

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2000-R-25  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
SEPTEMBER 18, 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.,  
Juan Ramirez,  
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,  
Larry Dovalina,  
Jaime Flores,

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

**IV. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of August 7, 2000, August 10, 2000, August 14, 2000 and August 15, 2000.

Motion to approve the minutes.

Moved: Cm. Galo  
Second: Cm. Agredano  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

### **Announcements**

Mayor Flores announced the creation of the Rail Policy Committee which will be composed of Cm. Jose A. Valdez, Jr. as Chair, Cm. Juan Ramirez, and Cm. John C. Galo. She stressed that there are many light-rail and heavy-rail issues that must be addressed in the community, and Union Pacific will send some staff to provide input on these freight rail matters to the newly formed committee.

Victor Jacaman announced the creation of a Trail Ride with the cooperation of the City of Laredo to benefit the children of Laredo. The trial ride would provide a positive form of recreation for the children. The route to be followed by the trail riders would serve to familiarize them with Laredo as well.

Mayor Flores informed Mr. Jacaman that there is also a committee in place composed of city staff that is working on a trail and bike route for the community. She mentioned that the city staff would add his name to the committee list and send him an invitation to attend the next meeting.

### **Invitations**

### **Recognitions**

### **Communiqués**

Cm. Bruni submitted a Rain Enhancement Report from the Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association for seeding flight activity of September 13, 2000. This report is available at the City Secretary's Office for public viewing.

Cm. Bruni also submitted a letter addressed to Erasmo Villarreal, Cynthia Collazo, and Arturo Garcia via e-mail by Marisela Rangel in connection with noise abatement concerns.

Mayor Flores provided council members with a brief summary of the matters addressed during the Conference of Mayors which she attended in Boise, Idaho. She mentioned that there were several important issues discussed during this Leadership Conference which she will elaborate on in her written report to the council members.

Cm. Bruni read some of the Laredo International Airport's year-to-date accomplishments and activities.

- Passenger activity is up 5 % to 62,793 in plane passengers;
- Air cargo activity is up 12 % to 262 million pounds of gross landed weight;
- Aircraft operations are up 10 % to 44,519 operations;
- Completed reconstruction of the air cargo apron, several taxiways, and a portion of runway 17R representing an investment of \$4.9 million dollars;
- Private sector investment in the construction of four cargo facilities totaling \$1.6 million dollars;

- Private sector investment in the construction of commercial buildings totaling almost \$1 million dollars;
- Process two airport improvement program grants from the Federal Aviation Administration in the total amount of \$5.2 million dollars to rehab a portion of runway 17R and acquire a tract of land to extend our parallel taxiway;
- Submit a request from Federal Aviation Administration to fund an update on the PART 150 noise compatibility study;
- Submit a request to the Federal Aviation Administration to fund an airport Master Plan to include medical-related use of non-aeronautical properties;
- Creation of the foreign trade policy and procedures to transfer foreign-trade-zone designations within the City of Laredo; and
- Creation of an airport land marketing policy that enables the payment of real estate commissions to real estate brokers whose efforts result in leasing of airport property.

Mayor Flores heard testimony from Luis Dovalina, Laredo Police Department President, who spoke regarding the meeting with the Chief of Police concerning their request for additional investigator positions. Officer Dovalina reported that the city needs to plan ahead due to the tremendous growth the city is experiencing and this justifies the need for more investigators' positions due to the increase in crime in Laredo.

Chief Agustin Dovalina reported on some of the options proposed to the City Manager's Office, and he recommended choosing Option B which would be the most cost effective method to ensure that all candidates on the list are promoted and to secure the additional sergeant positions as well.

Luis Dovalina suggested that Option A be accepted which would require reclassification of personnel in order to increase the number of investigators' positions.

Acting City Manager Larry Dovalina stated that Chief Dovalina's proposal to the City Manager's Office included a proposed submittal for a COPS grant for creation of 40 additional positions for which the city has budgeted the money. He commented that the central issue here is that this request is being driven by the eligibility list on which these individuals are. If these officers do not receive a promotion at this time, they will lose their eligibility status and will have to re-compete for the positions. Mr. Dovalina clarified some points on the issue of annexation and the related laws that were passed. He explained that the laws state that the city must provide comparable service to that being provided within the community; and as long as the city provides that equal service, it does not state that the city needs to increase public safety or any particular areas of the budget in order to be able to annex.

Chief Dovalina affirmed that the police department does have the adequate manpower to handle the pressing needs of the community at this time.

Officer Jorge Luna reported on the crime statistics compiled and the level of increase in crime from July, 1999, to July, 2000.

Officer Luis Martinez stated that Option A is the best solution for personnel as well as for the city in ensuring public safety to the community.

Officer Anthony Carrillo spoke regarding the number of investigators that are needed within each division. He stated that the supervisors of each separate division recommend a minimum number of two investigators in order to adequately serve the department.

Officer Ricardo Taguma restated the reasons why the city needs more investigators, including the need to reduce the number of cases assigned to the limited investigative personnel.

Motion to bring up as a secondary motion consideration of Item B (1) from page twelve of the agenda.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore

Second: Cm. J. Valdez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to accept Option A recommended by Officer Luis Dovalina.

Moved: Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 6

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Bruni

Cm. Galo

June Leyendecker addressed City Council to voice her objections over a zone designation change and to protest a paving project which bisected her property by Springfield Avenue. Being that Springfield Avenue is now fully paved up to Michigan Avenue on Hilltop Road, she is concerned that this paving project will cause uneven deterioration of the sub-base and uneven curing since the road is only partially paved lengthwise to her property line.

She is requesting that the routing of Springfield Avenue be carried out as it had been proposed initially by the Planning and Zoning Department in 1991. She stated that the originally proposed route would direct Springfield northward, which is the preferred and logical direction for the road.

Charles Martens spoke to City Council on behalf of U.S. Filter and Killam Ranch properties regarding the city's secondary water source. He stated that the firm has made a financial commitment of approximately \$700,000.00 of its money to drill two test wells in order to find out their sustainability. He emphasized that they have the resources, the easements, the water source, etc., but they cannot take on their commitment without a Letter of Intent from the City of Laredo.

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

a. Appointments by Council Member Juan Ramirez of Rosa Elia Treviño to the Laredo

Commission for Women, Arturo Tijerina to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Lily Perez to the Re-Districting Commission, and Richard Gentry to the Tree Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing to amend the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures by \$8,150.00 in the Convention & Visitors Bureau Fund - Special Events budget due to receipt of donations from the private sector for the annual City of Laredo Washington Trip to meet with members of Congress and federal agencies and incurring expenditures associated with said project and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget.

### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 budget by appropriating revenues and expenditures by \$8,150.00 in the Convention & Visitors Bureau Fund - Special Events budget due to receipt of donations from the private sector for the annual City of Laredo Washington Trip to meet with members of Congress and federal agencies and incurring expenditures associated with said project and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget.

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. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

2. Public hearing to amend the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 Airport Budget to recognize

additional revenues from a grant received from the Federal Aviation Administration being grant project no. 3-48-0136-27-00 in the amount of \$4,400,000.00 for the purpose of constructing a portion of a parallel taxiway to Runway 17L/35R and

appropriating said grant revenue and local match to the appropriate expenditure accounts and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget amendment.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 Airport Budget to recognize additional revenues from a grant received from the Federal Aviation Administration being grant project no. 3-48-0136-27-00 in the amount of \$4,400,000.00 for the purpose of constructing a portion of a parallel taxiway to Runway 17L/35R and appropriating said grant revenue and local match to the appropriate expenditure accounts and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget amendment.

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. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- Public hearing concerning an application by Petra Limon amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 2, Block 290, Eastern Division, located at 605 Clark Blvd., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended denial of the proposed zone change.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 2, Block 290, Eastern Division, for use as a car lot, located at 605 Clark Blvd., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Fernando Limon, a family member representing Petra Limon, requested a conditional use permit.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce as a Conditional Use Permit with staff comments.

Moved: Cm. Amaya

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Amaya

- Public hearing concerning an application by Gerardo Mendoza amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1 and the W 16' of Lot 2, Lot 12 and the W 16' of Lot 11, Block 1231, Eastern Division, located at 2101 Kearney St., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended denial of the proposed zone change.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1 and the W 16' of Lot 2, Lot 12 and the W 16' of Lot 11, Block 1231, Eastern Division, located at 2101 Kearney St., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and table.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- Public hearing and adoption of Resolution 2000-R-126 adopting the 2001-2005 Capital Improvement Program for the City of Laredo.

#### ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2000-R-126

Adopting the 2001-2005 Capital Improvement Program for the City of Laredo.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Keith Selman, Planning and Zoning Director, provided a summary to the City Council regarding proposed projects and their respective revenue allocations. He commented that it is the responsibility of the Planning and Zoning Commission to provide recommendations to the City Council on the Capital Improvement Program. He mentioned that as part of the requirements in the Capital Improvement Program process as outlined in the Charter provisions, the Capital Improvement Program goes to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration. Mr. Selman stated that there were two public hearings held at the Planning and Zoning Commission level over the Capital Improvement Program, and that it is the responsibility of the commission to provide recommendations to the City Council.

Cm. Bruni called for a motion to include in the Capital Improvement Programs the extension of Bartlett St. from Hillside to Gale and from Gale to Jacaman Road. Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra stated he would second the motion provided there was a stipulation that District VI be granted \$800,000.00 for additional projects needed.

Mayor Flores stressed that before the City Council votes on the bond issue, she wants to make sure that the projects under the Capital Improvement Program can be started immediately.

Cm. Bruni withdrew his motion to reserve an additional portion of the revenues under the Capital Improvement Program for the Bartlett St. extension.

Motion to close the public hearing and adopt the Capital Improvement Program subject to future revisions on the mentioned projects.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. Public hearing and adoption of Resolution 2000-R-136 adopting the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Laredo without amendment in compliance with Article IX, Section 9.03 of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

#### ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2000-R-136

Adopting the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Laredo without amendment in compliance with Article IX, Section 9.03 of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. E. Valdez

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.



Motion to close the public hearing and adopt.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. Public hearing to identify and grant retiree medical benefits to employees who retire between October 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001 with the exception of Firefighters and Police Officers who are provided for under a collective bargaining agreement and providing for and effective date of October 1, 2000.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Identifying employees and granting retiree medical benefits to those employees who retire between October 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001 with the exception of Firefighters and Police Officers who are provided for under a collective bargaining agreement and providing and effective date of October 1, 2000.

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. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. Public hearing to amend the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances as follows: Chapter 2, Article II, Division 6 (Pay Administration), Section 2-87.7 (12)(a) except as otherwise stated in any collective bargaining agreement and providing for an effective date of October 1, 2000.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances as follows: Chapter 2, Article II, Division 6 (Pay Administration), Section 2-87.7 (12)(a) except as otherwise stated in any collective bargaining agreement and providing for an effective date of October 1, 2000.

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. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

9. Public hearing to amend the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 Annual Budget by appropriating Revenues and Expenditures in the Fleet Management Fund by \$240,000.00 due to the increase in fuel costs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the City Manager to amend the City of Laredo's FY 1999-2000 annual budget in the amount of \$240,000.00 for fuel cost increase.

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. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

10. Public hearing amending the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget

in the amount of \$17,139.00 for the Hepatitis C Study Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2001.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$17,139.00 for the Hepatitis C Study Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2001; and increasing revenue line item 226-0000-323-4085 from \$0 to \$17,139.00 and expenditure line item 226-6036 from \$0 to \$17,139.00.

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. Bruni  
Second: Cm. Agredano  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

11. Public hearing amending the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget

in the amount of \$2,654,500.00 to operate the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, and to issue approximately \$13,000,000.00 in federal food vouchers by the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2001.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$2,654,500.00 to operate the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, and to issue approximately \$13,000,000.00 in federal food vouchers by the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2001; and increasing revenue line item form the WIC Program 226-0000-323-4037 from \$0 to \$2,654,500.00 and expenditure line item 226-6035 from \$0 to \$2,654,500.00.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Agredano  
Second: Cm. Bruni  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra  
Second: Cm. Agredano  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

12. Public hearing to amend the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in

the amount of \$4,470.00 in additional funds from \$149,000.00 to \$153,470.00 for the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$4,470.00 in additional funds from \$149,000.00 to \$153,470.00 for the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000; and increasing revenue line item 226-000-323-4043 from \$149,000.00 to \$153,470.00 and expenditure line item 226-6016 from \$149,000.00 to \$153,470.00.

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: Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

### VIII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

#### 13. A. Request by Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores

1. Discussion on the possibility of opening the Civic Center Pool on weekends during the extended warm weather months.

John Vidaurri, Parks and Recreation Director, stated they have looked into the matter and have found that to open the pool for an additional six-week period would cost approximately \$5,000.00 or approximately \$800.00 per weekend. One of the problems they have encountered is obtaining an adequate number of lifeguards. The current season runs through the middle of August, which is about the time children begin their school year.

Motion to approve the opening of the Civic Center Pool on weekends for six additional weeks.

Moved: Cm. Ramirez

Second: Cm. E. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Request by Council Member Alfredo Agredano

1. Status report on the meeting between the Laredo Police Officers Association and Staff regarding the Investigators positions, with possible action.

Item was discussed earlier under Communiques.

Motion to adopt Option A.

Reclassification of seven (7) patrolman positions to the rank of investigator as follows:

\$57,595.31	Investigator's annual salary including benefits
- <u>\$52,448.04</u>	Patrol Grade 5 annual salary including benefits
\$ 5,147.27	Difference
<u>      x 7</u>	# of positions requested
\$36,030.89	Total cost for reclassification -- FY 01

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra

Second: Cm. J. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 2

Abstain: 0

Cm. Bruni

Cm. Galo

C. Request by Council Member Louis H. Bruni

1. Status report on the Letter of Intent from the City of Laredo on the Secondary Water Source, with possible action. (Co-sponsored by Council Member John

C.

Galo and Joe A. Guerra)

Cm. Bruni mentioned that the Water Issues Committee met on September 5, 2000, and provided some directives to Fernando Roman to get this process moving along.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, provided a draft of the Letter of Intent to be addressed to the firms who have shown an interest in providing a secondary water source to the City of Laredo. He stated that the Letter of Intent meets the desires of the Water Issues Committee by stating the city's commitment to the project without necessarily having a binding type of letter. It simply tells the firms that the City of Laredo is proceeding with the project and allows the firms sufficient time to gather their own data and put together a report with their particular technical expertise. Once they present a report that fulfills the city's terms and conditions, then the City of Laredo will initiate its negotiations to reach agreement on a water supply contract.

Motion to authorize the City Manager to forward the Letter of Intent to the two secondary water source firms.

Moved: Cm. Bruni  
Second: Cm. E. Valdez, Jr.  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion and possible action on providing alternative routes to alleviate and reduce truck traffic on Calton Rd. and McPherson Rd.

Keith Selman, Planning and Zoning Director, mentioned that this item was discussed in the workshop where a couple of scenarios were considered. He recommended forwarding this item to the Traffic Safety Committee to look into four different scenarios.

Motion to take this item to the Traffic Safety Committee with a 30-day turnaround to the City Council for an update.

Moved: Cm. Bruni  
Second: Cm. Galo  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report on the extension of Bartlett St. to Gale St., with possible action.

Item was discussed earlier under Item #5 (Capital Improvement Program).

#### D. Request by Council Member Eliseo Valdez, Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action on El Metro's - El Lift Program and the service provided by their automated and response telephone system.

Cm. Valdez stated he had received several complaints from citizens that they place calls to the agency but do not get the quality customer service they deserve.

Also, on the matter of the El Lift Program, the major complaint that he wants addressed is the requirement imposed on callers to provide a two weeks advance notice for transportation. He stated that in some situations this is not a realistic requirement and he wants to re-evaluate El Lift's service to ensure it is in tune with the needs of the community.

Peter Behrman, El Metro Manager, clarified some points regarding reservations accepted for transportation service. He stated that people are not required to reserve a seat two weeks in advance, but they are given the option to reserve as far as two weeks in advance. It is merely a courtesy to those people that would like to reserve the service ahead of time.

Regarding the telephone system on Scott St., he agreed that there have been a number of problems, and they are working on revamping the system to eliminate these problems in the future. He reported that his department is

scheduled to begin construction this week on a Customer Service Center that will be open at 6:00 a.m. and will be staffed by people to provide quality service to the public. He commented that all calls will be routed there and staff will be available to answer the phone and provide information on all bus routes as well as the El Lift program routes.

Cm. Valdez suggested that this information be released to the public to ensure they are aware that El Lift does not have a two-week requirement.

Daniel Gonzalez, Jr. supervisor with El Metro, stated they have 17 routes to cover with 18 vans.

Danny La Duque, a citizen, spoke regarding the unsatisfactory service provided by El Metro's El Lift program. He has received many complaints via the BEST organization about callers who are turned down for transportation. He would like to see El Metro upgrade its transportation system to assist as many members of the community as possible.

Cm. Valdez suggested that a motion be made to include Mr. La Duque as part of the Laredo Metro Committee to provide citizens' input in looking at the operations of the transportation program.

Jaime Flores, City Attorney, commented that Mr. La Duque and the BEST organization have sued the City of Laredo. He mentioned that some of the issues that Mr. La Duque is discussing are part of the litigation and that while it is in order to listen to Mr. La Duque's concerns, he advises the City Council to withhold any type of response on the matter because it is currently in litigation.

Mr. La Duque asserted that neither he nor BEST have filed a lawsuit against the City of Laredo.

Peter Behrman stated that they have been working in conjunction with the BEST organization for a number of years. He mentioned that El Metro has a contract in place with the organization to go through the certification list to ensure they are updated, and Mr. La Duque has been helpful in keeping that list up to date. He emphasized they have a good working relationship with the BEST organization.

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

1. Discussion with possible action on requesting staff to conduct a noise impact study caused by the increase in railroad traffic and find available federal funding to mitigate any adverse impact to affected areas near the railroad right-of-ways.

Cm. Valdez suggested that a study similar to the airport study be prepared to determine the noise-impacted areas due to railroad traffic.

Cm. Galo stated that this concern had been addressed some time ago when he met in Washington, D.C. with the Deputy Secretary of Transportation. At that time, she had stated that there were no funds available and he agrees that this should be looked into once more.

Keith Selman mentioned that some of the UPWP monies could be used for such a noise study. He suggested that the City Council consider analyzing the impacts as well as the mitigating measures and put together some type of capital programming. He mentioned that the UPWP is on the agenda for the MPO Policy Committee meeting and that there are some monies there that could be tapped into.

2. Discussion with possible action to initiate a bus study for an additional bus route from downtown to Indian Sunset Subdivision.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. J. Valdez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report on the safety signalization at the Lafayette Bridge overpass, with possible action.

Cm. Valdez stated there was a study underway a month ago.

Tony Garcia, Traffic Department, reported that four signs have been installed in the area to reduce speed. He also mentioned that the department is finalizing the acquisition of some underground conduits needed to proceed with the placement of flashing beacons in the area.

#### F. Request by Council Member Juan Ramirez

1. Discussion with possible action on park benches around the Civic Center and Los Dos Laredos Park.

John Vidaurri, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that some benches were removed from the park after the flood. He stated that his department does have an item in the upcoming budget to replace those benches as well as to replace barbeque grills in the first quarter of the new fiscal year. With regard to the Civic Center, the department does not currently have any funding in the budget for benches off of San Bernardo Avenue. The placement of any benches would be under the shade trees along the West side of the street.

Cm. Ramirez suggested that some local business people could donate the benches to the City of Laredo.



John Vidaurri stated that the cost per bench would run approximately \$500.00 for the bench together with the bench pad.

2. Discussion with possible action on the construction of a sidewalk at the 1400 block of San Eduardo on the west side and the 1600 block of San Eduardo on the east side.

Gabriel Martinez, City Engineering Department, reported that currently they have 107 blocks of sidewalks under construction and another 143 blocks of sidewalks under design, but neither one of these blocks is identified on the project list. He mentioned that the cost per block would run approximately \$9,000.00, which includes the design as well as construction.

Acting City Manager Larry Dovalina stated that there is a problem on the 1600 block of San Eduardo because there are two homes that encroach onto the right-of-way with a covered canopy. In order to construct the sidewalk, the city would have to remove those canopies or ask the homeowners to allow the city to connect that portion already in place with the proposed sidewalk. He stated that the City Council would need to find the funding source possibly adding it on to the budget items that they would receive under the CIF fund.

- City
3. Discussion with possible action on increasing the salaries of the Mayor and Council.

Cm. Ramirez stated that the current City Council Members earn \$500.00 per month or \$6,000.00 per year. He stated that a Council Member's job is fast becoming a full time job. He also mentioned that Mayor Flores goes well beyond her assigned duties and is instrumental in securing growth and prosperity for our city. He recommended that the annual salary for the Mayor be increased by \$8,000.00 and the salary for City Council Members be increased to \$12,000.00.

Jaime Flores, City Attorney, explained that the raise would take effect upon the new respective term of each council member and the same goes for the mayor's term.

Mayor Flores mentioned that the Council Members' service to their constituents requires the addition of support staff to better serve the citizens' needs. She also stated that some Council Members have had the ability to fund their own staff, but others have not. She emphasized the need for all Council Members to be provided with a support staff to better address the needs and concerns of their constituents.

Motion to instruct the City Manager's Office to prepare an ordinance setting the salaries for the City Council pursuant to Section 2.02 of the City Charter at \$12,000 annual salary for Council Members and \$36,000.00 annual salary for the Mayor for the next term for each respective council seat and the mayor's seat.







revenue line item 226-0000 from \$0 to \$20,000 and expenditure line item 226-6301 from \$0 to \$20,000. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-221.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-222 Amending the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 Airport Budget to recognize

additional revenues from a grant received from the Federal Aviation Administration being grant project no. 3-48-0136-26-00 in the amount of \$849,845.00 for the purpose of rehabilitating a portion of Runway 17R/35L and for the purpose of acquiring a parcel of land to expand the Runway Protection Zone to Runway 35L and appropriating said grant revenue and local match to the appropriate expenditure accounts and authorizing the City Manager to implement said budget amendment. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-209.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-224 An ordinance amending the City of Laredo FY 1999-2000 budget by transferring the revised budget from General Fund Improvements Other than Building in the amount of \$125,000.00 and Professional Services in the amount of \$9,784.00 to the Capital Improvement Fund for a total of \$134,784.00 for the Skate Board Park in order for monies not to lapse and completion of project to continue and be finalized in FY 2000-2001 and authorizing the City Manager to implement said Budget. (AS AMENDED) (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-224.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-225 An ordinance closing as a public easement that section of the 1900 block

of Poggenpohl Street between Sta. Rita and Vidaurri Avenues situated in the Western Division, City of Laredo, County of Webb, Texas and providing for an effective date. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-225.



21. 2000-R-133 A resolution resolving that the City Manager is authorized to execute a Subordination, Non-Disturbance and Attornment Agreement between the City of Laredo, as Lessor, L.A. Ventures, Inc., as Lessee and International Bank of Commerce as Lender thereby encumbering the leasehold interest in the amount of \$427,520.00 regarding Lot No. 9 authorized by Ordinance No. 95-O-252 dated February 20, 1996 to finance the construction of a 22,550 square foot air cargo facility. The subject property is located in Block No. 1 at the Laredo International Airpark Subdivision at the Laredo International Airport.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-133.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. 2000-R-134 A resolution resolving that the City Manager is authorized to execute a Subordination, Non-Disturbance and Attornment Agreement between the City of Laredo, as Lessor, L.A. Venture, Inc., as Lessee and International Bank of Commerce as Lender thereby encumbering the leasehold interest in the amount of \$415,000.00 regarding Lot No. 10 authorized by Ordinance No. 99-O-176 dated June 28, 1999 to finance the construction of a 22,500 square foot air cargo facility. The subject property is located in Block No. 1 at the Laredo International Airpark Subdivision at the Laredo International Airport.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-134.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. 2000-R-135 A resolution to adopt a new health benefits rate structure by increasing all

medical contribution amounts by ten percent (10%) for the City of Laredo's Medical Plan and providing for an effective date of October 1, 2000.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-135.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. 2000-R-138 Opposing the designation of San Antonio International Airport for Customs processing of certain private aircraft arriving in the United States and urging other border communities to oppose SEC. 1433 of H. R. 4868 which enables the designation and authorizing the City

Manager to provide a copy of Resolution No. 99-R-95 to the Honorable U. S. Senator Phil Gramm, the Honorable U. S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and to the Honorable U. S. Congressman Henry Bonilla.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-138.

Moved: Cm. Bruni  
Second: Cm. Galo  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **XII. MOTIONS**

25. Consideration to refund property tax to the following taxpayers and companies:

- a. A refund in the amount of \$762.27 for Daniel L. Bell due to an overpayment made by Harbor Financial Mortgage Corp.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni  
Second: Cm. Agredano  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Consideration to approve monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amount to be adjusted for the month of August 2000, which represents an decrease in levy, is \$10,628.66. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by Court Orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni  
Second: Cm. Agredano  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Consideration to award a contract to the sole source supplier HTE, Inc., of Lake Mary, Fla., in the amount of \$44,328.00 for the purchase of software for centralizing database for parking ticket inquiries and reconciling the Parking Division Account Receivable. Funding is available in the Parking Meter Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni  
Second: Cm. Agredano  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Consideration to award contract number FY00-142, to the LOW BIDDER, Air Weld



Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$18,960.79, for the installation of two, ADA compliant rest rooms at the Civic Center auditorium. Funding is available in the Civic Center Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration to award contract number FY00-143, to the LOW BIDDER, Rush Truck

Center - San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$50,856.00, for the purchase of one, three ton truck with service body for the Utilities Department - Wastewater Treatment Division. Funding for the crew cab truck are available in the Utilities Department Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Consideration to award annual contract number 00-144, to the SOLE BIDDER, Aldo T.

Rodriguez DBA Laredo Electric Motor Service, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$60,000.00, for providing electric motor repair services for the Utilities Department. The bid pricing will be firm during the contract period and all repair work will be secured 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

31. Consideration to award contract number FY00-145, to the LOW BIDDER, Playland Adventures, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$38,800.00, for the purchase and installation of two play structures. One play structure will be installed in the Father McNaboe Park and the other at Santa Maria Ave. and Circle Drive play area. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Project Budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Consideration to award contract number FY00-146, to the LOWEST BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS, Easy Drive Inc., San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$22,591.77, for the purchase of surveying equipment and software for the Engineering Department. The contract price includes three days of training. Funding is available from Public Property Finance Contractual Obligation (PPFCO) series 2000 proceeds.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Consideration to award contract number FY00-147, to the SOLE BIDDER, Kinloch Equipment & Supply, Pasadena, Texas, in the amount of \$19,279.00, for the purchase of two, skid mounted, vacuum litter collection equipment for the Public Works Department. One will be used for the downtown area and the other will be used at the City landfill. Funding is available in the Public Works Department - Capital Outlay Budget and the Solid Waste Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Consideration to award a professional services contract to Freese and Nichols, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$75,709.50 to provide but not limited to engineering services to include design(s), surveys, preparation of plans and specifications, geotechnical testing, cost estimates, bid documents, and bid tabulation for the rehabilitating of Runway 17R/35L to include declared distances for Runway 17R/35L. Funding for the engineering services is available in Airport Project Engineering Fees, Account No. 242-3650-583-5512. The Federal Aviation Administration has issued an Airport Improvement Program Grant Project No. 3-48-0136-26-00 to fund this project during FY 2000.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to opt out of the Federal Health Insurance

Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), effective October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001, as a result of the City currently meeting or exceeding minimum HIPAA benefit provisions.

Motion to approve.



Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Consideration to award a twelve (12) month Service Agreement Contract with Transcore, Harrisburg, PA for an amount not to exceed \$126,000.00 for a Service Center Liaison to be responsible for the training, implementation and operation of the Customer Service Center which will have a direct impact on the successful implementation of our WIM/AVI System.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to approve a professional services contract with Estrada Hinojosa & Company, Inc., Dallas, Texas, in connection with the negotiation of various agreements related to the Laredo Entertainment Center. Funding for these services will be available in the Proposed Sales Tax Revenue Bond closing. These services are exclusive of customary financial advisory services.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Consideration to approve a professional services contract with McCall, Parkhurst & Horton L.L.P., Dallas, Texas, in connection with the negotiation of various agreements related to the Laredo Entertainment Center. Funding for these services will be available in the Proposed Sales Tax Revenue Bond closing.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

### **XIII. STAFF REPORT**

43. Status report on the Laredo Entertainment Center Project negotiations with Arena Ventures.

Larry Dovalina, Acting City Manager, reported that they met with city staff and he made reference to the two motions that were approved tonight as it relates to the hiring of bond counsel who will assist in the negotiations process for the proposed

arena. There was also an item on enhancing the contract of the financial advisor and hiring him specifically for these negotiations in connection with the proposed arena. The City Manager's Office is in the process of asking people to submit proposals to the City of Laredo for the purpose of advising the city as arena consultants.

In addition, the first meeting of the CLEC Advisory Committee will be held this coming Wednesday, September 20, 2000. Arena Ventures representatives are recommending the architectural firm of Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam, and they will be making a presentation to the committee. This will be a joint meeting of the CLEC Advisory Committee and the Architectural/Engineering Group Committee in order to allow Cm. Jose A. Valdez, Jr. to review the architectural presentation to be made on Wednesday.

44. Presentation on proposed programs related to water utility billing to assist customers on a fixed income, with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that he has reviewed two proposals for consideration. The first plan he referred to as the "equal payment plan" would allow a homeowner to get on an equal payment plan proportionate to their financial needs. He commented that their software provider noted that this billing software was very easy to install. The second plan he referred to as the "donations fund plan". He explained that it provides the 45,000 customers an opportunity, based on some type of legend, to donate any dollar amount desired. These monies would be deposited in a designated city fund that could disburse awards to customers in need. Some of the aspects that must be resolved prior to implementing this particular plan include: identifying the criteria necessary to access this fund; designating who will be establishing account limits as to how many times a customer can access this fund; determining whether this is merely a seasonal fund or whether it will be utilized year round. Mr. Roman stated he would provide an update to City Council at the meeting of October 2, 2000.

#### **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Council hereby reserves the right to go into executive session at any time during this public meeting, when it deems it necessary to consult privately with its attorney about any item upon this agenda, pursuant to the provisions of Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn.

TIME: 9:15 p.m.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 through 28 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2000.

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Gustavo Guevara, Jr.  
City Secretary