

CITY OF LAREDO

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2000-R-15
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
JUNE 5, 2000
5:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present Mayor Elizabeth Flores called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

In Attendance:

Elizabeth G. Flores,	Mayor
Alfredo Agredano,	Councilmember, District I
Louis H. Bruni,	Councilmember, District II
John C. Galo,	Councilmember, District III
Johnny Amaya,	Councilmember, District IV
Eliseo Valdez, Jr.,	Councilmember, District V
Joe A. Guerra,	Councilmember, District VI
Mario G. Alvarado,	Councilmember, District VII
Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo,	Mayor Pro Tempore District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,	City Secretary
Cynthia Collazo,	Acting City Manager
Larry Dovalina,	Acting City Manager
Jaime Flores,	City Attorney

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of May 1, 2000, May 10, 2000 and May 22, 2000.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
Second: Cm. E. Valdez
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Announcements

a. Mayor and City Council introduces the Laredo Metro, Inc.

Board of Directors and invites downtown Merchants and the general public to witness the unveiling of Laredo's and EL METRO'S first Bus Wrap themed, "Re-Live the Good Ol' Days, Shop the Streets of Downtown Laredo". The LMI Board of Directors and EL METRO believe that this theme will help the effort of supporting Downtown Laredo and will unlock the potential of increased commerce and tourism.

Cm. Alvarado introduced the following Laredo Metro, Inc. Board of Directors:

Members	Representing
Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo,	City Council
Alfredo Agredano,	City Council
Les Norton,	Downtown Business Community
George MacDonald Jr.,	Academic community
Francisco Javier Salas,	Disabled Transit Riders
Dora A. Gonzalez,	General Public at large.

Peter Berhman, El Metro Director, explained a promotion that was launched in order to stimulate interest in the downtown shopping area.

The Mayor and the City Council was impressed with the innovative ideas presented by staff to increase revenue for El Metro and downtown businesses. Viola Sanchez, Marketing Coordinator, discussed the new bus wraps that the City has acquired. She added that the staff's goal is to encourage Laredoans to shop downtown.

She submitted the following information:

"The Park & Shop Merchant Program is another cooperative effort between Public and Private Business in Laredo"

Bus Wrap

El Metro's first Bus Wrap themed, "Re-Live the Good Ol' Days, Shop the Streets of Downtown Laredo" is the introductory project to the Park & Shop Merchant Program. The Transit Committee, LMI Board of Directors, and El Metro staff believe that this theme will help the effort of supporting Downtown Laredo and will unlock the potential of increased commerce and tourism.

The City of Laredo is rapidly growing and El Metro is taking an aggressive approach to this new concept of advertising by offering more options to advertisers in

Laredo and around the country. El Metro is currently developing guidelines for this type of advertising and will work with local, regional, and nation-wide advertising agencies that are interested and willing to offer this advertising option to the public. Bus Wrapping is becoming increasingly popular among other transit systems throughout the country. This concept differs from the billboard advertisements and buses with wraps are mobile and travel throughout the City of Laredo.

Parking Pass

El Metro has designed a parking pass that offers three hours (3) of FREE parking to the public. These passes are pre-sold to participating merchants for \$1.00 each at a minimum of \$50.00 per transaction.

Participating Merchants receive one "car card" space for advertising on El Metro buses for one month for each \$50.00 purchase.

The Parking Passes includes an area where the public can write their name, address and phone number to enter a monthly drawing for merchandise donated by downtown merchants.

Participating Merchant Stickers

El Metro has designed stickers that participating merchants display on their business front door window to identify them as an "El Metro Park & Shop Participating Merchant".

Park & Shop Participating Merchant Advertising Tag

El Metro is requesting that participating merchants "tag" their advertising with the El Metro Park & Shop Participating Merchant logo.

Yearly Parking Contract

El Metro is offering a payment discount for prepaying a parking space for an entire year. This discounted amount will be approximately \$400.00 per year. The party may use the pass or provide it to an employee at a savings of \$80.00

Parking Signs on I H -35 & Bridge II

The City Traffic Department in cooperation with TxDot will

be placing parking signs on IH-35 & Bridge II to direct the public to the Transit Center Parking Garage.

Invitations

Recognitions

- a. Recognition to the Laredo Crime Stoppers Inc., for their state awards.

Mayor Flores and the Council presented the Laredo Crime Stoppers Association, Tony Reyes and Rene Lopez, with a Seven Flags Certificate for bringing honor to the City of Laredo.

The Laredo Crime Stoppers' Board of Directors that attended the meeting were: Lorenzo G. Hernandez, President; Carolyn Leyendecker, Executive Director; Tony Reyes, Coordinator; Ramiro Saucedo, Treasurer; David Blumberg, Board Member and Rene Lopez, actor in award winning video.

Laredo Crime Stoppers submitted the following press release:

Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc. Board of Directors are proud to announce that Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc. has won prestigious State awards. Two first place in two categories. The Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc. Board of Directors attributes winning the award to the support of the community, media and area law enforcement agencies.

Awards won were:

- * Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council
Productivity Award 1999
Greatest Dollar Recovery
Population 100,000-249,999
Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc.
- * Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council
Television Competition 1999
Best PSA/Special Production
Market size 101+ Laredo Crime Stopper, Inc. and
Time Warner Communications

These awards were presented at the 12th Annual Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council State Conference sponsored by the Office of Governor George W. Bush May 15-17, 2000 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

- * There are 215 Crime Stoppers Programs across the State of Texas. We were proud to announce that Officer Antonio "Tony"

Reyes, of the Laredo Police Department won the Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council Coordinator of the Year for Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc.

- * The First place awards for the Greatest Dollar Amount of Recovery of Stolen Property and Narcotics were as follows:

Recovered Stolen Property \$101,700
Narcotics seized \$22,798,693 for a grand total of \$22,900,393.
This is the largest amount in any population category in Texas Crime Stoppers

- * The award winning Public Service Announcement was produced by Ramiro Saucedo of Time Warner Communications.

Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc. Board of Directors is proud of the track record of providing an opportunity for community involvement and still maintain necessary anonymity. The public is reminded in this day and time when nearly all phones have caller ID that Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc. TIPS line (956) 727-TIPS or 1-800-558-TIPS) does not have a caller ID and never will.

As you see from the amount of drugs taken off the streets of Laredo in 1999, drugs are the major reason for the increasing crime rate. Drugs are eroding the fabric of our society from top to bottom. Crime Stoppers has made an impact on combating drug trafficking and other drug related crimes in the community, but much more needs to be done.

Laredo Crime Stoppers will continue to serve the community in the fight against crime with the continued support of individuals and businesses as yourself.

End of document

Communiques

The mayor congratulated the 2000 graduates. She read the following information:

Martin High School had 425 graduates. The Valedictorian was Celia Macias and the Salutatorian was Gerardo Valdez.

Nixon High School had 414 graduates. The Valedictorian was Adriana Romero and the Salutatorian was Arturo Briseño.

Cigarroa High School had 293 graduates. The Valedictorian was Dinorah Sepulveda and the Salutatorian was Adriana Gonzalez.

United High School had 296 graduates. The Valedictorian was Allison Lyn Frecsko and the Salutatorian was Raquel Garcia.

Alexander High School had 423 graduates. The Valedictorian was Horacio Vela, III and the Salutatorian was James W. Lacy, III.

United South High School had 471 graduates. The Valedictorian was Magdalena Mar and the Salutatorian was Rebecca Buckley.

Cm. Guerra read the following letter:

Dear Mr. Guerra:

As a member of the Board of Directors for the Streets of Laredo Urban Mall, Inc., an employee of Central Power and Light Company, and a constituent of your district, I would like to recommend that any monies allocated for the "Downtown Restoration Projects" remain as originally planned.

A proposal to re-allocate \$150,000 from Downtown Street Project, along with \$100,000 from the Renovation of the Plaza Theatre Project, is being considered to fund the River Front Project Feasibility Matching Grant Fund.

Although all three projects are most important, monies should not be taken from one project to fund another. It is very important for the economic development of the Downtown Area and the City of Laredo, for all projects to be funded as originally designated.

Thank you for your continued support in these most worthy endeavors.

Cynthia M. Salinas-Snyder

Cm. Guerra expressed his concerns with the year 2000 Webb County Appraisal District's Notice of Appraised Values. He requested that staff include a presentation explaining appraisal procedures from Sergio Delgado, Chief Appraiser for Webb County Appraisal District, on the next agenda.

Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo introduced David Featherstand from Public Utilities Commission of Texas. He stated that he is currently developing an expanded local calling pilot program that would allow for toll free calling between Laredo and Nuevo Laredo.

Cm. Alvarado expressed his sincere gratitude to his family and friends that supported him in his re-election bid and during his tenure as Council member for District VII. He stated that he was honored to be a part of the City Council that was the moving force behind multiple infrastructure projects in all areas of Laredo. He added that he would eagerly continue to be of service to the community of Laredo.

Cm. Bruni submitted the following reports from the Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association.

SWTREA

Seed Tracks and Storm Locations

Seed Flight # 10

05/28/00 (Start 6:45 p.m. Stop: 7:45 p.m.)

Result: Storm did not respond well to seeding because it had already entered an advanced decay stage over Northeastern Webb County. Also, because of communications problems seeding plane was not able to interrupt large storm clusters over Zapata/We bb line. Radar total rainfall on the storm over northeastern Webb county were around 0.05 inches walls storm over Zapata county averaged around 1.00 -1.75 inches.

Seeding success rating: Poor (Storm was well into the decay stage prior to seeding in NE Webb Co.)

SWTREA

Seed Tracks and Storm Locations

Seed Flight # 1 1

05/29/00 (Start 5:55 p.m. Stop: 8:15)

Results: Storm responded favorable well to seeding. Storm tops remained high with total storm area increasing until the effects of daytime heating died off. radar reflectivity for all the seeded storms were strong. Radar estimated rainfall was around .075 inches just northwest of Encinal to 0.05inches southeast of Carrizo Spring as well as 11 miles south of Cotulla to 0.25 inches over Cotulla.

Seeding success rating: Good/Excellent

SWTREA

Seed Tracks and Storm Locations

Seed Flight # 12

06/02/00 (Start 4:07 p.m. Stop: 6:00)

Result: Storms responded favorable well to seeding. Radar indicated that seeded storm continued to intensify and grow in total area after seeding had taken place. The life span of the seeded cells was also longer than that of the non-seeded cells. Radar estimated rainfall for this day ranged from 0.50 inches in central Zavala to as much as 1.00 -1.50 inches in central and western Dimmit.

Seeding success rating: Good

Cm. Bruni submitted the internet address for the Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association is as follows www.vsta.com\-synoptic

Cm. Galo informed the public that the Mobile Home Ad Hoc Committee strives to guide themselves with the growth of Laredo. He re-assured the public that no individual would be asked to move from his or her mobile home.

Cm. Agredano reported on the flags that were used for Veteran's Day. There was a total of 2,523 flags and 1, 945 were issued. He also thanked the volunteers that were present to place the flags.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing providing community residents an opportunity to comment on the preparation and submission of the City of Laredo 2000-2005, Five Year Consolidated Plan and One-Year Action Plan on the use of the 26th Action Year Community Development Block Grant (\$4,316,000.00), Program Income (\$39,900.00), 2000 HOME Investment Partnership Program (\$1,356,000.00), and 2000 Emergency Shelter Grant (\$152,000.00) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Erasmó Villarreal, Community Development Director, submitted the following information:

What is the Consolidated Plan?

The Consolidated Plan is one process and one document made up from many City sources that receive funds from local, state, and federal governments. The plan has to indicate what programs and resources will be used over the course of the long-term strategy.

The Consolidated Plan is also the planning, application, and performance reporting requirements of three programs run by Community Planning and Development (CPD) and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

CDBG (Community Development Block Grants)
HOME (type of block grant only for affordable housing.)
ESG (Emergency Shelter Grant)

What does the Consolidated Plan cover?

CDBG's

- a. Community Development Plan
- b. Statement of Objectives
- c. Grantee Performance Report

Home's

- a. Program Description
- b. Annual Plan

ESG's

- a. Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Plan (CHAP)

Why is the Consolidated Plan important?

The Consolidated Plan plays a very important role for the City of Laredo because it requires a jurisdiction to identify all of its housing and community development needs, and then come up with a long-term strategy for meeting those needs.

How is information obtained for the Consolidated Plan?

Public Meetings
Public Hearings
Non-Profit Agency Input
Citizen Input
Housing Survey
Homeless Count

Public Meetings

Cigarroa Recreation Center

Tarver Recreation Center
Farias Recreation Center
Civic Center
Public Hearings

Non Profit Agency Input

Grant-writing training
More state, local, or federal funding
Participation from the private sector
Better coordination among non-profit organizations to maximize resources
Affordable land to provide housing
Volunteer help from the community

Citizen Input

Sidewalks approaching schools
Bike trails in neighborhoods
Skating ring
Downtown housing
Fences along creek
Assistance to food bank

Housing Survey

Conducted by TAMIU's Texas Center for Border Economic & Enterprise Development
Consisted of a 10% sample of the City (approx 5,700 surveys) Housing Stock Needing Rehab
* 30% CT 4, 5, 6, 14
* 40% C T 1.01,3,7,8,12, 16

Homeless Count

Participants	Males	Females
Police Department Count	33	4
Support Housing Program	1	6
Wood Living Center	4	2
Casa de Misericordia	6	10
Sacred Heart Children	16	10
Salvation Army	18	0
Lomas Alta	10	2
La Frontera	2	5
SCAN Youth	3	3
Mi Casita	1	5
Total	94	78

CDBG- National Objective

The Plan must comply with national objectives for the use of CDBG funds.

Criteria for national objectives:

Activities benefiting low - and moderate-income persons
Activities to address slums or blight on an area basis

Activities designed to meet community development needs having a particular urgency.

Proposed One-Year Action Plan - CDBG 2000-2001

Proposed Activities	Proposed Budgets
Community Development Administration	\$ 665,662.00
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$ 168,980.00
Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program	\$ 250,000.00
Code Enforcement	\$ 271,492.00
Hamilton Hotel - Section 108 Loan Repayment	\$ 234,000.00
Graffiti Removal Program	\$ 28,462.00
Zacate Creek Railroad Bridge	\$ 142,000.00
Sidewalk Approaches	\$ 958,452.00
Demolitions	\$ 50,000.00
Centro Iturbide Street Improvements	\$ 300,000.00
Ejido Street Extension Project	\$ 50,000.00
South Laredo Park	\$ 200,000.00
Villa del Sol Park Lighting	\$ 40,000.00
Acquisition of Riverfront Property	\$ 455,304.00
Chacon Creek Improvements	\$ 250,000.00
Plaza Theater	\$ 350,000.00
Estimated Proposed Budget	\$ 4,414,352.00

Proposed One-Year Action Plan - HOME 2000-2001

Proposed Activities	Proposed Budgets
Administrative Costs	\$ 135,600.00
Loans to CHDO's	\$ 203,400.00
Downpayment Assistance	\$ 600,000.00
New Construction	\$ 112,000.00
Substantial Rehabilitation	\$ 180,000.00
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$ 125,000.00
Estimated Proposed Budget	\$ 1,356,000.00

Proposed Activities

Homeless Prevention Program	\$ 45,900.00
Operations/Rehabilitation	\$ 105,600.00
Administration	\$ 500.00
Estimated Proposed Budget	\$ 152,000.00

Cm. Valdez stated that he would like to appropriate \$25,000 to initiate a feasibility study to connect North and South San Francisco located behind H. E. B.

Motion to close the public hearing with the correction of \$1,356,000 instead of \$1,346,000.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Agredano
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- Public hearing to amend the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 Annual Budget by creating a position of Administrative Assistant I within the Administrative Services Department which will be funded from anticipated line item savings and authorizing the City Manager to implement said Budget.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 Annual Budget by creating a position of Administrative Assistant I within the Administrative Services Department which will be funded from anticipated line item savings and authorizing the City Manager to implement said Budget.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Galo
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Agredano
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Bruni

- Public hearing to amend the fiscal year 2000 City of Laredo Bridge System Fund Budget to appropriate \$70,500.00 in contributions from various firms for the World Trade Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and authorizing the City Manager to

implement said budget.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo Fiscal Year 2000 Laredo Bridge System Fund Budget to appropriate \$70,500.00 in contributions from various firms for the World Trade Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Public hearing to amend the City of Laredo's 1999-2000 Annual Budget in the amount of \$115,000.00 for the Criminal Justice Division Grant from the Office of the Governor. The Office of the Governor is contributing \$80,000.00 with the City designating \$35,000.00 in matching funds. This funding will be used for the Domestic Violence Grant under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for the period of June 01, 2000 through May 31, 2001.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo's 1999-2000 Annual Budget in the amount of \$115,000.00 for the Criminal Justice Division Grant from the Office of the Governor. The Office of the Governor is contributing \$80,000.00 with the City designating \$35,000.00 in matching funds. This funding will be used for the Domestic Violence Grant under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for the period of June 01, 2000 through May 31, 2001.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

5. Public hearing to amend Chapter 15, Health and Sanitation, of the Laredo Code of Ordinances by establishing Article VII, On-Site Sewage Disposal; providing for severability; and providing for effective date and publication.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending Chapter 15, Health and Sanitation, of the Laredo Code of Ordinances by establishing Article VII, On-Site Sewage Disposal; providing for severability; and providing for effective date and publication.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

VIII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6. A. Request by Council Member Louis H. Bruni

1. Status report on the quality of the water in the Rio Grande river and requesting staff to conduct a study to identify contamination sources, with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, explained that the Rio Grande basin is 3000 times bigger than

Laredo. Therefore, there are several jurisdictions that have to be considered in cleaning the river.

- 1.) Federal Jurisdiction - International Boundary and Water Commission which was created more than a century ago by the governments of the United States and Mexico to apply the provision of various boundary and water treaties, and settle difference arising from such applications through a joint international commission located at the border.
- 2.) Environmental Engineering Division the adoption of the Storm Sewer the Storm Monitoring Programs that were adopted last year.

Riazul Mia, Environmental Engineer, submitted a report on "The Rio Grande Basin"

Texas Clean Rivers Program

In its first full year of administering the Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) for the Rio Grande Basin, the U. S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has been working with local communities to address water quality issues.

CRP partners throughout the basin have been participating in water quality monitoring and providing valuable input to help shape and direct the CRP, Federal, State and local governments, and private citizens are working side by side in the spirit of cooperation with a common goal to assess water quality and present information to educate their people about the importance of protecting their water resources.

The Texas Clean Rivers Program Rio Grande Basin Advisory Committees (BAC) provide a forum for the local community to interact directly with federal and state agencies and allow for the two-way exchange of information that is necessary for the CRP to succeed.

In February and March of 2000, BAD meetings were held in Harlingen, Laredo, Pecos, and El Paso, Texas. Meeting topics included FY2000 programs tasks, the Total Maximum Daily Load Program, the Texas Nonpoint Source Program, and coordinated monitoring . Issues that were of concern to individuals were addressed and recorded in the meeting minutes to insure follow-up discussions.

Special Studies

Special studies are incorporated into the CRP to address issues and concerns that were re-expressed at the BAD meetings. CRP staff solicit assistance from the BAD to prioritize the concerns and develop a scope of work that will be submitted to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) for approval. Currently there are six special studies that have been proposed to TNRCC. Of the six proposed, three have been approved and are in progress.

Historical and stochastic data assessment for the Lower Rio Grande (pending approval).

This study will be conducted in conjunction with Texas A & M - Kingsville. The objective of this study is to develop an understanding of the processes and factors affecting water quality in the Lower Rio Grande Valley by:

- 1.) Conducting an assessment of historical data to determine correlations and relationship between in-stream water quality and loadings;
- 2.) Developing a preliminary mathematical model to predict in-stream water quality; and
- 3.) Using model predictions to assess gaps in monitoring data and determine the causal factors driving water quality in the basin.

Assessment of potential impacts of illegal dumping and discharges to the Lower Rio Grande (pending approval).

The objective of this assessment is to provide a preliminary evaluation of the magnitude and potential impacts of the illegal dumping of solid waste and unauthorized discharges into the Rio Grande Basin from Laredo to Brownsville. Such an assessment can provide value input information for understanding water and sediment quality characteristics within the river and baseline information for further river basin management planning.

Assessment of water quality standards compliance and suggested alternative in Rio Grande segments 2307 and 2308 (pending approval).

Current and historical water quality data will be evaluated to determine if the water quality standards established for segments 2307 and 2308 are representative of each reach.

Additionally, further analysis will be conducted to assess current segment boundaries and proposed amendments to the boundaries based on the information collected if needed.

Members of the CRP staff will be working on this project.

A study of chemical and microbial contamination in the Upper Rio Grande Basin. (Approved).

The potential for surface and groundwater contamination with infectious microorganisms and toxic chemicals as a result of agriculture, domestic and maquilador activities is very high. El Paso Community College and New Mexico State University are conducting this study with assistance from CRP. Tests to determine if a correlation exists between chemical and microbial contamination, and indicator organisms such as fecal coliform can be correlated with the presence of bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, which is known to cause gastric ulcers.

Cm. Bruni exemplified the Council's concerns in the cleaning of the Rio Grande river. He reiterated the fact that the river is very large and that the Council is making every effort to contact the necessary agencies to help Laredo with the environment. He stated that plea correspondence is submitted to Senators and agencies.

Finally, he encouraged the public to call the City hotline number to report individuals that are in violation of the Ordinance. The telephone number is 727-7794.

2. Status report on the police enforcement of Ordinance No. 95-O-107 as it pertains to tractor trailers parking in residential areas (R-1), with possible action.

Cm. Bruni presented a video of tractor-trailers that were in violation of the City ordinance.

Agustin Dovalina, Police Chief, reported that over 500 truck-tractor violations have been issued in the first five months of this year. He stated that his department would continue to work stringently in enforcing the ordinance. He also noted that there are several public service announcements being played in order to inform the viewers of tractor-trailers ordinance.

The council asked staff to present viable solutions to resolve the tractor-trailer problem.

3. Status report on the enforcement of the truck route, with possible action.

This item was discussed together with item # 2.

4. Status report on certain code enforcement violations at the Ramos Industrial Park, with possible action.

Erasmus Villarreal, Community Development Director, reported that the Code Enforcement Officers inspected the Ramos Industrial Park area and eleven property owners were cited. He added that the violators had ten days to adhere to city ordinance or they would be taken to Municipal Court.

He stated that Code Enforcement Officers did inspect McPherson Acres Industrial Park as well. Nine property owners were cited for warehouse violations and would have ten days to adhere to the City's Ordinance.

Cm. Bruni noted that the streets in both of the industrial parks were in deplorable condition. He asked the staff to include them in the recycling program. He requested that public works patch the holes.

Finally, Cm. Bruni asked staff to create safer conditions for drivers traveling east of the Jett Bowl area. He was concerned about the concrete bridge with no railings.

B. Request by Council Member John C. Galo

1. Status report from traffic on the study of the 100 block of Mier, with possible action.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Director, informed the Council that an ordinance converting the 100 block of Mier is currently underway.

2. Status report on the Three Points Park with discussion on installing fencing.

Joe Guerra, Public Works Director, explained that renovations at Three Points Parks would be completed in a couple of days. He stated that he would proceed with installing a sample of the expanded metal as an

experiment.

3. Request for a speed hump to be located at either the 1600 or 1700 of Laredo St.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Engineer, stated that he would include the 1600 block of Laredo on the Speed Hump Pilot Program. The Pilot program will be completed in July.

He submitted the following memo:

The additional locations for consideration of speed hump installation that have so far been identified by City Council are included. Those locations requested at the last City Council meeting of April 24, by Cm. Eliseo Valdez and Cm. Cecilia Moreno , are also included.

District I	Cm. A. Agredano	None
District II	Cm. L. Bruni	Los Ebanos St., 2400-2500 Lane Street
District III	Cm. J. Galo	Stone Street
District IV	Cm. Moreno	300-400 Blk Garden, 2900-3100 Tilden, 200-300 Blk E. Locust
District V	Cm. E. Valdez	4200-4400 Maryland, Allende & Martin , Chaparral, Pita Drive
District VI	Cm. J. Guerra	Plantation Subdivision, Boise Way
District VII	Cm. M. Alvarado	Lowry Rd.
District VIII	Cm. C. Montalvo	None

4. Status report on the traffic signal upgrade at Matamoros and San Dario.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Director, stated that the traffic equipment on Matamoros and San Dario is obsolete. He added that TxDot is replacing the signal equipment and the project will be complete in two months.

C. Request by Council Member John Amaya

1. Status report on speed humps at Ochoa and Tarver Elementary Schools.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Engineer stated that Ochoa and Tarver Elementary are currently on the Speed Hump Pilot Program.

2. Results of a traffic light study at Lyon and Cedar.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Engineer, stated that a study has been issued and the results should be ready the first week of July.

3. Status report on pedestrian traffic light signal at San Dario and Park as to when is it going to be activated by TXDOT.

Robert Murillo, Traffic Engineer, stated that Tx Dot is having problems with the re-construction of the frontage road due to the underground lines. He said that it would be another six months before the construction was complete. He added that the City would assist TxDot to expedite the construction in order to assure safety for the pedestrians.

D. Request by Council Member Eliseo Valdez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action on the traffic light situated at the intersection of McPherson Rd. and Bustamante St., regarding the turning signal synchronization.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Engineer, stated that they will be upgrading the signal light and it would be ready in three weeks.

2. Discussion with possible action on the enforcement of Mobile Home Skirting and requirements within the current Mobile Home Ordinance.

Motion to table.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Discussion with possible action on paving or closing the 100-400 Block of Ryan Street.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, reported that the closing of the 100-400 block of Ryan would be added to Project 62. He stated that a report would be

given at the next city council meeting.

4. Request for a staff report on the status of resolving the Fire Department's radio communication dead zones around the County, with possible action.

Tomas Ramirez, Fire Chief, affirmed that there is a dead zone problem here in Laredo. He commented that other agencies have the same problem and the solution is costly.

Larry Dovalina, Acting City Manager, noted that staff would work diligently to create several solutions for the communication problems.

Cm. E. Valdez asked staff to inquire about receiving some type of funding to resolve the problem. He advised staff to contact Betty Ann Kane, a Washington representative, about receiving equipment from the Pentagon. He emphasized the importance of communications and was gravely concerned about the public that resides in the dead zone areas.

E. Request by Council Member Mario G. Alvarado

1. Status report on Mines Road Task Force activities and/or recommendations for traffic control on FM1472, with possible action.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Engineer, stated that the fly-by would be open in a few days. He stated that he is continuing to monitor the traffic on Mines Road

(Recess)

(Press Availability)

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

7. Ordinance setting the maximum speed limits on that portion of FM1472 between Santa Maria Ave. and Pan American Blvd., within the City Limits of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, as 45mph, 50 mph, 55 mph and 60 mph, as defined in the Texas Department of Transportation Control Section Map 2150-04.

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Alvarado

8. Closing as a public easement that section of the 1000 Block of South Buena Vista Avenue between Ligarde and Barrios Street, situated in the Eastern Division, City of Laredo,

County of Webb, Texas and providing for effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

X. FINAL READINGS OF ORDINANCES

Internet Available: //www.cityoflaredo.com

Motion to waive final reading of ordinances # 2000-O-137, # 2000-O-138, # 2000-O-139, # 2000-O-140, # 2000-O-141, # 2000-O-142, # 2000-O-143, # 2000-O-144, # 2000-O-145, # 2000-O-146 and # 2000-O-148.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

9. 2000-O-137 Approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$533,204.00 (which consists of \$337,000.00 in direct funds from the State and in-kind services match of \$196,204.00 from LISD) for an Abstinence Education Program partnered between the City of Laredo Health Department and the Laredo Independent School District for the period beginning February 1, 2000, through August 31, 2001; and increasing revenue line item 226-0000-323-4077 from \$0 to \$337,000.00, and expenditure line item 226-6021 from \$0 to \$337,000.00. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-137.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 2000-O-138 Amending the City of Laredo's 1999-2000 annual budget in the amount of \$264,000.00 for a grant from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission for technical assistance for the Colonias Water and Wastewater Improvements Project. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-138.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-139 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 12, Block 1710, Eastern Division, located at 2802 Aldama St. from B-3 (General Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District). (Cm. John C. Galo)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-139 with correction (Conditional Use Permit)

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-140 Amending Ordinance No. 99-O-025, authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit on Lot 1, Block 1, Ejido Subdivision, located at 3301 Santa Barbara St., by changing the use from a beauty salon to a convenience store/meat market. The current zoning district for this property is R-3 (Mixed Residential District). (Cm. Alfredo Agredano)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-140.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-141 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo rezoning Lot 10, Block 1633, Eastern Division, located at 216 N. Arkansas Ave. from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District). (Cm. John C. Galo)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-141 with correction (Conditional Use Permit)

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-142 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 251.2262 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located north of Hwy. 359 and east of Loop 20, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing District). (Cm. Louis H. Bruni)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-142.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-143 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit for above ground fuel storage on 7.5252 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located at 1520 Calton Road. The property's current zoning district is B-3 (Community Business District). (Cm. Mario G. Alvarado)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-143.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-144 Amending Chapter II, Section 2-1 of the Subdivision Ordinance No. 84-O-0006 of the City of Laredo (with Amendment in effect as of 02/01/93) pertaining to 'SUBDIVISION PLATS REQUIRED, FORM AND CONTENT OF PLATS, APPROVAL PROCESS FOR ALL PETITIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL USES, AND PERFORMANCE BOND REQUIREMENTS;" providing for publication and effective date. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-144.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-145 Amending Chapter 19, Article XII. Transit System, of the Laredo Code of Ordinances, specifically Division 2. Charter Service, Section 19-562, by increasing the reduced charter rate of eighty percent (80%) to one-hundred percent (100%) of the base rate and the base rate is increased to \$60.49 per hour; providing for severability and providing for effective date and publication. (City Council)

Motion to adopt ordinance # 2000-O-145.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-146 An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with United Exports Trading Association (U.E.T.A.) of Texas, Inc., for approximately 2,526 square feet out of Lot 10, Block 22, in the western division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, lying north of the concrete pavement connecting Salinas Street with Water Street:

1. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing April 21, 2000 and ending April 20, 2001.
2. Monthly rent will be \$720.00 providing for effective date.
3. City of Laredo may terminate this lease with a ninety (90) day written notice. (Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo)

Motion to adopt ordinance # 2000-O-146.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-147 An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease amendment to the lease agreement between the City of Laredo, as Lessor, and Jett Racing & Sales, as Lessee, approved by Ordinance No. 2000-O-047 dated February 28, 2000 for a tract of land containing approximately 74,053 square feet located at the Laredo International Airport to extend the rental grace period from six (6) to eight (8) months to allow for the platting of the leased premises and to provide a rent abatement of \$1,000/month, said amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 over five year period in exchange for the construction of offsite improvements consisting of construction of access taxi lane to the airport aircraft movement areas and construction of sanitary sewer improvements. (City Council)

Motion to adopt ordinance # 2000-O-147.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

2000-O-148 An ordinance amending Chapter 19, Article XII. Transit System of the Laredo Code of Ordinances specifically Division 4. Transit Center, Section 19-601, Parking rates, by adding sections (f) Park-n-Shop, and (g) Advance Payment Discount Lease; and providing for effective date and publication. (City Council)

Motion to adopt ordinance # 2000-O-148.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XI. RESOLUTIONS

10. 2000-R-080 A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Governor in the amount of \$80,000.00 for the funding of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Program. The Office of the Governor is contributing \$80,000.00 with the City designating \$35,000.00 in matching funds for a total of \$115,000.00 to fund the program. Funds will be used to pay personnel salaries, fringe benefits and operational expenses from June 01, 2000 through May 31, 2001.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-080.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Galo
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

11. 2000-R-081 A resolution amending Resolution No. 98-R-198 in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970, as amended, to the owner of a parcel of land legally described as Lots 1, 2, 3, & 4, Block 1988, Eastern Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. Said parcel having been acquired as authorized by Resolution No. 98-R-198, to be used as part of the Airport Runway Protection Zone for Runway 35L.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-081.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

12. 2000-R-082 A resolution accepting the donation of the "Surface Only" of a 2.6061 acre tract of land, more or less, from Trend Land Development Inc., a Texas Corporation. Said 2.6061 acre tract of land being situated in the Dellwood Park Subdivision, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas; being generally described below, and more particularly described by metes and bounds.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-082.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

13. 2000-R-083 A resolution accepting the donation of Access Easements from Mr. Jose Luis Barroso and wife, Rosalinda, from Mr. Mario Hector Salinas, and from Messrs. Rene and Armando Espitia, for the maintenance of a Utility/Drainage Easement owned by the City of Laredo. Said Access Easements being the South 10 feet of Lot 53, Block 2, the South 10 feet of Lot 54, Block 2, and 483.75 sq. ft., more or less, out of Lot 55, Block 2, respectively. All being situated in the Dellwood Park Subdivision, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas; and being described on Subdivision Plat for the Barroso and Salinas Easement, and on metes and bounds for the Espitia Easement.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-083.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

14. 2000-R-084 A resolution authorizing the use of surplus proceeds from the City of Laredo - Public Property Finance Contractual Obligations (PPFCO), Series 97-B, in the amount of \$42,938.00, to complete the funds required to purchase one, 1,500 gpm, fire pumper truck. The cost of the new pumper truck is \$325,999.00, with \$283,061

.00 being available from the G.O. Bond -Series 1997. This truck will be assigned to Station No. 12.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-084.

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

15. 2000-R-085 A resolution authorizing the City Manager to proceed with scheduling public hearings on June 19, 2000 and June 26, 2000 regarding the calling of an election for a one fourth of one percent sales and use tax under Article 5190.6 of the Texas Revised Civil Statutes and/or under (334 of the Texas Local Government Code and the scheduling of a public hearing on July 20, 2000, to advise the general public about the cost and benefit of the proposed Laredo Entertainment Center.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-085.

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

16. 2000-R-086 Authorizing the City Manager to submit to the United States Foreign-Trade Zones Board an application for a boundary modification on behalf of the Embarcadero Industrial Park requesting a transfer of Foreign Trade Zone designation status from La Barranca Ranch and known as Site No. 5 to the Embarcadero Industrial Park to be designated as Site No. 7. The boundary modification, if approved by the Foreign Trade Zones Board, will transfer Foreign Trade Zone status (designation only) to 10 acres from the La Barranca Ranch Site No. 5 to the Embarcadero Industrial Park .

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-086.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

17. 2000-R-087 A resolution authorizing the City Manager to

submit a full application for a site expansion, if needed, to the United States Foreign Trade Zones Board on behalf of the Embarcadero Industrial Park requesting the designation of 360 acres of foreign trade zone designation floating within the 1,200 acre master planned Embarcadero Industrial Park to be designated Site No. 7 located on both sides of the Mines Road FM1472 and near the World Trade Bridge.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-087.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XII. MOTIONS

18. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to approve amendment #2 to the existing contract with Turner Collie & Braden Inc., for completion of the Environmental Information Document and preparation of step 2 of an application for supplemental funding from the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) for the Colonias Project. The amendment will provide funding received from BECC for technical assistance in the amount of \$264,000.00 to pursue certification of the project and thus be eligible to receive funding from the NAD Bank for the wastewater project on Mines Road. The contract will be amended from \$135,000 to \$264,000.00. Funding is available in the Engineering Fees lines item.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

19. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to sell two (2) used 1992 Dodge vehicles to our Sister City of El Cenizo, Texas in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

20. Consideration to renew the contract with Betty Ann Kane &

Company, Washington, D.C., in the amount of \$4,000.00 per month, for Washington liaison services for a term of two years, July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2002. The fee for these services has not increased since inception of this contract in 1992. Funds for this contract are available in the General Fund budget. The second year funding would be contingent upon 2001-2002 Budget Approval.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

21. Consideration to award contract number FY00-097, to the LOW BIDDER, ECCO, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$47,700.00, for the purchase of radio communication equipment for the Police Department. The equipment includes special vehicle portable radio cradles, adapters, and antennas. A total of sixty sets will be purchased. The bid pricing includes installation on Police Department vehicles. Delivery of this radio equipment is expected within sixty days. These radios will be purchased using the Police Department - Financial Task Force Grant, Narcotics Task Force Grant and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to award a six month supply contracts (FY00-099) to the LOW BIDDERS, STR Tire Co., Laredo, Texas (\$75,864.20), Tire Centers LLC., Laredo, Texas (\$25,239.06), Goodyear Auto Store, Laredo, Texas (\$24,630.00), and A to Z Tire & Battery, Laredo, Texas (\$1,069.32) to supply tires and tubes for all City vehicles. Tires are purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

23. Consideration to award a contract to the SOLE PROVIDER, Timesoft, Long Beach, CA., in the total amount of \$28,496.50, for providing automated time recorder equipment

and software. The City is currently utilizing this system for City Hall personnel and is expanding the use of automated time recording for the Health Department and the Bridge System operation. Funding is available in the respective department's budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

24. Consideration to award contract number FY00-094, to the LOW BIDDER, Steadfast Bridge Biltolast Products, Ft. Payne, AL., in the amount of the \$19,398.00, for the purchase of a pre-engineered, pre-fabricated steel pedestrian bridge. This bridge will span the creek to provide access to the Chaparral Park area. Funding is available in the 1998 CO Account.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

25. Consideration to award contract number 00-096, to the LOW BIDDER, Municipal Pipe and Fabricating Co., McAllen, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$60,160.00, for the purchase of approximately eighty fire hydrants for use by the Utilities Department in construction and replacement projects. The bid pricing will be fixed for the contract period of one year and all hydrants will be purchased on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

26. Consideration to contract number 00-102 to the LOW BIDDER, Al & Rob Sales, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$16,311.15, for the purchase of jackets, windbreakers, and Class A uniforms for the Fire Department. The Fire Department personnel have a \$500.00 yearly clothing allowance, as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, which can be used for the purchase of uniforms, jackets, windbreakers,

and safety footwear. Delivery is expected within sixty days. The City did receive a bid from Skaggs Public Safety, San Antonio, Texas, which was the lowest bid, however, this vendor did not sign the bid and therefore cannot be considered. Funding is available in the Fire Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

27. Consideration to ratify the purchase of spill containment equipment, for the Fire Department, from Complete Environmental Products, Houston, Texas, in the amount of \$23,154.00. This specialized equipment will be used to contain chemical spills on the Rio Grande River. This purchase was authorized by City Management as an exception to the procurement process due to the emergency response needed to secure containment equipment to protect the City's ability to produce potable water. Delivery of this equipment is expected within the next two weeks. Funding is available in the Fire Department's Safety Equipment Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

28. Consideration to award contract number FY00-103, to the LOW BIDDER, Tennant, Minneapolis, MN., in the amount of \$36,482.72, for the purchase of two riding power sweepers for the Bridge System. One will be assigned to the Colombia Bridge and the other to the World Trade Bridge. Funding is available in the Bridge Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

29. Consideration to amend the security guard service contract (FY99-129) awarded to J.M.C. Security Co., Laredo, Texas, to include guard services for the World Trade Bridge, in the estimated annual amount of \$26,208.00. Security guard services are required daily for eight hours Monday thru

Friday, and sixteen hours on Saturday and Sunday. Funding is available in the Bridge Systems budget

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
Second: Cm. Galo
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

30. Consideration to create an AD Hoc Third Party Funding Advisory Committee which will evaluate all Third Party Applications and make funding recommendations to Council.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
Second: Cm. Galo
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

31. Consideration to reject the two (2) bids received for the Three Police Substations to be located at Sierra Vista Blvd. at Cenizo Loop, Springfield Ave. at Ryan Street and Santa Maria Ave. at Ortiz St. due to the fact that the bids received were over budget and authorizing staff to modify plans and re-bid the three (3) substations separately.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
Second: Cm. Galo
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

32. Consideration to award an engineering contract to Rosin Group, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00 for architectural design and construction administration work necessary building and site design services and preparation of plans and specifications for the Fire Station No. 12 located at Bob Bullock Loop in the vicinity of TAMIU.

Motion to approve.

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

33. Consideration to approve Change Order no. 10, a net increase of \$101,547.43 to the construction contract with M W

Builders, Inc., contractors for the Border Facilities for the World Trade Bridge for additions/deletions of construction items to enhance operations namely: modify duct bank system for SW Bell and Time Warner; add voice and data boxes, electrical circuits and cabinetry to Federal Inspection Offices; add exhaust devices, concrete barriers, hydro mulch, sod, erosion controls, CCTV cameras; and channelization curbing, lane dividers, and signage to separate truck types ; also delete the remaining portion of the CP&L allowance to offset added expenses. Funding is available in the SIB Loan, Tax Exempt Bond and Taxable Bond.

Motion to approve.

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

34. Consideration for approval of change order no. 2 for an increase amount of \$14,937.80 for subgrade stabilization and to add 12 calendar days to the construction contract with Price Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for the University Blvd. Extension Project.

Motion to approve.

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

35. Consideration to award an engineering contract to Rosin Group, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for surveys, design and preparation of plans and specifications for the City Wide - Sidewalks Project No. 12 (33 Blocks). Funding is available in the CD - School Sidewalks Account.

Motion to approve.

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

36. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Lease Agreement between the City of Laredo and Fasken Properties, Ltd., for the purpose of allowing the City of Laredo to place a modular building on property located on Atlanta Drive, adjacent to the Deerfield Subdivision, at no rental cost to house the WIC and Health Promotion Programs.

The term of the agreement shall be for five years beginning December 1, 1999, through November 30, 2004.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

37. Consideration to approve the execution of a contract for legal representation between the City of Laredo and its Tax Assessor/Collector, and the law firm of Jones and Gonzalez, Laredo Texas, and Cotham, Harwell and Evans in Houston, Texas to investigate and collect taxes on real and personal property associated with oil and gas production. Instructing staff to fund such contract from the City of Laredo Mineral Leases Fund and setting up a reimbursement mechanism to reimburse the Mineral Lease Fund once revenues are realized.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

38. Consideration to approve the execution of contract for legal representation for the City of Laredo by the Law Firm of Bickerstaff, Heath Et Al., to prepare and file a law suit against the Texas Department of Transportation regarding its failure to follow the intent of S. B. 913 for implementation of "One-Stop" Border Inspection Stations and its plans to implement the "Two-Stop" Border Inspection Stations pursuant to Texas Transportation Commission Minute Order No. 108047.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 8 Against: 0
Abstain: 0

XIII. STAFF REPORT

39. Presentation regarding the City of Laredo's Foreign Trade Zone Program and its acreage designation at the Laredo International Airport.

Charles Martens read the following letter:

On May 2, 2000 a meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee was called to order. At this time the Airport Director's Office requested a transfer of 200 acres of the City of Laredo's Foreign Trade Zone Status without any background information for us to consider, with no bid or due process posting. On the May 2nd meeting I abstained from the discussion and from the vote on the FTZ issue due to a possible conflict of interest. The recommendation from staff to transfer the 200 acres failed unanimously due to lack of information.

During the May 2nd Advisory Committee Meeting the board felt it necessary to hold some workshops to discuss establishing a fair due process on Foreign Trade Zone Procedures, Policies and Transfers from public ownership to private ownership. We were held up in a dilemma. We didn't exactly know what to do here we were with developers sitting there it was a rather unusual position that your staff placed on the Airport Advisory Board. During the first workshop May 30th I indicated that the May 2nd and the April 17th Airport Advisory Committee Meeting covering the Foreign Trade Zone Conveyance was also improperly posted. During the May 30th workshop the Airport Director chose to post for council review, some resolutions without Airport Advisory Committee review which I also believe circumvented due process.

Jose Flores, Airport Director, reported that Humberto Garza is the Operations Manager who oversees the Foreign Trade Program.

He read the following report:

Foreign-trade zones are secure areas under U. S. Customs supervision that are considered outside the Customs territory of the United States for the purposes of Customs duty payment. Located in or near U. S. Customs ports of entry, they are the U. S. version of what are known internationally as Free Trade Zones. Authority for establishing these facilities is granted by the Foreign-Trade Zones Board under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of 1934, as amended (19 U. S. C. 81a-81u), and the Board's regulations (15 C. F. R. Part 400). The Executive Secretariat of the Board is located within the Import Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C. 20230.

Foreign and domestic merchandise may, subject to FTZ Board and Customs regulations, be moved into zones for operations not otherwise prohibited by law involving storage, exhibition, assembly, manufacturing, processing. All zone activity is subject to public interest review, and all manufacturing and processing activity requires a case-by-case review. Under zone procedures the usual formal Customs entry procedure and payment of duties is not required on the foreign merchandise unless and until it enters Customs territory for domestic consumption, in which case the importer normally has a choice of paying duties either on the original foreign materials or the finished product. Domestic goods moved into a zone for export are considered exported upon entering the zone for purposes of excise tax rebates and drawback.

George Martinez, TransMaritime Inc. representative, asked City Council to modify the Foreign Trade Zone. He stated that it would behoove the company and assist them in competing with other border cities.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 9:35 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 to 32 are true, complete and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held on the 5th day of June, 2000.

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,
City Secretary