

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2007-R-22
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
NOVEMBER 19, 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 G. 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.,
Carlos Villarreal,
Cynthia Collazo,
Horacio De Leon,
Jesus Olivares,
Raul Casso,

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

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of July 2, 2007, October 30, 2007 and November 5, 2007.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain:

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions

Recognition of Gerardo "Jerry" Piña of the Environmental Services Department on his selection as the November employee of the month.

Riazul Mia, Environmental Services Director, spoke of what an honor it is to have Gerardo "Jerry" Pina as an employee for the Environmental Services Department.

The Mayor and City Council presented Gerardo "Jerry" Pina of the Environmental Services Department a City Manager's Certificate of Recognition on his selection as the November employee of the month.

Communiqués

Mayor Salinas announced that the City of Laredo was fortunate to have two great visitors that serve at the United States Capitol in Washington, D. C. including Kay Bailey Hutchison, United States Senator; and Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House for the United States Congress. He noted that he met with both visitors and stressed the importance of the different alternatives to the "wall". He continued to say that he has received over 1,000 letters of hate mail from throughout the United States which threatened him and his family for his conversation on the Glen Beck show. He reassured everyone that the City of Laredo is a great City and he will always stand tall for the City of Laredo.

Cm. Garza congratulated high school football teams in South Laredo especially United South High School. He also congratulated Nixon High School for going to the play-offs. He informed the viewing public that Cynthia Espinoza represented him at an event at Cigarroa Recreation Center where several sponsors presented sixteen food baskets with turkeys to less fortunate families. He advised that the program is called "adopt a family" program which provides food for the family for one year. He continued to discuss where 350 elderly individuals from various daycares were presented food, gifts, and games on behalf of Judge Veliz, Mayor Salinas, Council Member Chavez, and the Laredo Fire Fighter's Association. He wished all the families a Happy Thanksgiving.

Cm. Garcia mentioned that he had the opportunity to meet with the new Mayor of Nuevo Laredo prior to the election and he looks forward to working with the officials from Nuevo Laredo. He thanked HEB for the Feast of Sharing and for assisting him with a 100 turkey drive in his district. He said that he also distributed 25 food baskets assembled by the Laredo Commission for Women in the Laredo Independent School District areas. Finally, he thanked all the City of Laredo employees that assisted with the Lou Gerick's Disease Walk.

He congratulated the new Mayor of Nuevo Laredo. He said that the new Mayor, Mr. Barrios, is very sincere about his willingness to cooperate with the City of Laredo.

Cm. Amaya said that he along with the District IV Special Project Committee members, Laredo Police Department, and the Laredo Fire Department will be holding their turkey give-aways to over two hundred of the less fortunate families. He added that in the seven years as Council Member he has been able to provide 1,200 families turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Cm. Rendon congratulated John Ofilia, Public Works Director, and his staff for expediting their work on Jacaman Road. He mentioned a dinner/dance where 1,200 individuals will go to the Casa Blanca Ball Room to enjoy the Thanksgiving Celebration. He advised that he had read a proclamation in the Mayors honor to fight the hunger and homeless and he said that he was moved because he saw so many individuals stepping up to help the homeless.

Cm. Belmares thanked HEB for everything that they have done for the people of Laredo. He also congratulated the local football teams for their year of performance. He also congratulated the four United High School marching bands for their award winning presentation during half time. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Cm. Chavez gave a brief update on the Bristol Road and Railroad Bridge projects in his district.

Cm. Ramirez reminded everyone to pray for the men and women serving in the armed forces across the world. He invited everyone to attend the "Tree Lighting Ceremony" at the Civic Center.

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.

Susan Ghertner, Environmental Affairs Associate from HEB, gave a short power point presentation on the efforts that HEB is taking to be environmentally friendly. She applauded the Council's recent decision of going "plastic free" and introduced a new bag that HEB will be offering interested shoppers who would like to go plastic free.

Maria Eugenia Guerra, Publisher of Laredos, expressed her dissatisfaction of a proposed donation by the GEO Group. She encouraged City Council to vote against accepting the \$250,000.00 donation by the GEO.

Ron Rodriguez, Attorney at Law, was representing two families that have suffered the death of a loved one at the hands of the GEO Group. He encouraged City Council to reject the donation from the GEO Group noting that it would be shameful for them to encourage an establishment like theirs to be built in the City of Laredo.

Dr. Jim Earhart thanked City Council for the efforts that have come forth concerning the plastic bags.

Remy Salinas spoke against accepting the \$250,000.00 donation from the GEO Group. He also spoke about a service plan that is attached to the annexation items on the agenda. He also encouraged City Council to postpone the annexations on the agenda until after the park dedication ordinance workshop is held.

Faviola Flores, Attorney at Law, asked Council to continue their positive trend in the City and deny acceptance of the \$250,000 donation from the GEO Group.

Ricardo Soliz spoke against accepting money from the GEO Group.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

A. Reaffirming the appointment of Sandra Rocha-Taylor, representing the Avenida San Bernardo Assoc. and the Pan American Courts Hotel, to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee as sponsored by Council Member Juan Chavez, District VII.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

B. Reaffirming the appointment of Clema Owen, representing the Embassy Suites, to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee as sponsored by Council Member Juan Ramirez, District VII.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

C. Reaffirming the appointment of Lisa Morales, representing the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association, to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee sponsored by Council Member Hector Garcia, District II.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

D. Reaffirming the appointment of Guillermo "Memo" Treviño, representing the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee sponsored by Council Member Mike Garza, District I.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

VII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. A. Request by Council Member Mike Garza

1. Status report on the Municipal Golf Course Project and related funding, with possible action.

Miguel Pescador, Parks & Recreation, confirmed that the City of Laredo had the golf course. a range from \$2,250,000 to \$5,450,000 during the feasibility study for course. The feasibility study indicated that there is a market for a golf course.

Cm. Garza expressed his concerns regarding the golf course. He said that the golf accelerated. He project was earmarked \$5.6 million 2009 project which was to the noted that the location that is being discussed is a far distance from the City of Laredo; therefore, he questioned what kind of improvements necessary to get site.

Tomas Rodriguez, Jr., Utilities Director, provided a comprehensive report on additional costs that need to be considered for the proposed golf course. He recommended for the City to lease the water rights of 339 acres because 500 acre feet would be provided by the owner of the golf course. The cost of that would be \$6 an acre foot which computes to \$20,340. In addition to the water rights the Council needs to consider a system that will suspend solids from the Rio Grande for irrigation and that would be \$1.6 million dollars. He mentioned the extension of the water line to Santa Isabel Creek which would cost an estimated \$528,000. Finally, the City would need to pump the raw sewerage to Laredo Columbia which would cost an

reads additional \$1.1 million dollars. He further mentioned that the original contract that the developer will cover some of the above mentioned costs.

should Cm. Garza said that the new proposal should be very specific. He said that they include the mileage parameters in the proposal indicating the true distance so all costs can be considered. He said that the City of Laredo should also approach Webb County for assistance in the project.

that the Gary Jacobs, representing families of interested investors in golf course, said embrace. He golf course is a quality of life vision for the Council Members to family encouraged City Council to instruct the City Manager to negotiate with the who won the bid submitted by the City. He added that the group of investors (seventeen individuals) have complied to all of the requests and are anxious to see the project to fruition. He went on to say that the golf course will pay for itself by attracting the retiring generation and it will allow the City of Laredo to compete with other cities throughout the United States.

golf site. Cm. Garza asked Gary Jacobs what the total cost would be for their proposed

the Gary Jacobs answered that the City of Laredo has had several meetings with interested party and the agreed price included the donation of one million dollars in cash, the land donation of 300 acres, and \$5.5 million dollars from the City of Laredo. He spoke against working with any other entity at this moment.

course Cm. Garza said that it would behoove the City to include the County in the golf negotiations because they could save the City of Laredo a lot of money that could be utilized for more important issues.

would not Gary Jacobs informed City Council that if they approve the motion that he submit a proposal and the City of Laredo will forgo the largest single gift in the history of Laredo.

the Motion to instruct the City Manager to initiate a new Request for Proposals on specific regarding all Municipal Golf Course Project. The proposal should be cost

cost to issues including water rights, irrigation costs, extension of water lines, and the pump the raw sewerage.

Moved: Cm. Garza
Second: Cm. Chavez
For: 3

Against: 5

Abstain:

0

Cm. Garza
Cm. Garcia
Cm. Chavez

Cm. Landeck
Cm. Amaya
Cm. Rendon
Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
Cm. Ramirez

Motion to proceed with the existing project on the Municipal Golf Course.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
Second: Cm. Landeck
For: 5

Against: 3

Abstain:

0

Cm. Garcia
Cm. Landeck
Cm. Amaya
Cm. Rendon
Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Cm. Garza
Cm. Chavez
Cm. Ramirez

Zapata 2. Discussion on the item requested by L.I.S.D. Board of Trustees related to Hwy., discussed at the November 5th Council Meeting.

crossing the Cm. Garza expressed his concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians Zapata Highway.

Carlos Rodriguez and Danny McGee from Texas Department of Transportation, discussed several alternatives for pedestrians crossing the Zapata Hiway. He informed Council that he has been working with law enforcers in controlling the speed limit and jaywalking. He continued to say that TxDOT has a temporary 30 mph zone in the said location. He said that the second avenue that they are considering is education. He said that they have met with L.I.S.D. school officials regarding the

education perspective. Finally, the third alternative is engineering. The Pedestrian bridge is not used effectively. After researching the item it was reported pedestrians refuse to use pedestrian walkways. He said the problem with the walkways is they make you go up and then straight horizontally. The cost of the walkway is over a million dollars without the right-of-way.

pedestrian Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, explained that if there is a barrier then the

barrier walkway is used; however, if pedestrians have the opportunity to cross with no then they will not use the walkway.

safer Cm. Garza advised that officials need to look at all the options for creating a crossing for pedestrians. He noted that he has met with Mr. Medina and he suggested lowering the speed limit or installing flashers in the area.

raised Danny McGee explained that TxDOT has installed an additional piece of median just south of Zacatecas because that is where the young man was recently hit by a car.

need Cm. Garza explained that the other problem is enforcement. Our police officers to strictly enforce the speed limit in that area. He asked TxDOT to submit several alternatives for the site.

assisted 3. Discussion with possible action on using the old Mercy Building for housing.

great Cm. Garza stated that using the old Mercy Building for assisted housing is a opportunity for the City of Laredo because they can obtain loans.

the City Mayor Salinas said that there is a long waiting list for housing. He noted that Laredo. could contact the local legislators and encourage them to assist the City of

Cm. Garcia added that the City of Laredo could host the Veteran's Clinic at the location.

Community Cm. Chavez shared that he had requested information from the Development Director, Ronnie Acosta.

of all Ronnie Acosta, Community Development, reported that she provided statistics regarding the elderly in the community. She said that the elderly make up 12% with renters in Webb County and of those 16% are low income. Also 68% are faced housing problems.

Mercy Motion to proceed with the feasibility study and the purchase of the old Regional Medical Building for assisted housing.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

B. Request by Council Member Dr. Michael Landeck

1. Discussion with possible action regarding amendments and possible additions to the redemption machines "maquinitas" or 8-liners ordinance, with all possible changes regarding facilities, operation, fees and any other related issues. (Co-sponsored by Council Member Juan Chavez)

Cm. Landeck said that during the last meeting several Council Members brought up the problem with the maquinitas. He said that it is coming clear to him that the City is dealing with an issue that is destroying families in the community. He noted that the City of Laredo is losing time in dealing with the maquinitas which will allow additional families to be destroyed. He said that he feels uncomfortable ignoring the community problem.

Motion to freeze the issuance of license to new or existing maquinita businesses until the City Council can attend a workshop regarding the businesses.

Moved: Cm. Landeck
Second: Mayor pro Tempore Belmares

Second was withdrawn.

Raul Casso, City Attorney, said that temporary moratoriums are to address specific problems. The harm that the maquinitas are doing will continue to exist during a moratorium by virtue of the permits that are currently in existence. The permits that would be denied under the moratorium would not impact the community because the health problem will continue to happen; hence, the purpose of protecting the public's and safety is questionable. A moratorium is not proper for this problem. He encouraged City Council to focus on the workshop where the City of Laredo can initiate a comprehensive plan that includes enforcement.

Cm. Garcia stressed the importance of tough enforcement on existing businesses.

Cm. Landeck continued to stress that the community is suffering from the maquinita

legal

businesses and he is very disappointed that the answer is that the City has no means to protect this community from further damage.

City
the

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares explained that the City of Laredo is a HomeRule and they have latitude as to what they can and cannot say regarding issues in the community.

Motion to table the item until the scheduled workshop.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2. Discussion with possible action in order to eliminate from the contract with Poznecki and Camarillo, Inc., the condition not allowing Poznecki et. al., to meet with representatives of the third site i.e. Project 45 or the other DD Hachar Foundation site, and further to meet with interested City Councilmen and any other person or group that City Council may deem necessary for better understanding and possible clarifications related to the selection/recommendation of a site for Bridge 5 as well as related issues.

Cm. Landeck noted that he wanted to remind City Council and the public that all interested parties were all in agreement to build a commercial bridge because Laredo has no need for a non-commercial bridge. He expressed his concerns regarding the bridge. He said that the decision is not reflected in the Poznecki reports. They are talking about relieving Bridge I & II from non-commercial traffic and connecting to the other side of Nuevo Laredo to a resort center. He said that he feels that one of the problems that the City is having with this report is that neither he or other Council Members and Commissioners have any possibility to discuss issues with Poznecki and to share with them thoughts. He further stated that it would be in the interests of everyone to remove the communication restriction with Poznecki. He suggested creating a workshop with Poznecki to exchange ideas and express concerns. Motion to remove the restriction and work closely with Poznecki Company.

Moved: Cm. Landeck
Second:

No second – motion dies.

C. Request by Council Member Johnny Rendon

Laredo 1. Presentation and possible action on the City of Laredo contracting with
Community College for specific economic development services.

College, Blas Casteneda, Chief Officer for External Affairs at Laredo Community
gave the following presentation.

**Laredo Community College
Economic Development Center**

Contents

LCC and Economic Development
EDC Mission & Vision
Current State of Things
Strategies Proposed

Connecting Education to the Global Economy

and *“People must be educated about modern economy and global competition
drawn into the process of better preparing for it”* Michael Porter,
Bishop William

Lawrence University Professor, Harvard Business School

Economic Development at a glance
Business Attraction
Business Retention & Expansion
Diverse Competitive Workforce

Mission Statement

community To develop, in conjunction with city and county leadership, workforce boards,
priority economic development organizations, the private sector, labor and
groups, and other stakeholders; innovative solutions in identified strategic
areas for growth and development.

Vision

technology
To advance Laredo and South Texas economic prosperity through high quality education and services focusing on continuous workforce improvement, deployment, and business development.

Working towards a brighter future now

in the
What are the current drivers of our local economy?
How much potential do we have?
How do we better utilize our strengths?
Where do we see ourselves in 20 years from now?
Which region (s) should Laredo seek to integrate with? (If Laredo is interested strategy)

the
Motion to instruct the City Manager to work out a contractual agreement with Laredo Community College for specific economic development services.

Moved: Cm. Rendon
Second: Cm. Chavez
For: 8 Against:
0 Abstain: 0

about the
noted that
set
overall
Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, stressed the importance of being specific type of service that will be offered by the Laredo Community College. He it should include the dates of service and the amount of money that should be forth in said fashion. He noted that he would not want to be looking at an figure that is not budgeted.

Sage
2. Status report on the storm drainage project in Belmont Plaza Subdivision at Drive and Esperanza Drive.

awarded on
survey
and
which
Riazul Mia, Environmental Services Director, said that this project was October 1, 2007. The consultant has 90 days and they have completed their by gathering the data from TxDOT and Utilities. The design is 20% complete the City of Laredo should receive the final plan by the end of January 2008 will allow the City to initiate a bid.

Chaparral 3. Discussion with possible action to provide funding for speed humps on Street between Alabama Avenue and Gallagher.

Chaparral Roberto Murillo, Traffic Director, indicated that the records show that for staff has there was a motion to place four speed humps; however, the City of Laredo that not obtained the required signatures that are required to proceed. He said three Alabama needs three speed humps at a total cost of \$5,400. Gallagher needs speed humps.

Alabama Motion to use the Discretionary Funds of District V for the speed humps on and Gallagher.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

0 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain:

4. Status report on the dome for the basketball court in Eistetter Park.

for the Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, reported that the City of Laredo has a contract should be design and the contractor has been given a notice to proceed. The project complete in ten weeks.

D. Request by Council Member Juan Ramirez

1. Status report on the Plaza Theater, with possible action.

report on Ronnie Acosta, Community Development Director, gave a comprehensive CDBG the Plaza Theater noting that the city of Laredo purchased the facility with have funds in 1999. She further explained that the facility has a new roof, petitions to been removed as well as asbestos. She stressed that the effort of the City is renovate the preserve the integrity of the structure. She added that the total cost to was building is \$6.1 million dollars. She informed City Council that the Ad-Hoc that were used created to discuss issues of the Plaza Theater was complete because they to consider the feasibility study.

Plaza
building. Motion to instruct the City Manager to initiate a Request for Proposals for the Theater to see if a private investor will show interested in renovating the building.

Moved: Cm. Ramirez

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8 Against:

0 Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on the upcoming expiration date of the contract with First Transit.

from First
related to the
doing a
precludes
the end of Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, reported that he has not seen the contract Transit. He advised that there had been some miscommunication naming of the manager but as a company and as a whole they have been doing a good job operating the transit system. He noted that there is nothing that him from bringing back a recommendation to go with first Transit at the end of January.

administration. Cm. Garcia said that he was concerned about some of the issues that the City Manager mentioned but he is currently pleased with the current administration.

scenarios
the
be Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, noted that he would be in a position to make a recommendation to City Council regarding First Transit based on all the that have been presented to City Council. He added that the company has the expertise to create a better system. He informed City Council that he would be placing the item back on the agenda.

3. Discussion with possible action on placing a statue between Santa Ursula Avenue and San Dario Avenue on Matamoros Street on the east side of the Laredo National Bank.

discussed
that has been Cm. Ramirez said that he brought the item to City Council because he had the item four years ago. Huntsville placed a statue of Sam Houston and that has been an attraction to that City – they create an attraction.

Cm. Garza suggested creation of an ad-hoc committee.

Ursula Cm. Garcia expressed his dissatisfaction of placing a statue between Santa Avenue and Dan Dario Avenue.

Cm. Ramirez advised that is would assist with the tourist dollars.

donations
creation
Mayor Salinas recommended reaching out to the private sector to obtain for the statue. He further stated that he would review the item and consider of an ad hoc committee.

following 4. Discussion with possible action on placing sidewalks in District VIII at the following locations:

1. 1700 block of San Jorge Avenue (east side)
2. 1800 block of San Jorge Avenue (east side)
3. 2500 block of Salinas Avenue (west side)
4. 2500 block of Juarez Avenue (west side)
5. 2500 block of Davis Avenue (west side)
6. 2600 block of Main Avenue (west side)
7. 1800 block of Constantinople Street (north side)

District Motion to use the discretionary fund of District VIII for placing sidewalks in VIII at the following locations:

1. 1700 block of San Jorge Avenue (east side)
2. 1800 block of San Jorge Avenue (east side)
3. 2500 block of Salinas Avenue (west side)
4. 2500 block of Juarez Avenue (west side)
5. 2500 block of Davis Avenue (west side)
6. 2600 block of Main Avenue (west side)
7. 1800 block of Constantinople Street (north side)

Moved: Cm. Ramirez

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

16, 2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending Article II, Section 2-

by "Departments of the City," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, creating, consolidating and eliminating departments; and providing for severability and an effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce with changes discussed including separating the Environmental Services and Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares recommended that City Council should postpone the creation of and Economic Development department because of the contractual agreement discussion with Laredo Community College.

Cm. Landeck said that he was not invited to the discussion regarding the structural changes. He said that the last decision that the City Council made was to accept the recommendations of the Water's Group Corporation with the exception of the Police Department. He said that what he would expect to see today is the chart of the Water's Corporation put on the table because there are many changes that have been done to the chart that is being presented. He questioned the structure that was being provided at the current meeting.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, explained that according to the City Charter the Tax Department and the Planning and Zoning Department must remain as a stand alone department. He said that he has been requested of evening out the departments as far as responsibilities. He noted that he has met with different Council Members for recommendation.

Cm. Landeck expressed that he does not feel that the City Manager is handing the reorganization of the City Council properly. He stressed that the discussion needs to be brought before the public. He stressed that all comments need to be brought before the public.

Carlos Villarreal, City Manager, said that it has been very hard for him because there has been so many recommendations made that eventually the City of Laredo has to operate.

He said that is was difficult for him to have a reorganization with the instructions that there will be an organization but no people should be affected by salary. He said that it is quiet hard to have a reorganization in that vein. Regardless of what staff does the organization cannot conflict with the City Charter. He stressed that he is ready to comply with whatever City Council wishes.

Cm. Landeck said that staff should be careful with following City Charter procedures. The City Charter states that the organization should be done by the City Council and the

positioning of the staff should be done by City Manager.

City Manager, Carlos Villarreal, addressed Council and agreed to bring back what was originally voted on according to the motion. Staff can make changes according to what they feel is necessary as per the City Charter. Staff can then return to City Council with another organizational chart indicating changes that balance the different department.

Thirdly, staff could return to City Council for the final approval.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares said that he would return to City Council with an item to eliminate the Economic Development Department.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 4

Against: 4

Abstain:

0

Cm. Garza

Cm. Garcia

Cm. Landeck

Cm. Rendon

Cm. Amaya

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Cm. Chavez

Cm. Ramirez

Mayor Salinas voted in favor for tie breaker.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending Chapter 2 Administration Article VI Investment Policy of the Code of Ordinances in order to:

1. Add new Section 2.257 Authorizing Investment Advisors; and

2. Add new Section 2.270 Investment Strategy by Fund Type;

thereform 3. Deleting part of renumbered Section 2.258 Authorized Investments, to delete (d) Bankers Notes and (e) Commercial Paper; and

article 4. Amending and modifying the other sections of Article IV in order to make the Investment comply with Chapter 2256 of the Government Code known as the Public-Act; and providing for an effective date.

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 the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Public hearing and introductory ordinance providing for the taxation of goods-in-transit

pursuant to Section 11.253 (j) of the Texas Property Tax Code. Goods-in-transit are exempt from taxation, unless the taxing unit provides for the taxation prior to January 1st of the tax year in which the tax is proposed. The goods-in-transit shall remain subject to taxation until this action is rescinded or repealed.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and reject.

Moved: Cm. Chavez

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

5. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for an amusement redemption machine establishment on Lots 2A and 2B, Block 1, Bartlett Apartments Subdivision at Jacaman Ranch, located at 6508 N. Bartlett Avenue. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit. District V

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Mario Santos requested an amusement machine business for 175 machines, they are moving from another building from McPherson to Bartlett Ave.

Motion to close the public hearing and table until discussion at a workshop.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

6. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the Conditional Use Permit for a birthing clinic on Lots 4, 9, and 10, Block 941, Western Division, located at 3712 Santa Ursula Avenue. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit. District VII

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Cm. Chavez advised that this area is covered with asphalt. He suggested donating the required trees and scrubs to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Chavez

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Chavez

7. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 17 Library, Article 1, in General, Section "Fines and Fees for Library Services", allowing for the addition of a new fee associated with the Laredo Public Library Main Branch becoming a Passport Acceptance Facility; Providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Landeck

0

For: 5

Against: 1

Abstain:

Cm. Chavez

Ordinance Introduction: City Council except for Council Member Chavez
Cm. Garza and Cm. Amaya were not present.

8. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending Section 903.2.7 of the International Building Code [Adopted as the Building Code of the City under Section 7-1 of Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances] in order to provide for deletion of requirement of an automatic sprinkler system for a four (4) Dwelling Unit; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Chavez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

9. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending Section 108.3 of the International Building Code [Adopted as the Building Code of the City under Section 7 Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances] in order to:

1. Coret a printing error; and
2. Reduce the building permit valuation for utility buildings from \$20.40 to \$11.00; and providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

10. Amending Chapter 12 [Fire Prevention and Protection] of the Code of Ordinances in the

following respects:

Code of 1. Amending Section 903.27 of the International Fire Code [Adopted as the Fire

to the City under Section 12-2 of Chapter 12 of the Code of Ordinances] in order
sprinkler provide for deletion of the requirement of the requirement of an automatic
system for a four dwelling unit:

2. Deletion of Section 12-5 [Fire Prevention Code]

and 3. Deleting Section 12-6 [Life Safety Code 101] and providing for an effective date
publication.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Chavez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

11. Second (2nd) public hearing for the voluntary annexation of eleven (11) tracts of land:

Tract 1: Ed-Sal Tract – 4.02 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Chavez

0

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 2: RRTAIT Tract– 84.77 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Chavez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 3: Killam Charco Tract – 88.56 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 4: Killam Quiote Tract – 194.08 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 5: AFW Investments II Tract – 105.19 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 6: H-5 Tract – 59.94 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 7: A.R. and Alicia Sanchez Tract – 10.85 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 8: 4V Holdings Tract – 172.13 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 9: South Webb County Tract – 1330.83 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Tract 10: Tanquecitos South Acres Tract – 21.60 acres, more or less;

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rerndon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

**Tract 11: Daughters of Mary Help Tract – 30.00 acres, more or less);
for a total of 2,101.97 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.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

12. Amending the lease between the City of Laredo & Webb County of Lots 9 & 10, Block 320, Eastern Division, a copy of which amendment is attached as Exhibit A, in which the changes are as follows:

1. Providing for contribution from the City of \$300,000.00 towards the cost of constructing the community center for the elderly on the leased premises;
2. Adding a tract of 5,069.85 sq. ft., out of Lexington Avenue between Stewart Street and Reynolds Street, described by metes and bounds and survey attached as Exhibit 3 of Exhibit A and
3. Adding a tract of land of 7,717.28 sq. ft., out of the north half of Lexington Avenue fronting Stewart Street described by metes and bounds and survey attached as Exhibit A; and providing for effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the Final Readings of Ordinances # 2007-O-232, # 2007-O-233, #2007-O-234, # 2007-O-235, # 2007-O-236, # 2007-O-237, # 2007-O-238, # 2007-O-239, # 2007-O-240, # 2007-O-239, # 2007-O-240, and # 2007-O-241.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Chavez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

13. 2007-O-232 Amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Financial Task Force budget by increasing expenses in the amount of \$10,000.00 for an interdiction project awarded by the Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) High Density Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Funds will be used to pay fringe benefit expenses for a drug interdiction unit comprised of Financial Task Force agents and Laredo Police Officers from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2007. Fringe benefits will be funded from the opening fund balance.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-232.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2007-O-233 Amending the City of Laredo Health Department Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$172,239.00, from the Texas Department of State Health Services-Office of Border Health for the Department's Public Health

Emergency Preparedness-
for early detection and rapid
31, 2008, and authorizing the
contract.

Early Warning Infections Disease Surveillance
response from October 1, 2007 through July
City Manager to execute the

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-233.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2007-O-234 Amending the City of Laredo Health Department Fiscal Year 2007-
2008 annual budget by appropriating revenues and
expenditures in the amount \$24,750.00 from the University of
Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for the
continuation of the Department's South Texas Family AIDS Network
grant award for the period beginning August 1, 2007 through July 31,
2008 to provide patient care for HIV/AIDS patients.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-234.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2007-O-235 Ratifying City Manager's acceptance of a grant by the United
States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Border 2012
Grant Program in the amount of \$50,000.00 with the City designating
\$12,695.00 in matching funds for a total of \$62,695.00 and amending
the City of Laredo's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Annual Budget for the
Environmental Services Fund by appropriating the said grant revenue to
the appropriate expenditure accounts. Funds will be used for the
production of the Dos Laredos Non- Point Source Pollution Early
Childhood Education Video.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-235.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2007-O-236 Amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2007-2008 annual budget for
the parking meters fund by appropriating expenditures in the amount
of \$300,000.00 from fund balance for the Riverfront Parking Lot
Restructuring Project.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-236.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2007-O-237 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Foreign Trade Zone
Operation Agreement with International Trade & Commerce,
Inc., as zone site operator of site 1-D, located at 309 NAFTA Boulevard,
effective February 1, 2007 and ending on March 31,
2009. Providing for activation, administration and transaction fees to be
paid to the City; providing for an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-237.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2007-O-238 Establishing guidelines and criteria governing tax abatements by the
City of Laredo; providing for severability, publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-238.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2007-O-239 Amending the Code of Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Chapter 2,
Article V. Boards, Commissions, Councils, etc., Division 4. Convention &
Visitors Bureau Advisory Board, Sec. 2-223; Membership criteria; term of
office; method of appointment; ex-officio members; by
amending Sections (a) and (b); This clarifies ordinance to specify that
the committee be converted to a nine-person standing committee
composed of appointees from each City Council district and an
appointee at large by the Mayor as directed through City Council action
taken on May 14, 2007. (as amended)

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-239.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

0

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

2007-O-240 Amending Chapter 19, Article XI, Truck Traffic, Division 2, Truck Routes, Section 19-415 (A) (2), Departure from and Return to Designated Truck Route; thereby eliminating existing conflict in the ordinance language regarding the posting of "No Trucks" signs on streets that are not designated as truck routes; providing for severability, publication and effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-240.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

2007-O-241 Amending the City of Laredo Code Ordinances to clarify certain sections of the Vehicles for Hire Ordinance and to properly enforce taxicab operation

regulation as follows:

Ordinances in
and
license,
(12);
order
(D);
add
effective date and
these

1. Section 32-28 (A), renewal of annual permit, of the Code of order to clarify section;
2. Section 32-33 (3), Substitute or replace taxicabs, in order to add clarify section;
3. Section 32-37 Term and Renewal, in order to clarify section;
4. Section 32-43.1, Suspension and Revocation of a taxicab amending subsection (b) and adding a new subsection
5. Section 32-65.1, Parking of Taxicabs, of the Code of Ordinances, in to clarify section;
6. Section 32-70, property left in taxicab, in order to clarify section;
7. Section 32-71, Taximeters-Required, adding subsections (C) and
8. Section 32-74, Vehicle Requirements and Inspections, in order to Subsection (10); providing for severability, for an publication.

The Transportation/Traffic Safety Advisory Committee approved proposed amendments.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-241.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

XI. RESOLUTIONS

14. 2007-R-088 Expressing the City of Laredo’s support for the construction of a Border Safety Inspection Facility (BSIF) by the Texas Department of Transportation at the World Trade International Bridge in the general location and in the basic configuration as shown in Attachment A.

Motion to approve 2007-R-088.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

XII. MOTIONS

15. Consideration to authorize change order no. 1 in the total amount of \$34,316.00 to contract FY 07-153 awarded to Texas Wired Music, Inc., for the purchase of additional audio visual equipment needed for the City Council chambers. The revised contract total will be \$206,519.60. Funding is available in the Information Technology and Support Services-Public Education and Government (PEG) Fee Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Chavez

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

16. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2007 GMC three (3) ton crew cab utility truck in the amount of \$69,345.00; one (1) 2008 GMC cab and chassis with crane in the amount of \$129,538.00; from Rush Truck Centers of Texas, L.P., through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) and Buy Boards Cooperative Purchasing Program. This equipment will be assigned to the Utilities Department. Funding is available in the 2008 Utilities Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

17. Consideration to exercise the renewal option for contract number FY07-096 awarded to Double R Construction, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$275,000.00 for asphalt repairs. The contract pricing is based on a fixed square footage rate of \$2.75 for asphalt repairs required due to utility repairs. The

term of this contract will be for a one
Water and Sewer Funds.

(1) year period. Funding is available in the

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Ramirez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

18. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to transfer previous sale of surplus equipment from Rio Bravo, Texas, sold on April 4, 2007 to our Sister City of Lampazos de Naranjo, Nuevo Leon which the City of Rio Bravo was not able to purchase. The equipment consists of one (1) 1995 Mack Refuse Truck with a sale value of \$4,500.00 and one (1) 1993 GMC Sweeper with a sale value of \$375.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Ramirez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

19. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to donate a 1994 Chevy Suburban to Cienega de Flores due to the fact that this vehicle must be exported to Mexico. This suburban is a confiscated vehicle.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Ramirez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

20. Authorizing the City Manager to acquire through negotiations, the "Surface Only" of Lot 4, Block 2, at 3507 East Ash, in an amount not to exceed \$36,000.00, plus approximately \$850.00 in incidental expenses; Lot 5, Block 2, at 3509 East Ash Street, in an amount not to exceed \$121,000.00, plus approximately \$1,300.00 in incidental expenses; and Lot 6, Block 2 at 3511 East Ash Street, in an amount not to exceed \$135,000.00, plus approximately \$1,400.00 in incidental expenses; for the North Heights Subdivision, Phase II, Drainage Improvements Project, and authorizing additional future parcel acquisitions, as deemed necessary in said subdivision, for the completion of said Drainage Improvements Project. These will be voluntary transactions. Funding is available in North Heights Subdivision, Phase II, Drainage Improvements Project/ 2007 Certificate of Obligation Bond Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Ramirez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

21. Approving monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of October 2007 represent a decrease of \$4,574.65. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

22. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to Brinkley Sargent Architects, Dallas, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$330,500.00 for Phase I – Development of program and master plans for Northwest Center Park Site and Phase II – Design and Construction of Recreation Center for the Northwest Recreation Center Park to be located on a 7.027 acre site in Villas San Agustin Subdivision, Unit 3. Design work is to be on a fast track basis. Funding is available in the 2005 CO Bond – Northwest Recreation Center/Pool.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Cm. Ramirez
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

23. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 a decrease of \$20,117.00 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place and to add twenty-six (26) working days to the construction contract time due to rain delays and holidays, acceptance of the Police Substation for Fire Station No. 14 at Cielito Lindo Blvd., and approval of a final payment in the amount of \$32,334.80 to Zertuche Construction Company, Laredo, Texas. The final construction contract amount is \$310,433.00. Funding is available in the 2006 C.O. Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

24. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to purchase turnstile spare equipment in the amount of \$79,369.76 from sole source provider, Transcore, L.P. for the electronic toll collection system. Funding is available in the Bridge Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

25. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to purchase one (1) service truck from Rush Truck Centers of Texas, L.P., in the total amount of \$98,985.00 through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Government (HGAC) cooperative purchasing program's contract pricing. This truck will be assigned to the Fleet Maintenance Division. Funding is available in the Fleet Maintenance Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

26. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Fiscal Year 2008 Third Party Funding contract with the Laredo Animal Protective Society providing \$300,000.00 for shelter operations funded through the General Fund.

Motion to approve to amend that the word "Third Party Funding" be changed to "contract for services".

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

27. Authorizing the City Manager to accept a donation from the GEO Group in the amount of \$250,000.00.

Motion not to accept.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

28. Consideration to award a contract to the low bidder Southwest Business Corporation in the estimated amount of \$250,126.00 for credit card processing fees. The following departments/divisions accept payments by credit card: Utilities, Tax, Bridge, Landfill, Health Departments and others. Credit card processing will be used in connection with the Voice Response System, Click2Gov System and credit card terminals. Funding is available in the respective departmental expense line items.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

29. Amending the 2007 Consolidated One-Year Action Plan by reprogramming a total of \$825,000.00 of 33rd Action Year (AY) 2007 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the purpose of funding the Chacon Creek/Guatemozin Street Acquisition and Relocation project by redirecting funding for the following projects:

Canizalez Park Pavilion and Improvements project	\$100,000
Cielito Lindo Park project	\$225,000
Shade Structures along Zacate Creek.....	\$100,000
Slaughter Park project.....	\$400,000
 Total Funds Reprogrammed.....	 \$825,000

The Chacon Creek/Guatemozin Street Acquisition and Relocation project will enhance the floodplain and provide safety to the residents that will be relocated. The park projects are proposed to be funded through the 2007 Certificate of Obligation Bond funds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

30. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract and award the 2007 Emergency Shelter Grant funds (ESG) made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the following non-profit agencies:
(1) \$60,000.00 to the Laredo Homeless Coalition (LHC) for operation of the Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez Resource Center,
(2) \$40,000.00 to the Laredo Homeless Coalition to provide Essential Services,
(3) \$9,479.00 to Casa de Misericordia (Casa) for operation of their shelter, and
(4) \$48,000.00 to Bethany House to provide Homeless Prevention assistance.
Funding is available in the 2007 Emergency Shelter Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

31. A. Staff report by the Laredo Public Library regarding Long Range Plan,
with discussion and possible action.

Long Range Planning Committee
Carmen Escamilla – Advisory Committee Member
David Cardwell – Advisory Committee Member
Maria G. Soliz – Assistant Library Director
Homero Vazquez-Garcia – Outreach Services Manager
Rena Ren, Librarian Manager – Public Services
Malia Watson, Librarian Manager – Technical Service
David Silva – Senior Programmer Analyst
Monica Resendiz, Circulation Supervisor
Irma Gonzalez, Library Tech. III – Children’s
Edna Lopez, Library Tech. III – Tech. Services

Market Research
National Service Research
Andrea Thomas, Owner/Project Manager

Public Libraries 101

Nearly every Texas public library belongs to one of the ten regional library
systems which are administered by the Texas State Library and Archives
Commission (TSLAC).

TSLAC requires submission of an Annual Report and Application for
System Membership., Libraries must meet certain minimum criteria for
system membership and accreditation.

Benefits include collection development funds, consulting and continuing
education services, and support for special projects and eligibility for certain
grants.

In addition, there are also new recommended standards set by TSLAC and
Texas Library Association.

The purpose of these standards is to promote quality library services and to
raise the expectations of library users in Texas.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

New Accreditation Rule

Effective with this year's report:

governing board. This plan must be reviewed and updated at least every five years and must include a collection development element"

The Library Long Range Plan was prepared using a two stage process.

Public Stage I – involved a community needs assessment and an analysis of the Library Standards.

action Stage II involved recommendation of service priorities, goals, objectives, and plans by the Long Range Planning Committee.

Laredo Public Library

Study Laredo Library citizen, Teen and Senior Community Needs Assessment

Methodology

23, Four focus groups sessions with Library users and non-users on May 22 and 2007

Telephone survey with 400 randomly selected Laredo residents July 1 – 20.

community to complete the same survey document to gain additional input from these specific audiences.

or Margin of error of the entire 600 sample size at 95% confidence level is plus minus 4.1%.

Summary of Key Findings

19% Half of citizens surveyed have visited the library within the past year while 19% have never visited the library.

past 71% of seniors and 77% of teens surveyed have visited the library within the year

more Among respondents who have never used the library and hve not visited for are: no time, no than one year said the primary reasons for not using the library need and use the internet.

use the library for The top library services used among library visitors were: check out a book, computers and use online database and resources. 34% of teens use doing homework research.

Summary of Key Findings

Satisfaction with library services (among library users):

and services they use. All groups surveyed were most satisfied with the knowledgeable, courteous helpful staff, the children's programs and the general library

lower Although most services had high satisfaction scores, those services with satisfaction were

satisfaction Library services had high satisfaction scores, those services with lower were:

teens: availability of Library services with lowest satisfaction among citizens and computers and hours of operations

DVD's Library services with lowest satisfaction among seniors: availability CD's and audio books and availability of computers.

CD's and Library services not used or users not being aware of services: availability of DVD, audio books to check out, library web page and availability of children adult programs.

needed be effective events. The library should study these services carefully to determine enhancements to increase library use and awareness among citizens. The library must and promoting programs, hours, and other special services and

Summary of Key Findings

would seriously consider increase library use among all All respondents reported there was a need for several improvements that entice them to use the library more often. The library should these improvements as well as others mentioned to citizens including teens and seniors:

Top improvements among citizens:

- Convenient/expanded hours of operation
- Add more up to date computers
- Programs for children to promote reading and writing
- More programs for families
- Programs for teens to promote reading and writing

Top Improvements for Seniors

- Programs for adults/seniors
- Programs for teens to promote reading and writing

Quiet places to research and read
Programs for children to promote reading and writing

Top improvements for teens:

More books for teens

Add more up to date computers

Establish a comfortable environment with couches, footstools, and bean bags

Programs for teens to promote reading and writing

Teens will be enticed to use the library if it were a comfortable environment,

had more books for teens and more up-to-date computers. They also
want quite places to research or read, a café/lounge, convenient/expanded hours
and more branches to serve the community.

Summary of Key Findings

the Programs and services the respondents want that would entice them to use
library more often are listed below:

Top five among citizens:

Offered programs to promote reading and life long learning for all ages

Offered computer and internet training for children and teens

Offered homework centers/tutoring for school-aged children and teens

Offered more family events/programs

Top five among seniors:

Offered programs to promote reading and life long learning's for all ages

Offered computer and internet training for adults

Offered guest speakers/author signing events

Had programs and other special events for adults and seniors

Offered computer and internet training for seniors

Top five among teens:

Offered computer and internet training for children and teens

Offered homework centers/tutoring for school-aged children and teens

Had programs and other special events for children and teens

Offered wider selection of video tapes, tapes, DVD's CD's for check out

Offered guest speakers/author signing events

The community is not very educated about the library, its services and
programs. The library must promote literacy throughout the community
as well as it services and programs through advertising, newspaper (smart
source section), radio PSA announcements, collaboration with
businesses, civic leaders, educators, schools, special events and
others. The library should use these results as a guide to

make improvements and offer programs for specific audiences in order to increase use and awareness of the library and its offerings.

Motion to approve the plan.

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

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

XIV. RECESS AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MUNICIPAL HOUSING CORPORATION

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and convene as the Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8
0

Against: 0

Abstain:

32. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 a decrease of \$12,895.65 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place to the construction contract with ALC Construction, LLC., Laredo, Texas, and acceptance of the Re-Roofing Project at the Jose Flores Apartments (18 Duplexes Complex). Final construction contract amount is \$91,104.35. Funding is available in the Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
Second: Cm. Chavez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

XV. RECESS AS THE LAREDO MUNICIPAL HOUSING CORPORATION AND RECONVENE AND ADJOURN AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL

Motion to recess as the Laredo Municipal Housing Corporation and reconvene and adjourn as the Laredo City Council.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
Second: Cm. Ramirez

For: 6
0

Against: 0

Abstain:

XVI. 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.

33. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (1) (B) to consult with Assistant City Attorney on settlement offer regarding Shading Concepts, LLC, and return to open session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (1) (B) to consult with Assistant City Attorney on settlement offer regarding Shading Concepts, LLC, and return to open session for possible action.

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

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

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

Motion to accept settlement offer from shade concepts, LLC and to allow shade concepts to proceed with foundation repairs as offered and allow for city's payment of invoice dated November 8, 2006, in the amount of \$1,700.00 to Shade Concepts, LLC., on the condition that the \$1,700 not be paid until project completion; that should shade concepts agree to work completion upon a reasonable time deemed by the City; that the job be completed to the Cities satisfaction; and, that the City's approval of the completed work not be confused as any indemnification of Shade Concepts and that Shade Concepts warranty of such work not be waived.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
Second: Cm. Rendon
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 35 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on November 18, 2007

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary