

**CITY OF LAREDO**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2000-R-16  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
JUNE 19, 2000  
5:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present Mayor Elizabeth G. 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  
Alfredo Agredano,  
Louis H. Bruni,  
John C. Galo,  
Johnny Amaya,  
Eliseo Valdez, Jr.,  
Joe A. Guerra,  
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.,  
Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo  
Gustavo Guevara,  
Cynthia Collazo,  
Larry Dovalina,  
Jaime Flores,

Mayor  
Councilmember, District I  
Councilmember, District II  
Councilmember, District III  
Councilmember, District IV  
Councilmember, District V  
Councilmember, District VI  
Councilmember, District VII  
Mayor Pro Tempore District VIII  
City Secretary  
Acting City Manager  
Acting City Manager  
City Attorney

**IV. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of May 15, 2000 and May 18, 2000.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**Announcements**

**Invitations**

**Recognitions**

- a. Mr. Jose L. Flores has been appointed to serve on the newly created Texas Airport Management Association Board of Directors, as the Region 4 member. Region 4 extends from Webb County to El Paso.

The Mayor and the City Council recognized Jose L. Flores, Airport Director, for his recent appointment to the Texas Airport Management Association Board of Directors, as the Region 4 member.

The Mayor announced that the appointment brings honor to the City of Laredo. She added that Laredo is the eighth largest air cargo facility to and from Latin America.

Mayor Flores and the City Council presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mario G. Alvarado for serving as City Council Member from May 1996 to May 2000.

Furthermore, Mayor Flores and the City Council presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo for her service as a City Council Member from May 1988 to June 2000.

Finally, the Mayor and the City Council presented Dr. Cecilia May Moreno a Certificate of Appreciation for her service as a Council Member from April 1990 to May 2000.

## **Communiqués**

- a. Presentation by the U.S. Census Bureau Representative Victor Salvatore Assistant Manager of Field Management and Sylvia Romero Partnership Specialist regarding the approaching deadline of July 7, 2000 and the opportunity to call in and report by those families not previously counted in the 2000 Census at 723-2182.

Sylvia Romero, U. S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, stated that the Census 2000 Partnership Program was designed to create partnerships with the government and non-governmental organizations. She added that state, local, tribal governments, community groups and the media motivated the public to participate in the Census. The partnership program provided the most effective mechanism for reaching the hard to enumerate population.

She disappointedly stated that the mail response rate was 50.02%. She noted that she would continue working diligently to obtain the most accurate count until the Census 2000 is complete in mid August. The final projections will be submitted in April of 2001.

She asked the City Council and the public to submit a synopsis of "Laredo Census 2000" to the Dallas Regional Center. The address is 8700 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 300, Dallas, Texas 75247 . The information will be important in evaluating what is effective for Laredo.

Victor Salvatore, Assistant Manager of Field Operations, stated that enumerators have the arduous task of following up on any unanswered responses. He added that refusals are proxies and are included in the Census.

- b. Communities in Schools of Laredo (CIS-L) continue to be active with the Americas Promise Movement/Texas Pledge goals. CIS-L was invited to participate and represent the City of Laredo at the follow-up Summit in Orlando, Florida from June 24 to 28, 2000. On behalf of the CIS Program, its Board of Directors and the youth of our community, we are requesting the support on this trip from the City Administration and City Council.

Jose Gutierrez, representing Communities in Schools, stated that six students and seven staff members would be attending the Summit. He added that all the participants are honored to represent the City of Laredo.

- c. Presentation of a \$1,000.00 check donated to the Laredo Children's Museum from Celedon Trucking on behalf of Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores.

Patricia McDonald, Executive Director for the Laredo Children's Museum, and Mercurio Martinez Jr., Children's Museum Board of Director, received the donation from Celedon presented by Mayor Flores.

Cm. Galo encouraged the public to attend the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July "5K Fun Run" which was created to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center. The enjoyable event will be held on July 2, 2000 and will begin at 8 a.m. There is an entry fee of \$10.00.

Cm. Bruni recently attended a seminar in Austin. He presented the following report to the Honorable Rick Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Texas. He thanked Horacio De Leon for his assistance in compiling the report. The report reads as follows:

**City of Laredo, Webb County Small Business Needs Assessment prepared for Texas Small Business Advisory Council**

Laredo, at the turn of the century, can certainly be described as a metropolis of economic opportunity for small business and corporate industry. This is due to its strategically geographic location on the border between the U. S. and Mexico. Laredo sits 150 miles north of Mexico's most industrial city of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and 150 miles south of the city of San Antonio, a hub for major exporting. Laredo has been recognized as the most efficient and effective land port in North and South America.

Small business has been the heart of this City and the foundation to recent exponential growth. Over the last ten years, population growth increased by 48.8%, employment increased by 52.3%, and industry sales increased by 32.9%. It is well known that this prosperity was fueled by the repercussions of a strong U. S. – Mexico trade cross border commerce. Since the implementation of NAFTA

(1994), trade between the U. S. and Mexico has increased 200%. In 1999, over 50% of this trade passed through Texas' ports of entry, and over 35% passed through the port of Laredo. As a result of this prosperity, Laredo continues to be the second fastest growing city in the nation and the first in the State of Texas.

The trade sector of the Laredo economy is largely comprised of small business that include retail, wholesale and support services. Although not always viewed as "small business" in Austin or Washington, because of the dynamic nature of the import-export business, it has flourished to employ 45% of our population. Despite all this prosperity and economic development, Laredo is still plagued with a high rate of poverty and ranks among the lowest in median income when compared to the state data. This is much attributed to the lack of "added value jobs", low number of higher education graduates, lack of skilled training for technical jobs, and the influx of unskilled workers.

The following is an assessment of needs identified by the local leadership and public input in the area of small business:

- Continued access to start-up capital
- Employee Health Insurance and Worker's Compensation
- Workforce Training of "Value added jobs"
- Access to government procurement
- Access to E-Commerce and telecommunication infrastructure

### **Continued Access to Start-Up Capital**

The City of Laredo, through the Laredo Development Foundation (LDF), offers small business development services and Small Business Administration (SBA) Guaranteed Loans through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program. These services have been very effective in assisting small business in preparing their plans and financial data to be "bankable". Loan guarantees year to date were provided for 22 approved loans to in the amount of \$8.5 million and 16 pending loans in the amount of \$4.5 million. This program has been executed by a federal grant from SBA and matching monies from the LDF.

**Solution:** To obtain the matching funds that were earmarked by the State of Texas for SBDC programs for Laredo. In past years all the funding has gone to the large metro areas. Having such additional funding will enhance programs to prepare more small business to open their doors and to expand.

### **Employee Health Insurance and Worker's Compensation**

Small business owners are in need of a health benefit package for their employees and for themselves that specifically addresses the basic health needs and/or liability at the work place at a feasible cost. Small business owners are recently experiencing a shortage in workforce. Unemployment is at its lowest in our area and competition among small business, corporate industry and public agencies has been a concern. The lack of health benefits among the small business employers has placed them at a disadvantage.

**Solution:** Legislative action that would create a pool among small business owners much like a coop to acquire health benefits and worker's compensation at a reasonable cost. The creation of a pool should decrease insurance premiums from current providers. If not, the coop could consider a self-insured program.

#### Workforce Training and "Value added Jobs"

In the current tight job market employees are demanding better-trained and skilled workers in all levels of work. Currently, Laredo is in need of a broad cross section of skill workers. (i.e. diesel mechanics, truck drivers, computer operators, welders, tool and die workers, trailer repair serviceman, surveyor technicians, computerized accounting, web mater, etc.)

**Solution:** Enhancement of infrastructure, brick and mortar, administrative and instructional funding for current programs at LCC and new institutions offering "tech "oriented programs that address the needs of the business community, along with the opening of a new campus by Texas State Technical College in Laredo to specialize in diesel mechanics, trailer repair and other electric applied sciences.

#### **Access to Government Procurement**

Small business is always the labor force driving the completion or indirect services of government contracts. While workers in small business do the lions' share of the work, they in turn many times have difficulty representing themselves independently and financially responsible to perform a project. The impact of this is higher cost for government construction and service contracts with the lions' share of the money (profits) taken by non-local institutions with very minimal to non local presence.

**Local efforts:** The City of Laredo in partnership with the Laredo Development Foundation had initiated research and exploration of a model to self insure local government for the direct hiring of small businesses to serve as sub-contractors to the City, hence eliminating the middle man. Meetings with the Texas Municipal League were held for review of the City's risk pool. State statue impedes the recognition of this organizational structure under procurement practices.

**Solutions:** Development of programs that allow small business owners to obtain cost effective bonding coverage or government to be self-bonded for projects of \$250,000 to increase the number of bidders and decrease construction cost for public projects at all levels of government.

#### **Access to E-Commerce and Telecommunication Infrastructure**

E-Commerce is certainly another way of doing business, and although currently still within the minority, E-commerce is expected to catch on like wild fire throughout the world. E-Commerce offers small business another form of

marketing, advertising, contracting, forming buying pools, financing, sales and other on-line services that will make small business more efficiently. Competition on the internet and availability of product and services on the web has created another deficiency in the lack of infrastructure and technical assistance for some small business owners. The purchase of computer hardware and software for small business may be challenging not to mention telecommunication services that provide online communication.

**Solution:** The availability of financial and technical assistance under small business administration loans and programs to acquire computer hardware, software, and technology consulting to set-up a web-page on the net for those businesses that may find themselves out of the market and unable to compete without a web page service.

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

**SWTREA**

Seed Tracks and Storm Locations

Seed Flight # 20

06/17/00 (Start 5:26 p.m. Stop 5:49 p.m.)

Result: Storms responded favorably well to seeding. Radar reflectivity, total cell area, and resultant rainfall increased a short time after seeding was done. The storm complex continued to build up and moved into Frio County. Radar estimated precipitation for the storm as 5:49 p.m. was 0.79 – 0.98 inches over northern La Salle County.

Seeding success rating: Excellent

**SWTREA**

See Tracks and Storm Locations

Seed Flight # 21

06/17/00 (Start 6:09 p.m. Stop: 7:15 p.m.)

Result: Storm responded well to seeding. Radar reflectivity, total cell area, and resultant rainfall were strong prior to this flight. However, this flight was mainly a hail suppression mission. The storm complex continued to build up and moved into Frio County and eastern Zavala County. But, the areas of hail instances were mainly in western Frio County. There were no reports of hail from this storm. At best, only pea size hail fell. Radar estimated precipitation for the storm was up to 2.5 inches over eastern Zavala County.

Seeding success rating: Good

**VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

- a. Appointment of Hilario Cavazos III by Council Member Eliseo Valdez, Jr. to the Transportation Commission.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Party

- b. Appointment of Martha Gonzalez by Council Member Joe A. Guerra to the Third Funding Ad Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Party

- c. Appointment of Clifford M. Black by Council Member Louis H. Bruni to the Third Funding Ad Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- d. Appointment of Pepe L. Gonzalez by Council Member John C. Galo to the Third Party Funding Ad Hoc Committee.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- e. Council confirmation on Mayor's appointment of Council Member John Amaya to El Metro Transit System Committee and of Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr. to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- f. Council Member John Amaya District IV Committee Members:

Airport Advisory Committee - Margarito Benavides, Jr.

Board of Adjustment - Alfredo Juarez

Cemetery Advisory Committee - Francisco Llanes

Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee - Dr. Cecilia Moreno

Library Advisory Committee - Patricia Tijerina

Noise Advisory Committee - Guillermo Medrano

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee - Gilberto Mancha, Jr.

Planning Zoning Commission - Juan Narvaez  
Plumber/Electrical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee - Fernando Chavarria  
Telecommunications Advisory Committee - Juan Reyna  
Third Party Funding Ad Hoc Committee - Blanca N. T. Castro  
Transportation & Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - Rick Garza  
Tree Advisory Committee (Tree City USA) - Ina Pool  
Laredo Women's Commission - Rosa Gutierrez/Aurora Rendon

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo Fire Department FY1999-2000 Budget in the amount of \$2,901.50 for a total of \$10,401.50 distributed from Senate Bill 102 EMS/Trauma Systems Care Fund to be used toward the purchase of educational, communication and training equipment. Original budgeted amount for FY1999-2000 was \$7,500.00.

### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo Fire Department FY1999-2000 Budget in the amount of \$2,901.50 for a total of \$10,401.50 distributed from Senate Bill 102 EMS/Trauma Systems Care Fund to be used toward the purchase of educational, communication and training equipment. Original budgeted amount for FY1999-2000 was \$7,500.00.

Motion to open the public hearing

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. E. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance introduction: City Council

2. Public hearing to approve an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget revision in the amount of \$20,000.00 in additional funds for the HIV/AIDS Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning February 1, 2000, through January 31, 2001.



### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Approve of amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget revision in the amount of \$20,000.00 in additional funds for the HIV/AIDS Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning February 1, 2000, through January 31, 2001; and increase revenue line item 226-0000-323-4058 from \$74,409.00 to \$94,409.00 and expenditure line item 226-6018 from \$74,409.00 to \$94,409.00.

Motion to open the public hearing

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance introduction: City Council

### 3. Public hearing authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo's 1999-2000

Annual Budget in the amount of \$380,000.00 for the upgrade of the Laredo Police Department's communication system and to pay for the security fence around the narcotics building. The upgrade of the communications system is not to exceed \$350,000.00. Funding is available from the opening balance of the Laredo Police Department's Trust Fund.

### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo's 1999-2000 Annual Budget in the amount of \$380,000.00 for the upgrade of the Laredo Police Department's communication system and to pay for the security fence around the narcotics building. The upgrade of the communications system is not to exceed \$350,000.00. Funding is available from the opening balance of the Laredo Police Department's Trust Fund.

Motion to open the public hearing

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Jesus Ponce, interested citizen, spoke on the communication systems that San Antonio has.

Mayor Flores informed the public that San Antonio has acquired the state of the art radio equipment. However, they have a much larger tax base than Laredo.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance introduction: City Council

4. Public hearing authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo's 1999-2000

annual budget in the amount of \$208,466.00 for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. This project funds the salaries, fringe benefits, overtime, and equipment for support personnel. Two additional clerical staff members will be added. The U.S. Department of Justice will designate \$158,466.00 and the City of Laredo will designate \$50,000.00 to fund this grant from October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2001.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo's 1999-2000 annual budget in the amount of \$208,466.00 for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. This project funds the salaries, fringe benefits, overtime, and equipment for support personnel. Two additional clerical staff members will be added. The U.S. Department of Justice will designate \$158,466.00 and the City of Laredo will designate \$50,000.00 to fund this grant from October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2001.

Motion to open the public hearing

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance introduction: City Council

5. Public hearing to amend the City of Laredo's 1999-2000 annual budget in the amount of

\$1,552,624.00 for the Laredo Multi-Agency Narcotic Task Force. The Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division will be designating \$1,164,624.00 and the City of Laredo will be designating \$175,000.00 from the opening fund balance and \$213,156.00 of personnel salary contributions for a total amount of \$388,156.00 in matching funds. Funding will be used to pay salaries, fringe benefits, overtime expenses, indirect operating expenses, and equipment from June 1, 2000 through May 31, 2001.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo's 1999-2000 annual budget in the amount of \$1,552,624.00 for the Laredo Multi-Agency Narcotic Task Force. The Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division will be designating \$1,164,624.00 and the City of Laredo will be designating \$175,000.00 from the opening fund balance and \$213,156.00 of personnel salary contributions for a total amount of \$388,156.00 in matching funds. Funding will be used to pay salaries, fringe benefits, overtime expenses, indirect operating expenses, and equipment from June 1, 2000 through May 31, 2001.

Motion to open the public hearing

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. 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. Discussion with possible action on a letter dated April 11, 2000 sent by Pastor Dale Young from the First Presbyterian Church.

Cm. Bruni submitted the following letter:

I am one of your neighbors. I am the pastor at the First Presbyterian Church, just around the corner from your house, and I am wondering if you can assist me. (I have tried calling you through your office numerous times, but have not found you in. I Since I'm in and out all the time too, I have not left a message.)

Our church made a proposal to the City of Laredo three years ago, and we've never gotten a response. As I'm sure you have experienced for yourself, the traffic around Lamar Middle School is quite chaotic at 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Cars are parked on both sides of the street, as parents wait for their children, leaving space for only one car to go down the street at a time. Since there are many cars waiting, the back-up can be several blocks long.

More importantly, it is very difficult to see the children as they dart out from between the cars in an attempt to get to their rides. In an effort to help alleviate this problem, we have proposed widening the street immediately across from the school to the north, beginning at Milmo and continuing down the length of our property to Texas, donating the land from our sidewalk to the street (thereby making it the same width as in the 2300 and 2400 blocks).

Our letter was jockeyed around the City Engineer's Office, the Traffic Department, and the Department of Community Development. Then, we were lost in bureaucracy! Since you are a neighbor, and may have a vested interest in this, I was wondering if we could speak about the proper channel I should go through.

My home number is 712-4441. We could simply talk on the phone, or we could meet in front of the church on the strip of land to discuss the matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely  
Dale Young  
Pastor, First Presbyterian

Motion to acquire the right of way and widen Lane Street between Milmo and Arkansas. (thereby making it the same width as the 2300 and the 2400 blocks). Also to viciously pursue the project by retrieving funds from the mineral accounts or other projects with available funds.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

#### B. Request by Council Member John C. Galo

##### 1. Status up date on the 98 - 99 Sidewalks Projects.

Gabriel Martinez, from Engineering Department, reported that staff has recently received bids for the sidewalk jobs. He added that they will award the contracts at the next City Council meeting.

##### 2. Report on the removal of Political Signs.

Benny Salinas, Building Director, stated that 10 candidates have been cited for violating the City Ordinance. He said that they would continue to cite individuals until all signs are removed.

3. Staff report on Operation Clean Up.

Erasmus Villarreal, Community Development Director, reported that Operation Clean Up had been suspended; however, it was re-implemented on Monday. He stated that he did not have the final totals but he would be reporting back to council with a comprehensive report.

C. Request by Council Member Eliseo Valdez, Jr.

1. Status report on the flood plain study of the Upper Zacate Creek storm drainage and the impact on the flood plain map in District V.

Gabriel Martinez, representing the Engineering Department, reported that this item would be in conjunction with item # 33.

D. Request by Council Member Joe A. Guerra

1. Discussion on the Webb County Appraisal District's Appraisal Statements, possible action.

with

A report was received from Sergio Delgado, Chief Appraiser, dealing with Webb County Appraisal District and the 52,000 notices that were mailed out for the year of 2000. He informed the Council that the most important goal of the district is to assure that all properties are taxed equally and uniformly.

He stated that the values are currently in the protest stages where the Appraisal Review Board will resolve any disputes between the property owner and the district. He stated that the properties are appraised using the Mass Appraisal. He indicated that in some cases, the district would request pertinent documents in order to achieve a more accurate appraisal.

Finally, he explained that property owners have numerous rights and encouraged them to exercise them.

Cm. E. Valdez asked Sergio Delgado to implement a system at the district that will "flag" accounts that have substantial increases. He stated that the district should investigate the increases prior to sending out the notices.

The Chief Appraiser submitted the following information for the year of 2000:

	<b># Accts</b>	<b>Market Value</b>	<b>Total Exempt</b>	<b>Taxable Value</b>
Webb County	118,888	7,343,056,060	472,565,086	5,782,411,104
Webb Co. Rd. & Bdg.	118,888	7,343,056,060	472,565,086	5,720,614,085

Laredo I. S. D.	27,757	1,947,635,162	338,771,759	1,372,224,661
Webb Con. I. S. D.	18,061	578,332,990	6,399,830	417,936,703
United I. S. D.	71,234	4,778,157,168	125,955,577	3,614,196,946
Mirando City I. S. D.	1,916	39,038,760	1,071,330	17,862,120
Laredo Comm. College	63,005	5,621,684,140	456,937,016	4,847,577,647
City of Laredo	63,047	561,644,440	456,937,206	4,734,072,596
City of Rio Bravo	1,633	34,557,470	1,140,860	31,793,333
City of El Cenizo	1,002	17,407,500	585,780	15,774,049
Webb County Drain.	702	64,803,360	142,230	47,840,980

## **Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures**

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or special appraisal value place on your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the ownership of your property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board that applies to and adversely affected you.

## **Informal Review**

As some concerns and discrepancies can be resolved quickly and easily, it is recommended that you meet informally with appraisal staff to review the property appraisal and to present any information you may want to be considered.

## **Review by the Appraisal Review Board**

If you can't resolve your problem informally with the county appraisal district staff, you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board.

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing.

## **Review by the District Court**

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you received the ARB's order.

## **More Information**

You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at 3302 Clark or call 718-4091.

2. Discussion on a request by Mr. C. Y. Benavides III to discuss the re-paving of the Dolores Blvd. in the Camino Colombia area, with possible action.

C. Y. Benavides, III, gave a comprehensive report on the construction that will take place on Dolores Blvd. He asked that the City of Laredo enroll in the same Repavement Management System as Camino Columbia. He added that the area in question would not need maintenance for at least 36 months.

Gabriel Martinez, representing the Engineering Department, stated that only 500 linear feet of the area in question are in the city limits.

Larry Dovalina, Acting City Manager, stated that the city is not allowed to work outside of the city limits area. He added that the specifications must be cleared with the Engineering Department in order for the City to enter into an agreement.

Motion to participate in the Pavement Management System. The city will maintain 500 ft. Dolores Blvd. and will extend the agreement upon annexation.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain:

Cm. Montalvo

- E. Request by Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action to direct the City Staff to put in place a program

to prioritize railroad crossing for emergency vehicles (ambulances, fire trucks, and others) by establishing radio communication with railroad company officials, to keep crossings open during a crisis, have trains identify positions and direct emergency vehicles through crossings during emergencies. This will require meetings with all parties involved before an ordinance is drafted.

Keith Selman, City Planner, pointed out that the scope and the nature of the problem is congestion. He remarked that commerce is moving through the city of Laredo by means of trucks and trains, and automobiles are impeding the flow of commerce. He stated that commerce rail and truck freight is critical to this nation's vitality.

He informed the Council that the Metropolitan Planning Organization is currently working on a Comprehensive Mobility Plan. The plan is specifically addressing rail issues and it will prioritize railroad crossing. He feels that the real solution is to grade separations.

The plan will identify potential grade separations so that a Capital Improvement Plan can be presented to Washington and other places in order to seek financial support and get the grade separation resolved.

Cm. J. Valdez was gravely concerned about his constituents that have medical emergencies and need immediate assistance. He asked staff to create a system of communication that will assist the emergency driver in getting the patient to the hospital as quickly as possible.

2. Discussion with possible action to direct the City Staff to coordinate train crossing to keep lanes open between the hours of 7 am to 9 am Monday through Friday to insure citizens access to work and school.

Keith Selman, Planning Director, informed the Council that he would address train coordination with the railroad representative at the next meeting. He acknowledged the importance of the council member's desire to ensure that citizens have the access to arrive to work and school on time.

3. Directing City Staff to request the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) to implement a traffic safety program along the Mines Road Area, creating a non-commercial traffic lane from Killam Industrial Blvd. to Santa Maria Ave.

Motion to direct staff to draft a letter to TxDot.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

#### F. Request by Mayor Pro Tempore Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo

1. Discussion with possible action, on a motion to publish a notice of a Public Hearing in the Laredo Morning Times for a hearing to consider the election qualifications and the forfeiture of office of Juan Ramirez candidate for City Council Member District VIII, pursuant to Section 2.05 of the City Charter and to set a date for said hearing.



Jaime Flores, City Attorney, advised the Council that a hearing with the Honorable Judge David Peoples took place in the morning of said date and he ruled on three points:

1. Dissolve the temporary restraining order;
2. Deny the request for a temporary injunction; and
3. Deny the request to declare Juan Ramirez ineligible.

He stated that the final result would allow City Council to proceed with the canvassing of the election results.

Mayor Flores congratulated Juan Ramirez and introduced him as the new Council Member for District VIII.

## **IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

7. An ordinance ordering and proclaiming a Special Election to held on Saturday, August 12, 2000, designating polling places, providing for publication in reference to an election for the approval of a sports and community venue project ("The Laredo Entertainment Center") and for a one-fourth of one percent sales and use tax and other matters relating thereto.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

Mayor Flores announced that a letter was received from the Comptroller of Public Accounts stating that the Arena would not have a significant negative fiscal impact on the state revenues.

Fidel Ramirez, former Laredoan, did not recommend support for the entertainment center. He suggested that the Council resolve issues that are more important to the city.

Mayor Aldo Tatangelo expressed that he was concerned with the arena as a profitable venture. He questioned the Council's decision to sign a contract without knowing all the answers.

Michelle Martinez, representing a majority of Laredo's Youth, spoke in favor of the Entertainment Center. Her plea was to enhance the entertainment opportunities for Laredo's youth.

Danny Martinez, representing a majority of the youth of Laredo, thanked the council for allowing Laredoans an opportunity to say "yes" to an Entertainment Center. He stated that the youth is in desperate need of a safer form of entertainment.

Mercurio Martinez III, concerned citizen, spoke in favor of the entertainment center. He enthusiastically encouraged the public to focus on the quality of life.

Armando Lopez, concerned citizen, stated that Laredoans need to set their sights higher. He mentioned several occasions where Laredoans endured uncomfortable situations from the inability to accommodate the amount of people that attend certain functions. He stated that people of Laredo deserve an Entertainment Center. He asked the Council to abide by what the voters say. He stressed that Laredo is no longer a sleeping border city but a progressive border town.

Jesus "Toro" Martinez spoke in favor of the Entertainment Center. He stated that it would be more affordable to keep the money in Laredo. He asked the public to support the Entertainment Center.

8. An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Foreign-Trade Zone Operators Agreement between the City of Laredo, as Zone Grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone No. 94 and with Geologistics Americas, Inc., as Zone Site Operator of an approximate 4,810 square foot facility located at the Killam Industrial Park, Site No. 3.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## X. FINAL READINGS OF ORDINANCES

Internet Available: [///www.cityoflaredo.com](http://www.cityoflaredo.com)

- 152, Motion to waive final reading of ordinances # 2000-O-150, # 2000-O-151, # 2000-O-152, # 2000-O-153, # 2000-O-154 and # 2000-O-155.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9. 2000-O-150 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. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-150.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2000-O-151 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. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-151.

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

2000-O-152 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. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-152.

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

2000-O-153 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.  
(City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-153.

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

FM1472 2000-O-154 Ordinance setting the maximum speed limits on that portion of

between Santa Maria Ave. and Pan American Blvd., within the City Limits of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, as 45 mph, 50 mph, 55 mph and 60 mph, as defined in the Texas Department of Transportation Control Section Map 2150-04. (Cm. Mario G. Alvarado)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-154.

Moved: Cm. Agredano  
Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-155 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. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-155.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **XI. RESOLUTIONS**

10. 2000-R-089 A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement between the U.S. Border Patrol and the City of Laredo Fire Department to implement a First Responder Program under the Border Safety Initiative of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-089.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. 2000-R-090 A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division in the amount of \$1,164,624.00 for the Laredo Multi-Agency Narcotic Task Force. The Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division will be designating \$1,165,624.00 and the City of Laredo will be designating \$175,000.00 from the opening fund balance and \$213,156.00 of personnel salary contributions for a total amount of \$388,156.00 in matching funds for a total of \$1,552,624.00. Funding will be used to pay salaries, fringe benefit, overtime expenses, indirect operating expenses, and equipment from June 1, 2000 through May 31, 2001.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-090.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. 2000-R-091 A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the U.S.

Department of Justice, Local Law Enforcement Block Grant in the amount of \$158,466.00 with the City of Laredo designating \$50,000.00

in matching funds for a total of \$208,460.00 to fund this project. This project funds the salaries, fringe benefits, overtime, and equipment for support personnel. Two additional clerical staff members will be added. The funding period for this project is from October 1, 1999, through September 30, 2001.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-091.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **XII. MOTIONS**

13. Consideration of removal of hotel-motel accounts that no longer exist, owners are deceased, ownership changed before the law that allows collection from new owner became effective and accounts are over the statute of limitations for collections, including tax years from 1989 to 1994. The total amount to be removed is \$8,882.72 and it includes miscellaneous receivable tax, plus penalties and interest.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Consideration to approve monthly adjustments to tax roll. The amount to be adjusted for the month of May 2000, which represents a decrease in levy, is \$107,353.17. These adjustments are determined by the County Appraisal District and by Court Orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. Consideration of removal of personal property and mobile home accounts to an uncollectable roll. The amount of tax transfer to the uncollectable roll is \$108,861.83 based on 1996 and prior tax years.

a. Mobile Home amount is \$20,902.52

b. Personal Property amount is \$87,959.31

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Refund of property tax to the following taxpayers and companies:

- a. Hechinger Company in the amount of \$9,833.08 due to an overpayment.
- b. Laredo National Bank in the amount of \$632.46 due to a double payment.
- c. First American Real Estate Tax Service in the amount of \$2,445.13 due to an overpayment.
- d. Raul & Azucena Palacios in the amount of \$687.05 due to a double payment.
- e. Fresenius Medical Care in the amount of \$1,637.87 due to a double payment.
- f. Diana Morales in the amount of \$9,295.98 due to an overpayment.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to approve change order no. 2 for an amount not to exceed \$584,869.00

to the Laredo Bridge Toll System Upgrade contract with Transcore for the installation

of five commercial toll booths and two non-commercial toll booths and concrete island

extensions at the Colombia Solidarity Bridge. The original contract was for \$8,442,136.00, for the installation of the Toll System Upgrade at the International Bridges; change order no. 1 was for \$145,941.00 and this change order no. 2 will

bring

the total contract amount to \$9,172,946.00. Funding will be available in our Construction Fund from transfer of line item "Toll Equipment" #553-4050-538-5313.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration to amend the HOME Investment Partnership Program Policy and Procedures Manual to include as part of the program, Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA). Hamilton Housing Partners, Ltd. have requested rental assistance from the City for 50 low-income elderly residents of the Hamilton Hotel. The assistance is needed for the months of August and September 2000. The amount requested is \$25,000.00, which will cover the rental subsidies for the two months and insure that the elderly residents are provided safe, sanitary, decent and affordable housing. The Community Development Department is requesting the approval to use 1996 HOME Administrative Fund balances to fund the TBRA.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Consideration to award contract number FY00-104, to the LOW BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS, Equipment Technology, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK., \$58,115.00, for the purchase of one 1-1/2 ton truck with aerial device for the Bridge System.

This

truck will be used at all four bridge locations for maintenance and repair work. Funding is available in the Bridge Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Consideration to award annual contract number FY00-107, to the LOW BIDDER, StarCrete Products, Division of K3B, Inc., Robstown, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$77,760.00, for the purchase of Portland cement sacks for the Utilities Department. Cement is used for backfilling by the department. Funding is available in the Utilities Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Consideration Award of contract number FY00-106 to the SOLE BIDDER, Mission Western Wear, Mission, Texas, for the purchase of safety footwear for Fire Department personnel. Contract pricing has been secured for boot styles approved for use by the Fire Department personnel. The Fire Department's personnel have a \$500.00 clothing allowance that may be used to purchase uniforms, jackets, or boots. The contract vendor will be required to fit all fire personnel within a three day period. Approximately 417 pairs of boots will be purchased. Funding is available in the Fire Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to award annual contract (FY00-112), to the SOLE BIDDER: Denco One Hour Photo, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$20,000.00, for photo development for all City Departments. This contract establishes bid pricing for one

hour/next day film processing, three day film processing and slide processing. All services will be on a per need basis. Funding is available in user department budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Consideration to award annual contract number FY00-108 to the LOW BIDDER, Skaggs Public Safety Uniforms and Equipment, San Antonio, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$98,883.00 for the purchase of uniforms for Police Department personnel. The overall contract pricing is approximately 22% less. Funds are available in the Police Department budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Consideration to award contract number FY00-111, to the LOW BIDDER, Naztec, Inc., Sugarland, Texas, in the amount of \$99,480.00, for the purchase of traffic signal controllers and cabinets. Traffic signal controllers will be installed at the following intersections: Muller/FM 1472 and Marcella/ Taylor. In addition, twelve signal cabinets and six cabinet shells will be purchased to upgrade the current traffic signal equipment. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund and the Traffic Safety budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Consideration to approve change order no. 2 for an increase in the amount of \$4,770.00, for a total contract amount of \$17,655.00, to ATC Associates, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, for additional charges incurred for asbestos abatement oversight and on-site monitoring for the Laredo International Airport Abatement at buildings 574, 1112, 1438, and 1439. The original contract required sixteen days of on-site monitoring, however, the asbestos removal contractor required twenty eight days to complete the project. On-site monitoring is required by state and federal regulations. Funding is available in the Airport Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano



For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Consideration to award contract number FY00-113A, to the LOW BIDDER, National Sanitary/Unisource, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$54,000.00, for the purchase of one million, plastic bags for use in the City's Recycling Program. The per unit price is \$0.054/bag is approximately 4% higher than the previous contract purchase. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Consideration to approve a selection of consultant and authorization to negotiate the

professional service contract with Severn Trent Laboratories, Inc., Corpus Christi, Texas, to provide laboratory analytical services for storm water samples to comply with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services contract

with J & A Pharmacy to provide pharmaceuticals to AIDS clients of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning April 1, 2000, through March 31, 2001.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration for acceptance of the Street Paving Assessment Project 60 (26 Blocks)

constructed by the Department of Public Works and the Utilities Department. Final contract amount is \$890,920.55. Funding is available in Paving Projects #60.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Consideration for approval of final change order no. 2, a decrease of \$1,400.00 as liquidated damages for late completion of the project, acceptance of the Laredo International Airport Asbestos Abatement at Building 574, 1112, 1428 and 1439; and approval of final payment in the amount of \$60,960.00 to Bexar Environmental, Inc., San Antonio, Texas. Funding is available in the Airport Demolition Services.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Consideration to Amend and extend the annual supply contract number 99-038 awarded to Big Buck Asphalt Co., Laredo, Texas, to include the purchase of concrete sand through July 31, 2000. The use of Portland cement and concrete sand is required as a backfill material for all street cut repairs to increase the durability of asphalt patches. The original contract award was for an estimated amount of \$227,725.00 for the purchase of flexible base and backfill sand, as required for all city paving and construction projects. Due to Street Cut Ordinance #99-O-319, which required the use of concrete sand, this contract is being modified to include these new requirements.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

### **XIII. STAFF REPORT**

32. Presentation and Council confirmation of Mayor Pro Tempore as per Ordinance 90-O-101.

Mayor Flores read the name as to seniority for acceptance. The first on the seniority list was Cm. Joe Guerra and he accepted.

Motion to confirm Joe A. Guerra as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Status report on the Zacate Creek Storm Water Masterplan.

Allen Thompson, of Brown & Root from Austin, informed the Council of the progress they have made in completing the Zapata Creek Storm Water Master plan. He added that the Federal Emergency Management Administrations will produce the flood plains map. The revised maps will be complete in 12 to 18 months.

34. Presentation by Mr. Sergio Delgado, Chief Appraiser, Webb County Appraisal District regarding the 2000 Property Tax Valuation and an explanation on the determination of Fair Market Value.

The presentation given by Sergio Delgado was given under D. (1).

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Time: 8:25 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in the pages of 01 to 25 are true, complete and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2000.

Jr.

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Gustavo Guevara,

City Secretary