

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

M99-R-16

M I N U T E S

JUNE 7, 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 Agredano,	Councilmember, District I
Louis Bruni	Councilmember, District II
John C. Galo,	Councilmember, District III
Cecilia May Moreno,	Councilmember, District IV
Eliseo Valdez, Jr.	Councilmember, District V
Joe A. Guerra,	Councilmember, District VI
Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo,	Councilmember, District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,	City Secretary
Florencio Pena, III	City Manager
Jaime L. Flores,	City Attorney

Motion to excuse Cm. Alvarado.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IV. MINUTES

1. City Council Workshop, May 12, 1999 (Corrected)
City Council Meeting, May 17, 1999

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

V. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE

2. Second reading of Ordinance authorizing and granting the consent of the City Council to the assignment and transfer of control of the cable television franchise and cable television system from KBL Cablesystems of the Southwest Inc., to Texas Cable Partners, L.P. subject to certain conditions.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

3. Second reading of Ordinance consenting to the change of control of the Cable Television Franchise from Telecommunications, Inc. to AT&T Corporation subject to certain conditions.

Larry Dovalina, Assistant City Manager, explained that due to previous litigation with Time Warner there is a clause on Section 5 that speaks of transfer of control. As a result of the litigation, we took a paragraph of the Franchise and expanded it to include every time there is a change of control of 10% of the stock of someone who previously did not own 50% of the stock. So basically we have two different actions: 1) A partnership of TCI and Time Warner (Texas Cable Partners), and 2) a merger taking place between TCI and AT&T. Because of this merger they have to seek consent of City Council.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Ordinance granting a license to Laredo Telephone Company Limited Partnership d/b/a Techtel Communications, to erect, construct, maintain and operate a wire telecommunications system for a term of four (4) years with one (1) four (4) year renewal option period pursuant to the City of Laredo's Wire Telecommunications System Registration and Licensing Ordinance of 1998 #98-O-353; and providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

5. Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Omniafrica Development, Corporation, for a ground lease at the Calton Road Fire Station to construct on such premises a one hundred eighty (180) foot high self supporting type tower and related equipment for use in connection with its communications business.
 - A. The term of the lease is ten (10) years commencing on June 21, 1999 and ending June 21, 2009, with an option of three (3) successive renewal terms of five (5) years.
 - B. The annual base rent shall be \$7,700.00 each year during the term of the lease and will be adjusted on each anniversary of the commencement price index providing for 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-138, #99-O-154, #99-O-155, #99-O-156, #99-O-157, #99-O-158, #99-O-159, #99-O-160, #99-O-161, #99-O-162, and #99-O-163.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 6. 99-O-138 Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement between the City of Laredo and the Sacred Heart Children's Home, for a term of one (1) year, with an annual rent payment of \$1.00 per year with an automatic renewal option for the property described as those former sections of the 1400 and 1500 Blocks of Ireland Street between Meadow and Loring Avenues and the 3200 and 3300 Blocks of S. Seymour Avenue between Cross and Hall Avenues including the intersection, situated in the Eastern Division, City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-138.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 99-O-154 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 14, Block 3, Pine Crest Subdivision, located at 107 Crest Lane, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District) (Alfredo Agredano)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-154.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 99-O-155 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 3, Block 1, Tex-Mex Industrial Park, Unit I, located at 3915 Andy R. Ramos Road, from M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing District). (Alfredo Agredano)

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Consideration to approve plans and specifications and authorization to advertise for bids to construct the channel improvements in Zacate Creek from the Hillside Road Bridge to the McPherson Road Bridge for the Zacate Creek Erosion Control Project. These channel improvements will control erosion and increase aesthetics along 3,660 linear feet of Zacate Creek. Funding is available in the 1998 C.O. Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to authorize the cancellation of the thirty-six month rental contract (99-024) awarded to the LOWEST PROPOSER, International Copier Corporation, Laredo, Texas, on 1/18/99, for providing thirty nine copiers for various city departments, due to non delivery, and authorizing that a new contract be awarded to the second vendor, Felco/Copy Data, Laredo, Texas. The estimated contract total for the three years is \$368,852.40 International Copier Corporation was recommended based on the on-site demonstration of the high quality digital copiers proposed and the fact that they were providing the lowest cost per copy.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration to award contract number 99-094, to the SOLE BIDDER, Rochester Armored Car Co., Omaha, NE, in the estimated amount of \$33,360.00 per year, for providing armored care courier service for various city departments. The term of this contract will be for two years. Courier service is requested for the International Bridge I, II, and Colombia, Health Department, City Hall, and the Civic Center. The bid pricing is approximately 10% more than the current contract pricing.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

19. Consideration to award a construction contract to the LOWEST BIDDER, Organic Waste Technologies, Cleveland, Ohio in the bid amount of \$273,224.00 for the Construction of Leachate Forcemain and Storage Tank at the City of Laredo Landfill. Funding is available in the 1998 CO Issue and Solid Waste Fund Improvement Other Than Buildings.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

20. Consideration to award an annual contract number 99-068 to LOW BIDDER, Royal Glass, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$15,000.00 for providing glass replacement service for the Fleet Maintenance Division. All work will be done on a per need basis.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

21. Consideration to award an annual service contract to the LOW BIDDER, Key Energy Service, Inc., Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$35,000.00 for providing hauling services. This contract vendor will be hauling approximately 1,000 cubic yards of dry sludge per month from the Water Treatment plant to the City landfill. The contract pricing is approximately 19% less than the previous contract.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to award contract number 99-090, to the LOW BIDDER, Jem Pro, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$19,615.00, for the painting of the roof or domes on the two Lyon Street water tanks. The City had previously awarded a separate contract for the painting of the sides with the logo of a mustang.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Consideration to award contract number 99-096, to the LOW BIDDER, Southwestern Bell, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$17,671.16, for the purchase and installation of a phone system at the Bruni Library building located at 1120 San Bernardo. The Building Department, a Police Substation and a branch library will be housed at this building. It is anticipated that the work will be completed within three weeks.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Consideration to award contract to the LOW BIDDER, for the installation of Speed Humps and associated signage for the following streets; McPherson Drive, Fenwick Drive, Kentucky Drive, Ash Street, Lyon Street and Taylor Street. Funding is available in the account #402-4321-535-4138 in the amount of \$100,000.

In reference to the bids, they went out on bids again (second time) for the installation of the speed humps, the bids were opened this Friday and there were no bids received.

Mayor Flores asked if the project can done in-house? Is there enough staff or can this be sub-contracted?

Assistant City Manager Dovalina said that it can be done in-house and they are prepared to do it on weekends. The cost is approximately \$4,000 per hump.

Luis Landin, Traffic Director, said that doing this project in-house has been discussed because there have been no bidders. The reason there are no bidders is that the job is too small. Five of the contractors contacted said it was too much to go from one place to another, and that they have too many ongoing projects. They have discussed doing this project with the Public Works Director and he feels that there is a possibility that this program can be started on weekends.

Cw. Moreno asked if they have considered hiring temporary workers.

and Kassabaum (HOK), Dallas, Texas for architectural and engineering services for the construction of the new airport passenger terminal, runway reconstruction and parallel taxiway construction at the Laredo International Airport. Amendment no. 12 modifies the scope of work to allow for additional project inspections services regarding the passenger terminal and reduces the scope of work/engineering fees regarding runway, landscaping and parallel taxiway projects.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Consideration to exercise the option of renewing the Contract No. DTFA07-95-C-03157 for air traffic control services at Laredo International Airport with the Federal Aviation Administration Southwest Region at a sole source entity utilizing City of Laredo Airport Fund employees or opting into the national contract program that is administered by FAA Headquarters and utilizes contract employees.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration to refund property tax to the following taxpayer and company:
- a. IBOC is requesting a refund payable to Jorge Eduardo Rodriguez due to an overpayment by IBOC in the amount of \$844.39. This overpayment was from a previous year and the credit was applied to the 1998 tax year.
 - b. IBOC is requesting a refund payable to IBOC due to an overpayment for the 1996 taxes in the amount of \$528.03.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Consideration to award six month supply contracts (#99-084) for the purchase of safety footwear for the Fire Department and city maintenance personnel, to the following vendors:
- a. Mary's Redwing Boots and Shoes,
McAllen, Texas (five safety footwear styles) \$30,696.80
 - b. Iron Age Corporation, San Antonio, Texas

(four safety footwear styles)	\$28,175.00
c. Skaggs - R&R Uniforms, San Antonio, Texas	
(three safety footwear styles)	\$17,597.50

Contract pricing has been secured for three boot styles approved for use by the Fire Department personnel and eight different styles for city maintenance personnel. Each department will have the option to choose the type of boot best suited for the work environment. All safety footwear is purchased on an as need basis.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

31. Consideration to authorize an award of FY 1997 Home Investment Partnership Program, Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) set aside funds of \$178,950 to the Azteca Economic Development and Preservation Corporation to finance the construction of four attached rental homes to benefit households whose incomes are below 60% of the median income, and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents in support of this action.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

32. Consideration to approve a Tennis Professional Contract, in an amount of \$5,000 for a three month period from July 1, 1999 to September 30, 1999, with Francisco Beltran, individually and D.B.A. Tennis Professional to provide professional lessons for the playing of tennis at the Market Street Tennis Courts.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

33. Consideration of an approval of construction change order no. 2 to the construction contract with Ramex Construction, Inc., Laredo, Texas, for the Laredo International Bridge Pavement Reconstruction at Approaches, Phase I for an amount decrease of \$43,755.00 and final acceptance of the project. Change order no. 2 is for pavement reconstruction work previously designated

for off-site improvements at Bridge No. 2, approved by Council per change order no. 1. Funding is available in the Bridge System Construction Projects.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 34. Consideration of an approval of construction change order no. 4 a decrease of \$36,575.00 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, acceptance of the EDA Grant Project No. 08-01-03080 Airport Medical Infrastructure Improvements Arkansas Avenue Extension and approval of final payment in the amount of \$106,748.17 to Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc., Laredo, Texas. Funding is available in EDA Airport/Medical Park Improvements Other Than Buildings.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 35. Consideration of an approval of construction change order no. 2 a net decrease of \$18,236.42 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place with a decrease primarily in street and intersection milling, acceptance of the 1998-1999 Street Recycling Project (207 Blocks) and approval of final payment in the amount of \$121,758.19 to Cutler Repaving, Inc., Lawrence, KS. Final contract amount is \$407,142.84. Funding is available in the Street Material -Cutler Paving.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 36. Consideration of an approval of change order no. 1 a decrease of \$139.85 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, acceptance of the Bartlett Avenue Sidewalks (Ash Street - Saunders Street) (West Side Only) and approval of final payment in the amount of \$32,465.65 to Dominguez Development and Construction, Laredo, Texas. Funding is available in the Capital Improvements Projects Bartlett Avenue Sidewalks.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

37. Consideration of an approval of change order no. 1 a decrease of \$16,160.50 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, acceptance of the Construction of Sidewalks on Malinche Avenue between Lyon Street and Clark Blvd. and approval of final payment in the amount of \$17,828.62 to Pete Gallegos Paving, Inc. Laredo, Texas. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund Malinche Avenue Sidewalks.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

38. Consideration of an approval of change order no. 2 a net increase of \$59,945.00 to the construction contract with Dominguez Development and Construction for the Zacate Creek Beautification Project Phase I for additional items to improve the West Bank of the Zacate Creek between Saunders and Lyon and to add sixty (60) calendar days for these improvements to the construction contract time. Funding is available in the Community Development Fund Zacate Creek Beautification.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

39. Consideration to approve change order no. 1 in the amount of \$2,674.23 to the current contract with Bexar Environmental, Inc., which is for \$13,374.00. The approval of the change order #1 will bring the Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint abatement contract with Bexar Environmental, Inc., to a total of \$16,048.23. The change incorporated in change order #1 is required to address revised Texas Department of Health (TDH) asbestos abatement requirements that are not addressed in the specifications prepared by Raba-Kistner Environmental Consultants. Funding is available in the Community Development Block Grant Fund (CDBG).

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Galo
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

40. Consideration of an approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$100,200.00 to the engineering contract with Freese and Nichols, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, to provide Construction Phase Services (\$58,950.00) and Resident Project Representative (\$41,250.00) for the Reconstruction of Portions of Taxiways "A", "F", and "G" and Reconstruction of the south end of the Cargo Apron to include a new apron pavement area. Funding is available in the Airport Construction Fund Purchased Professional Services.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

41. Consideration to award a contract to Stop Child Abuse and Neglect, Inc., to fund the for \$10,000 to fund the 4th of July Family Fiesta and authorizing the City Manager to implement the contract for this event to be held on Saturday, July 3, 1999.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

IX. STAFF REPORTS

42. Request authorization to create a full-time position of Downtown Economic Development Coordinator at a grade 37 within the Department of Community Development to facilitate the coordination of all projects in the Downtown Central Business District as well as the coordination of economic development programs for the City, including those related to loan assistance, federal grants, business expansion and retention and research analysis.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6

Against: 0 Abstain: 1
Cw. Moreno

43. Regarding the City of Laredo's Medical Benefit Booklet provision for the continuation of benefits to the surviving

spouse and dependent Child of a deceased retiree with possible action.

Dan Migura, Administrative Services Director, stated that on May 28 the Health Benefits Ad Hoc Committee held a meeting at which members of the committee, the spokesperson from TML, several firefighter representatives, police representatives and other parties were present. The purpose of the meeting was to review the booklet plan language. After looking at it, they came up with a reason for that language to be there. The Ad-Hoc Committee recommended staff to clarify that language and bring it back to council with a possible recommendation.

At this point, a proposed language for the surviving spouse and surviving dependent child was given to Council, but Mr. Migura stated that from staff's prospective, there are some issues that he wants to bring to council's attention before council takes any action on this item.

First, Mr. Migura recommended this item be deferred until staff prepares a full-claims cost analysis. They are in the process of requesting pertinent information from TML.

Second, we need to notify our stop-loss carriers because we don't want to make a decision in our plan booklet that our stop-loss carriers won't support.

Third, if this proposal is passed as submitted, it would be understood that we would go back and pay claims based on the person's ability to pay prior contributions. For example, if we go back one year, the person filing claims would need to pay his/her premiums for that year, and then we would pay the claims.

Finally, five retiree's dependents that have died have been identified, so TML has been asked to research back to 1994 which is the year when the plan booklet language changed. From this point forward we'll have the full impact.

Mr. Migura stated that the information has been requested from TML and probably they will receive it by the end of the month.

Cw. Moreno reported that in the Health Issues Committee Meeting, they took a vote on one thing: to continue the retiree coverage to surviving spouses already covered with the health benefits program. She said these people do pay for their health benefit, not the city. Then quoted, "the recommendation would be that all employees that currently are retired and if the spouse passes away, and they were part of this plan, that they be able to continue paying their premiums

until such time that they move over to the retiree plan which is the one with the Medicare."

44. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 in regards to deliberating the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, for a drainage project at Laredo International Airport, because deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person; and return to Open Session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 in regards to deliberating the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, for a drainage project at Laredo International Airport, because deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person; and return to Open Session for possible action.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

45. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 in regards to deliberating the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, for additional City office space, because deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person; and return to Open Session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 in regards to deliberating the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, for additional City office space, because deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person; and return to Open Session for possible action.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

46. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code

Section 551.071 (1) (A)&(B) for consultation with attorney regarding contemplated litigation and settlement offer and return to Open Session for possible action.

This item was not considered by council.

47. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1) (A), for consultation with attorney regarding contemplated litigation and return to open session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1) (A), for consultation with attorney regarding contemplated litigation and return to open session for possible action.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Mayor Flores presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Dolores Salazar who is a teacher retiring after 40 years of service from Santo Nino Elementary School.
- b. Mayor Flores gave a report on the Coalition on Border Infrastructure. She read the following report:

"An organization of mayors, elected officials and community leaders from the 42 counties along the Texas-Mexico border joined forces to lobby the 76th Legislature for border funding issues.

Laredo's participation consisted of staff members: Florencio Pena and Horacio De Leon. The City Council was represented by Cm. John Galo and Cm. Joe Guerra who, besides myself, dedicated a lot of their time and expertise between council meetings, their jobs and their families for the betterment of their community. I want to take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of the people of Laredo. Instead of writing letters, they chose to take action that will make a difference for years to come.

The Border Coalition leadership feels it was a successful session. We will have a more complete report from our legislative consultants in the June 21st, meeting. I would

like to point out to the following successes:

An additional \$42 million in TXDOT funding to accelerate the planning, design and construction of critical border trade-related projects.

- An office of border advocacy within the governor's office.
- A "one-stop" truck inspection facility that will increase the flow of commerce and improve the productivity of NAFTA.
- Increased funding for the operation of workforce development and smart job training programs.
- And as late as Sunday night, May 31st, the legislature approved a package of tax incentives well worth \$150 million that are designed to reward businesses that create jobs in areas with above average unemployment and below average per capita income.

It was the second time the border united around a good cause. We went to Austin with one voice, and we had great advocates from our border delegation. We have much to thank Senator Judith Zaffirini and Representative Henry Cuellar for and ask that if you see them or if you can, drop them a note or make a phone call and thank them for their hard work.

Although we were not able to get monies ear marked for the border, The Border Coalition's work with TxDot paid off in a commitment from Lt. Governor Rick Perry and Transportation Commission Chairman, David Laney to allocate an aggressive amount of funds to the border.

State Comptroller Carole Rylander, often reminded the Members that the Texas Border was the key to this state's economic future.

We were successful in getting formal recognition of the Texas-Mexico border as the key transportation corridor for international commerce; and since the implementation of NAFTA, that trade activity has increased significantly. Operation of vehicle theft checkpoints near the Mexican border will cut down on auto theft in both Texas and Mexico and use of state research and technology funds will now be used on environmental issues in the border region."
(End of report)

- c) Cm. Bruni submitted weekly rain enhancement reports from Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association as follows:

WEEKLY REPORT 5/24/99 - 5/31/99

DATE WEATHER

5/24/99 Mostly sunny with light southeasterly winds, highs in the upper 90's and lows in the mid-70's.

ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

No cloud seeding activities.

5/25/99 Mostly sunny with increasing high cloudiness during the afternoon, winds southeasterly at 10-15 MPH.

Activity Summary

No cloud seeding activities.

5/26/99 Partly cloudy skies with afternoon thunderstorms, winds will be out of the southeast and gusty.

Activity Summary

Storm cells developed in Southwest Zavala and Northwest Dimmit Counties. Aircraft was launched at 5:00 P.M. to seed the system. The response was exceptional 15 flares and 1 tank (approx. 5 gallons) of generator solution used.

5/27/99 Partly cloudy with late afternoon thunderstorms developing. Locally heavy rains and gusty winds.

Activity Summary

Two separate storm cells were seeded. At 5:45 one small cell NW of Crystal City was worked to the east, northeast to the Zavala/Frio Line finishing at 9:30 PM. The second was a cell that developed about 20 miles into Mexico moving towards Laredo. Seeding ended at approximately 11:45 PM -38 flares were expended.

5/28/99 Partly cloudy skies with late afternoon thunderstorms developing.

Activity Summary

No seeding activities

5/29/99 Isolated thunderstorms in the AM. With gradually clearing skies.

Activity Summary

No seeding activities

5/30/99 Partly cloudy skies.

Activity Summary

No seeding activities.

(End of Report)

Cm. Bruni said that rain events took place on that week and said that officially Laredo got around two and a half inches of rain and in some areas it got in excess of five inches. He added that rain was attributed to this cloud seeding efforts.

- d) Cm. Guerra submitted a letter in reference to the "retainage" monies still owed by Ramex Construction to several subcontractors.
- e) Mayor Flores quoted a letter signed by Sister Maria Teresa Grajeda from the Sacred Heart Children's Home as follows:

(Letter quotes)

"Honorable Mayor Flores:

With the outmost respect and appreciation I would like to express the following:

Since 1907, our home has had its doors open to homeless and needy children of Laredo and surrounding areas to give these children a place to call home, to love and assist these children in developing physically, socially, culturally and spiritually.

We have always been considered a family and even though we are a big family we are still a family, we like to keep our home in a way to maintain the family unity.

Since we have always been considered a family, we always pay a monthly fee of \$36.88 for sewer. Recently we received a sewer bill of \$733.10. This bill has thrown our budget out completely. United Way is our main source of money, plus donations from people who care about this Children's Home. If we have an extra expense out of our monthly budget we have to look for extra donations. United Way will fund us with the same amount of money for the year 2000 and our budget is set. We feel that it is going to be very difficult for us to cover the added expense. Believe me, we try to stretch every single dollar as much as we can, but I feel that it would be very difficult to cover this added burden since we never considered \$700.00 more at the middle of this year. I beg of you to consider my situation an that you look at what we provide for our City.

I leave this matter in your heart and hands because only you

are in a position to help us and the needy children of Laredo.

May the good Lord Bless you with abundant grace.

Sincerely,

Sister Maria Teresa Grajeda
Administrator
(End of letter)

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, stated that after reviewing the definition for "residence" and reading throughout the ordinance, it appears that The Sacred Heart Children's Home falls into the commercial category. Other charitable and religious organizations also fall into this category; thus, that's the reason for the change. He added, that after hearing from the Sacred Heart Board, he promised them that he will read the ordinance once more and make sure that all considerations are being made in order to place them in the proper category.

Mayor Flores requested Mr. Roman to have a recommendation by next City Council meeting.

XI. CITY PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

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

A. Request by Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores

1. Recognition of 10 visiting Russian business persons sponsored by the Laredo Rotary Club.

Mayor Flores presented Certificate of Recognition to several visiting Russians sponsored by the Laredo Rotary Club.

Jerry Robinson, President of the Laredo Rotary Club, stated that the Community Connections Program, sponsored by the Rotary Club and the United States Information Agency, allows them to bring young Russian business people to Laredo.

Michael Landeck introduced the Russian members as follows:

Stanley Brikov
 Vladimir Marusev (Paul Watson)
 Ilya Nazarenko
 Andre Potipaka
 Oleg Fomin
 Andrew Emelyanov
 Alexy Nesternko
 Elena Nesternko
 Ludmila Mokina
 Larisa Baron

2. Presentation and status report by the Board of Adjustments.

Benny Salinas, Building Director, stated that the Board of Adjustments was created by City Charter and by City Ordinance. Its purpose is to hear people and grant administrative appeals or variances. The board consists of nine members.

Blas Martinez, Chairperson of Board, stated he has been serving on this board since September of 1996. According to the Ordinance and State Law, members serve until they are replaced. The board meets at least once and meets together whenever there is a problem. The following is the list of members who represent the Districts:

Cistobal Villarreal	District I
Chris Villarreal	District II
Mario Jasso	District III
Alfredo Juarez	District IV
Elmer Buckley	District V
Joe Medina	District VI
Ricardo Cortez	District VII
Rolando Herrera	District VIII

Mr. Martinez said that lately the cases coming before the board involve the new subdivisions requesting the City to grant some variances. He explained that before meeting as a board, the law requires them to publicize their meeting 15 days prior to meeting.

B. Request by Council member Louis H. Bruni

1. Status report on the proposed fire station for District II with possible action.

Cynthia Collazo, Community Development Director, stated that she needed to address Item #2 in order to answer this item.

This item was discussed with item #2.

2. Status report on the University Boulevard with possible action.

Cynthia Collazo, Community Development Director, stated they have received a written communication from the representative of one of the property owners. The communication indicates that by the end of the week we should received the deed; once the deed is received we can proceed with the design and construction of the project. Once this project is completed, we'll proceed with the closure of Casa Verde, and then proceed with the actual negotiations from the other property owner for the fire station.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, stated that the first phase will be one-half of the boulevard; the other half will be constructed at the time that the traffic merges. He also said that once the City accepts the property, it would probably take 30-45 days for the design to be completed and construction probably will begin in three months.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, stated that he will present both cost estimates: one for the first phase only and another one contemplating the construction of the whole boulevard.

3. Status report on the Texas/Price Drainage project.

Rogelio Rivera, City Engineer, reported that this is a large project. Construction time of 300 working days has been estimated because the infrastructure is already in place and the consultant has to work around it. Also, all the area being covered by this drainage project is already developed.

However, with the new specifications, Mr. Rivera hopes to be able to accelerate this project. The material is on order, and the contractor expects to start construction on June 17, 1999.

4. Status report on the proposed stripping at the entrance to the new International Airport Terminal.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Engineer, reported that they had made a request to TxDot back in July 1998. A reply, from TxDot, stating that some of the improvements were already

implemented was received in January. Because not all improvements were done, Mr. Murillo addressed this issue again with TxDot. He received a response today and states that according to TxDot's standards, adding a right-turn lane requires certain volumes and it is not justified.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, added that staff will continue making formal requests to TxDot regarding this matter.

B. Request by Council member John C. Galo

1. Confirming the appointment of Luis Pellegrin to the Citizens Environmental Committee to replace Jay Trautmann.

Motion confirming the appointment of Luis Pellegrin to the Citizens Environmental Committee to replace Jay Trautmann.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council member Cecilia May Moreno

1. Discussion and possible action of funding the additional money needed to carry out the Drainage Project previously approved and affecting the residents of the 1200 block of Frost.

Cw. Moreno understands that the money is there and the project is moving along, so it's being taken care of.

D. Request by Council member Eliseo Valdez Jr.

1. Status report with possible action on the police department's programs for patrolling public parks this summer as part of the COPS program.

Cm. Valdez stated that constituents in his areas have been calling him and asking if there is anything planned for the summer to take care of the parks in order that they continue to be a safe haven for the children.

He added that they used to receive monthly reports from the sergeants of the substations on the activities and ongoing things that they were doing in the districts. He would like to continue those monthly reports from the

COPS stations.

Along with those reports he asked for a list, if possible, of the people that the officers meet through the COPS program and a list of the contacts these officers make.

Agustin Dovalina, Police Chief, reported that they will continue channeling those reports to council so they can be advised and oriented as to what the activities are for the different areas of the city in the community policing services mode. They also have had people from his staff making contact with Mr. Tijerina from Parks and they might be able to collaborate in setting up some activities for the summer. He concluded by saying that they will be coming forth with a report.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

49. Public hearing concerning an application by Mines Road I, Inc. amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 12.04 acres, as further described by metes and bounds located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Big Bend Blvd., and Dasher Drive, from B-3 (Community Business District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District).

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 12.04 acres, as further described by metes and bounds located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Big Bend Blvd., and Dasher Drive, from B-3 (Community Business District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Keith Selman, City Planner, made the presentation.

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

- 50. Public hearing concerning an application by Rafael Cisneros, amending Ordinance No. 99-O-128 authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for retail welding supplies, including oxygen and acetylene on Lots 7, 8, and 9, Block 1723, Eastern Division, located at 2820 Ross Street by revising the site plan.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 99-O-128 authorizing the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for retail welding supplies, including oxygen and acetylene on Lots 7, 8, and 9, Block 1723, Eastern Division, located at 2820 Ross Street by revising the site plan.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ron Whitehawk, on behalf of Mr. Cisneros, requested council approval.

Mr. Keith Selman stated that P&Z recommended 8-0 vote in favor.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Agredano

- 51. Public hearing considering a possible amendment to the Long Range Thoroughfare Element of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Laredo by realigning the principal arterials in north Laredo.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #99-R-076

Resolution amending the Long Range Thoroughfare Element of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Laredo by realigning the principal arterials in north Laredo.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

City designating \$423,925 in matching fund. Matching funds will be appropriated from the narcotics task force program income. Funds will be used to pay personnel salaries, fringe benefits, and operational expenses from June 01, 1999 through May 31, 2000.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the City of Laredo 1999-2000 budget in the amount of \$1,256,195 for the funding of the Multi-Agency Narcotics Task Force program. The Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division is contributing \$832,270 with the City designating \$423,925 in matching fund. Matching funds will be appropriated from the narcotics task force program income. Funds will be used to pay personnel salaries, fringe benefits, and operational expenses from June 01, 1999 through May 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 : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Guerra

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

54. Public hearing approving a budget revision in the amount of \$4,810 allocating the Texas Department of Health's share of program income earned to the appropriate budget line item to further the activities and scope of work for the Tuberculosis Elimination Program of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1998, through August 31, 1999.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance approving a budget revision in the amount of \$4,810 allocating the Texas Department of Health's share of program income earned to the appropriate budget line item to further the activities and scope of work for the Tuberculosis Elimination Program of the City of Laredo Health Department for the period beginning September 1, 1998, through August 31, 1999.

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

61. Consideration to authorize the following:

1. eliminate the bus stop located on Matamoros Street @ Santa Ursula
2. redirect the following routes from Matamoros Street, to Victoria Street: (involves the distance between Juarez and Santa Ursula Streets)

# 7 San Eduardo (Ladrillera)	# 7 San Eduardo (El Cuatro)
#10 Corpus Christi	#12 Del Mar Express
#16 TAMIU	#17 Mines Road
#13 Heritage Park	

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

62. Consideration to authorize a professional service agreement with Bringing Everyone Special Together (BEST), a Texas non-profit organization, for transit related services provided the Laredo Municipal Transit System (El Metro), for the following periods:

*May 1, 1997 to April 30, 1998, not to exceed \$15,000

*May 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999, not to exceed \$11,250

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

63. Consideration to approve the increase of bus service as follows:

- * Adding three hours per day on Route #9 Market, to fill the mid-day gap on the second bus that serves this route.
- * Adding one hour per day of service on Route #17 Mines Road, to provide an additional evening trip
- * Extending service on Route #19 Santo Niño to serve Larga Vista Lane, which represents a significant transit market, and can be served within the existing time schedule. Included in this recommendation is a proposal to modify a portion of the current route to provide greater access to current and potential customers.

Motion to approve.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion adjourn as the Laredo Mass Transit Board and convene as the City Council.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XIV. ADJOURNMENT


Motion to adjourn.

Adjournment time: 8:20 P.M.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 to 37 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held in the City Council Meeting. A certified copy is on file at the City Secretary's Office.



Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary

Minutes approved: June 21, 1999