

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M2000-R-27
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
OCTOBER 2, 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,
Cynthia Collazo,
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
Acting City Manager
City Attorney

Motion to excuse Cm. Agredano, Cm. Amaya, Cm. Galo, and Cm. Ramirez for the September 25, 2000 meeting.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of August 21, 2000.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Announcements

Mayor Flores announced that October has been declared Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She commented that if people look at the statistics, 182,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year alone. She urged all women to consider getting an examination.

Cm. Bruni stated that he has seen the devastating effects of breast cancer first hand. His wife was diagnosed with breast cancer in May, 1999, and luckily she caught it early enough to where she was able to treat it successfully through surgical intervention and chemotherapy. He urged all women to follow the advice of the breast cancer awareness group and get examined.

Mayor Flores read a portion of an article from a Sydney, Australia newspaper which mentions the City of Laredo, Texas. The article was spotlighting Angel Perez, a Pan-American champion in kayaking who competed in this year's Olympic Games. The athlete reportedly arrived in the United States via Laredo, Texas, by crossing the Rio Grande River.

Mayor Flores provided an update on the bridge revenues and for fiscal year-to-date accomplishments.

Revenues are up from last year by 10 % or \$2,416,430.00. Revenues are exceeding this year's budget to actual revenues by 6 % or \$1,101,838.00 and are projected to finish out this fiscal year at a record \$28,721,811.00, which will be \$1,232,000.00 over the bridge system's projections.

Commercial traffic is up by 12 % from last year. Non-commercial traffic is up by 4 % from last year. Pedestrian traffic is up by 3 % from last year. The weigh-in motion system has been in operation at the four operational lanes at the World Trade Bridge and the two operational lanes at the Colombia-Solidarity Bridge since April 15, 2000. The target date for the automated vehicle identification system is January 1, 2001. Also, the target date for the Customer Service Centers will be January 1, 2001, and is on schedule.

The marketing program, which coincides with the bridge system's AVI and weigh-in motion and servicecenters, is on schedule. Opening of the Administration Building at the World Trade Center is on schedule for October 9, 2000. The maintenance on-line management systems (MOMS) is 80% complete and on schedule to be fully operational by January 1, 2001. The digital visual auditing system is 60% complete and also on schedule. The bridge system's fiber connection to all four international bridges is on schedule for January 1, 2001. The selling of the bridge transponders is on schedule for January 1, 2001. The bridges would stop selling and accept coupons in lanes as of March 2, 2001. The target date for final acceptance of all systems to be fully operational at all bridges will be March 2, 2001.

Mayor Flores commended the Acting City Managers, the Systems Director and their staff for the excellent customer service they provide and for working closely with all the federal agencies in order to provide good customer service.

Invitations

Mayor Flores read the following letter from Edna Garcia, Secretary for the Red Ribbon Coalition:

Dear Mayor:

I would like to extend an invitation to you and the council members to join the annual Red Ribbon Campaign. The coalition will kick off their activities with a parade rally on Tuesday, October 3, 2000, at 5:00 p.m. We would like to have all city officials help us kick this off at the steps of City Hall on that day with a proclamation. We would then proceed to Los Dos Laredos Park for the official presentation and rally. At the rally, we will have literature and promotional items for all the attendees. There will be refreshments, games, and fun for everyone. The event is scheduled to conclude at 8:30 p.m. The coalition members are working hard to put together last minute arrangements. We would like to know if this is an available date and if you would honor us all with your presence.

Signed by Edna Garcia

Recognitions

None.

Communiqués

Dr. Eusebio Hector Gonzalez Quiroga, Mayor from the City of Lampazos de Naranjo, Nuevo Leon, along with a delegation, joined Mayor Flores and the Council Members in establishing a sister city affiliation between the City of Lampazos de Naranjo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico and the City of Laredo. (presentation was given in Spanish).

Dr. Ruperto Gonzalez Martinez, President of the National Association of Sister Cities, made a brief presentation to welcome and recognize the City of Laredo as a sister city with the City of Lampazos de Naranjo, Nuevo Leon.

Motion to accept the City of Lampazos, Nuevo Leon, as a sister city.

Moved: Cm. Jose A. Valdez, Jr.

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Flores endorsed the creation of a Sister City affiliation between the City of Laredo, Texas, and the City of Lampazos, Nuevo Leon, and read the proclamation making a declaration to that effect.

Motion to move presentation by the Mexican Consulate under Communiques.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Daniel Hernandez-Joseph, Mexican Consul, made a presentation explaining the functions and duties of the Mexican Consulate Office in Laredo and to make the community aware of the types of services his office provides. He mentioned that originally the Mexican Consulate Office was created to deal with issues of immigration and law enforcement and to assure the proper communications and cooperation between authorities at all levels of government. He stated that a primary function of the agency, as a representative of the Mexican federal government, is to serve as a liaison between the United States and Mexico on important border issues. He provided as an example his office's assistance in coordinating the communications process regarding the new bridge and clearance of the federal debt owed to the City of Laredo to ensure the rapid completion of said bridge.

Mr. Jerome Jordan, Chairman of the Board for the Mexican Cultural Institute, read a letter addressed to Mayor Flores and the Council Members.

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and pleasure that I will reflect on Fiestas Patrias, Laredo's celebration of Mexico's Independence on the diez y seis de septiembre. Our colorful history, unique culture, and proud Hispanic heritage were celebrated by over 3,500 guests at San Agustin Plaza, Laredo's most beautiful and significantly historic area. Thank you, Mayor Flores, and members of the Council for your assistance in the festival that was attended and enjoyed by Laredoans of all ages and from all walks of life. The Instituto Cultural Mexicano de Laredo is honored to have participated with you in providing this celebration of our heritage for the people of this fine city.

Signed by the Mexican Cultural Institute

Thomas H. Armbruster, American Consul, provided a summary of his functions and duties as a diplomat. He stated that one of his primary duties is to dispense advice to the administration on matters that have a binational aspect. One illustration of what his department does is to monitor the welfare of American citizens who may be incarcerated, to provide information to business people who are interested in investing capital, and also to register births of citizens abroad. His office also reports on the status of the political and economic environment to the State Department to keep them abreast of ongoing border issues. He commented that the existing border liaison mechanism is an extraordinary mechanism because it advances the issues that affect both countries, such as the mutual concerns over water along the border.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Appointing Patricia Vela as Lay Representative and Guillermina Montes as Alternate Lay Representative to the South Texas Library System for a two-year term (October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2002), in accordance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Rules for Administering the Library System Act, Texas Administrative Code – Title 13 Part 1 Chapter 1, Section 1.123.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing to amend the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances Chapter 14 (Garbage, Trash, and Refuse), Article I, Section 14-3 by adding subparagraph (h) that thereby enables the City to assign certain households one (1) new 96-gallon roll-out refuse collection cart, that will remain the property of the City of Laredo, at no charge to the citizens, as part of a new service enhancement, semi-automated collection pilot program;
Establishing rates of \$7.00 per month for each additional cart requested by each household and \$50.00 for replacement of carts that are stolen, misplaced or damaged;
Providing for severability, effective date and publication.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances Chapter 14 (Garbage, Trash, and Refuse), Article I, Section 14-3 by adding subparagraph (h) that thereby enables the City to assign certain households one (1) new 96-gallon roll-out refuse collection cart, that will remain the property of the City of Laredo, at no charge to the citizens, as part of a new service enhancement, semi-automated collection pilot program; Establishing rates of \$7.00 per month for each additional cart requested by each household and \$50.00 for replacement of carts that are stolen, misplaced or damaged; Providing for severability, effective date and publication.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Oscar Medina, Assistant Director of Public Works, reported that this pilot program would be tested in two separate residential areas of the city – one in the south side at the Santa Rita subdivision off Hwy. 83 which will cover 150 homes and the other on the north side in the Northridge-Oakridge subdivisions which will cover 705 homes. He stated that the department would report on the results to City Council at a future date.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- Public hearing concerning an application by Holding Institute, Inc., amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning all of Block 200, Western Division located at 1102 Santa Maria Ave., from R-O (Residential/Office District) to CBD (Central Business District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the proposed zone change.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning all of Block 200, Western Division located at 1102 Santa Maria Ave., from R-O

(Residential/Office

District) to CBD (Central Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Ramirez

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Ramirez

3. Public hearing concerning an application by Olga de los Santos amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 2, 4, 6, and the S1/3 of 8, Block 947, Western Division, located at 3701 Davis St. from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended denial of the proposed zone change. This is an appeal from an unfavorable recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 2, 4, 6, and the S1/3 of 8, Block 947, Western Division, located at 3701 Davis St. 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. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ron Whitehawk, speaking on behalf of Mrs. De Los Santos, stated that the property in question has been used for approximately 25 years as commercial property. He mentioned that the property existed prior to zoning being established within the city. The commercial property was initially assigned a B-1 designation. However, the property in question was incorrectly zoned when zoning was initiated and should have fallen within the category of a B-3 or B-4. He stated that the property is totally fenced, properly paved, has always been used as commercial property, and has existed well with the surrounding residential area. He believes the property does support a zoning change to a B-3 designation and the property can best be put to use if the zoning designation is changed from a B-1 to a B-3 designation.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. J. Valdez, Jr.

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. J. Valdez, Jr.

VIII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. A. Request by Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores
1. Presentation by the Mexican Consul, Daniel Hernandez Joseph on the functions and services of the Mexican Consulate Office in the City of Laredo.

Item was discussed earlier under Communiqués.

2. Presentation by the American Consul, Thomas H. Armbruster on the functions and services of the American Consulate Office in Nuevo Laredo, Tamp., Mexico.

Item was discussed earlier under Communiqués.

B. Request by Council Member Louis H. Bruni

1. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.074 to deliberate the appointment or employment of the City Manager and to evaluate the eleven (11) following applicants for the position:

1. Melinda Calton
2. Mir Aref Hassan
3. John F. Vidaurri
4. Juan Garza
5. Richard R. Torres
6. Peter Maldonado
7. Jesus J. Amezcua
8. Raymond H. Kendall
9. James D. Minor
10. Lazaro Dovalina
11. Lanny Lambert

(Co-sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe A. Guerra)

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.074 to deliberate the appointment or employment of the City Manager and to evaluate the eleven (11) following applicants for the position:

1. Melinda Calton
2. Mir Aref Hassan
3. John F. Vidaurri
4. Juan Garza
5. Richard R. Torres
6. Peter Maldonado
7. Jesus J. Amezcua
8. Raymond H. Kendall
9. James D. Minor
10. Lazaro Dovalina
11. Lanny Lambert

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

taken. After executive session the Mayor announced that no formal action was

Motion to instruct staff to arrange for City Council interviews of the following three applicants for the position of City Manager for the next City Council meeting:

- 1) Juan Garza
- 2) Lanny Lambert (if not available, then Melinda Carlton)
- 3) Larry Dovalina

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council Member John C. Galo

1. Discussion regarding amending the zoning ordinance in order to provide an application process for Conditional Use Permit, with possible action.

Cm. Galo mentioned he would like to have the zoning ordinance amended in order to speed up the process involved and to allow individuals to apply directly for a conditional use permit. Rather than having them first apply for a zone change and then having them come back to meet with the Planning and Zoning staff, he would suggest that applicants be allowed to request a conditional use permit initially.

Keith Selman, Planning and Zoning Director, commented that he concurs with the recent proliferation of conditional use permits. He stated that there is a need to incorporate some application process to allow for issuance of a conditional use permit when possible. He mentioned that his department would have to take into account the different scenarios so that when the City Council reviews the permits, the limitations in each instance are made clear to everyone and thereby avoid the guesswork as to the types of restrictions involved. The only problem is that each situation is unique and each application would have to be addressed individually. He gave an example of someone coming in and applying for a used clothing warehouse as opposed to someone coming in and applying for a used car lot establishment. Structuring the application process and determining the appropriateness of a conditional use permit would be the issues his staff would have to evaluate.

Cynthia Collazo, Acting City Manager, commented that the City Manager's Office would review the application process currently in place and accept recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Department staff as to how the process could be streamlined.

Keith Selman also commented about two ordinances that will be presented for City Council review: the Mobile Home Ordinance and the Buffering and Screening Ordinance. He stated that these ordinances would be submitted to the City Council once their drafting is completed.

D. Request by Council Member Johnny Amaya

1. Discussion with possible action to increase the City holidays, to match the same as Webb County.

Dan Migura, Administrative Services Department Director, stated that following review with the City Manager's Office, he recommends that the City Council approve adding another holiday, namely the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Beto Ramirez, Budget Director, reported that there would be no additional cost incurred under the General Fund. The only funds affected would be the Enterprise Funds and the incurred costs would be approximately \$19,975.00 for one day and approximately \$39,000.00 for two days over and above what has already been budgeted. He mentioned that these monies could be made up in line-item savings throughout the year from departmental budgets.

Motion made that in addition to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, that the city include one more holiday, namely the Friday before Easter (Good Friday).

Moved: Cm. Amaya

Second: Cm. J. Valdez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

E. Request by Council Member Juan Ramirez

1. Discussion with possible action on changing the traffic flow on the 1900 block of Ventura in an eastward direction.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Safety Director, reported that he has evaluated the area. He commented that if his department considers changing the traffic flow they would also have to consider the next two blocks within the area as well. He stated that his department would be conducting a traffic study of the 1900 block of Ventura and would introduce the related ordinance at a later date.

Motion to conduct a traffic study on the traffic flow at the 1900 block of Ventura.

Motion: Cm. Ramirez

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Ramirez asked for a status report on a related traffic concern at the corner of Flores and Grant St. where the traffic signalization reads green in both directions.

Roberto Murillo, stated that that is how this particular traffic signal operates and has been operating for many years without any consequence. He did mention that his department has received service requests for that particular intersection to establish split service there, but he explained that doing so would extend the cycle which would create delays at the intersection.

Cm. Galo inquired whether his department has had an opportunity to install a new traffic system at Matamoros St. and I-H 35 to facilitate vehicles attempting to make a left turn onto Matamoros St.

Roberto Murillo reported that his department has removed the old cabinet and placed a new controller box. He is anticipating that TxDot will get their new controller in place soon in order to tie it in with the department's traffic system.

Cm. Guerra commented that there is another traffic signalization that is malfunctioning at the intersection of San Bernardo Ave. and Park St.

Roberto Murillo reported that the traffic signal at this intersection operates differently from other intersections because the signalization first accommodates the westbound traffic flow and then the eastbound traffic flow is permitted to move through the intersection.

Cm. Guerra mentioned that there is another intersection in District VI, which is Springfield Ave. and Village Boulevard, that is posing a hazard. Even though the traffic is not heavy, there are some safety concerns for people traveling west on Village Blvd. who are attempting to make a left-hand turn onto Springfield due to the limited visibility of vehicles traveling northbound.

Roberto Murillo reported that his department had conducted a study of that particular intersection some time ago and it does warrant addressing these safety issues. He stated that this intersection has been included as part of the Capital Improvement Plan in order to eliminate the limited visibility for vehicles traveling northbound.

Cm. Ramirez inquired as to when University Blvd. is scheduled to open.

Roberto Murillo stated that the traffic signal is already operational and the road is scheduled to open soon.

Erasmus Villarreal, Community Development Director, reported that staff has been working on the closure of Casa Verde Road before University Blvd. can be opened to traffic. He mentioned that his department has been waiting on the deed for the two acres that have been given over to the city for the new fire station. The legal department informed him that they should receive an executed document by Thursday, and his department will proceed to close that intersection immediately after that.

Cm. E. Valdez, Jr. stated that there are two intersections with high volume traffic, in particular Taylor St. at San Dario Ave. and Yeary St. at Calton Road, that he would like for the Traffic Department to focus on. He mentioned that during the holiday period it is a problem area because of the number of strip malls in the area. He wants some recommendations to be made and to look at the timing of those intersections because it is problematic now and he anticipates it will only get worse as the holidays approach.

Roberto Murillo reported that his department has completed major changes at the intersection of I-H 35 and Calton Road and has come up with a new timing sequence which his department has already implemented.

2. Status report on the proposed parking lot in the downtown area formerly the customs import lot, with possible action.

Cynthia Collazo, Acting City Manager, mentioned that staff has been working with John Poland, Regional Administrator for GSA, and he has already assigned this request to his staff. They have made an inspection of the location and have sent their contract manager down to Laredo to evaluate the area, and what remains to be worked out is the fact that the State Department will have to occupy one of the vacant buildings. She stated that the federal government does require parking for their customs and immigration inspectors. Therefore, they would need to determine how much space the federal government would require. She further stated that GSA has already provided the licensing agreement to the city which has been reviewed by the Legal Department, and it is just a matter of time before the GSA contacts the City Manager's Office.

3. Status report on the purchasing of additional EMS vehicles.

Larry Dovalina, Acting City Manager, mentioned that the City Manager's Office is currently working on a reimbursement resolution that will be brought before City Council on October 16, 2000. This resolution includes a provision for the purchase of two ambulances in order to speed up the process. Additionally, the City Manager's Office has been working with EMS and the Fire Department on this matter. He mentioned that they have brought in a specialist that handles ambulance work throughout the state and he is reviewing the current ambulance fees to look at better ways of collecting said fees, etc. in order to increase city revenues. He stated that the City Manager's Office would be making a recommendation to City Council on the new revenue streams from those fee projections by the end of October in order to consider adding one more crew in the coming year.

Mayor Pro Tempore Guerra requested an update on the innovative plan that the Fire Department had introduced regarding proposed rates that the City Council was to review and possibly consider for implementation as a means of purchasing additional equipment for the Fire Dept.

Mayor Flores recommended that a status report be provided by Fire Chief Ramirez at next week's City Council meeting.

4. Request for financial report on the Tecolotes contract for the 1999-2000 season, with possible action.

Cm. Ramirez stated that he would like for City Council to review this contract because it is not a good working contract as it stands now.

Mr. Goyo Lopez, Veterans Field Coordinator, provided figures on the performance measures at Veterans Field for FY 1999-2000.

Workload Measures Actual 97-98 Actual 98-98 Actual 99-00

Teco Games	20	19	20
Average Attendance	1,104	1,166	1,171
Total Attendance	22,074	22,157	23,422
Total Ticket Revenue	64,687	53,067	66,966

Concession Revenue	8,997.96	9,394.54	13,714.68
Advertising Revenue	18,420.00	8,200.00	20,845.00
Novelty Revenue	2,267.00	3,991.00	6,111.00
Rental Revenue			1,580.00
Contributions			7,800.00
Total Revenue	94,371.96	74,652.54	117,016.68

Workload Measures Actual 97-98 Actual 98-99 Actual 99-00

Seasonal Staff	12	10	10
Staff Salaries	21,281.00	12,672.00	9,552.00
Security Guards		3,360.00	8,000.00
Contract Labor (Chico's signs)			7,375.00
Professional Services			6,000.00
Tecolotes Contract	149,523.00	128,000.00	128,000.00
Liability Insurance		1,554.00	774.68
Capital Outlay			23,940.00
Advertising			3,170.00
Printing Services			2,000.00
Recreational Mat'l and Supplies		3,676.00	8,460.00
Total Costs			197,271.68

Mr. Lopez affirmed that the organization does need to increase revenues and stated that he and his staff are making progress in that direction and they have continued to meet their objectives for successful operation of the baseball field.

Larry Dovalina, Acting City Manager, mentioned that important to their success is an increase to season ticket sales so that they have a solid base from which to work. He stated that they need to increase season ticket sales to no less than 400 tickets, which is contingent on the team going into the playoffs this season. If the team does not make it past the first round, then it is very difficult to attempt to increase ticket revenues.

Cm. Ramirez recommended the possibility of scheduling an All-Star game in Laredo as we had eleven years ago.

Larry Dovalina, Acting City Manager, stated that he would need to ask the team owner to make a presentation before City Council. He commented that at that particular game, there were a record 8,000 fans in attendance at Veterans Field.

Mayor Flores inquired whether the ownership is aware that the City Council and the community supports this team wholeheartedly and whether the City Council needs to schedule a meeting to express these sentiments to the owner.

Mr. Lopez replied that the owners are aware of the support extended to the Tecolotes by the City Council and that more options could develop should the City Council decide to arrange a meeting with the team owners as an extension of goodwill. He also reported on the suggestions made by Cm. Ramirez regarding the physical improvements to Veterans Field. He stated that the department is moving forward with that project as well. Although they do not have capital outlay funds to use from the current year's budget, his department has been able to negotiate with Ramos Masonry to construct a dressing room for the visitor's team in exchange for some outfield advertising.

Cm. Agredano inquired whether the public is aware that the field is available for rental purposes.

Mr. Lopez mentioned that the general public might not be aware of this, and he agreed that it would be beneficial to inform the public of the field's availability in the off-season.

IX. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

None.

X. FINAL READINGS OF ORDINANCES

Internet Available: //www.cityoflaredo.com

Motion to waive final reading of ordinances 2000-O-216, 2000-O-228, 2000-O-229, 2000-O-238, 2000-O-239, 2000-O-240, 2000-O-244, 2000-O-246, 2000-O-247, 2000-O-248, 2000-O-249 and 2000-O-250.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. 2000-O-216 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for a used car lot on

Lot 2, Block 290, Eastern Division, located at 605 Clark Blvd.; providing for publication and effective date. (Council Member Johnny Amaya)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-216.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2000-O-228 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the amendment of a Conditional Use Permit for a flower shop to extend the time restriction to six (6) years on Lot 10, Block 712, Eastern Division, located at 220 S. Loring Ave.; providing for publication and effective date. (Council Member Louis H. Bruni) (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-228.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2000-O-229 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 14.875 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located west of Springfield Rd. and north of Mann Rd. from R-1 (Single Family Residential District), R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District), B-1R (Limited Office/Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date. (Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe A. Guerra)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-229.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2000-O-238 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by

rezoning Lots 11 and 12, Block 10, Crown Ridge Subdivision, Phase 5, located at 410 and 412 Northstar Rd. from B-3 (Community Business District) to R-1 (Single Family Residential District); providing for publication and effective date. (Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe A. Guerra)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-238.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-239 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 9.0 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located east

of Monarch Dr. (proposed) and south of Loop 20 from AG (Agricultural District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date. (Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe A. Guerra)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-239.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-240 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 2.0069 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located

east of McPherson Rd. and south of Jacaman Rd. from AG (Agricultural District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date. (Council Member Louis H. Bruni)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-216.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-244 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 13.44 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located

west of Mines Rd. and south of Flecha Ln., from AG (Agricultural District) and B-3 (Community Business District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District); providing for publication and effective date. (Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr.)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-244.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-246 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 7, Block 2, Hilltop Subdivision, Phase II, located at 7302 Wagner Ct. from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date. (Council Member Eliseo Valdez, Jr.) (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-246.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-247 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 2.79 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located south of S.H. 359 and east of Concord Hills Blvd. from R-1A P.U.D. (Single Family Reduced Area Planned Unit Development) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date. (Council Member Louis H. Bruni) (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-247.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-248 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 0.931 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located south of S.H. 359 and east of Concord Hills Blvd. from R-1A P.U.D. (Single Family Reduced Area Planned Unit Development) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date. (Council Member Louis H. Bruni) (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-216.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2000-O-249 Amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for a used car lot on Lots 1 and 2, Block 294, Eastern Division, located at 301 Clark Blvd.; providing for publication and effective date. (Council Member Johnny

Amaya) (AS AMENDED)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-249.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

passed 2000-O-250 Amending the Ordinance passed December 15, 1981, and motion

on September 17, 1992 thereby increasing the annual salaries of the member of the City Council from \$6,000.00 to \$12,000.00 per year and the salary of the Mayor of the City of Laredo from \$18,000.00 per year to \$36,000.00 per year, pursuant to Article II, Section 2.02 of the City Charter. (City Council)

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2000-O-250.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. RESOLUTIONS

6. 2000-R-139 A resolution requesting that the Federal Government intercede to help all

motorists that own defective Firestone tires: that the Federal Government provide outlets, funds, and manpower so that the owners of defective Firestone tires are able to exchange their tires; and that the Federal Government take appropriate measures to recover these funds through the legal system. (Sponsored by Council Member John C. Galo)

Cm. Guerra mentioned that this is a federal matter and that the city, as a municipality, should not get involved because it is an issue that is best addressed when allowed to remain in the hands of the federal government.

Cm. Galo replied that the reason this item was placed on the agenda is because of the tires that have not been recalled yet. He stated he has spoken to Sen. Hutchinson and Rep. Henry Cuellar to ask for their support on this matter. He expressed concern for those motorists who are not able to exchange the recalled tires because they do not have the funds available to take on this added expense. He suggests that the federal government should implement some sort of voucher system to allow these motorists to replace their tires and avoid increasing the statistics of tire-related injuries and fatalities.

Cm. Bruni commented that this is a national emergency that Firestone and Ford Motor Company should act on immediately to reduce the potential danger to all motorists.

Mayor Flores stated that the resolution language is not strong enough in asking that the industry take more aggressive action to correct this situation.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-139.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. 2000-R-140 A resolution accepting a donation from Emilio Martinez consisting of an aquarium exhibit measuring 5'L x 6'H x 2'W to be on permanent exhibit in the Lobby of the Main Laredo Public Library.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-140.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. 2000-R-141 A resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for official recognition

as a weed and seed site by the US Department of Justice and to submit

an

application for grant funding to their program in an effort to fund projects that contribute to public safety and enhance community development resources in our community.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2000-R-141.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. MOTIONS

9. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into a one-year service agreement

in the amount of \$39,935.49, with H.T.E., Inc., Lake Mary, Florida, for providing software services and maintenance for the municipal applications residing on the City's

computer system. The term of this service agreement will be from October 1, 2000 to

September 30, 2001. Funds for this contract are available in the M.I.S. Department's

budget.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. Consideration to award a contract number FY01-001, to the LOW BIDDER, Human Resource Management and Staffing, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$15,392.00, to provide custodial services for the airport passenger terminal located at 5210 Bob Bullock Loop, said contract will hire one (1) custodian that will be assigned to the passenger terminal. Funding is available in the Airport Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. Consideration to renew the annual preventive maintenance contract number FY99-130, to the SOLE BIDDER, Five Star Electric Motors, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$17,300.00, for preventative maintenance on thirty three, variable frequency drives. The variable frequency drives are electronic controls that control the speed of the pumps at different water tank locations. The original term of this contract was for a period of one year with an option to renew for a second year. The City is exercising the option to renew for one additional year. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. Consideration to award annual supply contract FY00-141, to the LOW BIDDER, Hughes Supply Inc., San Antonio, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$34,640.25, for the purchase of PVC pipe, rubber couplings, and related materials, for use by the Utilities Department - Wastewater operations for construction and repair projects. Funding is available in the Utilities Fund.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. Consideration for approval of change order no. 2, for an increase amount of \$29,208.00 for additional construction work and to add 30 working days to the contract time to the construction contract with Ramos Industries, Inc., Pasadena, Texas, for the Paseo Antiguo Laredo Pedestrian Facility Project. Funding is available in the Public Works Department - Concrete Creek Pilot Channel Program.

Cm. E. Valdez, Jr. inquired why the Public Works Department is tapping into the Concrete Creek Pilot Channel program to get this project completed. He stated that if the department does not provide sufficient explanation as to why they are tapping into these funds for an unrelated project then he recommends that the City Council table this motion.

Joe Guerra, Public Works Director, stated that the problem they encountered is that the storm drain, as well as the sewer line, go underneath La Posada Motel. The storm drain, which is about 20 feet deep, had broken and required immediate repair. He reported that his department has already gone down there and repaired the storm drain. He further informed the City Council that there is also the possibility that La Posada Motel might file suit against the City of Laredo because of that. As a result, his department is trying to eliminate the storm drain that goes underneath La Posada and turn it west to connect it to Convent Ave. He approached Rogelio Rivera in order to have Ramos Industries facilitate this since they have the proper equipment to handle the task. Being that it is still work related to the storm drain, he suggested appropriating monies out of the Concrete Creek Pilot Channel program.

Cm. Valdez reiterated that he is not satisfied on the progress made on the creek channelization project because the city has scarcely completed the first phase of the project.

Larry Dovalina, Acting City Manager, stated that part of the reason for taking the monies from the channelization project is that Mr. Guerra has part of his crew working on the creeks already. Also, if the city does not allow Ramos Industries to come in to do the work, then Mr. Guerra would have to pull the crew from where they are currently assigned in order to complete this job. He mentioned that it would be more expedient to pay Ramos Industries to complete the task since they are already at that job site.

Cm. Valdez inquired whether the city is planning to address the second problem area that was scheduled from some time ago, namely the Zacate Creek project.

Joe Guerra stated that the next project to be undertaken is from Gale St. all the way to Calle del Norte and then from Calle del Norte north onto St. James St.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Consideration to award a construction contract to Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo,

Texas, in the base bid amount of \$61,925.00 for the Springfield Road Extension Project

(from Michigan Ave. to the east property line of Hilltop Subdivision, approximately 875 linear feet). Funding is available in the Capital Improvements Project - Hilltop Subdivision II.

Mayor Flores explained that the reason the city is awarding this paving improvement contract is that part of the road is already paved and the Engineering Department does not want the existing pavement to deteriorate.

June Leyendecker, concerned citizen, stated that this extension of Springfield Road has been pending for over a year and all she requests is that the city postpone it for one more month. She mentioned that she was scheduled to meet with department staff to try to arrange an alternate route where her property would not be bisected by the continuation of this paving project.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. Consideration for approval of change order no. 6, an increase of \$171,333.30 for additional utility relocations requested by Texas Department of Transportation on the Utility Relocation Project along IH-35 & Loop 20. This change order brings the construction total to \$1,193,558.30. Funding is available in the 1999 Water Bond Issue - TxDOT Improvements.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Consideration to award a bid for the purchase of a SelfCheck Unit to 3M Library

Systems, sole source provider, in the amount of \$24,100.00. Funding is available in the New Public Library Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract in the amount of \$20,671.99 with the Texas Department of Human Services for (50% of the cost) a full time Eligibility Specialist II to screen patients for Medicaid eligibility for women and children services at the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning October 17, 2000, through October 16, 2001. Funding is available in the Budget 226-6025.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to execute a lease renewal with the State of Texas General Services Commission on behalf of University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for 447 square feet of office space at the City of Laredo Health Complex located at 2600 Cedar St. The term of the lease renewal will be from September 1, 2000, through August 31, 2001. The lessee shall pay a sum in the amount of \$508.70 rental fee per month, which includes the cost of utilities and janitorial services.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Consideration to authorize the payment of \$15,000.00 to Laredo Community College (the designated program fiscal agent) as matching funds for the implementation and

operation of the South Texas Community Network's NOSOTROS Net, a collaborative communications network designated to provide civic awareness and facilitate access to education and information resources and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents in support of the same. Funding is available in the Telecommunications Budget – Professional Services Account.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract Renewal Agreement for of a Professional Services Contract entered into with W.D. Schock company, Inc., the provision of residential sound reduction services for the term of one year, in the amount of \$243,734.00 as part of the City of Laredo International Airport Noise Compatibility Program. The Renewal Agreement reflects the Consultant's budgetary reduction of \$109,440.00 from last year's \$353,174.00 contract, as shown in Section VI (Compensation and Payment) of the Contract, effective September 1, 2000 through September 1, 2001. Funding is available in the Improvements Other than Buildings.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Consideration to award a contract to the LOW and SOLE BIDDER, Twin Air Conditioning of Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$14,800.00, for the installation of air conditioning units in four homes, also referred to as Phase 1-B, as part of the City of Laredo Residential Sound Insulation Program, which is a component of the City of Laredo International Airport Noise compatibility Program. Funding is available in the Improvements Other than Buildings.

Motion to award Twins Air Conditioning of Laredo.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to award a contract to the LOW BIDDER, Koch Corporation of Louisville, Kentucky, in the amount of \$285,429.00, for the soundproofing of nineteen

homes, also referred to as Phase 1-A. This soundproofing is part of the City of Laredo

Residential Sound Insulation Program, which is a component of the City of Laredo International Airport Noise Compatibility Program. Funding is available in the Improvements Other than Buildings.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Consideration to award a contract to LOWEST BIDDER, for the construction of the Zacate Creek Skate Park for the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Department. Funding is available in the Professional Services and Improvements other than Buildings.

Motion to approve award to the Lowest Bidder being Laredo Striping for \$114,286.90. The work is scheduled to be completed in 60 working days.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. STAFF REPORT

24. Status report of the Colonias Project to include the grants received, the project scope,

its timetable, and authorizing the City Manager to proceed with a plan for possible oversizing of the lines to accommodate future growth.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. J. Valdez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Discussion with possible action on the proposed Bond Issuance for FY2000/2001 to be supported by Bridge Revenues (CIF).

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. J. Valdez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Discussion with possible action on the zoning near the proposed United Independent School District's Sports Complex.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. J. Valdez, Jr.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Discussion, review, and possible action regarding the hiring by the City of Laredo, of the City's Arena Project Management Consultant for the proposed Laredo Entertainment Center.

Motion to authorize the City Manager to negotiate the terms of a contract with Stafford Sports, L.L.C. of Medford, New Jersey, for arena management consultant services and to present the final contract for City Council review and approval.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Discussion, review, and possible action regarding the approval of Arena Ventures, L.L.C.'s hiring of Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam, as both the project engineer, and architect, and Sherfey Engineering, L.L.C., as the local project engineer, and Frank Architects, as the local project architect for the proposed Laredo Entertainment Center.

Motion to approve the hiring of Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam by Arena Ventures, L.L.C., as the Laredo Entertainment Center architect along with Frank Architects and Sherfey Engineering Company as the local architects and engineers, contingent upon:

- 1) agreement by Arena Ventures, L.L.C., that when the city contracts with Arena Ventures, L.L.C., the architectural firm of Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam, Frank Architects, and Sherfey Engineering will contract directly with the City of Laredo and not with Arena Ventures, L.L.C.;
- 2) that, in accordance with the Letter of Intent, all expenses for the architectural and engineering costs will be borne by Arena Ventures, L.L.C. in the event that the City, after the 180-day negotiation period, does not contract with Arena Ventures, L.L.C.;
- 3) that, in accordance with the Letter of Intent, the City of Laredo will not be obligated for any architectural and engineering costs incurred by Arena Ventures,

L.L.C. and its subcontractors prior to the date of the execution of the contract between the City of Laredo and Arena Ventures, L.L.C.;

- 4) that the actual contract between Arena Ventures, L.L.C. and Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam is reviewed and approved by the City of Laredo.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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.

This item was discussed earlier under General Council Discussions and Presentations.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

**City of Laredo
City Council Meeting
M2000-S-27
City Council Chambers
1110 Houston Street
Laredo, Texas 78040
October 2, 2000
5:30 p.m.**

Supplemental Agenda

VIII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATION

1. Request by Cm. J. Valdez, Jr. and Co-Sponsored by Cm. Amaya.

1. Discussion with possible action to allow the South Texas Amateur Boxing Association the use of a recreational center facility and permit them to have a concession for a special event.

Paul Buitron reported that amateur boxing in Laredo has grown in the past six months. The South Texas Amateur Boxing Association has asked the local boxing group to host the LBC Tournament, which is the tournament that identifies the champions that go on to national competition. The problem is that in order to advance those 12 champions to the competitions, they need to raise \$4,000.00 to cover the expenses of these young participants. He stated that he wants to schedule 38 bouts per evening on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. They expect to have approximately 200 to 300 participants, plus an

additional 500 spectators for each of the three days. He mentioned that both John Vidaurri and Goyo Lopez have suggested hosting the event at one of the recreational centers. He requested that the city grant them permission to have a concession stand and to waive the rental fee for their use of the facility for this boxing event.

Mayor Flores stated that the city could not waive the fee but would approve the appropriation of promotional monies from the Mayor and City Council's budget for payment of the fee.

Larry Dovalina, Acting City Manager, commented that the City Manager's Office would have to bring back some ordinances amending the established procedures in order for this to be carried out.

Cm. J. Valdez, Jr. recommended that the Boys and Girls Club Director be contacted in order to have both the recreational center and the Boys and Girls Club facility available for this event.

John Vidaurri, Parks and Receptions Director, stated that he has assessed the parking lot availability at all the recreational center facilities. He believes that the amount of traffic that this event will generate will create some traffic congestion and parking problems. He pointed out that the only facility that could accommodate the size of crowd that is anticipated would be the Farias Recreational Center. A related issue he mentioned is the gymnasium capacity which he reported to be at 460 maximum capacity.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

TIME: 9:15 P.M.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Amaya

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 through 26 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held on the 2nd day of October, 2000.

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary