

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2007-R-23
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
DECEMBER 3, 2007
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Raul G. Salinas led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Raul G. Salinas,
Mike Garza,
Hector Garcia,
Michael Landeck,
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

None.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions

a. Recognition of Lauren Nicole Guzman for winning Miss Texas Teen USA®
Pageant.

Mayor Salinas and City Council publicly recognized Lauren Guzman and presented her with a Seven Flags recognition certificate.

b. Recognition of the City of Laredo 2007-2008 Sister Cities Youth Committee.

Cm. Garcia introduced Carmen Bustos who is the President of 2007-2008 Youth Committee. She excused the following students: Felix Canales, Antonio Yarza, Vidal Ramirez, and Steve Maynard.

Present:

	Carmen Bustos, Nicolas Carmona,	Senior Senior	United High School Alexander High
School			
	Marissa A. Medellin, Yesenia Zavala, Armando Lopez, Jose Hernandez, Matthew Wong, Corina Rendon,	Senior Senior Senior Senior Junior Junior	Cigarroa High School LBJ High School Nixon High School United South High School Alexander High School Alexander High
School			
	Procopio Herrera, Marlene Marquez, Jessica Balderas, Francisco Lara, Cristina Gallegos, Monica Salazar, Eduardo Rodriguez, Lizette Villarreal, Andrea Herrera, Sharad Sharma, Guadalupe Rodriguez, Ashley Tovar, Sergio Moreno,	Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior Junior	Cigarroa High School Cigarroa High School LBJ High School LBJ High School Martin High School Nixon High School St. Augustine High St. Augustine High School United High School United High School United High School United South High School United South High School

Communiqués

Presentation by Minita Ramirez, WBCA President, regarding the 2008 Washington Birthday Celebration.

Minita Ramirez, WBCA President, advised that the WBCA Celebration would take place January 23, 2008 to February 23, 2008. In appreciation for the support that City Council has

provided through the years, she presented an official commemorative poster for the 2008

Celebration to each Council Member. The poster was entitled *Washington's Grand Vision* which was painted by Christina Rathmell.

Mayor Salinas announced that he had attended a conference of the Texas Border Coalition of Mayors in El Paso, Texas. He advised that they are reviewing the possibilities of using a "chip" as opposed to a passport along the Texas borders. He noted that there would be a press conference in the near future endorsing the "chip" enhanced license.

Cm. Garza wished everyone a great holiday season. He said that it was important to remember the reason for the season. He noted that life is fragile and we need to remember every moment.

Cm. Garcia congratulated Blasita Lopez, CVB Interim Director, for delivering a baby girl.

Cm. Landeck wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah. He also announced that the Intergovernmental Committee had a great meeting where the doors to Mexico will be opened for the holiday.

Cm. Amaya announced that he would be delivering toys to less fortunate children on December 21, in District IV. He announced that he has collected toys for over three hundred students. He thanked the District IV Special Projects Committee and the local businessmen who donated toys/money the cause.

Cm. Rendon said that he has initiated a project called "Keep our Children Warm". He advised that he will be distributing coats and blankets to over one hundred children in District V.

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares thanked all the individuals who assisted in organizing the Holiday Bowl for Saturday, December 8, 2008 at Shirley Field. He invited everyone to attend the fundraising project. He encouraged the viewing public to be patient with the traffic and to spend their money in Laredo. Finally, he wished his wife a happy anniversary.

Cm. Chavez said that he was invited to a church to do a proclamation on the Mayor's behalf.

He said that the La Iglesia Methodista had celebrated 137th year in Laredo.

Cm. Ramirez thanked the Benavidez family for donating the Christmas tree to the Laredo

Civic Center. He also thanked all the City of Laredo Departments that worked hard to create a special tree lighting ceremony. He wished everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

Citizen comments

None.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Appointment by Mayor Raul G. Salinas of Daniel Rodriguez to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. A. Request by Council Member Hector J. Garcia

1. Discussion with possible action to consider amending the priority procedures manual by

placing the general Council discussion items at the end of the agenda as opposed to the

current order in which they are placed as per the City Council's action of November 20, 2006.

Cm. Garcia stated that a year ago he placed the item for discussion and resubmitted it

because of his concerns for ordinance constituents that attend the meeting to speak and

their item is at the end of the meeting.

Motion to amend the priority procedures manual by placing the general Council discussion items at the end of the agenda as opposed to the current order in which they

are placed as per the City Council's action of November 10, 2006.

Cm. Landeck asked everyone to remember that the Council has cancelled the committee meetings. He reminded Council that they have voted to have three Council Meetings per month regardless of necessity. He made a suggestion for Council to limit their items to items of interests to the entire City or actionable.

Mayor Pro Tem Belmares explained that the vast majority of the people in the audience are in attendance to speak on ordinances and introduction ordinances because they are public hearings which necessitate people's input.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

For: 4

Against: 5

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garcia

Cm. Garza

Cm. Amaya

Cm. Landeck

Cm. Rendon

Cm. Chavez

Mayor Pro Tem Belmares

Cm. Ramirez

Mayor Salinas voted against motion failed.

Motion to place agenda items either of general interests to the entire city or actionable items only.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

Second: cm. Chavez

Motion withdrawn by Cm. Landeck.

B. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Gene Belmares

1. Discussion with possible action on appropriating funds for re-striping the JSJ Estates entrance.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Director, said that it would cost \$12,500 which would entail a significant amount of striping and removal of delineator poles.

Motion to appropriate \$12,500 from the capital improvement plan for the re-striping at JSJ Estates.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Status report on the replacement of waterlines and the recycling of streets at Regency Subdivision.

Tomas Rodriguez, Utilities Director, reported that the department has installed 780 feet of pipe and service on Windsor from Springfield to Kensington. They have also installed 850 feet and services from Windsor to Brand. The department is at 50% completion on the recycling of streets at Regency Subdivision. He added that it would take an additional two months to complete the project.

3. Status report on the temporary traffic lights at Alexander and Winfield Estates.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Director, noted that the Traffic Department is working on the activation of all legs and the project will be complete in January of 2008.

4. Discussion with possible action on a temporary traffic light installation at Village Blvd., and Springfield Ave.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic director, reported that there is a 70% design on the permanent signal. The plan is to finish the actual installation by April 2008.

C. Request by Council Member Juan Chavez

1. Discussion on finding a solution to the vagrant situation especially those that are causing problems in the community with possible action.

Gilberto Navarro, Interim Police Chief, reported that this topic is very broad. He said that the department cannot have much of an impact on the homeless/jobless except for bedding at the County jail. He acknowledged that there is a problem because in 2007 the department has received over 1,500 calls dealing with vagrants. He said that their crimes range from intoxication to robbery in some aspects. He added that the department has created a special detail unit which should address some of the problems along San Bernardo and I. H. 35.

D. Request by Council Member Juan Ramirez

1. Discussion with possible action on extending the deadline for request for proposals for the water park until January 2008.

other Miguel Pescador reported that the Department has been placing this request for proposals in the nationwide water park magazines and they are reaching out to Sources for proposals. He said that the extension will help.

water Motion to approve the extending of the deadline for request for proposals for the park until January 2008.

Moved: Cm. Ramirez

Second: Cm. Chavez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year

2007-2008 Contractual Obligation Fund by appropriating revenues and expenditures in

Alerting the amount of \$120,000.00. A portion of the funds will be appropriated for the System Upgrade Project and the difference will be set aside in the Reserve

Appropriation.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

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. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain:

0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the City of Laredo Land Development Code, Chapter 24 Article III, by creating section 24-56, entitled

“Parkland

Code, Dedication Ordinance”, and amending the City of Laredo Land Development

Appendix A, by adding the Parkland Dedication Fee Methodology as per the attached Exhibit A; providing for severability, publication and effective date.

Motion to table.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

4. Authorizing the City Manager to grant License Extension to that certain License Agreement by and between The City of Laredo, Texas and AT&T Corp., dated

September 15, 1997 for the use of one (1) inner duct in the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge and 555.5 linear feet of right-of-way.

1. Term of the extension shall be for five (5) years commencing at 12:00 a.m., October 1, 2007 and terminating at 12:00 p.m., September 30, 2012.

2. Annual duct fee shall be \$17,000.00 and will increase by five percent (5%) every year the license is in place. In addition to the duct fee, Licensee shall pay a six dollar (\$6.00) linear foot right-of-way fee, and will increase by five percent (5%) every year.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2007-0-242, # 2007-O-243, # 2007-O-244, # 2007-O-245, #2007-O-246, # 2007-O-247, # 2007-O-248, # 2007-O-249, # 2007-O-245.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. 2007-O-242 Amending Article II, Section 2-16, "Departments of the City," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, by creating, consolidating and eliminating departments; and providing for severability and an effective

date. (As amended)

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-242 as amended.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 5

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garcia

Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Cm. Ramirez

2007-O-242
the Ordinance.

Jesus Olivares, Assistant City Manager, said that on Ordinance
that Engineering listed as number six should be included in

2007-O-243 Amending Chapter 2 Administration Article VI Investment Policy of
the

Code of Ordinances in order to:

Add new Section 2.257 Authorizing Investment Advisors; and

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

2. Deleting part of renumbered Section 2.258 Authorized

Investments, to

delete therefrom (d) Bankers Notes and (e) Commercial Paper;

and

3. Amending and modifying the other sections of Article IV in order

to

make the article comply with Chapter 2256 of the Government
known as the Public-Investment Act; and providing for an

Code

effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-243.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2007-O-244 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 adopt Ordinance 2007-O-244.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

the
Code of

Ordinances in the following respects:
Amending Section 903.27 of the International Fire Code [Adopted as
Fire Code of the City under Section 12-2 of Chapter 12 of the

Ordinances] in order to provide for deletion of the requirement of the
requirement of an automatic sprinkler system for a four dwelling unit:
a. Deletion of Section 12-5 [Fire Prevention Code]
b. Deleting Section 12-6 [Life Safety Code 101]
c. and providing for an effective date and publication.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-248.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
Second: Cm. Rendon
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Lots 9
attached
the
leased
between
bounds and
and
effective

2007-O-249 Amending the lease between the City of Laredo & Webb County of
& 10, Block 320, Eastern Division, a copy of which amendment is
as Exhibit A, in which the changes are as follows:

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-O-249.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares
Second: Cm. Rendon
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XI. RESOLUTIONS

6. 2007-R-092 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into negotiations for a tax
abatement

the agreement with Laredo WLE, LP as provided in Section 3.9 (b) of City's Guidelines and Criteria Governing Tax Abatements.

Motion to approve 2007-R-092.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. MOTIONS

7. Consideration to award contract number FY 08—018 to the low bidder Pabo Industries, Inc., Newark, NJ, in the amount of \$99,480.00 for the purchase of 1.5 million plastic Waste bags for use in the City's recycling program. Funding is available in the Solid Services budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. Authorizing the City Manager to acquire through negotiations, the "Surface Only" of one (1) parcel of land for the Chacon Creek Acquisition Project. Said parcel being a 26.11 acres tract of land known as Shares 2 & 3 of the Moreno Partition of part of Porcion 30, Original Grantee, Jose F. C. Moreno, as per Plat recorded in Volume 1, Page 81, Webb County Plat Records; and authorizing staff to negotiate with the owner for the acquisition of said parcel in an amount not to exceed \$523,000.00 plus, approximately \$5,000.00 in incidental expenses. This will be a voluntary transaction. Funding is available in the 2005 Certificates of Obligation, Chacon Creek Acquisition Project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a purchase agreement with Clear Technologies, Coppell, Texas, in the amount of \$196,515.16. The agreement is for an upgrade to the existing iSeries 520 System, a capacity backup system and high availability/disaster recovery software. Funding is available in the 2006 Public Property Technology & Support Services Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

10. Authorizing the City Manager to sell excess water and sewer capacity from the over-sizing effort of the Colonias project in the form of Living Unit Equivalency (LUE) in the amount of \$315.00 per LUE. The provisions for sewer are made available through the over sizing of the water and wastewater line extensions for the Colonias Project on Mines Road. The funds received from the sale of the individual LUE's will be transferred back into the Colonias fund to cover additional expenses in the project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

11. Status report by Mario G. Medina, P.E., Laredo District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation, on the World Trade and Colombia-Solidarity Border Inspection Facilities.

Mario Medina reported that back in September he provided a report and discussed the status report of the legislation and asked for additional time. He said the department has selected the preferred technical alternative for the Border Safety Inspection Facility. He discussed the process of obtaining right-of-ways and properties needed to create the

facility. He noted that he could not give the Council a time frame for this project because of funding constraints. He said that he would like to return to City Council with an update in January of 2008.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Ramirez

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 11 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on December 3, 2007.

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary