

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM
TRANSIT CENTER WEST WING
1300 FARRAGUT, 3RD FLOOR
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
12:00 P.M.**

M99-W-06

M I N U T E S

APRIL 29, 1999

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elizabeth G. Flores,	Mayor
Louis H. Bruni,	Councilmember, District II
John C. Galo,	Councilmember, District III
Eliseo Valdez,	Councilmember, District V
Mario G. 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

ABSENCES:

Motion to excuse Cm. Agredano, Cw. Moreno, and Cm. Guerra.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 5

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

III. The 1999 Consolidated Plan Process and possible projects to be considered for funding through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development entitlement grant programs, specifically the Community Development Block Grant, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and the Emergency Shelter Grant.

Cindy Collazo, Community Development Director, made the presentation before council and went over the entitlement grant programs.

1. Summary of Comments Received Regarding the Use of HUD Entitlement Funds

Mrs. Collazo informed that three public meetings were held at the recreation centers (April 15th, April 20th, and April 21st) to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the project they wished to see funded with HUD entitlement funds, namely CDBG, HOME Investment Partnership, and the Emergency Shelter (ESG).

She elaborated on the public comments provided from those meetings, and on other comments received through telephone calls made to the Community Development Department.

Identification was done of basic issues on the needs and requests for public improvements such as sidewalks, housing, housing rehabilitation, new construction, downpayment assistance, homeless, economic development, community housing development organizations, and recreation. It was noted under which HUD entitlement fund program each of these request would fall under. Other requests not eligible for HUD funds, but requested by the citizens include the need for more recycling centers, post office substations, and head start facilities in the Buenos Aires area. There were also a number of administrative requests such as the need to hold structured classes in basketball, aerobics, etc. in the recreation centers, and removal of abandoned rail cars near the 2000 block of Vidaurri, among others.

There was discussion pertaining to the abandoned rail cars at Vidaurri Street as well as on other concerns pertaining to the railroad companies.

Ms. Collazo further reported that in preparation for the 1999 Consolidated Plan, Community Development staff met with local housing providers on March 23rd to discuss Consolidated Planning Process and to obtain comment regarding the use of funds. Only two organizations requested funding: The Azteca Economic Development and Preservation Corp. and Metro Affordable Housing Corporation.

Also, a telephone request was received from the Laredo Youth Soccer Association. They are seeking funds to develop a soccer field on a leased property (12 acres located on Sanchez between LCC and KVTV). There is a structure on the property that the association wishes to be

converted into a police substation.

2. Community Development Block Grant

POTENTIAL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR CD FUNDING CONSIDERATION

- 1) Hamilton Hotel -Section 108 Loan
CIP: Yes
Amount: \$148,000
Requested by: Council
Comments: Annual loan payments required by HUD.
- 2) Sidewalks to School Approaches -7 Districts
CIP: NO
Amount: \$500,000
Requested by: Council/Public Comments
Comments: Allocation of \$500,000 for 7 Districts.
Approximately 13 blocks per District.
- 3) Centro Iturbide -ADA Sidewalks Improvements
3 blocks of Iturbide from Convent St. to Santa Maria for pedestrian mall.
CIP: Yes
Amount: \$150,000
Comments: Identified as an unfunded proposed/co-project at \$760,000 in FY 2000.
- 4) Demolition of Substandard Buildings
CIP: No
Amount: \$50,000
Requested by: Staff
- 5) Dryden/Optimist Park Improvements -Official Little League Field. May include road, curb & gutter, lighting, landscaping, irrigation, parking lot, etc.
CIP: Yes
Amount: \$150,000
Comments: CIP identified \$100,000; Parks Director stated additional \$50,000 needed. CIP also identified project as unfunded/proposed co's for FY 2001.
- 6) Ladrillera Elderly Recreation Center
(ADA) Improvements including employment of a Coordinator
CIP: Yes
Amount: \$100,000
Requested by: Council/Public Comments
Comments: Identified in CIP for FY 2001; however, funds

allocated could retrofit building to allow for immediate use.

- 7) Santa Rita Park -Phase 1. May include playground, walking trails, baseball fields, tennis and basketball courts.
CIP: Yes
Amount: \$250,000
Requested by: Council
Comments: Identified in CIP for FY 2001, at \$250,000 with a 50-50 match by state grant. Pending acquisition of land through platting process.
- 8) Metro Affordable Housing -La Hacienda Apartments
4200 Hwy. 359 at Rancho Rd.
Amount: \$100,000
Requested by: Public Comments
Comments: Will submit application for 144 units of rental housing.
- 9) Chacon Creek Phase 2 -Entails acquisition and clearance of Creek including related engineering and environmental costs from north Hwy. 359.
Amount: \$150,000
Requested by: Council
Comments: Continuation of program approved by Council on August 12, 1998.
- 10) Raquel Gonzalez Park -Conversion to softball or soccer field.
CIP: Yes
Amount: \$200,000
Requested by: Council
Comments: Acquisition pending. Identified in CIP - FY 2001 at \$520,000.
- 11) Zacate Creek Linear Park -from Lyon to Gustavus
Amount: \$198,496
Comments: Identified in CIP -FY 2001 at \$500,000.
- 12) Seven Flags Parks Improvements
Will tie into the development of Zacate Creek Linear Park; will include a road along the Creek; and possibly a softball field.
CIP: Yes
Amount: \$150,000

Comments: Identified in CIP for FY 2001.

- 13) Police Sub-Station -Farias Neighborhood
CIP: No
Amount: \$100,000
Requested by: Council
Comments: Current temporary location at Boys & Girls Club. This would be a permanent location.
- 14) Cruz Field Lighting/Fencing Project -Official Little League Field
CIP: No
Amount: \$75,000
Requested by: Council
- 15) San Francisco Xavier Road Paving & lighting -rural section.
CIP: Yes
Amount: \$450,000
Requested by: Council
Comments: CIP -FY 2000 -listed as private funding; however, private funding will not be available.
- 16) Housing Rehab Program
Assistance to approximately 15 families.
Amount: \$400,000
Comments: \$260,000 from Housing Rehab Revolving Loan funds. 25 ERG, + 14 paint grant/sewer connections.
- 17) Housing Rehab Admin
Amount: \$165,121
- 18) Code Enforcement
Amount: \$260,030
- 19) Graffiti Elimination Program
Amount \$26,933
- 20) CD Admin.
Amount \$675,420

Total CD Allocation \$4,299,000

OTHER PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Paving Project 62 -Includes those streets remaining, 28.5

blocks from Project 61.

CIP: Yes

Amount: \$1,068,000

Comments: Amount not included in this summary. Originally 37.5, 9 are scheduled to be funded with remaining CD project balances. CIP identified project for FY 2001 at \$1,058,000 with unfunded proposed co's.

Taylor Park Improvements -May include baseball field, lighting, drainage improvements, fencing and sidewalks.

CIP: Yes

Amount: \$100,000

Comments: Identified in FY 2000. Staff recommends that this project be deferred for 1 year.

Canizalez Linear Park -Construction of a linear park along both sides of Lafayette Overpass.

CIP: Yes

Amount: \$150,000

Comments: Identified in FY 2000. Staff recommends that this project be deferred for 1 year.

SH 359 from Chacon Creek to Loop 20

CIP: Yes

Amount: \$200,000

Comments: Identified in CIP -FY 2001.

3. HOME Investment Partnerships Program
(1999 Funding Allocation - \$1,357,000)

Objective

The HOME Investment Partnership Program as authorized by the HOME Investment Partnership Act (Title of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990) provides funds to entitlement cities and states to expand the supply of affordable housing for very low income and low income persons.

Proposed Projects/Activities

Downpayment Assistance	
Concord Hills Contract/City Wide	\$600,000
Community Housing Development	
Organizations 15% set aside requirement	\$203,550

Substantial Rehab Program	\$416,322
Administration	\$137,128
	\$1,357,000

4. 1999 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

Eligible Activities:

- 1) Homeless Prevention Activities.
 Restrictions: (30%) Cap = \$45,900
 Proposed use 1999 ESG Funds: 45,900
 Comments: Demand for assistance with rent and utility payments remain high. Propose that the 30% cap be utilized to provide continued homeless prevention services.
- 2) Renovation, Major rehabilitation or conversion of building for use as emergency shelters for the homeless.
 Restrictions: none
 Proposed use 1999 ESG Funds: \$51,255
 Comments: Propose that funds be utilized for the conversion of a facility to provide transitional housing for homeless persons. Use of funds for this activity is conditional upon the participation of a homeless provider.
- 3) Operational Costs-including payment for shelter maintenance, operation, rent, repairs, security, fuel, and furnishings.
 Restrictions: Not more than 10% of the grant amount may be used for costs of staff.
 Proposed Use 1999 ESG Funds: \$51,255
 Comments: Use of funds for this activity is conditional upon the participation of a homeless provider.
- 4) Essential Services including services concerned with employment, health, drug abuse, or education.
 Restriction: 30% Cap = \$45,900
 Proposed Use 1999 ESG Funds: None
 Comments: Propose that funds not be allocated to this activity.
- 5) Administrative Costs
 Restrictions: 5% Cap (\$7,650)
 Proposed Use 1999 ESG Funds \$4,590

Comments: Propose to use only 3%.

Following presentation on the three HUD entitlement programs and discussion, the following actions were taken.

Motion to add the phase from Corpus Christi to Iturbide (both sides) to the Zacate Creek Linear Park.

Moved Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to move up Cruz Field for lighting/fencing (identified in CIP).

Moved : Cm. Valdez

There was no second to the motion.

Cm. Bruni said he had previously requested this on several occasions and reiterated, that a Police Substation support room be added to Hachar Recreation Center if not in the present plans. Also, he asked if there are any monies that could be used from CDBG monies to fund something such as this? If this has to come back to council that it be brought back and asked staff to identify funding for this.

Mrs. Collazo answered she does not believe that CDBG monies can be allocated for this, but they will go ahead and double check on this.

Note: Cm. Alvarado left at 2:00 p.m.

IV. Presentation by City of Laredo regarding conceptual designs to improve access to the San Francisco Javier neighborhood and LCC campus.

Presentation was made by Keith Selman, City Planner. The idea is to take advantage of the river front road. They hired local architects and they did a study to improve access to the San Francisco Javier neighborhood and LCC campus. One of the things they recommend was a roadway paralleling the river to get into this place. The idea is to get this place opened for recreational type uses and the way to do it is to get there.

Mayor Flores asked from what point to what point?

Mr. Selman answered that probably Phase I of the project is

tying in and getting under the rail bridge plus he also elaborated on phase II to get to the area.

Mayor Flores suggested that when they talk to LCC representatives, that the message be that the citizens of Laredo enjoy their river and that do whatever they can to help us in bringing that type of recreation, that they also be in our side when we go talk about the river road with the Corp of Engineers and in getting funding through agencies who signed the Memorandum of Agreement. She concluded by saying that they also come to the table and put out their card.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved : Cm. Bruni


Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 to 09 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council Workshop held on the 29th day of April, 1999. A certified copy is on file at the City Secretary's Office.



Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary

Minutes approved on: May 17, 1999