

CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
5:30 P.M.

M99-R-05

M I N U T E S

FEBRUARY 16, 1999

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,	Mayor
Alfredo G. Agredano,	Councilmember, District I
Louis H. Bruni,	Councilmember, District II
John C. Galo,	Councilmember, District III
Cecilia May Moreno,	Councilmember, District IV
Eliseo Valdez,	Councilmember, District V
Joe A. Guerra,	Councilmember, District VI
Mario Alvarado,	Councilmember, District VII
Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo,	Councilmember, District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,	City Secretary
Florencio Pena, III	City Manager
Jaime L. Flores,	City Attorney

IV. MINUTES

1. City Council Meeting, January 4, 1999
City Council Workshop, January 15-16, 1999
City Council Meeting, January 18, 1999

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Note: Cm. Bruni abstained on the workshop of Jan. 15-16th.

Motion waive the rules of order and move items under communications and City Councilmember's requests.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

V. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE

2. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement between the City of Laredo (Airport Fund) as LESSOR, and the City of Laredo (Laredo Police Department), as LESSEE, for approximately 3,500 square feet constituting office space within the 1st floor of Building 132 located at 4719 Maher Avenue at the Laredo International Airport.

- 1. Lease term is five consecutive years commencing on March 1, 1999 and ending on February 28, 2004, and may be extended for three (3) terms of five (5) years each ending February 28, 2009 and February 28, 2014 and February 28, 2019.
- 2. Monthly rent shall be \$2,800.00 and will be adjusted annually during the primary and extension terms of lease according to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement between the City of Laredo (Airport Fund) as LESSOR, and the City of Laredo (Laredo Police Department), as LESSEE, for approximately 22,000 square feet constituting land located at 4719 Maher Avenue at the Laredo International Airport.

- 1. Lease term is five consecutive years commencing on March 1, 1999 and ending on February 28, 2004, and may be extended for three (3) terms of five (5) years each ending February 28, 2009 and February 28, 2014 and February 28, 2019.
- 2. Monthly rent shall be \$150.00 and will be adjusted annually during the primary and extension terms of this lease according to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Authorizing the Execution of an interim loan agreement between the City of Laredo and Norwest Bank Texas, N.A., Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$8,000,000 to facilitate the award of a

contract for the purchase of a Toll Bridge Collection System upgrade payable from surplus revenues of the City's International Bridge System, and other matters related to this subject.

Motion to table for next meeting.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

5. Setting the maximum speed limits in that portion of Loop 20 between US 83 East towards State Highway 359, within the city limits of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, as 40 MPH between U.S. 83 and approximately 150 feet east of Los Presidentes Avenue in and 45 MPH from that point to State Highway 359, as defined in TXDOT Control Section Map 0086-14.

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Bruni

6. Amending Chapter 2, Administration, Article I. in general, Section 2.5 of the Code of Ordinances by adding subparagraph (c) by providing the place where City Council meetings are to be held; at City Hall or at any designated council district; and providing for publication and effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

VI. FINAL READING

Internet Available: <http://www.cityoflaredo.com>

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinances #99-O-047, #99-O-049, #99-O-050, #99-O-051, and #99-O-052.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. 99-O-047 Ordinance amending Chapter 31, Article III, Division 3, Rates and Charges, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, creating a new subsection (b) thereby adding a provision allowing a developer or subdivider to transfer municipal water rights for credit in lieu of water availability fees, platting fees, annexation fees, special assessments for water and sewer, water and sewer connection charges, and impact fees. Directing the Utilities Director to determine the value of the water rights

transferred to the City of Laredo by an analysis of contemporary market values obtained through a third party knowledgeable and experienced in the purchase of water rights for Rio Grande River Water Rights. Directing the Utilities Director to set the water right exchange value for each succeeding six month period beginning January 1 and July 1 of each year. (Council member Louis H. Bruni)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-047.

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

- 99-0-049 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for truck rentals on Lots 2, 3, and 4, Block 1218, Eastern Division, located at 2119 Corpus Christi St. (Council member John C. Galo)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-049.

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

- 99-0-050 Ordinance the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for a flower shop on Lot 10, Block 712, Eastern Division, located at 220 S. Loring Ave. (Council member John C. Galo)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-050.

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

- 99-0-051 Ordinance approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$435,686 (which consists of \$230,386 in direct funds from the State and in-kind services match of \$205,300) for an Abstinence Education Program partnered between the City of Laredo Health Department and the Laredo Independent School District for the beginning January 1, 1999, through

land being situated in the Blocks 1950 and 2003, Eastern Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas; being more particularly described by metes and bounds and authorizing the City Attorney to initiate eminent domain proceedings to acquire those parcels that staff is unable to acquire through negotiations due to inability to agree to a purchase price, conflicts of ownership, owner's refusal to sell, and/or inability to locate record owner.

Motion to approve Resolution #99-R-018.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
 Second: Cw. Moreno
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 11. 99-R-019 Expressing support of the congressional designation of El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail Unit of the National Trails System.

Motion to approve Resolution #99-R-019.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
 Second: Cw. Moreno
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 12. 99-R-020 Accepting the donation of a 506.97 square feet, more or less, corner clip at the intersection of St. James Avenue and Calle Del Norte, from the Amanda Rash Family, and also accepting the terms of an addendum to a Letter of Agreement executed between the City of Laredo and the Rash family, and dated September 23, 1992, by which the Rash family donated a 37.5 foot wide tract of land to the City of Laredo.

Cm. Valdez publicly thanked the Rash Family for the donation of the property.

Motion to approve Resolution #99-R-020.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
 Second: Cw. Moreno
 For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 13. 99-R-022 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (HIDTA) in the amount of \$50,392 to fund the Multi-Agency Major Organization Investigation Task Force for the period

of January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999. Motion to approve Resolution #99-R-022.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 14. 99-R-023 Appointment of Laura Bailey and Gladys Zepeda to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Advisory Board. There are currently two vacant positions on the CVB Board. The Ad Hoc nominating committee recommends the appointment of the nominees listed above.

Motion to approve Resolution #99-R-023.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 15. 99-R-024 Resolving that the City Manager is authorized to execute a Subordination, Non-Disturbance and Attornment Agreement between the City of Laredo, International Bank of Commerce and L.A. Ventures, Inc., thereby subordinating the lease agreement to Lot No. 7 authorized by Ordinance No. 95-O-250 dated February 20, 1999 and authorizing the City Manager to execute a second lien mortgage as to Lots 1 through 6 with International Bank of Commerce and L.A. Ventures, Inc. The subject property is located in Block No. 1 at the Laredo International Airpark Subdivision at the Laredo International Airport.

Motion to approve Resolution #99-R-024.

Moved : Cm. Agredano
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

VIII. MOTIONS

- 16. Consideration of approval of bid specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for the following:
a) assembling and installation of 1484 street name blades in 371 non-CDBG intersections.
b) assembling and installation of 1252 street name blades in 313 CDBG intersections.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to approve the bid specifications for the proposed public sale of land (4) lots, individually or in the aggregate totaling approximated 3.2 acres, of commercial and medical related land located at the Laredo International Airport and authorizing the City Manager to solicit bids from the public. The subject property fronts on Saunders (Hwy 59), the new Mercy hospital on the west side, Gust Street on the north side and Bartlett and Commerce Bank on the east side.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

18. Consideration of approval of the construction plans and authorization to advertise for bids for the Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant Belt Filter Press Addition with tentative award on March 22, 1999. Funding is available in the Sewer 94 Bond SL Belt Filter Press.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

19. Consideration of approval to reject the three (3) bids for the Re-Roofing of the Ladrillera Community Center Building Project due to all the three bids were incomplete and did not comply with the project specifications, and approval to re-bid the project with tentative award on March 22, 1999. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Roofing - La Ladrillera.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

20. Consideration to award a construction contract to the SOLE BIDDER, Cantu America Construction Company, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$151,080.00 which is the base bid with a

deductive alternate to remove a Gazebo and Air Conditioning work for the Canizalez Gym Improvements located at 1600 Guadalupe. Funding is available in the 1998 CO Issue Canizalez Gym.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Consideration to award contract number 99-047, to the LOW BIDDER, Rankin Automatic Transmission, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$50,000.00, for an annual contract for transmission repairs for the Fleet Maintenance Division. The bid pricing will be firm during the contract period and all repair work will be secured on an as need basis. The bid pricing is approximately the same as the previous contract.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to award contract 99-048, to the LOW BIDDER, Goldthwaites's of Texas, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, in the amount of \$39,884.00, for the purchase of four, riding mowers with a 72" cutting deck. Delivery of the new mowers is expected within forty five days.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Consideration to accept the Construction of Sidewalks at the Approaches to Clark Elementary School on Hillside Street from Yeary to Haynes, and approval of final payment in the amount of \$6,248.81 to Dominguez Development and Construction, Laredo, Texas. Funding is available in the Capital Improvements Clark Elementary Sidewalks.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

Emergency Shelter Grant funds (ESG) made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$111,055 to Stop Child Abuse and Neglect, Inc. (SCAN) for the rehabilitation of the SCAN Emergency Youth Shelter to include the costs associated with design and construction of additional facility space and other general improvements and authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Alvarado

Cm. Alvarado announced that he is abstaining on this time and has provided the City Secretary with an affidavit to this effect.

28. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into contract with the METRO Affordable Housing Corporation (METRO) in the amount of \$47,595 to provide homeless prevention services with 1998 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration to approve the selection of a consultant to provide professional services for a Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 150 project to soundproof existing structures located in residential developed land within the 65 DNL noise contour and in exchange for soundproofing obtain an aviation easement and authorize the City Manager to negotiate a professional services contract with the selected firm. A recommendation regarding the selection of a consultant will be made during the 2-16-99 City Council meeting.

Jose Luis Flores, Airport Director, reported that they made a presentation to the Engineering Committee and that the recommendation from staff and from the committee is W.D. Shock, Inc.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. STAFF REPORTS

30. Consideration with possible action on the 3500 block of South Bartlett, 400 block of South Seymour and South Ejido from Loop 20 to Gates.

Cindy Collazo, Community Development Director, explained that these are actually paving inquiries and reported the following.

On the 3500 block of South Bartlett there is a portion of the street that is paved, although there is a portion that is not. The reason for that is that it is privately owned. It is approximately about 4,400 square feet and there is an apparent landowner. They have an estimate now, the land is basically approximately \$14,300.00 plus the paving with curb and gutter would be about \$10,000 for a total of about \$24,300. They can see if the landowner would be willing to donate it, but the only thing is that this particular project is not funded at this time. She added that the people are presently using it as a street and there is a perception that it is city property, but it is not.

City Manager Pena said that they do think that it makes sense to connect this property for circulation of the area, but it is not identified in the CIP at this time. In order to get the ball rolling with this project, they need City Council direction to begin looking at alternatives to pave it and if it cannot be done this year to at least get the process started.

Motion to instruct staff to start the process to acquire the property and begin looking at alternatives to pave this property to have a better feel of how much would be needed to get this project done possibly by next year.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

In reference to South Ejido from Loop 20 to Gates, this is approximately a four block area that is not paved and that ends into the creek. She added that Mr. Rivera has asked the legal staff to go ahead and provide us with a determination as far as the ownership. As soon as that determination is received they can go ahead and look at that. This project is not funded

right now, but they at least need to provide or be able to obtain, the ownership data on it.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, said there is a deed that dates back to 1954 when the land was transferred. What they are asking legal staff is to research and see if it is still the same owner or who the current owner is. These are about four blocks and the right-of-way is about 20-25 feet only, but if they were to open the street they would probably have to purchase additional land from the adjacent owner.

Cm. Agredano said that one of the biggest problems there is that people are using it to dump trash on east side.

Motion to instruct staff to proceed to acquire the property.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cw. Moreno

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

In reference to the 400 block of South Seymour, City Engineer reported that there has been some illegal dumping in that area also. The concern there is also that they have filled up a portion of Milk Avenue with illegal dumping and in doing so they have blocked the drainage. There are concerns by some of the adjacent owners that if and when a big rain might occur, that they might get flooded. He concluded by saying that this is not a project in the Capital Improvements, but that they do need to make a study and see if they can take the water underground into the large creek near the area. The creek is about 15 feet deep or so, but it runs to private property.

Cm. Bruni said that they (Cm. Galo and himself) have met with some of the owners in the area. He added that apparently there is a church in the area and the priest was cited. He was sent a strong letter from staff and he was somewhat upset. What he would like to see is if we can extend the underground storm drain through that area. He asked for a report on extending the underground storm drainage to fill in that area.

Motion to do a study on extending the underground storm drainage.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Status report of the City of Laredo International Airport Noise

Compatibility Program for the month of February 1999.

Cindy Collazo, Community Development Director, reported the status on the Noise Program for the month of February. She said they have 19 appraisals, 18 review appraisals have been completed, they have offers that have been presented to 16 families and of those 16, nine have already accepted. They have completed and acquired five properties, two of which will be closed this week. They have three families that have requested participation in the Acoustical Treatment Program and seven under the Avigation Easement Program. There are still 17 families that are undecided, one that did not qualify because they were not owner occupants and three that have indicated they do not wish to participate at this time. They will go back and make sure that these three families fully understand the program and if they do not want to participate then they will move on to the rest of the families.

As far as the Acoustical Treatment Program is concerned, City Council has approved this evening the recommendation to proceed with the negotiation of a contract.

In reference to the Avigation Easement, they are working very closely with the appraiser. She added that he has run into a stumbling block with the completion of the appraisal because he needs additional information. She added that they wanted to sell that information to him which would exceed the contract amount that we currently have. She asked Mr. Flores to make contact with one of the airports in the State of Texas to see if we can facilitate that information so that the report can be completed.

They also sent 32 certified letters to the area residents that were undecided or had opted for the Acoustical Treatment or the Avigation Easement letting them know the status of where we were on the project so that they would not feel that perhaps they have been forgotten.

She concluded by saying they are pretty much on target and are pushing the appraiser to try and get the information as soon as possible. Mr. Flores has already made contact, but if this becomes a little difficult she will call the Mayor and perhaps she can help them obtain the information.

Cm. Galo recommended that staff look into the lease program. He said that maybe they can put them in one of our housing corporations and asked that they bring back recommendations.

Motion to move items #32 and #33 at the end of the meeting.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074(A)(1) to evaluate the performance and pay of City Manager, Florencio Peña III, and return to open session for possible action.

Motion to go into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074(A)(1) to evaluate the performance and pay of City Manager, Florencio Peña III.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Cm. Guerra was not present)

After executive session Mayor Flores announced that no formal action was taken in executive session. She stated that they spent a good deal of time coming up with a very positive evaluation process for our City Manager.

Motion to use that evaluation tool so that they can present a more systematic evaluation of our City Manager.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Flores asked City Manager Pena to use that form to evaluate himself and turn that evaluation to City Council the following Monday, then they will use his evaluation as well as their own to evaluate him on March 1st and at that time they will complete the evaluation of the City Manager.

33. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071(1)(A) to discuss pending litigation regarding the City of Laredo vs. Laredo Distribution Center, Inc., a Texas Corporation, Cause No. 99CVQ00005-C1, and return to open session for possible action to hire trial counsel Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever, and McDaniel, L.L.P.

Motion to go into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071(1)(A) to discuss pending litigation regarding the City of Laredo vs. Laredo Distribution Center,

Inc., a Texas Corporation, Cause No. 99CVQ00005-C1.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Cm. Guerra was not present)

After executive session Mayor Flores announced there was no formal action taken in executive session.

Motion to authorize City Manager to hire trial counsel Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever and McDaniel, L.L.P. to assist the City Attorney in representing the City in pending litigation regarding the City of Laredo vs. Laredo Distribution Center, Inc., Texas Corporation, Cause No. 99CVQ00005-C1.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Mayor Flores announced that the first item of communication is a presentation from Mr. Jesus Hernandez and others to Councilwoman Montalvo.

Mr. Jesus Hernandez, GI Forum Commander, said he was before City Council with a medal that will be presented to Councilwoman Consuelo Montalvo that belonged to her mother in honor of her son who served during the war.

Mr. Alex Gonzalez presented a "Medal of Honor" to Councilwoman Consuelo Montalvo on behalf of the G.I. Forum honoring her brother Rodolfo "Rudy" Gonzalez for his service and dedication in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Hernandez said he will be bringing two proposals at the next council meeting.

Cw. Montalvo thanked Mr. Hernandez and members of the organization for the honor bestowed to her and to her mother who passed away. She said she cannot replace her mother, but expressed that this was her brother and that she feels happy that he served his country.

- b. Ms. Sylvia Romero stated she was before council as a concerned citizen and most importantly as a concern parent. She said she is a mother of three children who attended public schools in

Laredo. Her youngest is a Junior at Nixon doing well, her oldest works and attends college at LCC, but her son Carlos Romero who is a middle child is attending Texas A&M in College Station. This is his third year at Texas A & M. On the latter part of last year he applied and took an exam to go into dental school, he received a letter of acceptance from University of Texas. Since he graduated he told his family that he wanted to be a dentist and come back to his home town and give something back to his community.

On Friday, February 12th his dream almost didn't come true. She said they almost lost their son. He had come down that same day from Texas A&M to spend the weekend and after he arrived, he went to Walmart for buyings of not more than \$5.00. When he was coming back from Walmart he was in a terrible accident and his life was spared.

Note: At this time a video was shown so that council could see how bad the accident was on IH-35.

Mrs. Romero explained that while he was driving on IH-35 returning home, when he changed lanes to the left and being that there was a slope he was unable to see the 18-wheelers parked on the left lane. He did see the police vehicle, but he did not think anything of it. She continued saying that he does not come down to Laredo often so he did not realize why the police vehicle was there and that it was there because of the trucks. He had time to brake, but it was not enough to avoid the truck so his car drove under the truck. Her son says he came inches from death. He was pinned inside and the top of the car had to be removed in order to take him out. She publicly thanked the paramedics, the Fire Department for doing a great job in taking him out from there.

When they got home they received the phone call that her son was in the hospital and that he has had an accident. They rushed to the hospital and when they went in and saw him sitting down shaking but alive, they thanked the Lord. She added he had minor injuries due to the broken windshield and they were able to bring their son home with them that evening. She concluded by saying that they keep thanking the Lord that his life was spared. There was also another accident right after this one the same day. She has tried to figure out why this had happen and one result was to come and speak to before City Council about the danger that 18-wheelers are causing parked there. She knows that there have been efforts to let motorist know that they are there, but that is not enough. It has always been her opinion that a highway is not for parking, that is why highways

have shoulders that can be used in case of an emergency. She added that this is a "freeway" and it certainly is not for stationed vehicles so why are those trucks parked there? Is it because it is great business for the community? She considers a life more important than anything else.

Mrs. Romero quoted, "Lives have been lost due to these trucks parked there, there have been numerous accidents, due to those trucks being there and I ask you, how many more lives and dreams are going to be lost before something is done to remove them for there? How many persons will suffer the pain of losing a loved one just because no real action is taken to remove them from there. This past Friday was my son...and we almost lost him...his sisters almost lost a brother, whose loved one will be next? Will it be one of yours...or anybody else in the community...I pray not and I hope I have made a good impression to you Mayor and the Councilmembers to see what can be done to remove those trucks from there and re-route them some other way."

- c. In another note, Mayor Flores announced that she received a letter from Pedro Garza, Regional Director from the United States Department of Commerce, on her recent trip to Washington to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors and for the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement. She read, "Please know that EDA will continue to support efforts to champion environmental protection and to promote economic development in the Rio Grande Border Region. Our policy analyst, Jennifer Cam and I look forward to future opportunities to work with you in helping your community."

Mayor Flores stated that she also received a letter from the United States Environmental Protection Agency which pretty much says the same thing.

She announced that there was another letter received from the White House and others. She said she knows that the Memorandum of Agreement was important to many people and the federal agencies that sign-on to it.

- d. At this time Mayor Flores asked the Councilmembers indulge her a few minutes and quoted the following:

"On February 14, 1998 the people of Laredo elected me to be their mayor for the unexpired term of now Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez. On May 2, 1998 they elected me to a four year term. I want to offer a sincere thanks to the people of Laredo, to my family and friends who believed in me. I want to thank the

members of City Council and the employees of the City of Laredo who have offered their support, their expertise and their advise. Special thanks to staff and members of LDF, the Chamber of Commerce, and all the organizations that took time to keep me inform and to accompany me and others in our advocacy trips. I want to thank the County Judge and members of the Commissioner's Court and Webb County staff for their support and help this past year. I want to thank the leadership and the staff of those government agencies in Laredo that have helped me help the people of Laredo. And I especially want to thank the people who take time out from time to time to offer me a note of congratulations, who tell me they pray for me, my health and my family because they are proud of me. I want to thank the children for reminding me every day that we have not done enough. You all have made my job a joy!

Tonight I would like to comment on my year as Mayor of one of the most dynamic cities in this country and of this century. It has been at times sweet and at times bitter. Just after my election I lost my father. A man who taught me the importance of community service. A man who taught me to enjoy every day for its wonder and its peace.

You all may know that I have been very busy. Some of you may remember that I often mentioned during my campaign that Laredo needed a mayor that could dedicate lots of time to the duties and responsibilities imposed upon by a fast growing city and its people. Duties and responsibilities not those mentioned in the City Charter, for surely those "ceremonial duties" can be done around anyone's schedule, but the responsibilities of strong political leadership and advocacy that this border city deserves. I did not know at the time how right I was, for this is the only part time job I have ever had to do full time and then some! I propose to you that in order not to loose momentum, in time we must revisit our charter and the expectations we place on future mayors. Why? Because on this southern Border, but far more in Laredo the term "global competition" has been transformed into substantial, real-world economic growth through foresight, experience, and hard work. The effects of political and economic changes of two countries are immediate, tangible and visible in the streets.

The wisdom of folly of political action is quickly shown in the harsh light of economic reality from state and federal government entities as well as the private sector. It is incumbent on us to do everything we can to be respected as the front door to the United States. To be respected is to be understood. We are at the center of the primary trade route

connecting Canada, the United States, and Mexico and the doorstep of Mexico's burgeoning industrial complex.

Because the Border has endured hardships brought about by battles among Spaniards, Indians, Mexicans, Texans, Americans, Yankees and Rebels and has been both battered and blessed by shifts in the policy decisions of two powerful nations, the Border is a lesson in survival. With its own culture and sense of purpose, and its own vision of what the future could be for all people, this border is a lesson for the future. Laredo is in the middle of it all. For Laredo is the only U.S./Mexico border city strategically positioned at the convergence of all land transportation system: Mexico's principal highway and railway leading from Central America through Mexico City, Saltillo and Monterrey, the industrial heart of Mexico where they meet two major U.S. rail lines, Interstate 35 and other roads which fan outwards to the urban centers and seaports of Texas and beyond to the Northern States.

After 150 years of neglect, of having to "go it alone" the border has been receiving some very welcomed attention. I take this opportunity to thank my predecessors and previous members of the city staff for opening the doors and keeping their foot there so that the doors would not shut on us. Our job now is to cease every opportunity, every challenge and make it work for us. The interest in our City may have begun as a result of NAFTA and reports of tremendous growth. Currently, approximately 15,000 Laredoans are directly employed in trade handling, another 22,000 are indirectly employed because of trade handling. In other words, well over 50% of Laredo jobs are owed to international trade. But NAFTA must be seen only as a part of our economic process. In this process we must include the maquiladora programs that helped spur the growth of Laredo's transportation industry. The maquiladora plants served by the Port of Laredo, are much more capital intensive than the hand assembly operations found in other border city areas, plants which are more in need of Laredo's multi-modal rail, air cargo and highway connections. For this reason, the growth of maquiladora plants in Nuevo Laredo and Northern Mexico has had a powerful impact on Laredo's economy. We have lots of figures that show our amazing growth: telephone connections, new vehicle sales, new housing and new building permits, sales tax rebates and the number of people employed. We are already an important center for higher education and international business studies, but we must expand our job training skills, we have a tremendous opportunity to make Laredo a regional health center and to expand our retail sales and by capitalizing on our beautiful river and historic downtown we can easily expand

tourism. But we must be counted in order to improve our funding opportunities and get our tax dollars back to Laredo. Our city-wide motto for the 2000 census should be, "Have you been counted?" This should be on a mouth of every man, every woman, and child in this city.

In order to be successful we must be responsive to the needs of All Laredoans. Laredoans, should have access to safe housing, health care, child care, education and job training as well as access to capital. For this to happen, Laredo must stay united, aggressive and positive. City, County and school government, the private and non-profit sectors, the religious community, the media, the children, young people and their families. We have a very young, very accessible work force-lets train them. We must look to our sister city and combine our efforts to stop illegal drugs, illegal dumping, and contraband. Together we can clean up our river and stop the problem we have with stolen vehicles. Every resident of Nuevo Laredo and every resident of Laredo must take responsibility for their community. If we throw trash on the road or break the laws and ordinances we disregard our City--we break our neighborhoods, our families. This is very personal. We must do something together every day to strengthen our family, our neighborhoods, our City.

On this southern border, you will find the most patriotic people in the world. You will find the warmth, the joy, the hope of a region compressed between nations, between cultures, between economies, between histories.

This week as we go deep into the celebration of our founding father, George Washington, I would like to end by remembering the words of another George Washington--George Washington Carver: "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because some day in life you will have been all of these."

Thank you Lord for everything you give me. Bless the people of Laredo"

XI. CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

34. Requests by Mayor and City Council members for presentation and discussion.

A. Request by Council member Louis H. Bruni

1. Status report with possible action on the request by Enron Oil and Gas Company to plug and abandon two existing, non-producing gas wells on the Northeast corner of McPherson and Del Mar Boulevard.
(Co-sponsored by Council member Joe A. Guerra)

Cm. Bruni reported that about two months ago they had a Drilling Oil/Gas Review Committee Meeting of which he is the chairman. Enron Oil/Gas Company approached the committee at that time and what they wanted to do is abandon these two gas wells that are about 160 feet to the north of a new McDonalds. They stressed that these gas wells were non-producing, that there was some lingering gas in them and that they had about 500 pounds of shutting pressure. When the committee reviewed the oil and gas ordinance and when they told them the concerns that we had and what we expected them to do as prudent operators, they said that they would get back with us.

Cm. Bruni continued saying that he has spoken to Mr. J. Trautman (surface owner) who has told him that he has been trying to communicate with Mr. John Newman, with Enron, and the Enron landmen for the past two months and since the meeting was held, but they have not come to the phone for Mr. Trautman. He told Mr. Trautman that he would put this item on the agenda.

They have also tried to amend oil/gas ordinance to include language whereby they would be forced to plug these wells. These wells might not be producing value to the oil companies, but there is always lingering gas in them and if they were to have a seal or if a well-head were to fail there would be gas that would be leaking and you could conceivably be looking at a gas explosion.

He thinks that Enron is not being prudent by not talking to the surface owners who want their surface back and by not communicating with our staff as to what their intentions are.

He added that the Trautman Family has hired local counsel to represent them in getting these wells plugged. He concluded by saying this is a safety issue and he wants to know the status of this issue.

Keith Selman, Planning Director, reported that at that Ad Hoc Committee Meeting their primary of being there was to

inform Enron what they needed to do in the process. He said they need make application for a drilling permit under the definitions of what they were doing by pulling the "christmas tree" off and going back in the well-head to plug. He said that they really need to do the whole process again, at this point in time. Enron has not been back in contact with the Planning staff to initiate that drilling permit in process. At that time they cited the provisions of the ordinance to Enron letting them know what the requirements would be and why they had to come back for a drilling permit, but again to this point in time they have not initiated the process of getting a drilling permit to plug the well.

In regards to the action that council took on revising our ordinance, that week they did telephone the railroad commission which was also part of council's directive requesting information so that our ordinance would coincide with their regulations. He added that when he saw this item last week, they called them again so they should be getting some information soon.

Mayor Flores asked the City Attorney if there are any other avenues that can be taken besides calling Enron?

Jaime Flores, City Attorney, stated that up to this point his office has not been involved legally, but they can certainly take action with Mr. Selman to cite the ordinance and address some things from his department.

Mr. Selman stated that there is really nothing, only the request from council to amend the ordinance. There is nothing requiring them to come in and plug the well. They did show initial interest in plugging the well, but they have not made application to do the drilling permit.

Cm. Alvarado stated that the concern here is safety.

City Manager Pena stated that the ordinance doesn't really address ongoing inspections after abandonment, it is just silent to that whole issue. He assumes that the city under state law and under the local government code has the authority and will investigate this. They can undertake an inspection of a building or a facility if in fact there is a concern regarding the safety of that facility. He concluded by saying they are going to explore that and discuss this with our City Attorney and if they can make phone calls to Enron to express the

concern so that possibly we can conduct an inspection of that specific facility. Then, in the long term basis we need to probably amend the ordinance to provide the mechanism to do that. In the short term basis, they will explore the possibilities of doing an inspection of the facility for public, health, and safety under existing state law.

Cm. Bruni said he realizes what Mr. Selman is trying to do and this would be beneficial to amending our ordinance which is something he looks forward to doing and that is to having a strong ordinance because as we continue to expand and our annexation increases, there is a lot of existing gas wells that are producing and also a lot of gas wells that are not producing. These two wells are special because they are in the parking lot of the H.E.B. which has hundreds of cars in it, they are 150 feet from the drive through window of McDonalds. He added that there were certain setback requirements and that City Council along with the recommendation from the Oil and Review Committee in order to piece the oil companies and a piece the surface owners, council went from 250 to 150 feet to fit in this McDonalds to help the surface and the landowners. Now he feels that they in good faith listened to Enron and listened to the landowners and cut back on the setback requirements to facilitate a fast food restaurant and an H.E.B with the promise that when they would deplete those wells they would prudently plug and abandon as per specifications of the Railroad Commission and they have not done so. He expressed that in his view they are not being prudent operators.

He asked that the Fire Department and the Legal Department look into our ordinances because he doesn't think it's proper that these well heads are there, they are not producing gas, are of no benefit to anybody, but they are a danger to the residents, the community, and the people that drive and park there.

Motion to instruct staff to research and see if there is a legal way as per our city ordinances that calls for certain safety procedures to take place whereby we can force them to plug an abandoned gas well.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

City Attorney Flores said he will proceed to contact Enron and the counsel for the surface owner as well as the Railroad Commission and look into our ordinances right away.

Mr. De Leon said that since they are looking at this situation, he feels they should also look at the 6400 block of McPherson where there is an abandoned oil or gas well next to the baseball field where children practice. He pointed that there is also rusted equipment in that location and feels they should make that a area safe.

B. Request by Council member John C. Galo

1. Discussion and possible action on promoting El Metro Parking.

Cm. Galo said that this idea was presented by several downtown merchants. Their idea was if they could buy "parking time" per say 100 hours at a time maybe by giving them coupons worth one hour, tokens worth one hour, or any item whereby they can promote their businesses and say "we have free parking at El Metro" and the only thing they wanted in return was additional signage. They said that their customers cannot find the parking lot. For example, somebody coming in from Del Mar may not be familiar where the new Metro building is so in fact we do need to have additional direction signage coming from IH-35.

Viola Sanchez, Marketing Public Relations Officer for El Metro, delivered council copies of brochure information that have been done for the parking. She mentioned that they had a Transit Committee Meeting last Wednesday were they discussed the marketing campaign for 1999 and within the marketing campaign presentation she included the project for parking. What they are planning with the brochures is to distribute them along with what Cm. Galo mentioned, a monthly contract application for parking. They are going to distribute both the brochure and the contract via direct mail marketing to all the central district merchants and employers. They are planning to offer them a special rate within that contract so that they can buy a book of tickets and offer their clients a special of "free parking".

Mayor Flores said they have done that already, but what the merchants now want is additional signage.

Ms. Sanchez replied that is correct, but they have to discuss and agree on a certain rate to sell to the merchants. She asked special permission from council to take this to the Transit Committee to be discussed and then come back with a recommendation to council. She said that in addition, they have ordered an entrance blinking neon parking sign which should be in by the end of the month.

Cm. Alvarado mentioned that he chairs that particular committee and reported on suggestions done to Mr. Segovia on several issues. They are addressing these concerns, they have a brochure and sign forthcoming for the entrance of the parking, but one other things that has been recommended to Mr. Segovia is to get some type of special promotion going on with the downtown merchants where they can purchase their parking space for a month and then get the additional month at a discount rate to introduce the parking spaces to the downtown merchants.

In conclusion, Ms. Sanchez said they will discuss the rate with the committee and then bring back the recommendations to council.

2. City Council confirmation of Javier Santos to the Cemetery Board.

Motion confirming Javier Santos to the Cemetery Board.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report on the December 21, 1998 council directive to meet with VR and Associates Pre-paid Legal Service Plans, with possible action.

Dan Migura, Administrative Services Director, reported that he prepared a letter that he gave to the City Manager outlining a plan of action regarding the prepaid legal services that were discussed on December 21st. Basically, what they have prepared is a draft of the survey that they are going to send out to the employees. This survey is scheduled to be sent out on the next pay period (Feb. 26th) with their pay checks. They expect to get those surveys back by March 5th, process them during the week of March 8th, tabulate and analyze those, and

then come back to council, if appropriate, with a resolution to authorize payroll deduction for prepaid legal services. They will do that on March 15th, however he suggested that we use the rule of 150 employees that express enrollment similar to what is done with our union dues and with other organizations that come in requesting that we do payroll deductions. Council previously passed a council action that required them to meet the 150 employee rule. Assuming that they receive 150 employees expressing an interest they will notify the employees for payroll deduction and what procedures will take place if they have interest in this benefit.

He said that he thought we might qualify for Section 125 but has been advised that it wouldn't and that they would not be favorable pre-tax treatment on prepaid legal services. They don't see any benefit to adding that to our section 125 Plan and he would recommend that if possible that any presentations done regarding prepaid legal services be done during our August/September benefit open enrollment period.

Ms. Vicky Romanos with VR and Associates introduced Mr. Luis Carlos Lucio who gave a run down of what pre-paid legal is. He said it is a benefit for the middle class America, 10% of this population is rich and they can afford any attorney they want, the other 10% are very poor and are given representation whether good or bad so that leaves 80% of us (middle class people) in the limbo because we don't have first class representation because most of the time we cannot afford it. Pre-paid legal is from Oklahoma, it is a 27 year old company, it is an expert in its field as far a legal is concerned, and it is basically for the Middle Class America. He pointed that last year alone, 30 million people used our hospital plan and in the same year 100 million people went into court litigation, that means you are three times more likely to need the services of an attorney than you are a hospital plan. He asked that council to please think about excluding them from their plans and spoke of the 100 employee rule required. He said most people don't understand a plan such as this because it is something very new. They went to the City of Brownsville, they talked to 400 people and of the 400 they signed up 232 people and of the 232 people they signed up only 19 dropped out for several reasons. He thinks if given a chance to present this plan to the employees he thinks they could see the benefit.

Cm. Galo said on the last directive, they had expressed that you don't need 150 to come on board, what the 150 measurement is for the city to do automatic payroll deduction. If they sign up one person, they "can" sign up one person, it was going to be non exclusive and some other legal firm can come in and try to compete if they wish so.

Cm. Galo wanted to know why staff is going to make a survey.

Mr. Migura answered that it was on of the things they instructed to do to see if the employees had an interest in pursing this.

Mr. Pena stated if at this point council no longer desires a survey and they want to establish a program, they can do that. The resolution would authorize the deduction and endorses the program taking into account the principles eluded too, that it be non-exclusive, that "yes" payroll deduction would be available if it reaches a certain level, that we would allow pamphlets or documentation supporting the program to be distributed throughout payroll, and that it include the annual enrollment process or a resolution that would address all these points can be brought at the next council meeting.

Mayor Flores said the survey was prepared in-house, if we don't do the surveys then the next step would be for them to just send out a pamphlet to everybody.

Cm. Galo clarified that they be allowed to send out the pamphlets as long at they do it at their own expense.

Mr. Lucio explained that what they would like to do is come before the city employees and give them the presentation.

Cm. Galo said that can be done in August.

Cm. Valdez stated that he feels that the employees deserve to be fully informed about the benefits of this program and feels that the best time to do this would be in August. He thinks this is an important and needed benefit because only 10% or 20% can afford to get the legal representation that they need at times. He feels

that they should be given the opportunity to present their package in full to the employees.

Mr. Pena said that in regards to non-exclusive, that's certainly recommended, but at a point they do want to limit it to a number because it could become a little too cumbersome. He said they can bring a resolution that would address the major provisions, that would address the annual enrollment, the monthly employee orientation, address non-exclusively, and the 150 registration.

Mr. Migura wanted council to be aware of the difficulty that staff has regarding this issue is that Mrs. Romanos has come forth to council and has expressed the desire to present this service to employees, but he has also been approached by another associate from San Antonio and from Corpus representing the same company and they've turned those individuals back, so he wants to get instruction from council on how they want him to proceed with these kinds of requests.

Jaime Flores, City Attorney, said that when we said we were going to do this through the city, the fact is that we are not going to do it through the city, the city is not a party. There is no contract between the city and these folks, the city has nothing to do with it except for the payroll withdrawal if at all.

Cm. Alvarado said that at the presentation process we make it clear that we are not endorsing.

City Manager Pena stated that a resolution would address issues such that in order to be eligible for payroll deduction that organization whether it is this firm or another firm would have to have 150 registered, even if there are several firms.

Mr. Lucio said Prepaid has a policy, if they are allowed to come before the city, no other Prepaid Legal member can also approach from the same company. As far as Prepaid Legal, whoever gets to contract first is the only person that is allowed to take care of that particular company as far as another independent associate.

Cm. Galo asked if this is only for their own company? Can there be another company? He said that as long as we are not limiting competition from another company.

Mr. Lucio said no, this is for their own company and added that they have worked this issue out on their company.

Mr. Flores clarified if they are just talking about restricting "an Oklahoma representative"?

Cm. Galo stated that it's not that we are allowing this company to come aboard, we are not giving them the contract, you are going to have to present along with anybody else interested.

Mr. Migura wanted clarification on the survey issue.

Mayor Flores answered that no survey is necessary.

Ms. Romanos said they will come in August to make the presentation and offer their services.

Mr. Pena said they will write a letter stating that in August when we have our enrollment process they are welcomed to come to present their program.

C. Request by Council member Eliseo Valdez Jr.

1. Discussion with possible action on the abatement of graffiti and vandalism from City Parks and Public Property through the efforts of our COPS Program and Adopt a Park Program.

Cm. Valdez said he has received calls from several people that live around some of those parks. He mentioned that he has received positive comments about the maintenance and upkeep of the parks, but the constituents are very concerned about the graffiti at the parks and are concerned about the youths that hang around the parks. He added that the COPS program has been implemented in some neighborhoods and some of these parks fall within the umbrella of some of these COPS Programs. Part of what we are trying to do is encourage the Police to get involved in the community, walk the neighborhoods, and what a better way than getting involved with the youth in the neighborhoods and walking around the parks and getting to know these youth in the neighborhood and build positive relationships with the kids. He would like to see them involved with the youth in the neighborhood to make sure that those parks are maintained a safe haven for the youth of Laredo.

Mr. Sergio Tijerina and Mr. Polo Garibay from Parks and Recreation reported that in terms of the COPS Program it's been a very positive program. They have been working together with the Police Department. The officers have interaction with the residents of that neighborhood so that builds more unity between the officers and the neighbors from that neighborhood. He also pointed that the events held throughout the year such a Thanksgiving feast or different types of events help in deterring vandalism from occurring in our parks.

He also spoke of Adopt-a-Park Program that the department has started. They are taking different approaches with this program. They are trying to assess the needs of every park and sending the list of the needs of every park to the persons willing to adopt that park because a park well maintained and groomed will lead to less vandalism occurring because of the high persons going in and out of the park.

Cw. Moreno suggested that once they have most of the parks adopted that they recognize those organizations that have adopted a park at a council meeting.

Frustoso San Miguel, Deputy Chief, said they are going to give Mr. Garibay, Mr. Tijerina, and the Parks Department 100% and work together. They will work something out with the officers and get out to the parks and interact with the public in the parks.

Mr. Tijerina said that one of the recommendations of the Parks Advisory Board was to do some public announcements which they will start within the next few months. Dr. Yoder has contacted the TV station in formulating those PSA's, they will involve every Park Boardmember and hopefully the City Councilmembers and getting kids together and deterring crime and vandalism in our parks. They are also generating signs that will mention "it is your park keep it clean" with phone numbers of the office.

Cm. Galo asked that on those signs being generated, that they also include the police phone number also.

D. Request by Council member Joe A. Guerra

1. Discussion of water main rupture on February 5, 1999,

which occurred in north Laredo, with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that on February 5th they had a company working on behalf of the Chevron Gas Station on Del Mar and IH-35. This company is called Giles Engineering and Associates and it's a geotechnical company, and he presumes they are doing environmental work. This company did not contact the Utilities Department for a line location. He thinks the assumption they made is that because the location where they were going to drill is between the McDonalds driveway and the Conoco Station, that maybe nothing existed there. They hit the line and as a consequence they lost about 750,000 gallons of water from the McPherson tank with a retail cost about \$1,000. With repairs and all about it's about \$3,300. They have prepared a bill which they are going send via fax tomorrow. They have been receptive to the reparation.

Larry Dovalina, Assistant City Manager, said there is a state law that passed last year called, "One Call Texas" and what the law states if you don't call for a "locate" whatever damage you do, you are responsible for it under state law.

2. Request by Judge Raul Vasquez and Ms. Carol Sherwood concerning the Children's Coalition, with possible action.

Motion to table to the next council meeting.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Status report on the City Council's 76th State Legislative Agenda, with possible action.

Mayor Flores said there is some information that staff has prepared as well as information from both Mr. Mario Martinez and Mrs. Andrea McWilliam the Legislative Consultants. She added they met with each Councilmember and are preparing something based on the meetings that they had with them.

Larry Dovalina, Assistant City Manager, explained that they have a staff committee that is working on this issue and that they will be meeting tomorrow. They have

reviewed the Bills that have been filed up to now, and have assigned them to each one of the staff's persons expertise. They are setting out a general format where they are going to set out Bills which we would want introduced, and bills that we would be definitely against, and set out a platform with general categories and bring the whole package on the first meeting of March. They will then forward that packet to both our consultants so that they have a clear cut idea of who they would call whenever there is an immediate need for action, but also getting a clear sense of direction from the City Council as to what areas they want monitored.

Mayor Flores asked that when that list is ready or when there are items to be addressed, either in hearings or with legislators, that Councilmembers sign themselves so that they all take turns going to Austin to testify or to speak on such items.

Mr. Dovalina said he has discussed this particular issue with the consultants and wants to make sure that they let us know so that they can inform the council of when those situations come up so we can have an opportunity to present our side of our story.

Cm. Guerra pointed that time is of essence because the session has started and will end on May 31st.

Mr. Dovalina said that the last day to file a Bill is March 30th.

Cm. Valdez commended staff for making a wise decision and hiring the two legislative representatives at the state level because they have done a tremendous job as far as keeping council informed about Senate Bills, House Bills, and committee, etc.

Cm. Guerra requested a report from staff at our next council meeting on this matter.

Mayor Flores said they have been holding meetings in reference to the largest issue for us, which is transportation and infrastructure. They have met all summer and have discussed those issues and that several legislators have come to our meetings. They have also spoken of a campus for LCC and a job training facility in south Laredo.

Cm. Guerra expressed that of utmost importance is the water issue, because if it doesn't rain no matter how much planning is done we won't be able to survive long without any water.

E. Request by Council member Mario G. Alvarado

1. Request for update from staff on the Santa Maria resurfacing project, with possible action.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, reported that they are scheduling the opening/receiving of bids for March 2nd and will try to award it on March 15th. They had a pre-bid meeting today. He added that there is work still being done on IH-35, but they are hoping that by the time it is awarded and start construction that some of these projects may be finished by TxDot.

He explained that Orilla should be done by the end of April.

Cm. Alvarado questioned, when can we expect work actually on the Santa Maria resurfacing?

Mr. Rivera said if they award on the 15th probably on the following two months they will have contracts ready. He said that by the beginning of April they should be getting ready to start and hopefully TxDot will be out of IH-35.

Cm. Guerra said he had a request from a local vehicle escort company, Roadrunner Vehicle Escort Service, who are asking permission to conduct their business over Interstate 35 in view of the fact that Santa Maria is under construction and in view of the fact that some of the access roads along the interstate are also under construction. He asked them to put this request in the form of a letter which they did and he wants staff to communicate with this company. He submitted a letter from Roadrunner Vehicle Escort Service, Inc., signed by Mr. Goodman to be part of the record.

The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Joe,

Could you please ask permission for oversize/overweight loads use at IH-35 during the next few weeks as the

access roads are all under construction. I personally would call the Traffic Safety Department but you know the hassle that fired there."

Mayor Flores said they will look into it.

- 2. Request for traffic study for traffic control signalization at the intersection of Big Bend Boulevard and FM1472, with possible action.

Cm. Alvarado said this intersection is the next major intersection pass Rancho Viejo Road and the area is now populated with a lot of clustered housing. He requested that this particular intersection be placed on the list for traffic control signalization consideration.

Motion to include on the list, for a traffic study for traffic control signalization the intersection of Big Bend Boulevard and FM 1472.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado
 Second: Cm. Guerra
 For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 35. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1998-1999 Annual Budget to reflect an increase of \$23,373 in transportation planning funds. The appropriation of \$154,208 comes from the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's 1998-1999 Annual Budget to reflect an increase of \$23,373 in transportation planning funds. The appropriation of \$154,208 comes from the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Galo
 Second: Cw. Moreno
 For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

Note: (Cm. Guerra left at 7:30 p.m.)

36. Public hearing deleting Article II, of the Laredo Land Development Code and amending Chapter 25, Article I, of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Laredo, entitled plumbing, by Adopting the 1997 Edition of the Standard Plumbing Code, the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners License Law, The Texas State Board Plumbing Examiners Rules, Regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement addition to, use or maintenance of plumbing system; providing for issues permits, and collection of fees, therefore; repealing all other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; providing for publication and effective date.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance deleting Article II, of the Laredo Land Development Code and amending Chapter 25, Article I, of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Laredo, entitled plumbing, by Adopting the 1997 Edition of the Standard Plumbing Code, the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners License Law, The Texas State Board Plumbing Examiners Rules, Regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality on materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement addition to, use or maintenance of plumbing system; providing for issues permits, and collection of fees, therefore; repealing all other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; providing for publication and effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Moreno
 Second: Cm. Agredano
 For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 37. Public hearing approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$285,938 for the HIV/STD Ryan White Care Consortium Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning April 1, 1999, through March 31, 2000.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$285,938 for the HIV/STD Ryan White Care Consortium Project of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning April 1, 1999, through March 31, 2000.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cw. Moreno
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 38. Public hearing amending the City of Laredo's 1998-1999 annual budget in the amount of \$50,392 for funding of the Multi-Agency Major Organization Investigation Task Force for the period of January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo's 1998-1999 annual budget in the amount of \$50,392 for funding of the Multi-Agency Major Organization Investigation Task Force for the period of January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 39. Public hearing concerning application by Killam Oil Co., amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 1, Ponderosa Industrial Park, Unit IV, located at the north end of OWK Dr., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this item.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 1, Ponderosa Industrial Park, Unit IV, located at the north end of OWK Dr., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Bruni

- 40. Public hearing concerning application by Laredo Candle Co. and Ricardo Garcia Jr., amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 and 2, Block 1,

Ponderosa Industrial Park, Unit V, located at the north end of Tex-Mex Dr., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of this item.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Ponderosa Industrial Park, Unit V, located at the north end of Tex-Mex Dr., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Bruni

XIII. MOTION TO RECESS AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

Motion to recess as City Council and convene as The Laredo Mass Transit Board.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to conduct public hearings to solicit comments on a proposal to realign the #3 Convent bus route to serve the new Mercy Hospital complex and to permanently implement the #6 Cedar bus re-route instead of restoring to its original existing alignment before the TxDOT Saunders Street Reconstruction project due to new ridership that has been established as a result of the re-route.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to adjourn as the Mass Transit Board and reconvene City Council.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Alvarado
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XIII. ADJOURNMENT


Motion to adjourn.

Adjournment time: 8:40 p.m.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 to 40 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held on the 16th day of February, 1999. A certified copy is on file at the City Secretary's Office.



Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary

Minutes approved on: March 15, 1999