

**CITY OF LAREDO  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
M-2014-SC-05  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1110 HOUSTON STREET  
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014  
12:00 NOON**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Raul G. Salinas led in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Raul G. Salinas,	Mayor
Mike Garza,	District I
Esteban Rangel,	Mayor Pro-Tempore, District II
Juan Narvaez,	District IV
Roque Vela, Jr.,	District V
Charlie San Miguel,	District VI
Jorge A. Vera,	District VII
Cynthia Liendo,	District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.	City Secretary
Carlos Villarreal,	City Manager
Cynthia Collazo,	Deputy City Manager
Horacio De Leon,	Assistant City Manager
Jesus Olivares,	Assistant City Manager
Raul Casso,	City Attorney

Cm. Perez was absent.

**IV. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

1. Providing that the property tax rate (revenue) be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.637000 per \$100 value, which is effectively a 2.18 percent increase in the tax rate (revenue). This tax rate, which has been the same since Tax Year 2004, will have a Maintenance and Operation Rate of \$0.491720 per \$100 value and a Interest and Sinking Fund Rate of \$0.145280 per \$100 value for the levy and the collection of General and

Special Ad Valorem taxes for the City of Laredo for Tax Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2014-2015. (This will be the eleventh year that the City would adopt this same rate.)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

2. Amending Article II of Chapter 6 "Animals and Fowl," of the Code of Ordinances, specifically Section 6-43 (Dogs Running at Large Prohibited; Exceptions) to further clarify existing regulations and provide additional exceptions in the defense of prosecution for dog at large; and Article VII, Section 6-119 (Registration, Vaccination and Permit Fees) to establish a \$25.00 annual permit fee to be required of dog trainers; providing a severability clause; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

**V. MOTION**

3. Consideration to increase the temporary leasehold/management agreement with Foresight Golf, L.L.C., by an amount of \$337,511.00 for the operation of The Max A. Mandel Golf Course from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014 for a total of \$747,194.00 to cover estimated net losses for the 2014 fiscal year. Funding is available in General Fund.

Budget Director Martin Aleman reported that overall, the budget for total revenues was projected to be at \$1.3 million; however, the actual amount was \$1,065,605.

Dan Pedrotti, Jr., Ed Miller, and Mike Wilden from Foresight Golf reported that they had brought their marketing plan going forward including initiatives such as corporate partnership, which would mean visiting with different corporate interests in Laredo who might be interested in buying in bulk. He explained that the backbone of this economic model had to be citizens of Laredo who could enjoy a ten-week grassroots program to enjoy the game from scratch. He added that they had developed an infomercial to this end.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rangel

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 4

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vela

Cm. Garza

Cm. Vera

Cm. Narvaez

Mayor Pro Tem Rangel

Cm. San Miguel

Cm. Liendo

4. Approving the request of United Independent School District (UISD) to authorize the issuance of building permits, electrical permits or permits for other construction related services, after each of the following plats have received final approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission, for the following school sites: Coves at Winfield Subdivision, Phase I; Replat of Cuatro Vientos UISD Middle School; EG Ranch Middle School Plat; San Isidro UISD School Plat; United South High School 9th Grade Campus; EG Ranch UISD Elementary School Plat; LBJ 9th Grade UISD Campus Plat and further authorizing the recording of any said plats once any required public improvements have been constructed as per the approved plat and plans and accepted by the City of Laredo pursuant to the Laredo Subdivision Ordinance, Section 4-2. H. 6.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rangel

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

## **VI. STAFF REPORTS**

5. Continuation of FY 2015 Budget Workshop with presentations from Solid Waste, Utilities, Municipal Court and Convention and Visitors Bureau and any other department or division of the City of Laredo that the City Council may want to interview, with possible action.

Motion to instruct the City Manager to appropriate \$375,000 in the Sports and Community Venue Fund for the electric Billboard for the Laredo Energy Arena to replace electronic marquee located at Jacaman and Loop 20.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to instruct the City Manager to increase the Full Time Equivalent positions in the Sports and Community Venue – Sales Tax Fund to add a maintenance crew for the Uni-Trade Maintenance and Operations, consisting of one (1) crew leader and four (4) groundskeepers.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Vela

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to table item 3 to instruct the City Manager to appropriate an additional \$255,000 for the Recreation Fund to cover the estimated net losses for the Max Golf Course which are projected to total \$720,000.

Moved: Cm. Garza  
 Second: Cm. Vera  
 For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Solid Waste Director Stephen Geiss gave a presentation before Mayor and City Council.

Full Time Equivalents

FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	FY14-15
128	128	129	131

18 unfilled positions

Garbage Rate Comparison for Texas Cities

City	Rate
Eagle Pass	\$13.50
Abilene	\$14.35
Laredo	\$15.00
Plano	\$15.10
Grand Prairie	\$15.30
McAllen	\$15.80
El Paso	\$16.00
Lubbock	\$16.50
Garland	\$17.58
San Antonio	\$19.43
Dallas	\$20.35
Brownsville	\$20.75
Corpus Christi	\$20.95
Fort Worth	\$22.75
Cameron County	\$27.65
Austin	\$33.50

Frequency	City	Rate	Recycling Programs
Once/wk	Austin	\$33.50	Bi-weekly
Once/wk	Cameron County	\$27.65	Drop off Centers
Once/wk	Fort Worth	\$22.75	Once a week
Once/wk	Corpus Christi	\$20.95	Bi-weekly
Once/wk	Dallas	\$20.35	Once a week
Once/wk	San Antonio	\$19.43	Once a week
Twice/wk	Brownsville	\$20.75	Drop off Centers
Once/wk	Garland	\$17.58	Once a week
Once/wk	El Paso	\$16.00	Once a week
Once/wk	McAllen	\$15.80	Once a week
Twice/wk	Lubbock	\$16.50	Drop off Centers
Once/wk	Grand Prairie	\$15.30	Once a week

Once/wk	Plano	\$15.10	Bi-weekly
Twice/wk	Abilene	\$14.35	Drop off Centers
Once/wk	Eagle Pass	\$13.50	Drop off Centers
Once/wk	Laredo	\$15.00	(Oct. 2014) Once a week

Collections Comparison Before and After Pick Up Schedule Change

October 1, 2012 through July 1, 2013	Garbage	84,054
	Recycle	2,677
October 1, 2013 through July 31, 2014	Garbage	72,901
	Recycle	9,541

Utilities Director Tomas Rodriguez gave a presentation before Mayor and City Council.

Water and Sewer Rate Comparisons

Water Rates  
2,000 Gallons

Water Rates  
10,000 Gallons

Eagle Pass	\$ 7.77	McAllen	\$ 18.65
Harlingen	\$ 7.93	San Antonio Regular	\$ 18.77
McAllen	\$ 8.75	Corpus Christi	\$ 19.00
Corpus Christi	\$ 8.89	San Antonio Seasonal	\$ 19.26
Laredo	\$ 8.90	Harlingen	\$ 19.90
San Antonio Seasonal	\$ 9.25	Laredo	\$ 23.76
San Antonio Regular	\$ 9.25	Eagle Pass	\$ 26.49
Brownsville	\$ 13.98	Brownsville	\$ 31.89

Water Rates  
30,000 Gallons

Sewer Rates  
2,000 Gallons

Corpus Christi	\$ 49.02	Eagle Pass	\$ 8.36
McAllen	\$ 52.15	Laredo	\$ 8.93
Harlingen	\$ 54.10	Harlingen	\$ 9.72
Laredo	\$ 64.36	McAllen	\$ 11.80
Eagle Pass	\$ 67.59	San	\$ 12.24

			Antonio	
Brownsville	\$ 68.37		Brownsville	\$ 13.79
San Antonio Regular	\$ 75.89		Corpus Christi	\$ 25.96
San Antonio Seasonal	\$ 93.88			

**Sewer Rates  
10,000 Gallons**

McAllen	\$ 23.00
Eagle Pass	\$ 23.88
San Antonio	\$ 31.33
Laredo	\$ 33.63
Harlingen	\$ 39.88
Brownsville	\$ 41.15
Corpus Christi	\$ 67.96

**Sewer Rates  
30,000 Gallons**

McAllen	\$ 51.00
Eagle Pass	\$ 62.68
San Antonio	\$ 70.13
Laredo	\$ 101.43
Brownsville	\$ 113.55
Harlingen	\$ 115.28
Corpus Christi	\$ 129.11

**WATER & SEWER FEES CALCULATOR!**

If you would like to calculate your water and sewer fees, go to the City of Laredo Utilities Department website at [www.ci.laredo.tx.us/Utilities05/index.htm](http://www.ci.laredo.tx.us/Utilities05/index.htm). Click on Water Utility Billing and select "Calculate Your W & S Fees". Just enter your water consumption in the yellow square, and you will calculate your water and sewer fees.

Municipal Court Judge Rosie Cuellar reported that as a judge, her duty was not to collect revenues but to dispense justice. She gave a presentation regarding revenues and explained that it was very difficult to compare other cities with Laredo as there were too many variables to make a true assessment.

**Criminal Cases**

Total Cases on Docket: 264,202  
 Dismissed by Prosecution: 9,647  
 Total Cases Disposed: 56,742  
 Total Fines, Court Costs and Other Amounts Collected: \$4,368,631

CVB Director Blasitz Lopez gave a presentation before Mayor Salinas and City Council.

**Social Media Followers**

Instagram: 11%  
 Twitter: 48%

Facebook: 40%  
Others: 1%

Ambassador & Destination Training Programs

Ambassadors: 25

Destination Trainees: 262

Casa Laredo located at Plaza Fiesta San Agustin in San Pedro Garza Garcia, N.L.

Laredo Tourism Industry Report Card

2013 Economic Impact	Visitor Economy
Visitor Spending*	\$586,000,000
Employee Earnings*	\$140,000,000
HOT revenue	\$4,300,000 (estimated FY2014)
Visitors	960,000
Hotel Occupancy**	68%
Average Daily Rate**	\$74.00

\*Statistics from the Office of the Governor Tourism and Economic Development, Dan Runyan study

\*\*Source Strategies, Hotel Performance Fact Book 2013 Annual

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Vera

For: 7

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 07 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the Special City Council meeting held on September 9, 2014.

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Gustavo Guevara, Jr.  
City Secretary