

CITY OF LAREDO

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

M99-R-31

M I N U T E S

NOVEMBER 1, 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 H. 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
Mario A. Alvarado	Councilmember, District VII
Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo	Mayor Pro Tempore, District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,	City Secretary
Florencio Pena, III,	City Manager
Jaime L. Flores,	City Attorney

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

a. Announcements

Cm. Agredano announced that District I had their 2nd 5k run to get funds for scholarships for Cigarroa and United South High School students and thanked the Parks and Recreation Department.

b. Invitations

Cm. Agredano invited Mayor Flores to be the guest speaker for our annual Veteran's parade to be held on November 11, 1999.

Mayor Flores invited all City employees to the Blood Drive to be held tomorrow November 2, 1999.

Mayor Flores announced that Weyerhaeuser Co. will acquire MacMillan Bloedel Limited and has invited members of the Council and the community for the transition of this historic event on November 2, 1999 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MacMillan Bloedel and Weyerhaeuser are a great strategic combination that will benefit our employees, our customers and our community.

Yvonne Moreno and Trine Hernandez, co-chairs of the H.E.B. Feast of Sharing, invited the community for the 11th annual Feast of Sharing to be held Sunday November 21, 1999 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

c. Recognitions

Vanessa Lorena Gonzalez was recognized for placing 2nd and winning the Silver Medal in the High Jump in the 11-year-old girls event.

Mayor Flores and members of the Council presented the City of Laredo Banner to Javier Molina.

d. Communiqués

Luis Dovalina, Police Association President, spoke on the Collective Bargaining Agreement being presently negotiable. He stated that they are at a disadvantage when it comes to bargaining with the City.

He expressed several concerns that they had to the City. One of the concerns is that the city does not provide the information requested by the association. Another is that they were not included in the retirement plan. He added that they (the police officers) are being treated as second rate citizens. Last item that he mentioned is that he can now see where the city has drawn the line in this matter, small town pay for a booming community of over 200,000 plus.

Felipe Saldivar and Jorge Sanchez presented Mayor Flores with a framed poem about prominent women.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
Nominations to the Plumbing/Electrical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee by the Council members.

The nominees were as follows:

District
Mayor Flores

Nominee
Carl Johnson

District I-Cm. Agredano
 District IV-Cw. Moreno
 District V-Cm. Valdez
 District VI-Cm. Guerra
 District VII-Cm. Alvarado

Emilio Garza
 Fred Collazo
 Roel Rodriguez
 Gerardo Trevino
 Eduardo Quiroga

Motion to approve the committee members that have been identified by Council members.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Note: Cw. Moreno was not present.)

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing regarding the status and projections of the water and wastewater impact fee. This hearing will be held for informational purposes only, since the Impact Fee Ad Hoc committee is still considering the stakeholders' concerns and working the details of the proposed ordinance. The formal proposal has not been finalized therefore no action can be taken.

Motion to open the public hearing.

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

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, made the presentation before the Council. He stated that he would provide a revised schedule at the next council meeting with another update.

Jesus Ponce stated that the impact fee should be charged to the developers not the rest of the community. He requested a definition for "impact fees".

Mr. Roman gave the interpretation that Chapter 3.95 of the local government code provides: Impact Fee is a fee system that was passed by legislature that allows the city to collect a certain amount of money from the lots or the development of new areas, which the money is to be used only on exclusively for the improvements done for that area.

Mr. Ponce added that it is not correct to charge the community for the impact fees that developers are suppose to pay.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Galo
 Second: Cm. Bruni

VIII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. Discussion with possible action to direct staff to prepare a resolution to retain the right to continue religious broadcasting on television and radio and religious music played at Christmas publicly. Resolution to be presented to the Federal Communications Commission.
(Sponsored by Mayor and City Council members)

Motion to direct staff to prepare the resolution.

Moved: Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Note: Cw. Moreno was not present.)

A. Request by Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores

1. Presentation by the Transportation/Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Motion to table.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Note: Cw. Moreno was not present.)

B. Request by Council member John C. Galo

1. Presentation by Jesus Hernandez on Veterans issues, with possible action.

Mr. Hernandez spoke on the assistance of food for the veterans.

Cm. Galo stated that the monies were appropriated in the budget for the food banks to give them their assistance.

Mr. Hernandez also requested flags for the veterans that passed away and for placement during cemetery funeral ceremonies.

Chito Vela, from the City of Laredo Volunteer Services, reported that the \$3,950 have been given to the Laredo Webb County Food Budget and they are offering to deliver the food to the members of the American GI Forum upon request.

Larry Dovalina, assistant City Manager, reported that the County is now providing the marker and the flag that goes over the casket, and the City is providing the smaller flags that go in the marker.

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-329.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 99-O-330 Ordinance amending the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances Chapter 33, Environmental Protection, by creating article VI entitled Illegal Dumping to include new sections 33-400 through 33-426, defining suitable and unsuitable materials for fill, penalties and noncompliance, right of entry, and inspection and providing for severability and an effective date and publication. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-330.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 99-O-331 Ordinance rescinding Ordinance No. 91-0-025 and authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Charles Haber d/b/a Bed Factory for approximately 9,216 square feet constituting Building No. 1326 located at 103 Maher Avenue at the Laredo International Airport. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing on October 1, 1999 and ending September 30, 2000. Monthly rent shall be \$1,690.00. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-331.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 99-O-332 Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Charles Haber d/b/a Bed Factory for approximately 9,024 square feet constituting Building No. 1334 located at 4016 North Jarvis Avenue at the Laredo International Airport. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing on October 1, 1999 and ending September 30, 2000. Monthly rent shall be \$1,850. (City Council)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-332.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. Consideration to approve the bid specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for a wireless line-of-sight (microwave) network connectivity between Bridge 3 and Bridge 4. This will include the procurement and installation of all needed equipment to support extension of the City's data, voice, and video network using wireless microwave technology. The City will use this system to communicate to the Columbia Bridge's toll system and to connect any other computer and telecommunication systems.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

12. Consideration to negotiate a contract with Land Engineering, Tucson, Arizona, for services to the City of Laredo to evaluate and recommend a site for a new city cemetery location. Funding is available in the Cemetery Land Acquisition line item.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. Consideration to award a construction contract to the LOWEST BIDDER, Ramos Industries, Inc., Pasadena, Texas, in the base bid amount of \$161,530 for the Concrete Reconstruction at Calton/Springfield Intersection. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund Truck Route Intersection.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

14. Consideration to award a construction contract to the SOLE BIDDER, Ramos Industries, Inc., Pasadena, Texas, in the base bid amount of \$1,123,783 for the Calton Road Widening Project at the Public Library and the McPherson Road Widening Project from Calton Road to the Culvert Drainage Channel at Cotulla's Restaurant. Funding is available in the Capital Improvement Fund McPherson Widening I and 1998 CO Issue Calton Road Improvements.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. Consideration to award a three year contract (99-123) to Autophone of Laredo, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$42,050, for providing pager service. The contract award is based on 310 pagers. The City will be exchanging the current pagers for new Motorola pagers. The new contract pricing is approximately 38% less than the previous contract amount.

Autophone of Laredo was deemed the most advantageous vendor by the review committee based on the total cost for services being provided, the reliability and redundancy of the paging network, and the local service capability. The total cost includes the purchase of new pagers and the monthly service fees.

Candelario Rodriguez and Ed Gonzalez, Metro Call representatives, were present to contest the awarding of contract to Autophone and reconsider their leasing proposal.

Motion to approve the low bid.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Cm. Galo

Cw. Montalvo

16. Consideration to authorize the purchase of sixty seven (67), mobile radios for the Police Department through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) - Cooperative Purchasing Program, in the total amount of \$216,566.47. These voice secure digital radios will be purchased through the cooperative purchasing contract vendor Motorola. Delivery of these radios is expected within sixty days. These radios will be installed on sixty seven of the one hundred and two, new police sedans recently ordered. Funding is available in the Police Department's capital outlay budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Consideration to authorize the purchase of one, 40 kW, standby diesel engine electric plant (emergency generator) through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) - Cooperative Purchasing Program, in the total amount of \$20,614.42, for the Fire Department. This power plant will provide emergency electric service to the Emergency Operation Center located at Fire Station No. 7 on Calton Road. This will be a replacement unit for a twenty year old unit that is not

operable. Funding is available in the Fire Department's capital outlay budget.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to amend the 1993 and 1995 Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Contract with the Habitat for Humanity of Laredo, Inc. (Habitat) to allow the use of previously awarded 1993 and 1995 HOME funds to be used for hard and soft costs related to the construction of single-family housing units on the lots purchased with 93 and 95 CHDO funds and to extend the deadline to expend the remaining funds in the amount of \$29,169.24 to September 30, 2000. The amendment to the contract is necessary since Habitat experienced difficulty in obtaining private sector financing for the construction of the units.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

19. Presentation by the City of Laredo Engineering Department Environmental Division.

Riazul Mia made the presentation before the Council.

City of Laredo
Engineering Department
Environmental Division

PROGRAMS

- Storm Water Management.
- Ordinance development to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permit.
- Enforcement.
- Monitoring
- Community involvement and education.
- Alternative construction materials and methodology development.
- Household Hazardous Waste collection program.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

- Investigation of illegal dumping throughout the city.
- Investigation of illicit connections through the use of a CCTV (closed circuit television) system.

- Investigation of non-storm water discharges.
- Investigations of construction and industrial sites to assure compliance with city ordinances.
- Response to spill sites.

MONITORING

- Wet weather monitoring: A program that monitors the quantity of pollutants that enter the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) during rain events.
- Dry weather monitoring: A program that identifies possible illicit connections and the possible pollutants within the effluents.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION

- Close cooperation with the Citizen's Environmental Committee.
- Public education through:
 - Seminars
 - Special events such as Dia del Ria, Home and Garden Shows, Earth Day.
 - School presentations.
 - Television, newspaper, and radio advertisements.
 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program that includes events and a permanent facility.

ALTERNATIVE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

- Use of more environmentally friendly construction materials (such as rock mattresses and erosion control blankets for the Zacate Creek drainage project).
- Use of hydro-mulch especially after creek cleaning to reduce water and wind erosion.

ORDINANCE DEVELOPMENT

- Storm Water Management
- Industrial Storm Water Management
- Water Pollution Prevention

- Illegal Dumping
- Floodplain Management (Proposed)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Inlet cleaning.
- Floatable controls on inlets and outfalls.
- Creek cleaning.
- Technical support to other department.
- Inlet Stenciling.
- Database for storm sewer systems.

(End of report.)

20. Staff report on the development of the 2000-2025 Laredo

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). (No action is required).

Steve Payne, with Wilbur Smith & Associates, made the presentation before the Council as follows:

Laredo 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

The Laredo Urban Transportation Study is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Laredo urban area. The MPO is responsible for identifying local transportation needs, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), following a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process.

Purpose of the Meeting

- Present findings of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update study.
- Receive comments from the City Council and public.

Planning Process

- The MTP process establishes a framework for making transportation investment decisions.
- Cooperative;
- Continuous; and
- Comprehensive.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Goals

- Commercial/Freight
- Facilities Improvement
- Transit

- Community/Environmental

Transportation Efficiency Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21) Planning Factors

- Support economic vitality;
- Increase system safety;
- Increase mobility and accessibility;
- Protect the environment;
- Promote efficient system management;
- Enhance system connectivity; and
- Preserve the existing transportation system.

Existing Conditions

- Roadway functional classification;

- Roadway capacity analysis;
- Identify international bridges;
- Intermodal transportation facilities;
- Transit; and
- Existing bicycle and pedestrian system.

Functional Classification of Roadways

- Interstate Highways;
- Expressways;
- Principle Arterials;
- Minor Arterials;
- Collectors;
- Local Stores.

Level of Service Analysis

- I-35/US 81;
- US 83;
- US 59;
- State Loop 20;
- State Loop 420;
- FM 3462; and
- FM 1472.

Level of Service Analysis

- Determines the operational capacity of the major roadways.
- Indicates the level of service of the roadway.
 - "A" is the highest quality service, free flow.
 - "B" is good flow, some traffic noticed.
 - "C" is stable flow, some minor delay.
 - "D" is approaching unstable flow.
 - "E" is unstable flow and reaching roadway capacity.
 - "F" is heavy congestion, breakdown in traffic.

International Bridges

Table 2-2

1998 International Bridge Vehicular Crossings

<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>From Mexico</u>	<u>To Mexico</u>	<u>Total Border Traffic</u>
Cars and Buses	7,550,203	7,048,749	14,598,952
Loaded Trucks	650,907	801,086	1,451,993
<u>Empty Trucks</u>	<u>701,291</u>	<u>391,225</u>	<u>1,092,516</u>
Total Vehicles	8,902,401	8,241,060	17,143,461

Daily Vehicle Average 48,152

Source: Laredo Development Foundation

Intermodal Transportation Facilities

- Airport
 - Approximately 158,000 total passengers in 1998.
 - Approximately 380 million pounds of total cargo in 1998.

Source: Laredo Development Foundation

Intermodal Transportation Facilities
Railroad Facilities

Loaded Rail Cars Exports and Imports

<u>Travel Direction</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>Average</u>
Southbound	121,166	109,385	133,314	152,230	148,009	
Percentage Change		-10%	22%	14%	-3%	6%
Northbound	39,867	59,377	85,592	93,967	92,829	
Percent Change		49%	44%	10%	-1%	26%

Source: Laredo Development Foundation

Intermodal Transportation Facilities
Truck Facilities

Loaded Trucks Exports and Imports

<u>Travel Direction</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Southbound	478,000	548,000	416,000	517,000	651,000	801,000
Percent Change	---	15%	-24%	24%	26%	23%
Northbound	252,000	360,000	450,000	576,000	576,000	651,000
Percent Change	---	43%	25%	60%	0%	13%

Source: Laredo Development Foundation

Existing Transit

- 18 fixed routes;
- Annual ridership of 4M; and,
- 90% of Laredo population is within ¼ mile of a bus route.

Intermodal Facilities
Airport

Projected Airline Passengers at

Laredo International Airport

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
<u>Direction</u>						
Arriving	90,788	121,495	162,587	217,579	291,169	389,650
Departing	87,127	116,596	156,032	208,806	279,429	373,939
Total	<u>177,915</u>	<u>238,091</u>	<u>318,619</u>	<u>426,384</u>	<u>570,599</u>	<u>763,590</u>

Note: A 6% annual growth rate was used to estimate future crossings.

Intermodal Facilities
Airport
Projected Air Cargo through Laredo, Texas

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Air Cargo(lbs.)	440M	510M	591M	685M	795M	921M

Note: A 3% annual growth rate was used to estimate future crossings.

Intermodal Facilities
Railroad
Projected Rail Car Border Crossings

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Rail Cars	380,231	485,282	619,357	790,474	1,008,867	1,287,598

Note: A 5% annual growth rate was used to estimate future crossings.

Intermodal Facilities
Truck Facility
Projected Percentage of Trucks Crossing the Border

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Total Trucks	2.9M	4.1M	5.7M	8.0M	11.3M	15.8M
Total Vehicles	17.8M	19.7M	21.7M	24.0M	25.5M	29.3M
Percent Trucks	16%	21%	26%	33%	43%	54%

Note: A 7% annual growth rate was used to estimate future truck crossings.
A 2% annual growth rate was used to estimate future vehicle crossings.

Pedestrian Facilities

- Pedestrian Border Crossings
 - 4 million border crossings in 1998.
 - 5.2 million border crossings in 2025.
- Sidewalk Construction

- Over 50 streets have been identified for sidewalk improvements.

Funding
Projected Total Funding 2000-2025

Funding Source	Period			Total
	2000-2004	2005-2020	2021-2025	
Federal/State	\$ 153.1M	\$ 489.9M	\$ 153.1M	\$ 796.0M
City of Laredo	\$ 135.2M	\$ 443.8M	\$ 140.6M	\$ 719.6M
Webb County	\$ 33.3M	\$ 92.2M	\$ 28.8M	\$ 154.2M
Total	\$ 321.6M	\$1,025.9M	\$ 332.5M	\$1,669.8M

(End of report)

21. Consideration of a request by Municipal Court Judge Rosaura “Wawi” Tijerina regarding the need of a new municipal court office and authorizing the City Manager to request for proposal to conduct a feasibility study of this request.

Rosaura “Wawi” Tijerina, Municipal Court Judge, made the presentation before the Council to request a new municipal court office.

Motion directing staff to conduct a feasibility study for a new court or renovating another building and hiring a consultant.

Moved: Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. J. Galo

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

22. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to deliberate the appointment of an Associate Municipal Court Judge pursuant to Section 5.02 of the City Charter, and return to open session for possible action thereon.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to deliberate the appointment of an Associate Municipal Court Judge pursuant to Section 5.02 of the City Charter, and return to open session for possible action thereon.

Moved: Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

23. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071(1)(A) to consult with City Attorney regarding pending litigation in Cause No. 98-73225, State of Texas vs. Hector Alonso, Municipal Court of Laredo, Texas regarding property located at Ash and Texas, and return to open session for possible action.

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071(1)(A) to consult with City Attorney regarding pending litigation in Cause No. 98-73225, State of Texas vs. Hector Alonso, Municipal Court of Laredo, Texas regarding property located at Ash and Texas, and return to open session for possible action.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

24. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government code Section 551.072 in regards to deliberation the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, for a drainage project at the vicinity of the Laredo International Airport and State Highway 59, 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 deliberation the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, for a drainage project at the vicinity of the Laredo International Airport and State Highway 59, 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: Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 8

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT


Motion to adjourn.

Adjournment time: 8:20 p.m.

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

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 to 23 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held on the 1st day of November 1999.



Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary

Minutes approved 11/15/99