28, 2006, and approved by Ordinance No. 2006-O-199. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in effect; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the Final Reading of Ordinances # 2008-O-131, # 2008-O-132, # 2008-O-133, # 2008-O-134, # 2008-O-135, # 2008-O-136, # 2008-O-137, # 2008-O-138, # 2008-O-139, # 2008-O-140, and # 2008-O-141.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. 2008-O-131 Authorizing the City Manager to amend the Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation Fiscal Year 2007-2008 annual budget by appropriating \$126,480.00 from the Municipal Housing opening fund balance for the purpose of installing chain link fences at all rental units at the Jose Flores Apartment Complex.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-131.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2008-O-132 Amending the City of Laredo Health Department Fiscal Year 2007-2008 annual budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$71,210.00 to provide for Phase II of the archiving/preservation services to the Health Department-Vital Statistics Program.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-132.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2008-O-133 Amending the City of Laredo Health Department Fiscal Year 2007-2008 annual budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$70,000.00 in funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Amendment No. 2 to continue to operate and maintain three (3) continuous air monitoring stations (CAMS) by the Health Department for the term period beginning September 1, 2008 through

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-136.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2008-O-137 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 14, Block 3, Emerald Hills Subdivision Phase 3, located at 4246 Dorel Drive, from B-1 (Limited Business District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District); providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-137.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2008-O-138 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a nursing home on 3.87 acres as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A" located at the southeast corner of Rocio Drive and Tournament Trail Drive; providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-138.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2008-O-139 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 4, Block 2, San Isidro/McPherson No. III Subdivision, located at 9807 Sterling Loop, from B-1 (Limited Business District) to R-2 (Multifamily Residential District); providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-139.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2008-O-140 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for townhouse on Lot 4, Block 2, San Isidro/McPherson No. III Subdivision, located at 9807 Sterling Loop; providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-140.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

attached as Exhibit 2; and, in view of the acceptance of those two easements,

3. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the release of utility easement in the form attached as Exhibit 3, and

4. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the release of easement in the form attached as Exhibit 4.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-R-062.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. 2008-R-067 Accepting the donation of one (1) utility easement from Ileana Ramirez for Rancho Peñitas West Subdivision, easement acquisition project. This being a 0.26 acres of land, more or less, out of 3.00 acres, Ileana Ramirez, recorded in Volume 1356, Page 658, official public records of Webb County, Texas; situated in Porcion 7, Blas M. Diaz, Abstract 39, and Porcion 8, Blas M. Diaz, Abstract 40, Webb County, Texas, and being out of lot 50, Unit IX, Rancho Peñitas West Subdivision, recorded in volume 4, Page 32, plat records, Webb County, Texas; and described by metes and bounds and survey hereby attached as Exhibits A and B respectively.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-R-067.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. 2008-R-068 Accepting the donation of a twelve (12) foot wide sewer line easement from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd., in order for the City of Laredo to provide sewer services to the United Independent School District, Ponderosa Hills Elementary School. Said easement consists of a 9,569 square foot tract of land, more or less, out of a tract conveyed to Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd, as per warranty deed dated November 30, 2002, and recorded in Volume 1385, Pages 300-301, official public records of Webb County, Texas and described on Exhibit A and B of Exhibit 1.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-R-068.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. 2008-R-069 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a memorandum of agreement between the United States of America, acting through its General Services Administration (GSA), and the City of Laredo for the Gateway to the Americas Bridge Pedestrian Walkway Canopy Project.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-R-069.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. 2008-R-070 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Supplemental Lease Agreement with United States of America, acting through its General Services Administration (GSA), for acknowledgement of its \$1,270,000.00 limited contribution towards the World Trade Bridge Federal Inspection Station Expansion Project.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-R-070.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. 2008-R-071 Confirming the appointment/reappointment for a member of the Fire Fighters' & Police Officers' Civil Service Commission of the City of Laredo to serve a 3 year period effective May 11, 2008 to May 10, 2011.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-R-071 appoint Oscar Garza as per City Manager.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. 2008-R-074 Authorizing the City Manager to sign an Agreement between the City of Laredo and Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association to commence on July 07, 2008 for a total of \$77,397.53 to cover the cost of the 2008 program. The contract will automatically renew January 1st of each year with the cost of the program being adjusted as needed every year, and being contingent upon funding availability. The program began in March 2008 and will continue until November 2008, and will provide coverage of the entire surface of Webb County. The City will guarantee the full payment of the program. Funds for this project come from the Water Availability fund.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-R-074.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. 2008-R-077 Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Webb County for the purpose of establishing a partnership allowing both entities to sponsor the 2008 Avery Johnson Summer Camp held at four facilities throughout the City of Laredo and Webb County as per the

interlocal agreement attached as “Exhibit A” to this resolution. The City of Laredo will contribute \$5,000.00 and the County of Webb will contribute \$10,000.00 to sponsor this event. The City’s contribution will be derived from the general fund-youth commission account.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-R-077.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. MOTIONS

21. Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tempore as per Ordinance 90-O-101. City Council shall confirm one of the Council Members who shall be known and designated as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to amend the 2003 and 2006 Consolidated One-Year Action Plans by reprogramming of a total of \$415,256.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds:
1. By canceling the 32nd Action Year, Heritage Park Pedestrian Bridge Project for \$300,000.00, and utilizing the \$300,000.00 to create a new activity, the rehabilitation and conversion of a vacant airport-owned structure into the Laredo Family Recovery Center; and
 2. By reprogramming of a total of \$115,256.00 of 29th Action Year, Santa Fe Park Lighting project funds, and utilizing the \$115,256.00 for a new activity, the Santa Fe Park Improvements Project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Consideration to exercise the renewal option for two (2) additional years for the City’s Depository to First National Bank, Texas, N.A. The current contract has an option to extend the contract under the same provision as the original contract. The Local Government Code 105.017 allows for the extension. There will be no fees charged to the City for depository services.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

28. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 an increase of \$14,640.00 for casing of concrete piers, insulation and netting to cover roofing and bird spikes to add thirty (30) days to the contract time, acceptance of the Eistetter Park Shade Structure for the basketball court (Design/Build project) and approval of final payment in the amount of \$19,314.50 to Rhino Builders, Ltd., Laredo, Texas, in association with Synergy Structural Engineering, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final contract amount is \$113,565.00. Funding is available in the Community Development Fund - 32nd Action Year.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest bidder Price Construction, Ltd., Big Springs, Texas, in the amount of \$2,372,794.51 which includes the base bid and schedule I (remove approximately 48,000 S.Y. of existing taxiways pavement) for the Laredo International Airport Runway 14/32 Reconstruction. Contract time is one hundred forty (140) calendar days. Funding is available in the Airport 14/32 Reconstruction Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Consideration to amend contract FY07-148 currently awarded to Arguindegui Oil, Laredo, Texas, for the purchase of unleaded, ultra low sulfur and high sulfur diesel fuel for the Fleet Division by increasing the contract amount by \$720,000.00 to a new contract amount of \$4,374,562.50. Due to an increase in fuel pricing, the proposed amendment would increase the current contract in order to provide fuel for the remainder of the contract term. Approximately \$120,000.00 is being expended weekly for fuel purchases. This contract revision is for the next thirty (30) day period. A new fuel contract will be presented to City Council for consideration at the July 21st City Council meeting. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Consideration for approval of change order no. 2 an increase of \$21,450.00 to the construction contract with Concho Construction, Inc., Garland, Texas, for the Santa Ursula Connector to relocate a 30" storm sewer. Funding is available in the Bridge System – Revenue Bond 2005A.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 a decrease of \$3,115.40 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, acceptance of the Markley Lane/Santa Maria Avenue Drainage Improvements and approval of final payment in the amount of \$22,529.77 to Martinez Paving Company, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$124,317.70. Funding is available in the Environmental 2007 CO.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Consideration for approval to award a construction contract to the lowest bidder Gilmar Construction, Ltd., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$328,486.80 for the South Laredo Street Paving Project (5 Blocks – District I). Contract time is ninety (90) working days. Funding is available in the 2007 CO City-Wide Street Paving Project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Consideration to award contract FY08-095 to the low bidder, Rankin Automatic Transmission, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$50,000.00 for providing automatic transmission repair service for the Fleet Maintenance Division. All repair work will be secured on as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Consideration to award contract number FY08-089 to the low bidder Traffic Parts, Conroe, Texas in the amount of \$199,977.70 for the purchase of traffic signal assemblies and related materials required for traffic signal upgrades for the following locations: Corpus Christi at Bartlett, Corpus Christi at Malinche, Corpus Christi at Meadow, Corpus Christi at Seymour, Springfield Ave. at Sunset Drive, Springfield Ave. at Village Rd., International Blvd. at McPherson Rd., United High School at McPherson Rd., Shiloh at McPherson Rd., and Calton Rd. at San Bernardo Avenue. Funding is available in the 2007 Contractual Obligation Bond Proceeds and Transit Capital Outlay funding.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Consideration to award contract FY08-081 to Wilkinson Gary Iron and Metal, Laredo, Texas, for the sale of scrap metal recovered or collected at the Solid Waste facility and the recycling centers. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year with an option to renew for two (2) additional, one year terms. Revenue generated from this contract is recognized in the Solid Waste fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. Consideration to award contract FY08-092 to the low bidder, Geneva Scientific, Fontana, WI, for the purchase and installation of a steam jacketed sterilizer for the City of Laredo Health Department's Laboratory for total amount of \$82,075.00. Funding is available in the Health Department budget fund through support from the Department of State Health Services.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract FY08-083 with Antares Development Corporation in the amount of \$297,500.00 for Phase II of the archiving/preservation services of the City of Laredo Health Department's Vital Statistics Program. Funding of \$148,750.00 for the current contract year is available in the Health Department's Vital Statistics operating budget. The balance of \$148,750.00 is contingent on subsequent year availability. (Contingent upon approval of Final Reading of Ordinance 2008-O-132)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

39. Consideration to award contract FY08-094 to the following low bidders:
- 1) Rush Truck Center, Laredo, Texas in the estimated amount of \$70,000.00;
 - 2) Paul Young Chevrolet, Laredo, Texas in the estimated amount of \$25,000.00 for the purchase of original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts for the City's medium and heavy duty trucks. All parts will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Consideration to award supply contract number FY08-091 to Brothers Materials, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$5,000,000.00, for the purchase of asphalt type "D" hot mix and asphalt type "D" hot mix with 1% lime (picked up the vendor's yard and job site delivered). The term of this contract for a one (1) year period and is subject to availability of funds. All materials are purchased on an as needed basis utilizing the Public Works Department, construction projects budgets.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to award contract number FY08-078 to the low bidders:

- 1) Royal Treat Car Wash Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$40,000.00;
- 2) Power Car Wash, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$20,000.00; for furnishing car wash services for the City's automotive fleet. Bids were requested for car wash services with and without inside vacuum for passenger vehicles, light duty and medium duty trucks. The term of this contract will be for a period of twelve (12) months with an option to extend for two additional twelve month periods. All services will be secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Refund of property tax in the amount of \$41,689.38 payable to Wal-Mart Real Estate Business due to an overpayment. Account #953-40001-060.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Consideration to approve amendments No. 2 to LNV Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$17,335.00 for the additional professional services for the Laurel/Dellwood Drainage Improvement Project, Phase 2, for the City of Laredo, Texas. The additional services include survey and preparation of documents for the acquisition of three (3)

easements required for the Phase 2-projects-design of culvert replacements at Eden Lane prepare plans and specifications for the project and utility coordination. The total contract amount will be \$91,388.00 with this amendment. Funding is available in the 2007 Contractual Obligation Bond Proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

44. A. Request by Mayor Raul G. Salinas

1. Discussion with possible action on establishing a promotional team to promote the Dos Laredos on both sides of the border.

Motion to table.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on creating more bus stop park & ride stations to facilitate access public transportation; encouraging car pooling due to the increase in gas prices.

Maria Royster, Assistant General Manager from Laredo Transit Management, reported that Transit Management has been actively speaking to TxDOT in an effort of looking at future infrastructures for possible parking sites. On the short term range, she said that they have been talking to Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and HEB for possible sites for park and rides. However, she said that their conversations are at the beginning stages and no action has been taken.

Keith Selman, City Planner, said that the Laredo Transit Development Plan is underway.

3. Presentation by Ms. Evelyn Garcia, Community Initiatives and Laredo Market Manager for the American with Diabetes Association-Laredo Chapter.

Evelyn Garcia, Community Initiatives and Laredo Market Manager, talked about the prevalence of diabetes. She gave the following presentation:

Our Mission:

To prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

The Association strives to achieve our goals by focusing on three primary objectives:

1. Reaching People, 2. Raising Dollars, and 3. Recruiting High Quality Volunteers

Leadership Board Mission

Provide overall leadership for the board's fund raising, program, public awareness, and advocacy activities

Recruit volunteer leadership for all projects

Connect with local resources and/or constituents in order to fulfill the mission in the community

Serve as the "voice of ADA" within a market

Nurture the development of leadership skills in other ADA volunteers

Recognize volunteer accomplishments

Laredo's ADA Family:

Community Programs: health Fairs, Collaborations, Feria de Salud

Market Corporate Development: Special Events and Program Funding Opportunities

Media and Public Relations: Media Support for all Events and Activities – American Diabetes Month, Diabetes Alert Campaigns

Special Events: Kiss-A-Pig and School Walk for Diabetes

How We Spend our Money...How We Raise It

In 2004, the Association allocated \$198 million toward the mission as follows:

Advocacy & Public Awareness	21%
Information	34%
Research	23%
Fundraising	18%
Management	4%

How we Spend our Money ...How we Raise It

Monies raised in our community help to provide services to those affected by diabetes that include:

Diabetes.org – ADA's award-winning Web Site

Funding Research in our area. Over 3.9 million dollars in research funding is committed in South Texas. Much of which is being conducted by the University of Texas Health Science Center System. To access the researcher database, visit

The Call Center, where over a thousand calls annually come from our community

Visit the following link to access monthly call reports:

<http://ada-central.internal.diabetes.org/constituentreiations/callcenter>

4. Presentation by Mary G. Capello, Texas Migrant Council, Inc. Executive Director, regarding the Laredo Webb County Safe Haven Program.

This item was not discussed.

B. Request by Council Member Dr. Michael Landeck

1. Discussion with possible action on supporting Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center in the amount \$35,000 for upgrading their playground in order meet safety license standards, with a possible presentation by the Center's representative and/or Rotary Club.

Cm. Landeck said that Ruthe B. Cowl is having a crisis with their playground.

Lillian Dickenson, Ruthe B. Cowl Board Chairperson, introduced the other board members of the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center. She thanked Cm. Landeck for inviting them to speak to City Council. She explained that on April 23, 2008 she was asked to give a presentation to the Laredo Rotary Club regarding a situation they are facing. She explained that the center came into existence in the 1950s in partnership with the City and County of Webb. She said that in the 1950's there was a polo epidemic that spread throughout the country and Laredo was hard hit because it was considered the poorest community in the United States. She said that Ruthe B. Cowl traveled to New York to consult with different specialist on how to organize, fund, and operate a center for Laredo. Mrs. Cowl served the community for over fifty years as a non salaried Executive Director. She explained that the Center has been responsible for providing physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social service and educational programs, especially for the handicap children of Laredo. As a spin off to the educational program, the center has initiated a day care program that was initially a pilot program for physically handicapped children. Since then the State of Texas has regulated that the center must open the daycare for all children. She said that the center has grown in all areas of their development because of assistance from the City and County assistance. She noted that the center is facing closure if they do not upgrade their playground. She urged City Council to find it in their hearts to assist with upgrading their playground for their daycare.

Motion to use the discretionary funds of District III for the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

City Manager, Carlos Villarreal, said that the Council Member cannot use discretionary funds for a playground.

Cm. Valdez said asked if the City can initiate an interlocal agreement with the center.

City Manager, Carlos Villarreal, said no. He informed the Council that discretionary funds must be spent on a city facility that is open to the public in its entirety with extended hours.

Motion to take the \$35,000 out of promotional.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Landeck

The City Manager asked City Council to provide additional time to search for funds.

Manual Benavides, Laredo Rotary Club, explained that the center needs to have the playground complete by September. He noted that the center has applied for six grants to no avail.

Cm. Garcia advised that City Council has made a pledge to locate monies from the general fund even if it is substituted with discretionary.

Motion to instruct the City Manager to locate \$35,000 for the playground at Ruthe B. Cowl Center.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

1. Discussion with possible action on allocating District VII discretionary funds for park improvements.

This item was not discussed.

2. Discussion with possible action on installing street humps in District VII.

This item was not discussed

3. Discussion with possible action regarding the Police Department's strategic plan to address prostitution and drug activity city wide.

This item was not discussed

D. Request by Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza

1. Status report on the request for a name change of Matamoros Street to Mariano Matamoros Street, with possible action.

This item was not discussed

2. Presentation by Mario Flores, Director of Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN, Inc. on proposed Parental Responsibility Ordinance with discussion and possible action.

Melissa Cavazos, Program Director for SCAN, reported that every year the Webb County Community Coalition votes on three to four issues on dealing with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among the youth. She added that the coalition has recently voted to create ways to get parents more involved with their children. She asked City Council

for their support in sponsoring a “parental responsibility ordinance” in Laredo. She went on to explain the function of the coalition. She said that the coalition was established in March of 1999 to combat substance abuse and its related problems among the youth and adults. She stated that the proposed ordinance will assist the deterrence of alcohol and tobacco use by youth. She said that it would also prevent the use of illicit drugs and prevent delinquent behavior by youth. The primary focus is to make parents and guardians more proactive and involved in monitoring the actions of their minors. She stressed that it should hold the parents and guardians accountable for failing the adequacy for supervising the actions of the youth of whom they are legally responsible. She explained that the ordinance has been modeled from an ordinance titled “Failure to Supervise a Minor”. She said that several cities have initiated the ordinance in their cities. She explained that the ordinance will cite the adults when a child is sited for drugs, alcohol, or curfew violations.

Cm. Valdez said that he is in favor of the ordinance but he questioned how the ordinance would work for parents that are assertive and try their best to prevent their child from violating laws but the child does not listen.

Melissa Cavazos explained that the ordinance is set in place for parents that are not aware of where their children are and who they are with.

Cm. Narvaez asked what the consequences for repeated violators.

Melissa Cavazos said that repeat violators will be punished by the judge. She said that they are several options including counseling. She said that the ordinance is clear in issuing fines to the students and parents for violations.

The City Manager said that staff needs to review the issue.

Cm. Garcia suggested asking the City Attorney to review the sample ordinance that was provided by the coalition so he can return to City Council with recommendations. He agreed with the speaker that it is a good ordinance but there are concerns that need to be discussed.

Motion to instruct the City Manager to provide a sample copy of “Failure to Supervise a Minor” ordinance which was provided by the coalition so he can return to City Council with recommendations.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action on providing funding for the Texas Main Street Program (Co-sponsored by Council Member Hector J. Garcia, Jr.)

Viviana Frank reported that in July the City of Laredo passed a resolution to support the Streets of Laredo as a lead agency to petition the Texas Historical Commission for the City to be listed as a Texas Main Street City. In October of 2007 they were informed that the City was accepted. Since then the agency has attended the Board of Director’s Training with the Main Street Program. She also said that the Texas Historical Design

Team has visited Laredo to complete an inventory of all the buildings that are within the district. In addition, the governor's wife gave a beautiful presentation of the Texas Main Street Tour that was held. She continued by explaining that in May of 2008 the Resource Team came to Laredo from the Texas Historical Commission and gave a three day workshop. The Commission also held a Main Street Manager and Board Training. She added that the resource visit will produce a workplan that will be held in August and it will outline the Main Street Program will be doing in the next five years. She said that she has put partners together to fund the program. The main street program asked that urban sized main streets have an association and be the lead partner and the partner that puts all the funding together from other partners that are contributing. She added that they are asking for a third match to the funding that is needed for the next five years. The Streets of Laredo Urban Mall is committing \$50,000 a year and has been funding the program since January 1, 2008. The private sector will be committing \$50,000 per year for the next five years.

The City Manager, Carlos Villarreal, said that he would return to City Council as to how they can provide the funds for this program. He said that he would like to know what they can accomplish with \$50,000 and how they will make downtown businesses abide by some of the recommendations that are made.

Viviana Frank said that it takes \$150,000 a year to operate the program because they have to hire a main street manager and an assistant. They are trained by the Texas Historical Commission.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, asked what kind of leverage does the organization have to make the businesses comply with suggested requirements for the program.

Viviana Frank said that the organization will be able to enforce their requirements from existing ordinances that already exist. She explained that one of the biggest tasks is obtaining a drawing from the Landmark Board.

Cm. Espinoza-Liendo said that in 2007 the City Council drafted a resolution in support of the Texas Main Street Program. Now Laredo has been named one of the 2008 Main Street Urban Cities. She said that it is one of the most successful downtown revitalization programs in the nation. She added that she is confident that the Streets of Laredo will make sure that the program is a success.

Motion to instruct staff to locate the monies in the 2008-2009 budget for the Texas Main Street Program.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Discussion with possible action to enter into an interlocal agreement with Webb County in conjunction with Commissioner Sergio Martinez for the construction of a swimming pool at the Ladrillera Park.

This item was not discussed

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

45. A. Presentation by Border Patrol regarding the Carrizo eradication project, with possible action.

Carlos Carrillo, Border Patrol, gave the following presentation:

Carrizo Cane Removal Project

Provide information describing the proposed 16.1-mile long Carrizo cane removal project along the Rio Grande in the City of Laredo

Discuss the proposed Right of Entry (ROE) for Carrizo cane removal to allow timely project start in an initial 1.7-mile long portion of city owned land in the Riverbend area

Answer your questions and address your concerns

Laredo Carrizo Cane Project Objectives

Employ four cane removal methods to develop information and cost data needed to craft a cost-effective and sustainable long term strategy for Carrizo cane control

Meet the immediate operational needs of Laredo Sector Border Patrol by increasing visibility of the border

The situation today

Carrizo cane (arundo donax)
Non-native invasive plant species

Carrizo Cane

Also know as Arundo donax
Grows above ground up to 30 feet
Root system extends to 3 feet below ground (plant's energy reserve)
Spreads by "rhizome"
Readily re-sprouts
One of fastest growing plants in world (4" per day)
Transpires about 500 gallons/day per square yard

Laredo Carrizo Cane proposed Action Area

Total length 16.1 miles
Initial phase includes 1.7 miles of city owned land

Location of 1.7 mile Long Removal Area

Initial 1.7 mile Project Segment

Project location:

From LCC South Wall to POE # 1

Availability of funds will determine how much can be done this year

Anticipated project schedule:

Cane removal, erosion control, and hydro-mulching for soil stabilization would begin in August and be completed by September

Permanent re-vegetation would occur during late fall or early winter when planting would be most successful

Contract award and management:

Contract award and performance overseen by U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Contract specifications will define a suite of cane removal and erosion control measures; specific measures would be chosen during implementation to allow for field-fitting to meet site conditions

Four Cane Removal Methods

1. Cut stem and herbicide application
2. Mechanical removal
3. Aerial spraying of herbicide
4. Prescribed burning and herbicide application (will not be used in this first 1.7 mile long segment)

All four methods will require some application of herbicide to any cane re-sprouts for 1 to 2 years

Method # 1: Cut Stem Herbicide Application

Carrizo cane would be cut near the base of the plant and the cut stems either removed from the site or chipped in place

Immediately (within 2 to 3 minutes) following cutting of the cane, herbicide approved for use in aquatic environments would be applied to the cut stems

Erosion control and soil stabilization methods would be implemented following herbicide application

Although this methods could be implemented year-round, it would be most effective if cut and applied during the late summer months (after the cane is fully grown)

Method # 2: Mechanical Removal

The method involves the physical removal of shoots and roots

Removal would be done with either hand tools (e.g., pick-axe, shovel) or with mechanical equipment (e.g., compact backhoes and excavators)

Erosion control and soil stabilization would be immediately implemented

Method # 3: Aerial Herbicide Application

A helicopter would apply herbicides approved for use in aquatic environments to Carrizo cane

Precautions would be taken to prevent overspray

- Spraying system permits controlled, directed application
- Additives are used to “stick” the spray to cane
- Done under less than 5 mph wind conditions
- No aerial spraying within 0.5 mile of potable water intakes
- Done by licensed applicator

Herbicides would be applied in late summer or early fall

This application method would be utilized on monocultures (80 percent cover)

Carrizo cane shoots would be cut and removed or chipped on site after herbicide application

Soil stabilization and erosion control methods would be implemented

Method # 4: Prescribed Burning

A local burn permit and approvals would be necessary

Prescribed burn would be used to remove cane shoots

Fire would be controlled by constructing fire breaks

Burning of Carrizo cane would be implemented in late winter or early spring and the cane allowed to re-sprout before applying herbicide

Erosion control and soil stabilization would be implemented following the prescribed burn

A herbicide approved for use in aquatic environments would be applied to all re-sprouts via aerial spraying in late-summer

This method would not be employed in the first 1.7 mile-long project segment

Soil Stabilization and Re-vegetation Plans

Soil Stabilization:

Temporary erosion control measures would be in place before and during cane removal

Soil stabilization procedures dictated by existing slope conditions at each site
Would use a combination of:

- Biodegradable erosion control mats
- Seeding and mulching with native vegetation
- Bioengineered mats for steep slopes and problem areas

Re-vegetation:

Re-vegetation of the 25 feet closest to Rio Grande would include native trees, shrubs and grasses

Long-term native tree and shrub re-vegetation at all treated areas would follow U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service mitigation requirements

Re-vegetation would be monitored for a five-year period with well-defined metrics to ensure successful re-vegetation

Mitigation planning would comply with City Green Space Ordinance

Environmental Compliance Actions

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for public review and comment

Draft EA is available for review at the Laredo Public Library, 1120 E. Calton Road, and on the web at:

<https://ecso.swf.usace.army.mil/Pages/Publicreview.cfm>

Public comment period ends 31 July 2008

Implementation of cane removal would comply with federal, state and local environmental laws

Coordination and collaboration has been underway with a wide range of government and private entities

City of Laredo
Rio Grande International Study Center
Webb County Soil and Water Conservation District
Texas Historical Commission (SHPO)
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
International Boundary and Water Commission

The Public
May 6, 2008 Public Scoping Meeting in Laredo
30 day public comment period on draft Environmental Assessment

Right of Entry is needed to begin the Project

Project start is dependent upon the City of Laredo granting a Right of Entry (ROE) to its land

DHS Customs and Border Protection in the process of providing the City Manager with a proposed ROE for Carrizo cane removal for consideration by the City Council

ROE would provide a temporary easement allowing the project to start before the required U. S. Corps of Engineers land valuation is completed and before final easement stipulations have been negotiated and signed

Agreeing to the ROE for Carrizo cane removal will allow CBP to use cane removal methods that are done in summer time (e.g. cut stem herbicide application)

Laredo City Council take the ROE for Carrizo cane removal in initial 1.7 mile sector under consideration for review and approval

ROE request be added to the next City Council meeting on July 21 and that your decision be announced at that time

U. S. Customs and Border Protection

Our Mission

We are the guardians of our Nation's borders. WE are American's frontline. We safeguard the American homeland at and beyond our borders. WE protect the American public against terrorist and the instruments of terror. WE steadfastly enforce the laws of the United States while fostering our nation's economic security through lawful international trade and travel. WE serve the American public with vigilance, integrity and professionalism.

Motion to instruct staff to bring back draft of a right of entry to the City Council as required.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- B. Discussion with possible action on seeking direction from City Council on the proposed site for Bridge V and any other related items regarding this proposed project.

Nvo. Laredo Mayor Ramon Garza Barrios spoke before City Council on the three bridge sites for the 5th Bridge. He added that since the County of Webb has approved the third site he asked that the City of Laredo approve the third site.

City Manager, Carlos Villarreal, said that questions need to be answered regarding this item. He suggested involving interested parties in the creation of a memorandum of understanding. He advised that the MOU should be specific costs and reimbursements.

Cm. Landeck stressed the importance of moving forward with the bridge project.

Motion to accept in principal site number three as the site for bridge number five.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

For:

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares removed his second.

Cm. Rendon expressed his concern with the amount of funding that has already taken place. He also said that the City of Laredo should have a contract with the government of Mexico agreeing with the amount that the City will recuperate from inspection, engineering, and permits. He agreed that the City of Laredo should have questions answered before moving forward.

Cm. Garcia concurred with Council Member Rendon. He said that there are questions that need to be answered and he is not ready to commit to site three. He suggested returning the item back to staff for additional time so they can return to City Council with the answers to Council's questions.

Cm. Espinoza said that the constituents have been waiting for eight years for a bridge and the City of Laredo should not waste any more time. She encouraged the Council to concur with her and move forward.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares noted that it has been his experience that agreements and principle need to be in agreement before documents are signed. He said City Council is looking for an agreement in principle to work on site three that will be mutually beneficial for all parties. He stressed that the agreement must be mutually beneficial for all interested parties and site one and site two are no longer viable. He went on to say that this is an opportunity for the City to take a blank canvass and do it right for the community of Laredo, El Cenizo, and Rio Bravo. He emphasized that the project will boost the economy in the south and the City of Laredo will be able to recoup on funds that have been spent. The project itself will return the investment that the City has spent in litigation and engineering on previous sites.

Cm. Rendon emphasized that City Council should wait on making a decision because they need to lock in a commitment with Mexico first.

Cm. Valdez voiced that there are still issues that need to be answered before any decisions are made. He said at the end of the day everyone should be looking out for the tax payers because loosing monies from bridge revenues must be replaced by taxes. He advised that the project has been gathering dust for the last two years and he does not understand where the third site came in. He added that there are additional issues such as annexation and costs that need to be considered. He reminded Council that the City is still under litigation on this issue. He encouraged Council to postpone any decisions.

Cm. Landeck agreed that the right word which was chosen by Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares is “principle”. He stressed the importance for moving forward in selecting site three.

Motion to accept in principle site number three as the future site for Bridge V.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 4

Cm. Landeck

Cm. Narvaez

MPT Belmares

Cm. Espinoza

Against: 3

Cm. Garcia

Cm. Rendon

Cm. Valdez

Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

- C. Discussion and setting of dates for legislative trip(s) to Austin, Texas in preparation of the 81st Texas Legislative Session to discuss legislative priorities and funding requests with our legislative delegation and state agencies relative to the City’s Legislative Agenda with possible action.

This item was not discussed

- D. Staff report by Mr. Roberto Murillo, Traffic Division Manager, regarding lighting in the downtown area.

This item was not discussed

XIV. 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.

46. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(A) to consult with City Attorney regarding pending litigation in the case styled Fructuoso San Miguel v. The City of Laredo, Cause No. 2008CVFQ000993-D3, in the District Court 341st Judicial District, 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 City Attorney regarding pending litigation in the case styled Fructuoso San Miguel v. The City of Laredo, Cause No. 2008CVFQ000993-D3, in the District Court 341st Judicial District, Webb County, Texas; and return to open session for possible action.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

XV. RECESS AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

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

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

47. Consideration to amend contract number FY07-150 awarded to the low bidder, Arguindegui Oil, Laredo, Texas, for the purchase of unleaded and ultra low sulfur diesel fuel for the Laredo Transit Management Inc. by increasing the contract amount from \$388,000.00 to \$485,000.00. This contract revision is for the next thirty (30) day period. A new fuel contract will be presented for the Mass Transit Board's consideration at the July 21st City Council meeting. Funding is available in the Laredo Transit Management Inc. Funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

48. Consideration to award annual supply contracts (FY08-087) to the low bidders:
- 1) Arguindegui Oil Co. II, LTD., Laredo, Texas in the estimated amount of \$33,783.00;
 - 2) Universal Lubricants, LLC, Wichita Kansas, in the estimated amount of \$39,797.25;
 - 3) Lubrication Engineers, Inc, Forth Worth, TX in the estimated amount of \$48,534.00 and;
 - 4) Hollon Oil Co., Weslaco, Texas, in the estimated amounts of \$28,496.00, for the purchase of engine oil and lubricants for El Metro. The bid pricing will be firm for one year with a one-year option and will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the El Metro Operations Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo-Espinoza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0