

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2008-R-021
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
NOVEMBER 3, 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,
Mike Garza,
Hector Garcia,
Michael Landeck,
Juan Narvaez,
Johnny Rendon,
Gene Belmares,
Jose Valdez, Jr.,
Cynthia Liendo-Espinoza,
Carlos Villarreal,
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,
Cynthia Collazo,
Horacio De Leon,
Jesus Olivares,
Raul Casso,

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

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of July 21, 2008 and July 30, 2008.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rendon
Second: Cm. Belmares
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions

Recognizing La Reynera Bakery on their 80th Anniversary of being in business at the same location of 1819 San Bernardo.

Communiqués

Council Member James Rodriguez and Anthony Hall, Chief Administrator for the City of Houston, will thank the City of Laredo staff and constituents for their support during Hurricane Ike.

Cm. Rodriguez, on behalf of Mayor Bill White, thanked the City of Laredo for their help in their recovery from Hurricane Ike. He and the City of Houston were grateful to the firefighters who arrived in Houston with food and supplies.

Cm. Garza thanked the Council and representatives for their hard work. He said it was very important for them to make sure that there was always local representation, because with their help, they would finally get some funding for the Cuatro Vientos project.

Cm. Garcia said that it seemed to him as if he were thanking the public for their support at nearly every other Council meeting. He explained that this past weekend, one of his nephews passed away, and it was rewarding for him to see the support of the public for the Martinez and Garcia families. He added that San Augustin did a wonderful job in hosting the visitation at their school.

Cm. Landeck said they had joined together to open the park on Meadow Street. He went on to say that he hoped to continue to build on this project so that people can utilize the park. He further mentioned that when he asked to whom the land belonged across the Chacon, he learned that it was the City's land; therefore, he had hopes for further development there.

Cm. Narvaez thanked Parks and Recreation for closing the street last week when they celebrated St. Jude's Day. He also mentioned that he and Constable Rudy Valdez had passed out candy bags at a party at Katherine Tarver.

Cm. Rendon gave condolences to the Garcia and Martinez families. He added that he was impressed by the number of streets that had been fixed and repaved by Public Works.

Cm. Belmares thanked Parks and Recreation for assisting him on the North Central Park Walk-Through this past weekend.

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez thanked the Police Department for their outstanding job on Halloween night. He said that they were "out there in full force," and thus avoided accidents. He informed Council of a report he had seen about the overpass on Mines Road. He noted that the construction had really advanced, and so he thanked staff, City Manager Carlos Villarreal, and TxDOT for their progress.

Cm. Liendo Espinoza thanked Code Enforcement for all the projects they have been doing throughout the City. She thanked Roy Garcia and his volunteers as well as Deputy City Manager Cynthia Collazo and Community Development Director Ronnie Acosta for their

help. She went on to commend the Police Chief and his staff for their presence downtown. She encouraged everyone to visit the downtown restaurants in the coming week because the Main Street Program and the Streets of Laredo would be organizing a downtown restaurant extravaganza. She hoped everyone would walk or hop on the trolley to join them at the restaurants downtown.

Citizen comments

Terry Valencia and Carol Ruiz from SCAN , Serving Children and Adolescents in Need, reported that they represented Operation Trauma Relief which was directed toward returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan as well as their spouses and children. Their services are confidential and free. They invited the community to attend an open house that they would be hosting on Monday, November 10 from 10 am to 12 pm at 313 West Village Boulevard. They offered hope and support for the soldiers and welcomed them to come. They added their phone number: 523-0115.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Appointment by Mayor Raul G. Salinas of Council Member Juan Narvaez to the Community Action Agency Advisory Board.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- b. Appointments to the City Charter Review Commission:

Mayor Raul Salinas

Council Member Mike Garza

Council Member Hector Garcia

Council Member Michael Landeck

Council Member Juan Narvaez

Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza

Madeline Escoto

Jesse Guillen

John Galo

Salvador Tellez

Andy Ramos

Jesus Dominguez

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending Article XII, Chapter 19, Division 2, Section 19-562 (c) of the Code of Ordinances to include and implement a new downtown trolley service route free of charge to the public for the purpose of promoting the historical downtown area; providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Introduction Ordinance: City Council

2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo 2008-2009 Special Police Annual Budget by reducing revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$119,657.00. The Office of Justice Programs is contributing the full grant amount of \$40,343.00 with no match amount obligated by the City of Laredo. The City of Laredo and Webb County will each receive \$20,171.50. The City of Laredo will utilize this funding for the purchase of equipment for Homeland Security purposes by the Laredo Police Department for the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2011.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Introduction Ordinance: City Council

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept a Direct Aid Grant from the Texas Library Loan Star Libraries Program in the amount of \$30,709.00 for new public computers and replacement hardware and amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2008-2009 annual budget revenues and expenditures by decreasing the amount by \$19,921.00

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Rendon

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Introduction Ordinance: City Council

4. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to amend the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Transit Capital Grants Budget in the amount of \$850,164.00 by appropriating Capital funds from the Federal Transit Administration, Section 5309 E-2006-BUSP-972, in the amount of \$680,130.00 in Federal match and \$170,034.00 in Local match by increasing the sales tax match. The sales tax match expenditures will increase from \$194,000.00 to \$364,034.00 and reserve appropriation will decrease from \$841,218.00 to \$671,184.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Introduction Ordinance: City Council

5. Public hearing for the voluntary annexation of four (4) tracts of land (Tract 1: El Portal Industrial Park Tract – 183.26 acres, more or less; Tract 2: Las Ventanas Tract – 0.03 acres, more or less; Tract 3: N. D. Hachar Tract – 80.00 acres, more or less; Tract 4: Killam Quiote Tract – 101.06 acres, more or less); for a total of 364.35 acres, more or less, as described in the attached tract summaries, as required by Section 43.063 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Motion to open the public hearing for Tract 1.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to open the public hearing for Tract 2.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to open the public hearing for Tract 3.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to open the public hearing for Tract 4.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. Public hearing concerning an appeal of the denial order issued on September 18, 2008, by the Historic District/Landmark Board regarding the facade alteration:

Location: South 53.1' of 5 Ex-Trapezoidal Strip on East Side, Block 41, Western Division

Commonly known as: 1110 Lincoln St.

Petitioner: Wolf Hofman
Old Mercado Historic District
HDLB-22-2008

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and postpone.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against:

Abstain:

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

7. Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article II, Section 2-16, "Departments of the City" which sets forth the departments of the City, by restructuring the Economic Development Department whereby the Convention and Visitors Bureau Division will become the Convention & Visitors Bureau Department and providing for severability and an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council except Cm. Landeck

8. Authorizing the City Manager to execute Supplemental Lease Agreement No. 3 to Lease No. GS-07B-15259 approved by Ordinance No. 2002-O-325 dated December 16, 2002, amended by Ordinance No. 2005-O-112 dated May 16, 2005, and further amended by Ordinance No. 2008-O-090 dated May 5, 2008, with General Services Administration for approximately 1,313 square feet constituting office space occupied by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) located at 5210 Bob Bullock Loop at the Laredo International Airport. Said Supplemental Lease Agreement No. 3 extends the lease term five (5) years until November 17, 2013, with two (2) years firm and 30-day termination rights. The monthly rent amount is increased to \$4,376.67 and shall be adjusted annually according to changes in the Consumer Price Index. All other terms and conditions of lease remain unchanged and in effect; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

9. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) Operations Agreement approved on March 27, 2006, by Ordinance No. 2006-O-057 by and on behalf of the City of Laredo, Grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone No. 94 and Bruni International Inc., as Zone Site Operator. Said Amendment will change the FTZ Operator name from Bruni International, Inc. to NYK Logistics (Americas) Inc. All

other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged and in effect; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 10. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with the Washington’s Birthday Celebration Association, Inc., (W.B.C.A.) for approximately ten (10.0) acres of concrete ramp located on the West General Aviation parking ramp of the Air Operations Area to include City owned vacant non-aeronautical use land located at the Laredo International Airport for the purpose of hosting the 2009 W.B.C.A. Air Show. Lease term is for two (2) days commencing on February 14, 2009 and ending on February 15, 2009. City Council finds and declares that a valid public purpose would be served in setting the daily rental fee at \$1.00; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 11. Authorizing the City Manager to convey to Gerardo G. Salinas and Frances Salinas, the following two tracts of land:
 Lot 24, block 2 (of 0.0547 of an acre), Hilltop Subdivision, Phase II, as described in Exhibit “A”, & Lot 7, Block 4, (of 0.2631 of an acre), Hilltop Subdivision, Phase II, as described in Exhibit “B,” in exchange for the following from Gerardo and Frances Salinas:
 - (1) conveyance to the City of Lot 1, block 5, (of 0.0382 acre), Hilltop Subdivision, Phase II, as described in Exhibit “C” and
 - (2) payment to the City of \$6,962.00.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinance # 2008-O-213, # 2008-O-214, # 2008-O-215, # 2008-O-216, # 2008-O-217, # 2008-O-218 and # 2008-O-219.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Valdez was chairing the meeting.

- 12. 2008-O-213 Amending the City of Laredo Health Department Fiscal Year 2008-2009 annual budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures; and accepting a continuation grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services in the estimated amount of \$4,545,028.00 [\$4,125,795.00 (6008) and \$419,233.00 (6009)] for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program for the City of Laredo Health Department beginning October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-213.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2008-O-214 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 2-4, Block 2, James Haynes Industrial Park Phase VI, and 2.68 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A," located north of Maria Luisa Drive and west of Bob Bullock Loop, from B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to B-3 (Community Business District) and providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-214.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2008-O-215 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 86.76 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located east of the City Landfill and north of State Highway 359, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) and providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-215.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2008-O-216 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning the east 11.2 feet of Lot 2, Lot 3, the west 19 feet and the north 83.8 feet of the east 50 feet of Lot 4, Lot 6, Block 48, Eastern Division, located at 219 Market Street and 210 Cortez Street, from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District) and providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-216.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2008-O-217 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Special Use Permit for oil and/or gas extraction and a drilling permit for a well on 2.03 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A," located approximately 2,448 feet southwest of the proposed Valley Boulevard extension and approximately 525 feet north of the South Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant at Rio Bravo, Texas and providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-217.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2008-O-218 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 5.55 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located east of FM 1472 and south of State Highway 255, from B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) and providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-218.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2008-O-219 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for Building Material Sales on Lot 1, Block 1, Prida Plat located at 7100 Santa Maria Avenue and providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2008-O-219.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X. RESOLUTIONS

13. 2008-R-131 Confirming the appointment/reappointment for a member of the Fire Fighters' & Police Officers' Civil Service Commission of the City of Laredo to serve a three (3) year period effective November 3, 2008 to November 2, 2011.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Rendon

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. 2008-R-132 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding, attached hereto as Exhibit A, between the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Laredo Police Department regarding Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) stolen license plate and stolen vehicle information. Information will be used to support the electronic license plate reader.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2008-R-132.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. MOTIONS

15. Authorizing the City Manager to solicit Requests for Proposals from interested parties to convert the Airport Passenger Terminal Parking Lot located at 5210 Bob Bullock Loop from free to pay parking. The proposal specifications will include that the proponent manages, operate, and make all the necessary infrastructure improvements to collect parking fees to include making an advance payment to the City of Laredo Airport Fund in the amount of \$500,000.00. Airport employees and tenant employees shall park free and the initial two (2) hours of parking shall be free to the public.

Motion to open for discussion.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garcia stated that he has a problem with charging the taxpayers to park at the airport. He said that there were many Laredoans who parked there when they left town.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

Second: None

Motion dies due to a lack of second.

Motion to authorize the City Manager to go forward with the RFP.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Authorizing the City Manager to submit a Notice of Intent application to the Federal Aviation Administration under the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) Non-Hub Pilot Program which is regulated by FAR Part 158.30 to (1) increase the current PFC collection level from \$3.00 to \$4.50 per enplaned revenue passenger, (2) increase the PFC eligible projects, (3) increase the eligible collection amount by \$7,854,865.00 and (4) extend the PFC expiration to June 2022 or until the collected PFC revenue equals the allowable reimbursable cost of the approved projects.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 17. Authorizing the City Manager to execute individual contracts with the following Third Party Funding Recipients, totaling \$465,702.50 for FY 2008-2009. Funding is available in the General Fund:

Area Health Education Center	\$15,000.00
BEST	\$10,000.00
Bethany House	\$18,500.00
BigBrother/Sister of South Texas	\$ 5,000.00
BANC	\$28,125.00
Boys & Girls Clubs	\$41,000.00
Boys Scouts of America	\$ 5,000.00
Casa de Misericordia	\$11,000.00
Catholic Social Services	\$ 5,000.00
Children’s Advocacy Center	\$22,500.00
Girl Scouts of South Texas	\$ 5,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$10,500.00
Imaginarium of South Texas	\$50,000.00
Kidney Foundation	\$15,000.00
Laredo Amateur Boxing	\$10,000.00
Laredo Crime Stoppers	\$ 1,000.00
Laredo Little Theatre	\$31,740.00
Laredo Philharmonic Chorale	\$ 3,200.00
LISD Crime Stoppers	\$ 1,000.00
Literacy Volunteers	\$ 2,625.00
Sacred Heart Children’s Home	\$15,000.00
SCAN	\$13,500.00
South Texas Food Bank	\$25,875.00
Special Olympics	\$ 5,000.00
STCADA	\$ 5,000.00
TX Migrant Council Safe Haven	\$10,000.00
Veteran’s Coalition	\$80,000.00
*Club Olympia	\$ 4,500.00
*Holding Institute	\$ 4,500.00
*Laredo Regional Food Bank	\$ 8,437.50
*Laredo Webb NHS	\$ 2,700.00
TOTAL	\$465,702.50

*These organizations did not complete program requirements; therefore, their fund levels were reduced by 10%.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 18. Authorizing the City Manager to execute individual contracts with the following

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund Recipients totaling \$476,149 for FY 2008-2009.

Funding is available in the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund.

Border Olympics	\$ 70,000.00
Chamber of Commerce/Cola Blanca	\$ 25,000.00
Laredo Center for the Arts	\$ 150,000.00
Laredo Heat Youth Soccer Association	\$ 17,283.00
Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra	\$ 46,800.00
Lulac 12	\$ 10,000.00
Lulac 7	\$ 7,283.00
Mexican Cultural Institute	\$ 9,783.00
Society of Martha Washington	\$ 10,000.00
Streets of Laredo	\$ 15,000.00
WBCA	\$ 60,000.00
Webb County Heritage Found.	\$ 55,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 476,149.00

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the 2007 Consolidated One-Year Action Plan by reprogramming 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th Action Year (AY) Community Development Block Grant Fund balances totaling \$150,000.00 to be used toward the design of a Recreational Complex at the Laredo Community College South Campus. CDBG fund balances proposed to be reprogrammed to include:

24th AY , FY 1998 Community Development Block Grant (Fund Balances)

Tinaja Chacon Pilot Channel	\$12,499.00
East Hachar Recreation Center	\$ 2,390.00
Total	\$14,889.00

25th AY , FY 1999 Community Development Block Grant (Fund Balances)

Code Enforcement	\$ 4.00
Total	\$ 4.00

26th AY, FY 2000 Community Development Block Grant (Fund Balances)

Community Development Administration	\$ 487.00
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$ 76.00
Code Enforcement	\$ 1,081.00
Graffiti Removal	\$ 1,244.00
Centro Iturbide Street Improvements	\$31,707.00
Ryan St. Railroad Bridge Improvements	\$ 1,184.00
Feasibility Study	\$ 1.00
Chacon Creek Improvements	\$ 1.00
Sidewalks	\$ 5,012.00

South Laredo Park	\$ 3,620.00
Riverfront Project	\$ 600.00
Total	\$45,013.00

27th AY, FY 2001 Community Development Block Grant (Fund Balances)

Community Development Administration	\$ 6,388.00
Code Enforcement	\$ 645.00
Graffiti Removal	\$ 48.00
Ejido Street Extension	\$ 4,745.00
Inner City Park	\$ 1.00
Lafayette Linear Park	\$ 195.00
Total	\$12,022.00

28th AY, FY 2002 Community Development Block Grant (Fund Balances)

Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$ 1,076.00
Code Enforcement	\$ 262.00
School Sidewalks	\$ 603.00
Zacate Creek Phases III, IV, V	\$34,937.00
Cielito Lindo Fire Station Ambulance	\$ 340.00
Hamilton Hotel Section 108 Loan Reimbursement	\$ 560.00
South Laredo Park - Phase II	\$ 1,082.00
El Cuatro Phase II	\$ 1.00
Farias Splash Playground	\$ 1.00
Total	\$38,862.00

29th AY, FY 2003 Community Development Block Grant (Fund Balances)

Community Development Administration	\$ 1,659.00
Graffiti Removal	\$ 3.00
Sidewalks	\$ 4,528.00
Zacate Creek Park	\$ 2,838.00
Inner City Park – Phase II	\$ 117.00
S. Salvador Neighborhood Park	\$ 1.00
Lafayette Park Lighting	\$ 1.00
Eistetter Park	\$ 1.00
Farias Community Center	\$27,121.00
South Laredo Park Lighting	\$ 2,050.00
Riverfront Project	\$ 891.00
Total	\$39,210.00

Total of Funds to be Reprogrammed \$150,000.00

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 an increase of \$555,623.97 to increase

the quantity of concrete pavement to be reconstructed and to add forty-five (45) calendar days to the construction contract with Price Construction, Ltd., Big Springs, Texas, for the Laredo International Airport Runway 14/32 Reconstruction. Current construction contract amount is \$2,928,418.48. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund – Improvements Other Than Buildings – Grant No. 53.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 2 an increase of \$34,336.00 for additional construction support services and resident project representative services to the professional services contract with Carter & Burgess, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, for the Laredo International Airport Runway 14/32 Reconstruction. Total professional services contract amount will be \$367,849.00. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund – Project Engineer Fees – Grant No. 51.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 4 an increase of \$146,635.00 to the professional services contract with Architectura SA, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, for the Clinical/Laboratory Expansion and Renovation for the City of Laredo Health Department for design services to include new parking lot at west side and interior design services for dental clinic, coordination of all dental equipment infrastructure with drawings and for windows and plumbing. Current engineering contract amount is \$689,427.00. Funding is available in the UTHSC-SA Dental Clinic Construction.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Authorizing the City Manager to award a professional services contract to TBG, Inc., from San Antonio, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$270,000.00 for the development of a construction plan for the Phase I improvements of Independence Hills Park. Funding is available through the 2007 Certificate of Obligation Bond Funds.

Earl Broussard, President of TBG Partners, made the following presentation:

Independence Hills Regional Park Master Plan Created by TBG Partners

Project Overview

Laredo's economy is primarily based on international trade with Mexico and has the distinction of being the largest inland port in the United States. Most major transportation companies have a facility in Laredo. Having been founded in 1755, Laredo grew from a villa to the Capital of the brief Republic of the Rio Grande to the largest inland port on the United States-Mexican Border. Today, it has four international bridges and one railway-bridge and has the distinction of having seven flags flown over the City.

Laredo enjoys the fourth busiest port in the entire United States and has become the second fastest growing City in the country. The 2000 Census reflects that the City of Laredo has rapidly grown to a population of 176,576. The rapid growth of the population and property development has placed extensive pressure on the City to provide a quality park and recreation infrastructure and services, especially in the newly developing parts of Laredo. In May 2008, the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation developed a Parks and Open Space Master Plan that addresses these issues and provides the framework for creating a City with the proper parks and open space it needs.

Independence Hills Regional Park has a great opportunity to implement new ideas into the City of Laredo's southeast community. Unlike other parks in the City, this site has a wide range of topographic characteristics that provide an opportunity for amenities that are not typically seen in the community. Please refer to the site analysis map on page 12.

Overview of Site

Independence Hills Regional Park is approximately 67.7 acres of undeveloped land located in southeast Laredo. The close proximity to the subdivisions (Century City, Freedom Park, Los Presidentes, Concord Hills, and George Washington) offers an excellent opportunity to connect these neighborhoods and others through the new park facilities with trail systems. The site is also in close proximity to several schools including: Octavio Salina Elementary School and Bonnie Garcia Elementary School. Current site conditions include a large detention facility on the south end, a 100-year flood plain that runs east-west along the northern portion, an existing landfill, a pond on the northeast corner, and over head utilities crossing near the center of the site. North Merida Drive ends at the northern boundary of that park, is interrupted, and then continues along the eastern edge. A large ravine follows the west boundary of the site and intersects the flood plain just south of Tulip Circle.

Planning Process

The purpose of this master plan is to comprehensively identify the long range vision for the development and use of the site. The initial step in the planning process included understanding the existing site conditions and the needs of the public. TBG's team thoroughly toured the site and gathered base information that combined, resulted on both a site and slope analysis plan, reference page 12 and 13. The City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Department then invited community members, City Council, Parks Board, and other related professionals for their input on issues, concerns and ideas on the existing and future use of the site. Additional meetings held by TBG Partners included the City of Laredo Police, Fire Department, School Board, and City Engineering staff for their input and advice. The results of this process are detailed on pages 15-20.

This information was combined with local knowledge about the inherent features, qualities, and characteristics of the property and the adjacent land uses to develop a number of alternatives. These alternatives were discussed and investigated by the project planning team which consisted of a staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and Engineering Department.

The alternatives and other information generated during the planning process were presented at a series of public meetings for reaction and evaluation. Based on all of the data and public input, the planning team developed the guidelines for the development of the site over the next several years. These guidelines are details in the following section.

Guiding Principles

1. Independence Hills Regional Park will serve an array of users including: adjacent neighborhoods, families, students, bicyclists, walkers, joggers, wheelchairs, skaters, and other non-motorized activities.
2. Independence Hills Regional Park must be sensitive to existing site conditions and natural features.
3. Independence Hills Regional Park shall offer a variety of pleasant experiences as well as connecting places of interest such as neighborhoods, open spaces, recreational amenities, educational facilities and waterways.
4. Independence Hills Regional Park shall be readily accessible from neighborhoods, schools, activity centers and transportation systems, regardless of income, age, physical ability or location.
5. Independence Hills Regional Park will be an integral part of a large regional system but must also be developed as a local/neighborhood amenity or asset.
6. There should be opportunities at Independence Hills Regional Park that provide a variety of trail lengths and loops, offering both short and long distances.
7. Wherever feasible, sustainable techniques shall be used.
8. Independence Hills Regional Park shall have an easy to comprehend way-finding system that provides accessibility information, route maps, degree of difficulty, user safety and location markers.
9. Independence Hills Regional Park is seen as a community enhancement, meaning that it is seamless and compatible with the existing surrounding land use, with a commitment to long-term investment in quality materials and maintenance.
10. All improvements at Independence Hills Regional Park should meet state-of-the-art design standards (adhere to local and national standards) appropriate to the types of amenities and uses.

Stakeholders Meetings

Town Hall Meetings

In late May of 2008, TBG Partners organized a series of key stakeholder input meetings, in conjunction with Councilman Mike Garza's town hall meetings, to get input from the community and staff on what amenities should be included at Independence Hills Regional Park. Results of these efforts were developed into three park concepts.

United ISD Wish List

- Public Garden
- Shade Trees vs. Palm Trees
- Maintenance
- Parking
- Wild flowers
- Bird Watching
- Signage w/park info
- Trails- Red Rock/D.G./different levels
- Alternative surfacing for playground (no pebbles)
- Racquet ball court
- Maze
- Composting
- 7 Flags over Laredo
- Geology Expose
- Graphical map (Texas, U.S., world)
- Shade structures
- Pavilion
- Elderly user friendly
- Security/emergency phone
- ADA & special needs
- Lighting (security)
- Bird Feeders
- Fishing
- Open space
- Open and clear creek
- Water fall
- Trash bins
- Amphitheater
- Viewing areas
- Wind energy exhibit
- Historic time line
- Field Trip Friendly
- Windmill/water wheel
- Small Train System

City Staff Comments

Fire Department:

- Provide more than one road for the park to prevent traffic
- Provide large parking areas
- Major concern is vandalism – keep amenity areas visible
- Minimum road width should be 20’-24’
- Water access needed from residential subdivisions

Police Department:

- No gate is needed at park entries
- Lighting in all amenity areas
- Do not provide emergency phone stations

City Engineer:

- Provide 2-way road within park
- Pond information can be accessed through the environmental department or Crane Engineers

Parks Board Comments

- Possible walk surfaces could be: decomposed granite, cement stabilized base
- Trails to be 6’-8’ in width
- Mountain bike trails
- Adjacent subdivisions do not have designated neighborhood parks. Provide each subdivision an amenity area located at the perimeter of park to provide easy access for residents
- Neighborhood nodes to connect into larger trail system
- Covered basketball court
- Skate plaza
- Way-finding
- Spray Park
- Spray design: map or river
- Water Fountains

- Dog Park
- Emergency Phones
- Lighting
- Induction lighting – Energy Plus Lighting located in San Antonio
- Roadways: do not connect North Merida Drive. Connecting Merida Drive will result in a high traffic area
- Road located within the park to curve to deter main route of travel and slow traffic
- Topography should drive design
- Landfill area: developer may be responsible for remediation of area

Town Hall Wish List

- Hiking/walking/jogging trails
- Dog Park
- Playgrounds
- Softball Tournament Facilities
- Picnic Shelters
- Volleyball Courts
- Outdoor Tennis Courts
- Soccer Tournament Facilities
- Golf Course
- Indoor Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Water Theme Park
- Skate Parks
- Pools/Spray Parks
- Nature Park
- Baseball Tournament Facilities (multiple fields at one location)
- Indoor Recreation Centers (youth and/or senior use)
- Motorized Trails (off road vehicles, 4x4's, dirt bikes, etc.)

Concept Diagrams

By design, none of the three concepts developed for the public input meetings were considered to be the preferred framework or direction for the future development for the site. Each concept explored a number of ideas and issues raised by the community. A variety of use possibilities, combinations, and intensities were explored as each alternative was being formulated and discussed.

Public Priority Survey

In mid August of 2008, TBG Partners held their last public input meeting to formulate a final list for what amenities the community wanted for the park. TBG Partners provided a list of amenities collected from previous input meetings and asked the attendees to rank their preferences. Each attendee was given a strip that included one of each color dot. They were asked to place the green dot on their 1st priority amenity, the yellow dot on their 2nd priority, and the blue dot on their 3rd priority. If there was an amenity that they did not want to see included in the park they were asked to place the red dot on this item.

Scoring was ranked as follows:

Green dot	1 st priority	3 points
Yellow dot	2 nd priority	2 points

Blue dot	3 rd priority	1 point
Red dot	Do not want	-1 point

Scores:

Amenity Item	Positive Score	Negative Score
Hiking/walking/jogging trails	28	
Dog Park	23	
Amphitheater	20	
Spray Park	14	1
Baseball Field	15	
Skate Park	11	
Mountain Bike Trails	10	
Fishing	9	
Softball Fields	9	
Shade Structures	8	
Water Fountains	8	
Picnic Shelters	7	
Lighting	6	
Small Scale Train	6	1
Emergency Phone	6	
Soccer	5	
Historic Timeline	5	
Basketball Courts	3	
Viewing Area	3	
Community Gardens	3	
Volleyball Court	3	1
Bird Watching	3	
Miniature Golf	3	
Disc Golf	2	
Covered Swimming Pool	1	
Open Space	1	
Bird Feeders	1	
Playscape	1	
BBQ Grills		2
Tennis Courts		2
Golf Course		16

Once the scores had been tabulated, the top 10 priority amenities are as follows:

1. Hiking/walking/jogging trails
2. Dog Park
3. Amphitheater
4. Baseball Field
5. Spray Park
6. Skate Park
7. Mountain Bike Trails
8. Fishing
9. Softball Fields
10. Shade Structures
11. Water Fountains

Preferred Plan

Grown from the input received from City Staff, analysis of existing site features and constraints, prioritized amenities and the guiding principles described in the previous section, the preferred plan is a synthesis of the original three concepts. The plan is for a community improvement that will, hopefully, create a better quality of life, provide recreational and educational opportunities and be a source of community identity and pride. At the same time, the plan strives to respect private property and provide neighbors a safe environment to gather and celebrate the rich culture and history of Laredo with family and friends.

Though the park will be constructed in various phases, this master plan document has been written to ensure that the comprehensive vision of Independence Hills Regional Park will persevere. The following section presents basic definitions and standards for the park components that are intended to guide the development (map follows).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Considerations to award a contract to the sole provider, McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing, Houston, Texas, in the amount of \$135,00.00 for the refurbishing of four (4) refuse trucks. Extensive repairs are needed in order to maintain these units in operational condition. It is anticipated that these repairs will provide three (3) to four (4) years of additional operational use. Funding is available in the Fleet Management Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Consideration to exercise the renewal option for one (1) additional year for contract FY07-162 awarded to McNeilus Truck, Hutchins, Texas, for OEM McNeilus repair parts/service (refuse trucks) in the estimated annual amount of \$90,000.00. All parts and service will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: -

26. Consideration to exercise the renewal option for an additional twelve (12) month period for contract FY08-001 awarded to Nick Benavides, Laredo, TX, on November 5, 2007, in the total amount of \$68,950.00 for providing monthly mowing and maintenance of the Zacate Creek areas. The term of the contract was for a period of twelve (12) months

with the option to extend this contract for two (2) additional twelve (12) month periods. The contract includes the collection of trash, debris, rubbish, and other floatable material along the creek from Meadow and Canal Streets to the mouth of the river. Funding is available in the Environmental Service Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Consideration to authorize a professional service contract with Bexar County Forensic Science Center, San Antonio, TX, in the estimated annual amount of \$140,000.00 for criminal investigation laboratory services for the Police Department. All services are requested on an as needed basis. Services include examination of evidence involving: arson, controlled substances, DNA, firearms, tool marks, toxicology, serology, and other services required for criminal investigations. Funding is available in the Police Department Budget.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Webb County to incarcerate prisoners at the Webb County Jail which are arrested for Class C misdemeanor violations. The current agreement sets a daily rate of \$56.84 per day per prisoner. The daily rate is subject to change in accordance with the rate allowed by the United States Government for incarcerating federal prisoners in the Webb County Jail. The term of this agreement shall be for a period of one (1) year. Funding is available in the Police Department Budget.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with the Laredo Development Foundation in the amount of \$473,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Funding is available from the General Fund in the amount of \$425,000.00 and the Bridge Fund in the amount of \$48,000.00.

Motion to table.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Awarding a construction contract to Austin Engineering Co., Inc. Austin, Texas; in the amount of \$962,730.00 for the 24" Sanitary Sewer Line Along FM 1472 – Mines Road. The project consists of approximately 1157 linear feet of 24" sewer line, retaining wall,

concrete piers, steel structures, manholes, storm water pollution prevention and incidentals. The contract time is 180 calendar days. Funding is available in the 2007 Utility Sewer Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 6

Against: 1: Cm. Garcia

Abstain: 0

31. Motion instructing staff to cancel the Municipal Water Park Project and to transfer the appropriation for the acquisition of a trolley for the downtown area at an estimated cost of \$370,000.00 and dividing the balance of \$630,000.00 equally among the eight (8) City Council Members Districts for Discretionary Funding.

Motion to approve as amended to allow \$50,000 for feasibility Water Park study.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Consideration to award a contract for downtown concessions to Carlos Becerra to provide food and non alcoholic beverages at the corner of Convent and Iturbide for a term of two (2) years at a monthly rate of \$515.00. Mr. Becerra was selected based on his bid proposal and his good standing as a current concessionaire.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Consideration to authorize a contract with T.F. Harper & Associates, LP, through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing, in the total amount not to exceed \$225,000.00 for the design, purchase and installation of two (2) steel basketball shade structures at Blas Castañeda Park and Canizales Park. Funding is available through the 2007 Certificate of Obligation Bond Proceeds.

Motion to approve \$241,492 instead of \$225,000 as amended.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract for public relations, marketing and advertising services with PM Design Group in the base amount of \$88,800.00 and not to exceed a total contract amount of \$300,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Laredo Convention & Visitors Bureau Operating Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Landeck

35. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with the Laredo Animal Protective Society otherwise known as the Laredo Animal Shelter, totaling \$300,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Funding is available in the General Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Consideration to award annual supply contract to Graybar Electric, Corpus Christi, Texas, in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purchase of electrical parts and accessories through the U.S. Communities Purchasing Alliance Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing. This contract will supplement the department's electrical maintenance capabilities. Funding is available in the Water and Wastewater Operations Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. Consideration to renew contract FY07-035 currently awarded to Rafter P. Transport, New Braunfels, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$81,250.00 to load and haul dry sludge from the Jefferson Water Treatment Plant to the City of Laredo landfill. The frequency and number of hours vary depending on the City's need but the contract is based on a base bid of \$6.00 per cubic yard of material. Funding is available in the Utilities Department – Water Treatment Division Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Consideration to amend the contract award to Philpott Motors, Port Neches, TX, for the purchase of thirty-two (32) police sedans to include a pursuit safety equipment package for each vehicle in the amount of \$87,843.52. The revised contract award will increase from \$802,924.16 to \$890,767.68. These vehicles will be purchased through the

Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) cooperative purchasing program contract number VE03-06. Funding is available in the 2008 C.O. Bond Proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

39. A. Request by Mayor Raul G. Salinas

1. Establishing the creation of a "Shop Laredo First" initiative to promote the local economy during these challenging economic times.

Mayor Raul Salinas asked the City Manager to direct staff to seriously promote the effort to "Shop Laredo First" in order to help the local businesses.

2. Discussion with possible action to establish a committee to promote the film making industry to produce filming movies, documentaries, etc., to promote the positive image of our city.

Mayor Raul Salinas wanted to give Laredo the opportunity to introduce itself to the film industry. He asked staff to research how to accomplish this objective.

Assistant City Manager Jesus Olivares said if the Mayor and Council would like to form a committee, they could explore some of the incentives that could be offered. He mentioned that other cities had provided airport hangars to build sound stages and had made city facilities available.

3. Discussion with possible action on the maintenance of El Metro fleet.

Mayor Raul Salinas mentioned that he had received complaints about the condition of the buses. For example, the air conditioning had not been functioning properly. He was concerned about Laredo's elderly citizens and their possible reaction to the heat.

Feliciano Garcia, Transit General Manager, reported that they addressed the air conditioning daily in their vans for ADA compliance. However, he went on to say that there were ten buses in order and another twenty-two that needed to be addressed. He mentioned a program that they had to facilitate the air conditioning on the buses.

4. Discussion with possible action to develop programs of activities for senior citizens at The City's Recreation Centers.

Mayor Raul Salinas mentioned that the seniors would like at least a monthly activity in which they could participate. He himself felt that twice per month should be at least the minimum.

Miguel Pescador, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that they currently do offer a monthly dance by partnering with adult day care. He mentioned looking at providing a monthly matinee as well.

B. Request by Council Member Mike Garza

1. Discussion with possible action on the subsidizing of the units of the Hamilton Hotel.

Cm. Mike Garza said that he was able to get together with Ronnie Acosta, Community Development Director. He said that he was concerned about that fact that the City's commitment of \$1.7 million was like co-signing on a loan, but that the reimbursements needed to come back both to the City and to the other entity that had the loan. Last year, Council approved to continue subsidizing those loan payments. The hotel is unable to meet the debt service requirement for the City.

Ronnie Acosta, Community Development Director, mentioned that originally, the Hamilton Hotel had a note with IBC Bank of \$2.8 million, and it was refinanced by Laredo National Bank for payments of \$17,000 per month until 2016. The hotel has been paying the City about \$96,000 per year which covers the interest on the City's payment to the 108 loan.

Cm. Mike Garza responded that in 2014, the fifteen-year tax credit time period will expire, and so there will be a point when the City will have to pick up the larger portion of the tab. He said that they need to look at other alternatives because the whole program matures in 2024, which means they are supposed to produce all the funding that they did not provide to them. He went on to say that this meant an excess of a few million dollars. He urged for a plan to be made to solve the issue.

C. Request by Council Member Hector J. Garcia

1. Discussion with possible action on allocating funds for the 46th National US/Mexico Sister Cities Conference and for the Sister Cities Youth Conference to be held in Laredo during the week of January 21-25, 2009.

Motion to allocate \$18,000 for the Sister Cities Conference and Sister Cities Youth Conference.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

D. Request by Council Member Dr. Michael Landeck

1. Report history and progress plans for the conclusion of the Colonia Villa Hermosa Project with possible action.

Ronnie Acosta, Community Development Director, reported that the last phase, which includes the paving of the streets, is currently out for bids. The bids would be opened on November 20th, and afterward they could proceed with the final phase of the project.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, noted that there was a cost estimate of about \$800,000, and about \$100,000 were reserved for retaining walls because of the terrain.

Cm. Landeck responded that if there was not enough money that he would ask Council to provide the money from his district's Discretionary Funds.

E. Request by Council Member Johnny Rendon

1. Discussion with possible action on the status of La Retama Phase II waterline replacements.

Tomas Rodriguez, Utilities Director, reported that the schedule for waterline replacements was: Franklin Street from Taylor to Allende scheduled to start on December 1, Retama Court (Pita to Chaparral) on January 1, no work scheduled for Sanders Court, and Barcelona Court for January 1.

2. Status report on the fencing project at the Jose A. Flores Apartments.

Elizabeth Alonzo, Municipal Housing Manager, reported that staff had met with the contractor, Pecos Fence, and logistics were discussed. She mentioned that the contractor had 160 days to complete the project, but they forecasted only 60-80 days until completion. Work was expected to start between Thanksgiving and December 1.

F. Request by Council Member Gene Belmares

1. Discussion with possible action on creating a resolution supporting Ponderosa Regional Landfill, and directing the City Manager to draft and submit a cover letter of support to TCEQ. (Co-sponsored by Council Member Mike Garza)

Cm. Belmares explained that he brought this item back to Council because the administrative law judge has found in favor of Ponderosa Regional Landfill, and the county has dropped opposition. The City rescinded its resolution in opposition.

Motion to direct City Manager to draft a resolution to support the landfill and a cover letter to submit to TCEQ in favor of the project.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on securing an airport hanger for use by the Laredo Police SWAT Team for equipment, vehicle storage and personnel use. (Co-sponsored by Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr.)

Cm. Belmares stated that they recently found out that the Laredo Police Department SWAT Team has an issue with the amount of expensive equipment that they have and its current exposure to the elements.

Carlos Maldonado, Police Chief, reported that this has been a concern from the beginning. They have invested a lot of money into the vehicles at the mobile command post, the tactical units, and the bomb equipment. He said it would be prudent on their part to provide some means of trying to protect and house the equipment. He said he had someone in Finance researching the cost of a portable building or just a shell.

Jose Flores, Airport Director, responded that they don't have a hangar that is available currently. They do have a building that would meet the intended use by the Police Department that was close by. It is the building on Jarvis Street that used to be leased to USDA Comision Mexico Americana which measures almost 20,000 square feet.

Cm. Belmares advised that they come back to Council with a recommendation for that building.

3. Discussion with possible action on creating an annual homestead exemption for those 65 years and older, disabled, and/or veterans based on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). (Co-sponsored by Council Member Hector Garcia and Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr.)

Cm. Belmares mentioned that they had been looking for a fiscally responsible way to provide a tax break for citizens. However, at the beginning of the year it is always based upon projections. If they take the gamble up front, there may be a greater shortfall at the end of the year. It is better to look at the year as it is completed in January. He wanted to know how they could provide a homestead exemption on the current tax year or issue a tax credit. He mentioned that money could be earmarked in a restricted reserve so that it could be issued back to the taxpayer in some way.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal responded that he thought that they would be ready to provide some recommendations in January. He added that although they are saving some monies in the gasoline line items, they are falling behind in other aspects such as bridge revenues.

Elizabeth Martinez, Tax Office, explained that in addition to the freeze that they adopted in 2006, they have a \$30,000 exemption for the "over 65." She explained that if someone has a taxable value of \$100,000, they only tax on \$30,000. This is in addition to the freeze.

Cm. Garcia said that he would like to see a 10% general homestead exemption.

Cm. Belmares responded that the "over 65" homestead exemptions do not have to be done in July but could be done beforehand. The other item was that there was no incentive for any governments to do some saving. He said organizations should be able to create a savings so that they could provide a tax credit or homestead exemption at the end of the year.

Cm. Landeck suggested that they meet, not in January, but rather in February to be able to have a complete report for the quarter.

Mr. Andy Ramos stated that in order to provide relief to the taxpayer, they should follow Cm. Garcia's recommendation. He said that it was too late and that they needed to wait until next year. He recommended that someone from Council take the lead and get all the taxing entities to see if it is possible to have a figure that is comparable across the board. He gave the following presentation:

	City of Laredo	Laredo ISD	Webb County	Road & Bridge	United ISD	Laredo Comm Coll
Homestead	0	15,000	0	3,000	15,000	0
Homestead Percent	0	0	0	0	15%	0
Homestead Minimum	0	0	0	0	5,000	0
Local Option Over 65	30,000	0	50,000	36,000	0	10,000
Over 65	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	0
Disabled	0	10,000	15,000	0	10,000	0
Veteran 10% Thru 30%	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Veteran 30% Thru 50%	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Veteran 50% Thru 70%	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Veteran >70% or Over 65 or Loss of Use of Limbs/Eyesight	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Dec'd Active Duty	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

** Note for 2005: Mirando ISD Properties Annexed by Webb Consolidated ISD.

** Note for 2005: UISD Changed HMST% from 20 to 15

4. Discussion with possible action on authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Texas A&M University College Station for a secondary water and wastewater treatment Pilot Program administered by Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES).

Cm. Belmares stated that this provides an opportunity to have a 50,000 gallon per day Pilot that would be then transferred to a wastewater facility. Then, they could treat wastewater and sell it to golf courses and other places for re-use. He felt it was a great conservation project and a good start on their secondary water project.

Motion to enter into an agreement with Texas A&M

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 5 Against: 3: Cm. Garza, Cm. Narvaez, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez Abstain: 0

- G. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Jose A. Valdez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action regarding police patrol in private subdivisions.

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez asked for a legal opinion to address the issue of a possible access easement and come back to Council with the result. He requested a motion to instruct City Manager to obtain a legal opinion on the issue.

City Attorney Raul Casso explained that the law states that a gated community is a private place and that their privacy is constitutionally protected. Routine police patrols would be construed as an unwarranted intrusion and is forbidden. He said that public resources could not be given to a private association, because that is forbidden by the Texas constitution.

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

- 40. A. Discussion with possible action to consider Police Lieutenant Pedro Sarmiento’s second request for an extension of injury leave with pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code.

Gilbert Sanchez explained that Lieutenant Sarmiento’s first extension expired on September 2. Shortly thereafter, he had surgery, and so they recommended a 120-day extension.

Motion to approve

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- B. Discussion with possible action regarding the Civic Center concession operations.

Miguel Pescador, Parks and Leisure Manager, gave the following presentation:

Civic Center – Concession

Civic Center – Ballroom

Event	FY 2005-2006	FY 2006-2007	FY 2007-2008	Avg. per yr.
Weddings	22	21	9	17
Birthdays/Reunions	36	53	29	39
Other Events* (boxing/wrestling)	46	57	63	55

* WBCA, Sister Cities, 4th of July, etc.

Fiscal Year	Civic Center 30% Gross	Concessionaire
Revenues 2007	\$9,683.46	\$32,278.17
Revenues 2008	\$15,246.91	\$50,823.04

Cost to Operate Concession

Personnel

1 Concession Manager (full time + benefits)

\$43,000

4 Bartender part-time (no benefits)*	\$8,500
10 Waiters part-time (no benefits)**	\$9,600
Total Personnel	\$61,100
Cost of Goods (25%-30%)	\$19,000
*Assuming \$75,000 in gross sales	
SUBTOTAL	\$80,100

Itemized Personnel Cost

- *4 Bartenders = 5 hrs/each event
\$8.50/hr x 20 hrs = \$170 per week
\$170 * x weeks/yr. = \$8,500
- **10 waiters = 5 hrs/each event
\$8.00/hr x 60 hrs = \$480.00 per week
\$480 x 20 event/yr = \$9,600

Other Costs

- License (TABC)/Insurance
- Administration/Auditing
- Sales Tax – Beer and Alcohol (8.25%)
- Start-Up (Equipment, cash register, uniform, gear, etc.)
- Shared Concessions/Profits (boxing, wrestling, trade shows, etc.)

Action Needed

- Approval FTE's For
 - a) Full Time Concession Manager
 - b) Part-time bartender (no benefits)
\$8.50 @ 1000 hrs
 - c) Part-time waiters (no benefits)
\$8.00 @ 1200 hrs
- Other related action as per Council

Motion to instruct staff to provide one full-time employee of the Civic Center to run the concession stand.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XV. 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. Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Motion to waive bus fare collection to and from the HEB “Feast of Sharing” Sunday, November 23, 2008 as participation by the City of Laredo co-sponsoring this event. HEB will provide a \$1,500.00 contribution to offset the fares. The shuttle will start at the Transit Center, 1301 Farragut to and from the Civic Center from 9:30 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Authorizing the City Manager to waive the parking fee for persons attending the 11th annual UETA Jamboozie Festival and implementing a flat fee charge of \$300.00 to the Streets of Laredo Urban Mall Association for personnel costs, overtime and extra security for traffic and crowd control for the use of the parking facility on Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

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

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I, Gustavo Guevara, Jr., City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 to 32 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on November 3, 2008.

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary