

**CITY OF LAREDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M2010-R-03  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
FEBRUARY 1, 2010  
5:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present Mayor Salinas called the meeting to order.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Raul G. Salinas led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

In attendance:

Raul G. Salinas,  
Mike Garza,  
Hector Garcia,  
Michael Landeck,  
Juan Narvaez,  
Johnny Rendon,  
Gene Belmares,  
Jose Valdez, Jr.  
Cynthia Liendo Espinoza,  
Gustavo Guevara,  
Carlos Villarreal,  
Cynthia Collazo,  
Horacio De Leon,  
Jesus Olivares,  
Raul Casso,

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

**IV. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of January 19, 2010

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia  
Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**Recognitions**

- a. Recognizing the St. Peter's Memorial School Kindergarten Basketball Team for winning the Boys & Girls Club City Championship.

Mayor Salinas and City Council publicly recognized St. Peter's School and presented them with a Seven Flags Certificate of Recognition.

- b. Recognizing the following soldiers for their commitment in serving our country in the United States Army Reserve and making us Laredo Proud:

Mayor Salinas recognized the following soldiers for their commitment in serving our Country in the United States Army Reserve and making us Laredo Proud.

Sgt. Eduardo Elizardo  
Sgt. Anibal Alfaro  
Sgt. Javier Garza  
Sgt. Natalie Hernández was not present.  
Sgt. Faustino Rodriguez  
Spc. Gustavo Yanez Owens

#### **Citizen comments**

None.

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

- a. Appointment by Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr. of Mr. Jose Oscar Pantoja to the Para Transit Advisory Committee.

Motion to appointment.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

### **VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance creating a civil service commission for city employees (except employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement); providing for the appointment of members to the commission; setting forth its purposes, powers and functions; providing a classified service for city employees and for exceptions; abolishing at-will employment; providing for severability; providing for the manner in which this ordinance can be amended and providing an effective date.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

2. Public hearing held for purposes of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on the proposed issuance by the City of Laredo, Texas Combination Tax and Airport Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2010B and the Airport Project to be financed with such certificates.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mr. Noel Valdez from McCall, Parkhurst, and Horton reported that this public hearing was for purposes of complying with federal tax laws.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for a tire shop on Lots 1 & 2, Block 355, Eastern Division, located at 2901 & 2903 Springfield Avenue.

Staff supports the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit. District IV

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Belmares

4. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for an oriental food, liquor, and beer store, and professional offices, on Lot 4, Block 666, Eastern Division, located at 1219 Bustamante Street.

Staff supports the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit with the addition of the following provision: alcohol sales are prohibited. District IV

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Narvaez

Second: Cm. Landeck

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Narvaez

5. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 5, 6, and 7, Block 1, San Isidro Business Park, located at 402, 406, and 410 Crossroads Street, from B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

Staff supports the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended approval of the zone change. District VI

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Liendo-Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Belmares

6. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning .72 acres, as further described by metes and bounds in attached Exhibit "A," located west of F.M. 1472 and north of Pico Road, from AG (Agricultural District) to B-3 (Community Business District). Staff supports the zone change and the Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended approval of the zone change. District VII

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Valdez

## **VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

7. Amending City of Laredo Ordinance No. 96-186 to provide an exception for Laredo Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee members to allow for excused absences.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. Designating as a one-way westbound the 2400 and 2500 blocks of E. Elm Street, between N. Martin Avenue and N. Texas Avenue, as a one-way southbound the 3300 and 3400 block of N. Texas Avenue, between E. Montgomery Street and E. Elm Street, and as a one-way northbound the 3300 and 3400 block of N. Martin Avenue, between E. Montgomery Street and E. Elm Street, during the peak hours of 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, during school days, providing for the installation of appropriate signage to indicate one-way traffic and providing for publication and effective date. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

## **IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES**

Motion to waive the Final Reading of Ordinances 2009-O-230, 2010-O-010, 2010-O-012, 2010-O-013, 2010-O-014, 2010-O-015, and 2010-O-016.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9. 2009-O-230 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease assignment from Josefa Lago de Sarabia, as Lessee, of that lease agreement approved by Ordinance No. 91-O-266 and as amended by Ordinance No. 2000-O-210 and Ordinance No. 2005-O-138 for Hangar No. 162 consisting of approximately 13,114 square feet and situated on an approximate 42,038 square foot tract located at the Laredo International Airport to Altair Aviation, LLC., as assignee. The current monthly rental is \$4,407.14 and annually adjusted by changes in CPI, providing for effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-O-230.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2010-O-010 Authorizing the issuance of \$2,300,000 in aggregate principal amount of City Of Laredo, Texas Combination Tax And Airport Revenue Certificates Of Obligation, Series 2010B, for paying all or a portion of the city's contractual obligations incurred for the purpose of constructing and equipping a federal inspection station at the city's municipal airport and for the payment of legal, fiscal, and engineering fees in connection with such projects; authorizing the execution of an investment letter, making provisions for the security thereof; authorizing amendment to the city's budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; and ordaining other matters relating to the subject.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-010.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2010-O-012 Ratifying the City Manager's acceptance of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) by the United States Department of Energy in the amount of \$2,083,600.00 with no matching funds, and amending the City of Laredo's FY 2009-2010 Annual Budget for the Environmental Services Department by appropriating the said grant revenue to the appropriate expenditure accounts. These funds will be used towards solar and wind energy projects as well as energy efficiency retrofit projects. A percentage of monies will also be used towards establishing a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to provide interest free loans for residential energy efficiency projects.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-012.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2010-O-013 Amending the City of Laredo Special Police FY 2009-2010 annual budget by authorizing the City Manager to accept, execute and appropriate revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$298,400.00 from the State of Texas for the purpose of funding the Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial JAG or Justice Assistance Grant for the period of October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. This grant will be 100% funded at no cost to the City and will be used for equipment and supplies for police operations.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-013.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2010-O-014 Amending Chapter 11 electricity of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Laredo by: Amending Sections:  
11-1 Definitions;  
11-2 of the Laredo Code of Ordinance by adoption, with modification and amendments, the 2008 edition of the national Electrical Code of the National Fire Protection Association, Inc.;  
11-4 Electrical Inspector;  
11-7 Appeals;  
11-22 Registration and examination required;  
11-23 Application for registration; qualifications;  
11-24 Fees for registration;  
11-26 Display of Certificate;  
11-43 Same to whom issued;  
11-44 Same-fees basis by increasing basic fees from \$20.00 to \$25.00 and reinspection fees from \$10.00 to \$50.00, 11-45 same-display; and

Deleting Sections:

11-6 Same City department, school districts;

11-25 Bond;

11-27 License and bond required to engage master electricians;

11-64 Miscellaneous specifications; and providing a saving clause;  
providing a severability clauses;

And providing an effective date.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-014.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2010-O-015 Amending Chapter 14, garbage, trash and refuse, Article II, rates for garbage and refuse collection and landfill operations, Section 14-9, rates of the City of Laredo code of ordinances to change Section (E) to decrease

the monthly garbage collection fee for commercial establishments located in the downtown central business district to forty-nine dollars (\$49.00), sixty-three dollars (\$63.00), one hundred twelve dollars (\$112.00), and one hundred fifty four dollars (\$154.00) depending on square footage of the establishment. These fees will remain in effect through September 30, 2010 at which time monthly garbage collection fees for commercial establishments located in the downtown central business district will increase to fifty-nine dollars and fifty cents (\$59.50), seventy-six dollars and fifty cents (\$76.50), one hundred thirty-six dollars (\$136.00), and one hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$187.00) depending on square footage of the establishment. These fees will remain in effect through September 30, 2011 at which time monthly garbage collection fees for commercial establishments located in the downtown central business district will increase to seventy dollars (\$70.00), ninety dollars (\$90.00), one hundred sixty dollars (\$160.00), and two hundred twenty dollars (\$220.00) depending on square footage of the establishment.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-015.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2010-O-016 Ratifying the City Manager's acceptance of a grant under the Transportation Energy Efficiency Alternative Fuels and Technology stimulus grant program of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded through the United States Department of Energy (DOE) in the amount of \$924,000.00 with \$380,000.00 matching funds from City's El Metro fund, and amending the City of Laredo's FY 2009-2010 annual budget for the Transit System-Capital Grants Department by appropriating the said grant revenue to the appropriate expenditure accounts. These funds will be used towards upgrading the City's CNG fuel station at Public Works to fuel El Metro buses.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-O-016.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **X. RESOLUTIONS**

10. 2010-R-05 Authorizing the City Manager to sign all purchase agreements or earnest money contracts for the acquisition or resale of foreclosed properties pursuant to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, 2008 Texas Neighborhood Stabilization Program utilizing funds made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of the program is to acquire, rehabilitate, and subsequently resell foreclosed properties that might otherwise become

sources of abandonment and blight, as well as facilitate direct homebuyer assistance to create affordable housing opportunities. NSP funds are provided through a loan reimbursement.

Motion to approve Resolution # 2010-R-05.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **XI. MOTIONS**

11. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an extension to the Extended Warranty Agreement between the City of Laredo and Schindler Elevator Corporation for the maintenance of the elevator and escalators located at Bridge I. This Extended Warranty Agreement will be for one (1) year effective February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011 and will not exceed \$31,992.00. Funding is available in the FY09-10 Bridge Fund. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Renewal Agreement of a Professional Services Contract with W. D. Schock Company, Inc., originally executed on March 27, 2008, for the rendering of certain administrative and management services for the Airport Residential Sound Reduction Program, as part of the overall City of Laredo International Airport Noise Compatibility Program. Said contract renewal is for the continuation of the approved Residential Sound Reduction Program by implementing Phase VI for engineering, design, construction oversight and closeout activities for twenty-nine (29) homes that shall not exceed \$586,321.00. Funding is available in the FAA Grant #58, Professional Services/Architectural Fees Account. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. Authorizing the City Manager to approve the Emergency Medical Technician Education Partnership agreement (“Agreement”) that will serve as the instructional partnership between the City of Laredo and Laredo Independent School District (LISD) to offer emergency medical technician education courses to LISD Career and Technical Education (CTE) students. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Authorizing the City Manager to grant a public fireworks display permit for the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association for February 21, 2010. The Washington's Birthday Celebration Association will be having a fireworks display show at Life Downs. The technician for the fireworks display will be Melrose Pyrotechnics, Incorporated. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. Consideration to exercise the renewal option for annual contract FY09-013 to Nick Benavides, Laredo, Texas, in the total amount of \$66,512.00 for providing monthly mowing and maintenance of the Manadas Creek areas. The term of the contract is for a period of twelve (12) months. The contract includes the collection of trash, debris, rubbish and other material along the creek from San Isidro from Loop 20 South to McPherson, plus additional 450 feet west of McPherson. Funding is available in the Environmental Services Department budget. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one (1) cab and chassis truck mounted with a paint striping machine from the sole bidder, Rush Truck Center of Laredo, Texas, in the total amount of \$ 259,425.00 through the BuyBoard's Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing. The truck mounted painting machine will be assigned to the Traffic Safety Department. Funding is available from 2007 Certificates of Obligation bond proceeds. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to renew contract FY 08-033 to the following vendors:

1. Kinloch Equipment & Supply, Pasadena, Texas, in the amount of \$40,000.00
2. Industrial Disposal Supply, San Antonio, Texas, in the amount of \$50,000.00
3. Nueces Power Equipment, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$40,000.00.

The contracts are for the purchase of original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts and service for the City's Elgin and Tymco Street sweeper and Case equipment. This contract establishes discount percentage pricing for the purchase of needed repairs and replacement parts and services which are secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Management budget. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration to amend contract FY09-057 currently awarded to MG Landscaping, Laredo, Texas in the amount of \$38,750.00 for providing lawn and landscaping repairs resulting from waterline breaks for the Utilities Department. Due to an increase in repairs, the proposed amendment would increase the current contract to \$68,750.00 in order to provide funding for the remainder of the contract term. Funding is available in the department's budget. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Authorizing the City Manager to award and execute all contract documents in the amount of \$60,850.00 to South Texas Laboratory, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for laboratory quality testing for construction of the North Laredo 3 MGD Wastewater Treatment Plant. Funds are available in 2008 Utilities Bond. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Approving Amendment #1 with Seca Engineering, L.L.C to the Professional Engineering and Surveying Services contract in the amount of \$7,500.00 to design and prepare plans and specifications for proposed Wastewater Collection and Water Distribution Improvements Project along Chicago Street and San Bernardo Ave. and related infrastructure improvements as part of the Markley Lane/Santa Maria Avenue. Drainage Improvements Phase II, the total contract amount is \$ 47,800.00 Funding is available in the 2009 Utility Water Bond and the 2008 Utility Sewer Bond. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Award of a construction contract to the lowest bidder Qromex Construction Granite Shoals, Texas, in the amount of \$167,196.50 for 1750 linear feet of the 12” water line replacement along Flecha Lane with a construction time of 85 working days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt of insurance and bond documents. Funding is available in the 2009 Utility Bond-Line Rehabilitation Account No. 557-4186-538-0359. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration for acceptance, final payment and release of retainage in the amount of \$8,516.34 to Whitestone Construction, Ltd., for the construction of 1,096 feet of an 8 inch wastewater line from the Cortez Lift Station located at 1911 Cortez to a 42 inch line located at India and Aldama and the elimination of the Lift Station. Funding was provided under the 2004 Utility Bond. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a construction contract to a second (2nd) lowest bidder Reim Construction Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$480,653.50 for the construction of the 12” diameter Water Line Replacement at Unitec Industrial Center, Phase 2 & 3. The construction time is sixty (60) working days. Funding is available in the 2009 Utility Bond. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Consideration to ratify the City Manager’s approval of an emergency purchase authorization to Ellis & Ellis, Inc., Laredo, TX in the estimated amount of \$70,367.50 for emergency repairs on a sewer pipe crossing State Hwy 83 on Cleveland St. The pipe line has severe deterioration and has clogged three times and is in danger of collapsing. TxDOT has approved to bore through and install a steel casing crossing State Hwy 83. Funding is available in the 2008 Utility Bond proceeds. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia  
Second: Cm. Rendon  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Consider the ratification of change order no. 4 a decrease of \$51,687.46 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, approval of eight (8) calendar days of liquidated damages (eight (8) calendar days @ \$3,000.00 = \$24,000.00), approving and accepting the Laredo International Airport General Aviation Apron Reconstruction Phase IV as complete, approval of release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$159,288.84 to Price Construction, Ltd., Big Spring, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$3,641,776.84. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund Grant No. 57. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia  
Second: Cm. Rendon  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 1 an increase of \$43,850.03 to the professional services contract with URS Corporation, Dallas, Texas, for the Laredo International Airport General Aviation Apron Reconstruction Phase 6 to add to the scope of work the reconstruction of approximately 10,000 square yards of the existing General Aviation Apron which represents an increase of 50% from 20,000 square yards to over 30,000 square yards. Current engineering contract amount is \$171,327.47. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund FAA Grant No. 53. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia  
Second: Cm. Belmares  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Consideration for approval and acceptance of the Laredo International Airport Runway 14-32 Reconstruction as complete, approval of release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$145,264.84 to Price Construction, Ltd., Big Spring, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$2,905,296.78. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund - FAA Grant No. 53. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia  
Second: Cm. Belmares  
For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 1 an increase of \$195,581.54 to the professional services contract with URS Corporation, Dallas, Texas, for the Laredo International Airport Airfield Electrical Vault Improvements and Runway 17R-35L

Lighting and Signage Improvements to add the construction phase of the project and the Resident Project Representative. Current engineering contract amount is \$412,436.65. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund FAA Grant No. 57. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration to renew contract FY08-040 currently awarded to Holt Co. of Texas, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$200,000.00 for the purchase of original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts and service for the City's Caterpillar equipment fleet. This contract establishes discount percentage pricing for the purchase of needed repairs and replacement parts and services which are secured on an as needed basis. Funding is available in the Fleet Management budget. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Award of construction contract to the lowest bidder Rhino Builders, Ltd., Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$66,490.00 for the Eistetter Park Restroom Facility approximately 343 sq.ft. with a construction contract time of eighty (80) working days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Funding is available in the Community Development 34th Action Year. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Consideration for approval of the City of Laredo Landfill Cells 13 and 14 as complete and approval of change order no. 1 a decrease of \$238,920.26 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, release of retainage, and approval of final payment in the amount of \$158,193.63 to L.D. Kemp Excavating, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$1,564,399.28. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Fund. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into contract with FirstCall Network, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for emergency notification services; and authorizing the City Manager to sign all contract documents. The term of this contract shall be for one (1) year in the amount of \$24,200.00, with an option to renew for two (2) additional years at the same guaranteed rate. This option pricing includes 50,000 minutes per year with roll over of unused minutes from year to year, and additional minute blocks in the amount of 10,000 minutes at a cost of \$550.00 per block. Funding is available in the General Fund. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Consideration to adopt the 2010 Federal Legislative Agenda. (Approved by Operations Committee, Finance Committee requested that this item be discussed at the Council Meeting)

Motion to adopt the Federal Legislative Agenda.

Moved: Cm. Garcia

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **XII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

34. A. Request by Mayor Raul G. Salinas

1. Presentation by representatives of the Division for Blind Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), State of Texas to discuss the agency's services that assist persons who are blind or visually impaired to gain or retain employment. This will allow the community to be informed of these services and allow the agency to work in partnership with the business community to identify employment opportunities for their consumers.

Robert Mejia and Dora Gonzalez representatives of the Division for Blind Services made the following presentation:

Partnerships for Independence

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

- State rehabilitation agency under the Department of Assistive and rehabilitative Services (DARS).
- We are 1 of 12 regions throughout the State of Texas.
- The Harlingen Region is comprised of 3 offices located in Harlingen, McAllen and Laredo (all the way up to Eagle Pass).

➤  
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

- DARS - Division for Blind Services (DBS)
- work in partnership with all Texans regardless of age who are blind or visually impaired to:
- help our consumers receive the training needed to be successful in school, college and beyond.
- get high quality jobs
- live independently

Seamless Service Delivery System

- Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development Program (BCVDDP)
- Transition Services
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Independent Living

Definitions

- Visually impaired – 20/70 or worse with best correction or 30 degrees or less in both eyes
- Legally blind – 20/200 or worse with best correction or 20 degrees or less in both eyes
- Totally Blind – no vision at all in both eyes

Blindness/Visual Impairments

- Glaucoma
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Retinitis Pigmentosa
- Macular Degeneration
- Cataracts

**BUILDING QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH BUSINESSES**

Our Goal is to provide the employer with pre-screened qualified applicants who want to work and will make a good employee.

The “Dual Customer” approach benefits both the consumer and the business. It is supported with the recognition that individuals with disabilities remain the primary focus of VR.

What types of jobs can people who have a disability perform?

Our job seekers come from all walks of life, with all types of interests, abilities, job skills, and experience. Advances in technology have greatly increased job opportunities for people with disabilities

## Reasonable Accommodations

An accommodation is any modification or adjustment to a job, work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables a qualified individual with a disability to enjoy an equal employment opportunity.

Accommodations are a way to bridge the distance between the maximum ability of the individual and the essential functions of the job.

Are complex technologies always required for a person with a disability to work?

No.

Solutions are individually tailored to the needs of the job and the MOST qualified applicant. We strive to look at no-technology/low-technology strategies FIRST whenever possible.

## Myths – Truth or Fiction

- The cost of an accommodation for someone who is blind or visually impaired is less than \$500.00?
- 46% of employers report that accommodations needed by employees cost absolutely nothing.
- If there is a cost, it's usually a one-time expenditure of \$500.00
- Is there a significant cost to my organization's Worker's Compensation and health care increase?
- Most large and medium sized businesses report no significant increase in costs.
- Is there a tax incentive for hiring a person who is blind or visually impaired?
- Yes – WOTC (Work Opportunity Tax Credit) and more information can be obtained directly through the Texas Workforce Centers.

## COMPUTER PROGRAMMER/ANALYST

- Services Included-
- On Site Analysis
- Technology Evaluation & Equipment
- Orientation & Mobility
- Counseling & Guidance

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TEACHER

- Services Included-
- Comprehensive Assessments
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Orientation & Mobility Training
- Low Vision Evaluation & Aids
- Career Guidance
- Job Readiness
- State of the Arts Technology

- Academic Financial Aid – This person is in the process of graduating with a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling.

## ARTIST/TEACHER

- Services Included-
- Comprehensive Assessments
- Low Vision Evaluation & Aids
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Technology Evaluation & Equipment
- Installation
- Employment Assistance
- Counseling and Guidance

## How to Contact DBS

For information on any Division for Blind Services program or to apply for services, contact any DBS office located throughout Texas.

For a list of offices use this link <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/DBSoffices.asp>

or call 1-800-628-5115

or write 4800 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 340  
Austin, Texas 78756-3178

or e-mail [DBSinfo@dars.state.tx.us](mailto:DBSinfo@dars.state.tx.us)

To contact the Deafblind Services Unit directly email [deafblindservices@dars.state.tx.us](mailto:deafblindservices@dars.state.tx.us) or call (512) 377-0566.

## 2. Discussion with possible action on establishing a ban on text messaging while driving.

Mayor Salinas reported that statistics show that 50% of kids between 16 and 17 were texting while driving. He said that according to the Texas Department of Transportation, texting is more dangerous than someone driving while intoxicated. In 2008 alone, almost 6,000 people were killed because of these distractions and another 500,000 people had been injured. He mentioned that there were already eighteen states that had passed laws prohibiting texting while driving. He was asking that they would really look at this to have an ordinance that could be enforced.

Police Chief Carlos Maldonado stated that texting while driving was not a very smart thing to do. He added that there were cities that had also explored prohibiting hands-free communication while driving.

City Attorney Raul Casso stated that they would get to work on this and bring an ordinance back.

## B. Request by Mayor Pro-Tempore Mike Garza

1. Discussion with possible action on the status on El Portal Project.

Rolando Herrera, representing the Central Labor Council, stated that they were concerned about the request about investing \$100 million and then \$20 million for parking. He said that some of those funds could be used for the library systems. He said that they should consider funding libraries.

Mayor Pro Tempore Garza stated that he brought this item forward because there were many issues about items pending.

Assistant City Manager Jesus Olivares reported that staff had met last week and were discussing lifts and other modifications. He said that they were adjusting to be able to move some of the merchandise into the lifts and that the gates would be done in-house by their staff. He felt that within the next sixty days they would be finished up.

Bridge Director Mario Maldonado said that the appraisal on the property was for a little over \$5.9 million.

2. Discussion with possible action on supporting the Laredo Pony League and all the upcoming tournaments for 2010. (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Raul G. Salinas)

Mr. Richard Rosas stated that the Pony League would be having seventy teams coming to Laredo. He added that there were no boundaries and that they were there to cater to every kid in Laredo.

Mayor Pro Tempore Garza stated that his thought process was that with an opportunity to have many teams to come to Laredo, he wanted to work together with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and other organizations to offer a package to the visitors to Laredo. His goal was to make sure people would want to come back to Laredo since they had only one shot at this.

Adrian Uresti on behalf of Hillside Little League stated that he had nothing against the program for the Pony League, but he wished that they would take into consideration the current Little League program. He asked for them to consider the children that would not wish to play pony and that the adjacent leagues would be challenged to accommodate them.

Sabas Zapata III, District Administrator for Little League District #34, stated that Mr. Rosas was one year ahead of what he envisioned. He went on to say that what he wished was impossible and that there was no way that Laredo had the facilities to make this happen. He felt that it was a mistake to bring people from out of town to work on the tournaments because the blame would rest on Laredo.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal stated that staff would look at the leases and come back with a recommendation. He said that he was concerned because it would be up to the City Attorney to find out where the legal obligation was or how they would make the determination as to who would be first in line.

Cm. Belmares said he felt that they should go with Mayor Pro Tempore Garza's motion to instruct the Convention and Visitors Bureau to create a support package for this tournament.

Motion to instruct the Convention and Visitors Bureau to create a support package for the Laredo Pony League and all the other tournaments in July.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Garza

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Discussion and presentation on revenue and actual crossings for all ports of entry in the State of Texas.

Motion to table for next meeting.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

Second: Cm. Belmares

For: 8

Against:

Abstain:

#### C. Request by Council Member Johnny Rendon

1. Discussion with possible action on placement of speed cushions located on Gallagher Street using discretionary funds.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Director, reported that they were still working on this pilot project and the cost for the three sets was \$15,000.

Motion to get the funding for the speed cushions from District V Discretionary Funds.

Moved: Cm. Rendon

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to provide bus stops, pick-up/ drop-off areas located at Mall Del Norte.

Cm. Rendon reported that he spoke with Mr. Feliciano Garcia, El Metro Director, and found that they had installed two shelters for Mall del Norte shoppers. He added that they were hoping to work with the general manager since Sears was the owner of their property.

El Metro Director Feliciano Garcia reported that they had put a bench there for the holidays. He added that they would improve this as they went along. He went on to say that they would have a meeting with the general manager of Sears to be able to put something on the south side of the mall, but this was only a possibility so far.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal stated that the City needed a legal instrument for them to be able to enter the property, such as an easement to do this in the public interest.

3. Status report on the signal light at the intersection of Loop 20 and Lakeside Subdivision.

Traffic Director Roberto Murillo reported that they were looking at completing the light activation by February 15<sup>th</sup>. He added that TxDOT would have to inspect the light.

4. Status report on the Bartlett Avenue Extension Project.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, reported that they turned in a Friday package with the status and the completed area was from Jacaman to Thomas, and they were lacking the area from Thomas to the existing Bartlett Avenue area by where the Public Works storage area was.

D. Request by Council Member Gene Belmares

1. Presentation by Laredo Police Officers on creating a police officer memorial located at Police Department Headquarters, with possible action.

Cm. Belmares reported that the police officers had started a fundraiser and they would be making a presentation before Council.

Police Officer Jesus Perez and investigator Mike Rodriguez presented a video to Council. They asked for Council to help to fund the police officer memorial.

Motion to take \$55,000 divided equally among the Council from discretionary funds as a donation to fund the police officer memorial.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on amending the City of Laredo's tree ordinance prohibiting certain trees under power lines in City right of ways.

Cm. Belmares stated that he brought this item to Council because he was walking through North Central Park and decided to discuss the issue of certain trees under power lines in City right of ways with Olga Maldonado from AEP.

Olga Maldonado from AEP stated that they did have issues in various areas and this was something that, over time, seemed as though people used the wires as measurement sticks by planting trees directly underneath them. She added that they would have to cut "v" shapes into them which was not aesthetically pleasing, and so they would appreciate working with the City to resolve this issue.

Planning Director Keith Selman stated that he recommended that an ordinance be designed to create a partnership with the City of Laredo and AEP because this scenario had occurred in the light of a partnership.

Cm. Belmares said that he instructed staff to get together and figure out a way that they could remedy this situation.

3. Discussion with possible action on acquiring equipment for ham radio interoperability and resolving local ham radio issues.

Cm. Belmares stated that he was addressing times of emergency when cell phone towers would go down and the only way to communicate would be through radio. He mentioned that he believed that there was equipment that the fire chief and police chief could use to make their operations run more smoothly.

Fire Chief Steve Landin reported that they met with the ham radio operators to discuss several issues that they would like to see improved. He advised that statistically during major disasters, the ham radio operators were always up and running.

Police Chief Carlos Maldonado reported that in the past his experience with ham radio operators was that if one system failed, they would have another system that was seamless and allowed them to communicate with others across the board.

Motion to use \$19,000 of District VI discretionary money to fund the purchase of equipment to raise an antenna site at the water tower on Highway 359.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Discussion with possible action on the 2nd Annual North Central Park Kite Festival and 100 Acre Woods Part II.

Cm. Belmares reported that these were two projects that would be held over spring break. He added that he would appropriate \$2,500 from his promotional fund to cover expenses. He went on to say that the second part was that three days later, they wanted to plant 100 trees. He wished for them to look at their funding for park development to appropriate at least \$50,000 for the purchase of trees and other materials to be able to do this project. He concluded that Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> would be the date of the kite festival and Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> would be the tree planting.

### **XIII. STAFF REPORTS**

35. Presentation regarding the request for funding from Junior Bucks Hockey Team, with possible action.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal reported that they had decided to put in \$10,000 from promotional funds for the tournaments and \$5,000 for this year because they were already deep into the season. They also wanted to look at the possibility during the budget process to budget \$50,000 for the forthcoming year for anyone that might want to use the ice and open it up and put it as an expense under Parks and Recreation.

Motion to approve the City Manager's recommendation.

Moved: Cm. Landeck

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**XV. RECESS AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD**

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and Convene as the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 36. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a budget amendment appropriating operating funds from the Federal Transit Administration Grant No. TX 900-X848 from fiscal year 2008-2009 in the amount of \$1,151,292.00 to be used for operating expenses in fiscal year 2009-2010, by increasing the federal contribution and decreasing the sales tax match in the El Metro Fund and increasing the reserve appropriation in the transit sales tax fund by the said amount. (Approved by Operations & Finance Committees)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 37. Award of construction contract to the lowest qualified bidder Zertuche Construction, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$30,682.80 for the El Metro 14 Bus Shelter Slabs and Sidewalks along US Hwy. 83 and Loop 20 with a construction contract time of sixty (60) working days; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all related contract documents contingent upon receipt and approval of insurance and bond documents. Funding is available in the Transit New Freedom 2008 Grant. (Approved by Operations Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Belmares

Second: Cm. Garcia

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**XVI. ADJOURN AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD AND RECONVENE AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn as the Laredo Mass Transit Board and reconvened as the Laredo City Council and Adjourn.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tempore Garza

Second: Cm. Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I, Gustavo Guevara, Jr., City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 to 24 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on February 1, 2010.

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Gustavo Guevara, Jr.  
City Secretary