

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2007-R-06
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
MARCH 26, 2007
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Raul Salinas led in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Raul G. Salinas,
Mike Garza,
Hector Garcia,
Michael Landeck,
Johnny Amaya,
Johnny Rendon,
Gene Belmares,
Juan Chavez,
Juan Ramirez,
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,
Cynthia Collazo,
Horacio De Leon,
Valeria Acevedo,

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

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of November 6, 2006, November 9, 2006, and November 13, 2006.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions

- a. Recognition of the Lyndon B. Johnson High School Cheerleaders for their participation in the NCA Senior & Junior National Championship in Dallas, Texas and winning the 2006-2007 NCA National Champions in the Varsity-Non-Tumbling Division and Most Innovative Choreography. The event will be featured on Fox Channel 55 in April 2007.

Mayor and City Council recognized the cheerleaders with a Certificates of Recognitions and a plaque for their school.

- b. Recognition of the Nixon Basketball girl's basketball team varsity team for winning the District Championship and for participating in the Regional Semi-Finals Tournament in San Antonio.

Mayor and City Council presented the Nixon Basketball Team with a Seven Flags Certificate of Recognition.

- c. Recognition of Chelsea Morgensen (12) and Alex Barron (11) for being the first participants from Laredo to be nominated to the Jr. NBA/ Jr. WNBA National Team.

Mayor and Council formally recognized both Chelsea Morgensen and Alex Barron for their accomplishments.

- d. Recognition of Joe R. Moreno, of the Library Department, on his selection as March 2007 employee of the month.

Janice Weber, Director of the Library, said that she is very pleased to recognized Joe Moreno as the employee of the month for the City of Laredo. She said that he is the senior employee at the library with almost twenty seven years. She said that he has an incredible amount of knowledge about the City of Laredo. She said that he has recently published an article in the Journal of South Texas regarding the history of Laredo. She continued to say that he is involved in all types of projects and is very community minded. She added that he is a member of Toastmasters, Genealogical Society, and the Webb County Historical Commission.

- e. Recognition of the 2007 Mayor's Cup City Employees Softball Tournament winners.

Mayor Salinas announced the winners as follows:

Division C – 2 nd Place	Daggers	Health and Planning & Zoning Department
1 st Place	Incredibles	City Hall, Budget, C. D., Bridge, M. Court
Division B – 3 rd Place	Gladiators	Health Department
2 nd Place	Parks Dept.	Parks Department, Airport, Bridge, Fleet
1 st Place		Environmental, Real, City Hall & Building
Division A – 3 rd Place	Solid Waste	Solid Waste Department
2 nd Place	Utilities	Utilities Department
1 st Place	Fire	Fire Department

Communiqués

- a. Update via telephone conference by the City’s legislative consultants regarding federal and state legislative sessions.

Veronica Cantu, Legislative Liaison for the City of Laredo, introduced three legislative consultants for the City of Laredo via telephone and submitted the following report to Council:

80th State Legislative Program

1. Solid Waste Fee & Tire Program	Solid Waste
2. Core Public Health Services	Health Department
3. Medicaid Reimbursement	Health Department
4. Obesity Reduction & Diabetes Prevention	Health Department
5. Public Health Preparedness Funding	Health Department
6. State Designated U. S. Mexico Border Region	Health Department
7. Title V & Indigent Care	Health Department
8. Expansion of Dental School	Health Department
9. City Elections to Change Description of a Venue	Legal Department
10. Erosion of Home Rule City	Legal Department
11. Texas Municipal Retirement	Human Resources
12. Election Date Change	City Secretary’s Office
13. Municipal Court of Record	Municipal Court
14. Municipal Court Fees	Municipal Court
15. Vehicle Registration Fee	Municipal Court
16. Funding for Texas Recreation Account Park	Municipal Court
17. Opportunities for People with Special Needs	Parks & Recreation Department
18. Additional Texas Department of Public Safety	Parks & Recreation Department
19. Emergency Operations Center	Fire Department
20. Hazmat Response Vehicle	Fire Department
21. License Plates	Police Department
22. Video Conference System	Fire Department
23. Wild Land Fire Fighting Gear	Fire Department
24. Sales and Use Tax	Finance Department
25. Create a Permanent VCR Grant Program	Fire Department
26. Funding Level for Small urban and Rural Transit	Transit Department
27. Transit Sales Tax Cap	Transit Department
28. Off System Roads	Planning & Zoning Department
29. Project Overruns	Planning & Zoning Department
30. Railroads	Planning & Zoning Department
31. Transportation Corridors	Planning & Zoning Department
32. Additional TxDot Personnel	Planning & Zoning Department
33. Bridge V & Railroad Bridge	Bridge Department
34. Amend Utilities Code Regarding Telecom	Planning & Zoning Department
35. Communication Between Municipalities	Utilities Department
36. Nodal Pricing	Finance Department
37. Power Generation by a Municipality	Finance Department
38. Preservation of City Authority and Comp.	Planning & Zoning Department

Bob Strauser and Allen Howell gave a report as to what is taking place in Austin and in Washington D. C. at the state and federal levels regarding the City of Laredo.

Cm. Garcia congratulated Jose Flores' daughter for doing an outstanding job by participating in a one act play for UIL. Kassandra Flores, the daughter of Jose Flores, was named best actress.

Cm. Landeck expressed a desire to equalize the amenities throughout the City of Laredo.

Cm. Rendon requested permission to play a thirty second video about vandalism in the City of Laredo parks.

Cm. Belmares congratulated Keith Selman, Planning Director, for his work on the legislation and the language that was put into the Rail and Public Transportation bill.

Cm. Chavez said that is working hard to address important issues regarding the rail bridge and rail road blockage.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez said that had a meeting regarding the 4th of July celebration. He said that he also met with the San Bernardo Merchants who is organizing a Cinco De Mayo celebration along San Bernardo street. He mentioned the 4th Annual Cesar Chavez March for Justice. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the vandalism video that was produced by Parks. He said that he would like to see the vandals being arrested so vandals can learn that there is a stiff penalty for vandalizing property.

Mayor Salinas advised that he traveled to Nuevo Laredo with the County Judge Danny Valdez. He said that it was a very fruitful trip and the officials of the city were very appreciative for the meeting. He noted that one of the issues was to include a very friendly effort in promoting Laredo. He added that it would behoove all city residents for everyone to demonstrate that the City is a wonderful place to live. He read the following letter addressing Bill Maher who is a HBO Real Time with Bill Maher:

"I write to express my overall frustration with the overwhelmingly negative media coverage our community has sustained that sensationalizes and exaggerates the problems faced by our Mexican sister city of Nuevo Laredo, and of Laredo, Texas in the March 16, 2007 program entitled Real Time with Bill Maher, where Mr. Maher exchanges comments with Dan Rather about his trip to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and their next comments that Nuevo Laredo is a "bad neighborhood" to visit and that necessarily implies Laredo, Texas is also a "bad Neighborhood".

Laredo has suffered enough. This is a safe, law-abiding city with one of the highest growth rates in the nation and a lot going for it including international trade and tourism.

The mere mention of Laredo being across the border from Nuevo Laredo profligates the perception among U. S. media market consumers that the problems faced by Nuevo Laredo are also being faced in Laredo today. This is both untrue and therefore unfair. I am compelled to express to you that the good name of Laredo, Texas is being dragged down by just this type of flighty, thoughtless dialogue. This is an unfortunate side effect of what is dealt with for too long.

The City of Laredo, Texas proudly embraces its culture, heritage, and wonderful Mexican influences on this region and our community. As a mayor, I fully acknowledge the harsh realities facing our sister city and the tragedy they have dealt with in the immediate past. Having said that, there is also a distinct difference between the U. S. and Mexico.

Laredo, Texas has seen a decline in its violent crime statistics and static activity since 2003. The Laredo Police Department (LPD) is the only local agency in the region with full time police officers assigned to work inside federal agencies. LPD has 18 reports since 2002 of Laredoans missing in Mexico. These are the undeniable facts surrounding the reality of Laredo, Texas.

It is bothersome that you mention only one law enforcement official from this area, when in fact 98% of the population in Webb County lives within the city limits. I did not hear a source referenced representing this agency. Keeping the local law enforcement agency engaged in this dialogue is critical to having an accurate and total understanding of the reality of Laredo, that by contrast shows how safe and secure our city truly is.

The City of Laredo should not have to tolerate further insult. I am open to talking about the facts of the tough realities that face our neighboring country and to tell you more about Laredo's wonderful state of affairs and its bright future. In this appeal, I ask for equal time to relate the truth about Laredo, Texas and tell the nation more about his great community in the United States of America."

Raul Salinas, Mayor of Laredo, Texas"

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.

Marco Antonio Escamilla approach Council regarding the Slaughter Park. He said that he is responsible for the organization of 18 adult baseball teams. He said that they are very interested in being able to play baseball at the Slaughter Park.

Ana Maria Hernandez invited the viewing public to attend the Cesar Chavez March for Justice on March 31, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Appointment by Council Member Hector Garcia of Eddie Alvarez to the Transportation and Traffic Safety Committee.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Chavez

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Request by Council Member Mike Garza

1. Discussion regarding possible immediate action to a better implementation of a water conservation plan with possible measurable time related water reduction goals, with possible action. (Co-sponsored by Council Member Dr. Michael Landeck)

Motion to return to City Council within thirty days with a water conservation plan with possible measurable time related water reduction goals. The plan should also address enforcement issues.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Request by Council Member Hector J. Garcia

1. Discussion with possible action on reducing the number of Council Member discussion items allowed per City Council meeting.

Cm. Garcia recommended for Council to reduce their discussion items to four per months or to place a time limit on the items that are allowed per City Council meetings. He also suggested ending the meetings at ten o'clock with an option to extend to 10:30 p.m. He noted that it may be exhausting for some Council Members to be addressing important issues at late hours.

Cm. Rendon said that the recent discussion items have extended the meetings to 11:00 p.m.; however, most meeting are not lengthy.

Cm. Garza explained that there are several Council Members that are still learning which allows for more time for discussion. He suggested having all recognitions at a particular meeting.

The time keeper will be the City Secretary.

Motion to limit the Council Members discussion items to ten minutes each. In addition, for the new City Manager to initiate a workshop where they can discuss committees

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to amend the City of Laredo's Priority & Procedures Manual to reflect the time limit.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to allow the presiding officer the ability to suspend the time limit at City Council meetings.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member Dr. Michael Landeck

1. Discussion with possible action on water issues. (Co-sponsored by Council Member Mike Garza)

A. Strategic plan on a possible water infrastructure upgrade (major items, timetable and estimated cost).

Adrian Montemayor, Utilities Department, explained that the City of Laredo Utilities Department does have a strategic plan that is developed into the Capital Improvement Plan which extends out for a five year period. The plan establishes all of the Capital projects that are necessary to advance with the water system. In addition to those, there are additional critical projects that are being evaluated separate from the Capital Improvement Program. One example of an item that is still in the process of determining the cost and extent of it is the expectations to do a line replacement program which include line replacements of 2% of the existing line infrastructure starting with the small size lines all the way up to the larger size lines. The City of Laredo has approximately 600 miles of water lines underground into the infrastructure which consists of 60 % of the assets in the water system. In the process of developing a replacement plan it will allow them an opportunity to go in and increase sizes and increase the integrity of the lines. Staff is recommending that 2%, which will give them a fifty year replacement plan on all the water lines. He continued to say that the City has been established a 25% unaccounted for water. The five year plan includes a line replacement project to replace 3,500 linear feet of water line. At the end of five year the City will have accomplished the necessary improvements that they have been told are needed through the Master Planning process to meet the growth demands as well as replacements. Finally, he said that he would return to Council within forty five days with an update on the plan.

B. Possible replacement of all mechanical water meters to electronic based meters (including possible timetable, cost of meters and reduction in manual water meter reading cost.)

Elizabeth Martinez, Tax Collector/Assessor, informed Council that staff has been addressing this issue and the total cost of replacing all of the equipment is first 57,600 meters with a meter interface unit that is placed on the current meters and the cost is \$5 million dollars. Then the City of Laredo would need to contract a service that would do the installation because the individuals that replace the meters must be certified. The cost would be an additional \$1.4 million. The City needs to locate gateways in different parts of the city and one would

accommodate 1,500 meters and based on that it would cost an additional \$152,000. The City would need to purchase an annual license which is \$29,484 which would be paid on going yearly. The total cost to convert to electronic based meters is \$6.6 million dollars.

- C. Addition of \$5 Million to current budget for immediate active search and acquisition of Water rights.

Cynthia Collazo, Acting City Manager, asked Council to authorize the City Manager to initiate a process that would allow him/her to return to Council with acquisition recommendations that would allow the Council to agree or disagree with water rights.

Rosario Cabello, Finance Director, explained that there are ten million dollars for the acquisition of water rights. She explained that staff would need to initiate a public hearing to be able to appropriate monies from the fund balance.

Cm. Belmares explained that the current funds for the water are monies that are accumulations of development community monies that have been paid by the developers for water availability and have been earmarked specifically for the acquisition for water rights. As developers pay for water availability which are assessed by lot basis. The monies that have been accumulated are \$13,000,000, and \$3,000,000 is encumbered for the City rights. The funds are not for water conservation unless the City of Laredo City Council change the system.

Cm. Landeck expressed his desire for staff to aggressively seek water rights.

Cm. Garcia explained that the City of Laredo staff has been following directions that have been given to them by prior City Council members. He noted that if Council wishes to change their direction then they should be allowed to do so but Staff should not be held responsible for the delay in obtaining water rights.

Motion to aggressively seek water rights and pay no more than \$2,300 per municipal acre and authorize the City Manager to enter into earnest money or any other contractual and bring it back to council for final approval.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- D. Estimate of incremental cost with timetable for the possible expansion of the Jefferson plant to accommodate additional 10 million gallons per day of water purification.

This item was not discussed.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Bridge System Fund by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$910,000.00. The funds will be transferred from General Fund for the Bridge I Canopy Project.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Amaya
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Special Fire Grant Budget to appropriate grant revenues and expenses from the 2006 State Homeland Security Grant Sub-Recipient agreement between the City of Laredo and the Texas Division of Emergency Management in the amount of \$107,314.43. In addition, the acceptance and appropriation of the State Homeland Security grant through the State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program in the amount of \$204,077.17. The total amount appropriated from the State Homeland Security program will be \$311,391.60. Equipment received through the grant agreement will be used for the City’s Fire and Police Departments. The appropriation of the said grant revenue and expenditures will account for grant proceeds and equipment purchased through the grant and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget amendment. The above said grant requires no in kind matching funds.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close public hearing and introduce.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 2.02 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located at the East end of Basswood Drive, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended denial of the zone change. District VI

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Marcel Notzon, Charlie San Miguel, and Rene Garza spoke in favor of the zone change.

Motion to close public hearing and override, and; introduce approving the zone change.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Belmares

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinances # 2007-O-045, 2007-O-046, 2007-O-047, 2007-O-048, 2007-O-049, 2007-O-050, 2007-O-051, 2007-O-052, 2007-O-053, 2007-O-054, 2007-O-055, 2007-O-056, and 2007-O-057.

Moved: Cm. Garza
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. 2007-O-045 Approving the public sale of a tract of land containing 88.6913-acres, more or less, legally described as Lot Numbers One (1), Two (2), and Three (3), in Block Number Two (2), Laredo International Airport Passenger Terminal Subdivision, as per Plat recorded in Volume 16, pages 45-47, Webb County Plat Records and authorizing the City Manager to execute all conveyance documents to sole bidder Laredo Town Center, L.P. in the amount of \$15,865,000.00; the Laredo Town Center bid offer is subject to the closing being held sixty (60) days after City Council award of the sale instead of the thirty (30) days specified in the bid specifications, and further contingent upon Laredo Town Center receiving clear title to the subject property, and providing for an effective date.

Jose Flores, Airport Director, said that in light of the recent opposition that has been released in the local newspapers, the buyer has indicated that he needs to evaluate the opposition. He is concerned that the opposition may delay his

receipt of the United States Army Corp of Engineer Section 404 Permit. The Director explained that the owner has been working in conjunction with the City of Laredo's Environmental staff and he needs the entire 88.6913-acres for the Laredo Town Center. He further explained that the owner has the right to develop the entire property pursuant to all the environmental regulations.

Riazul Mia, Environmental Director, said that

Motion to table until the first meeting in April.

Moved: Cm. Rendon

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-046 Amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Veterans Field Fund by drawing down \$55,000.00 from the Veterans Field Fund balance and appropriating said funds for the purchase of heavy equipment for the maintenance of Veterans Field.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-046.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-047 Authorizing the City Manager to accept grant funds from the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the amount of \$37,737.00 with no matching funds and to amend the Solid Waste Fund to appropriate said grant award. Funds will be used to buy an industrial grade paper shredder at a cost \$27,737.00 in order that the Materials Recovery Center can recycle paper that has sensitive information, and \$10,000.00 that will be used to promote and educate the public about recycling.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-047.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-048 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 and 3, Block 273, Western Division, located at 1504 Santa Maria Avenue, from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Commercial District), providing for severability and for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-048.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-049 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 1, Morales Plat, located at 9219 F.M. 1472, from R-2 (Multi-family Residential District) and M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District), providing for severability and for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-049.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-050 Amending Ordinance No. 2006-O-311 authorizing a Special Use Permit for mini storage/warehousing, on Lots 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Block 1068, Eastern Division, located at 1320 South Meadow Avenue, by revising the site plan, providing for severability and for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-050.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-051 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 7 and 8, Block 24, Eastern Division, located at 602 Market Street, from B-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District), providing for severability and for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-051.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-052 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 9.11 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A", located on the North side of A.F. Muller Sr. Memorial Boulevard east of Hummingbird Boulevard, from M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) (Planned Unit Development District), providing for severability and for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-052.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-053 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with UETA of Texas, Inc. for the lease of the tract of approximately 73,698.73 square feet tract of land located premises located south of Ventura Street and east of Santa Cleotilde

Avenue, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 1. Lease shall commence on August 7, 2007 and be for a term of twenty (20) years, with an option to renew for an additional ten (10) years. The annual rent shall be \$52,000.00 payable in monthly installments of \$4,333.33. (As amended)

Cm. Garcia explained that he was not comfortable without a ninety day clause because it is property that the city of Laredo will not be able to utilize for ten years.

Motion to reject Ordinance 2007-O-053.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Amaya

Cm. Garcia retracted his motion.

Valeria Acevedo, Acting City Attorney advised Council that all revisions would need to be introduced. She said that there was a 90 day termination notice which was recently amended.

Cm. Belmares noted that he would not agree with a caveat in the contract for UETA.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-053.

Moved: Cm. Landeck
Second: Cm. Chavez
For: 2 Against: 5 Abstain: 0

Motion to reintroduce with a 90 days clause in the contract.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Amaya
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-054 Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to effectively convey fee simple title to the "Surface Only" at its adjusted market value of \$11,533.00 for certain property described as a 7,717 square feet (0.1772 of an acre) tract of land, more or less, out of that former south one-half section of Canada between O'kane and Clark Streets to Adolfo Tellez; provided that the City of Laredo retains the entire tract as a utility easement, said tract being situated in the Eastern Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, being generally described on attached Exhibit "A"; and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-054.

Moved: Cm. Garza
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-055 Authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to effectively convey two (2) City owned lots, namely, Lot 6, Block 643, Eastern Division and Lot 7, Block 700, Western Division, in the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, to Habitat for Humanity, Inc., in support of the construction of two (2) homes, and providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-055.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-056 Authorizing the City Manager to convey fee simple title to the “surface only”, at its adjusted market value of \$4,750.00, the 2,725.4 sq. ft. tract of land, more or less, out of that former triangular section of Blaine Street between Smith and Ejido Avenues, as shown by metes and bounds description in Exhibit “A” attached hereto, to purchasers, Humberto H. Ramirez and wife, Guadalupe L. Ramirez; provided however, that the City of Laredo retains and reserves the entire tract as a utility easement, and approving the plan as described in Exhibit “B”, under which purchasers will use the said property; and providing for effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-056.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2007-O-057 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Foreign Trade Zone Operations Agreement with Luka International Trading, Inc., as zone site operator within site III, located at 14610 Archer Drive, Killam Industrial Park, effective February 1, 2007, and ending on January 31, 2008, and may be extended for three (3) one (1) year terms ending on January 31, 2009; January 31, 2010; and January 31, 2011 and providing activation, administration and transaction fees be paid to the City; providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-O-057.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Ramirez

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

X. RESOLUTIONS

6. 2007-R-022 Authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the United States Foreign-Trade Zones Board for manufacturing authority on behalf of IUSA, S.A. de C.V. for an approximate 75-acre tract located within the Unitec Industrial Park Foreign-Trade Zone Site No. 6 for the purpose of constructing and operating a copper tubing manufacturing complex.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2007-R-022.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. 2007-R-023 Rescinding Resolution 2001-R-033 approved on March 19, 2001 declaring the City of Laredo's opposition to the proposed regional landfill on Highway 359.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2007-R-023.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. STAFF REPORTS

8. A. Status report by Elizabeth Alonzo, Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation Executive Director, regarding the Noise Compatibility Rental Program.

Elizabeth Alonzo, Executive Director of Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation, explained that on January 16, 2007 the City Council introduced two ordinances to reduce rates within the noise abatement program which would address the 70% occupancy. City Council also instructed staff to return to Council with an update on the occupancy. The Director reported that the vacancy rates have been reduced after the reduction of rental rates. The occupancy rate for a single property home as of March 2007 is 99%. In January 2007 the multi-property rate was 51% and on March 2007 the rate is 90%.

- A. Staff report by Miguel A. Pescador, Parks and Recreation Department Director, regarding Slaughter Park, with possible action.

Miguel Pescador, Parks & Recreation Director, gave a comprehensive report on the proposed changes of the Slaughter Park. He gave a PowerPoint presentation which explained all of the changes.

*The PowerPoint presentation is available for review at the City Secretary's Office.

General Overview

The City of Laredo contracted with the park planning firm of Land Design Partners (in conjunction with Ashley Humphries & Sanchez Architects and Arcadis G & M, Inc.) for the design and construction document preparation – and realization – of the Slaughter Park.

Original Master Plan was prepared in September of 2005.

Purpose of the update: Apprise council on the proposed master plan update and

receive comments regarding the master plan update.

Cm. Rendon expressed his concern regarding securing in the park area.

Cm. Landeck requested for staff to consider placing a police sub-station or surveillance cameras at the Slaughter Park.

Chief Dovalina noted that the police sub-station has not been considered and that if they do place a substation at the park that he would need additional personnel.

Cm. Garza instructed staff to search for additional funds for surveillance cameras.

Miguel Pescardo, Parks & Recreation Director, reminded Council that they instructed staff to focus on soccer parks for the Slaughter Park.

Motion to accept the proposed changes to plans for Slaughter Park.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- B. Update on the proposed split payment program for payment of property taxes by Elizabeth Martinez, Tax Department Director, with possible action.

Elizabeth Martinez, Tax Collector/Assessor Director, advised that the only two entities that offer the split payment plan is Laredo Independent School District and Webb County. Laredo Independent School District has a \$27.6 million dollar levy and only 9.4 % utilize the split payment option. LISD collects \$2.6 million utilizing that option. In the case of Webb County they have a \$56 million dollar levy and only 2.2% utilize the split payment option. Two significant reasons why entities do not offer the split payment is because 25% of all levies are paid by mortgage companies. Also businesses that own their businesses choose to pay by December 31 so they can take the same deduction on their income tax.

Motion to create an ordinance which would allow all property owners the option of split payment for their property taxes.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Chavez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. MOTIONS

9. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the existing retainer agreement with Law Offices of Baker Botts, LLP, by allotting an additional amount of \$140,000.00 to pay for legal services related to the Open Meetings Act case, styled Martha Escamilla, Maria Gloria Gonzalez and Webb County, Texas vs. the City of Laredo, et. al., Cause No. 2004-CVQ-000450-D2, in the 111th District Court, Webb County, Texas.

Motion to approve as amended not to exceed \$40,000.00.

Moved: Cm. Garza
Second: Cm. Landeck
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 2
Cm. Garcia
Cm. Amaya

10. Authorizing the City Manager to amend an existing contract with Attorney Bruce Wasinger, from the Law Firm of Bickerstaff, Health, Pollan & Caroom, L.L.P. for professional legal services related to the development of the City of Laredo's Secondary Water Source Project by an additional amount of \$10,327.50 not to exceed \$60,326.50. Funding is available in the Legal Fees Water Availability Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Landeck
Second: Cm. Chavez
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement by and between the City of Laredo and Webb County to establish procedures for serving as a back-up public safety answering point for the Laredo Police Department and Webb County Sheriff's Office.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 1 an increase of \$54,430.00 to the professional services contract with Drash Consulting Engineers, Laredo, Texas, for the Laredo International Airport Construction of Northeast Cargo Apron (Phase II), General Aviation Apron (Phase II) and Southwest Cargo Apron Concrete Pads Projects to provide laboratory, sampling, and testing services of materials quality assurance. Funding is available in the Airport Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. Consideration to exercise the renewal option for one additional year for contract number FY06-045 awarded to MO-VAC Environmental, McAllen, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$30,000.00 for the transportation and disposal of leachate and contaminated water generated at the City of Laredo Landfill. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Department's budget.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one hundred and twenty three (123) Microsoft Office 2007 software licenses from SHI-Governmental Services, in the total amount of \$37,117.00, through the State of Texas, Department of Information Resources (DIR), cooperative contract pricing. Funding is available in the Police Trust Fund budget.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. Consideration to award contract number FY07-053, to the low bidders, Royal Laser Wash and Royal Treat Car Wash, for furnishing car wash services for the City's automotive fleet. Bids were requested for car wash services with and without inside vacuum and for locations throughout the Laredo city limits. All services are secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Fund.

Francisco Meza, Purchasing Agent, advised that the owner will be installing video cameras and software that will deter City employees from taking advantage of this service.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Consideration to authorize the purchase fifty four (54), new mobile radios for the Police Department, through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) cooperative contract pricing from Motorola Inc., in the total amount of \$171,165.96. Funding is available from Police Trust Fund and 2006 Public Property Finance Contractual Obligation bond proceeds.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to award contract number FY07-070, to the low bidder meeting specifications, E Poly Star, San Leandro CA, in the amount of \$99,600.00, for the purchase of 1.5 million plastic bags for use in the City's Recycling Program. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Services budget.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration to authorize the installation of speed humps along Avenida Mexico between Avenida Los Presidentes and Monclova Drive in accordance with the speed hump installation policy under the special provision for installation; project costs are estimated at \$3,600.00. Funding will be made available from Capital Improvement Projects - City Council District 1.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

17. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 (1) (A) of the Texas Government Code to consult with the City's Attorney in the pending case of Martin Villarreal, et. al., v. City of Laredo, the Laredo Affordable Housing Corporation, MG Builders, WSC, Inc. and Trinity Testing Laboratories, Inc., Cause No. L-03-11, in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division [Case pertaining to Los Obispos Affordable Housing Project]; and return to open session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 (1) (A) of the Texas Government Code to consult with the City's Attorney in the pending case of Martin Villarreal, et. al., v. City of Laredo, the Laredo Affordable Housing Corporation, MG Builders, WSC, Inc. and Trinity Testing Laboratories, Inc., Cause No. L-03-11, in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division [Case pertaining to Los Obispos Affordable Housing Project]; and return to open session for possible action.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

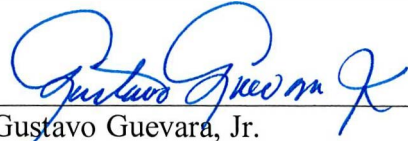
Motion to adjourn.

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

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 20 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on March 26, 2007.



Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary