

LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The meeting for the 2nd PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2016 PROPERTY TAX RATE of the Laredo Community College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, August 25, 2016 beginning at 6:12 p.m. in the Elpha Lee West Building room 105 at the Fort McIntosh Campus.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mercurio Martinez Jr., President
Allen Tijerina, Vice President
Cynthia Mares, Secretary
Rene De La Viña
Gilberto Martinez Jr.
Michelle De La Peña
Jackie Leven-Ramos
Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis
Rusty Meurer, College Attorney
Nora Stewart
Patricia Barrera, Webb County
Tax Assessor-Collector

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leonides G. Cigarroa Jr.
Cin Bickel, Faculty Representative

CALL TO ORDER

**2ND PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE PROPOSED
2016 PROPERTY TAX
RATE – MS. NORA
STEWART,
DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS**

Judge Mercurio Martinez Jr., Board President, welcomed all present and called the hearing to order. Ms. Cynthia Mares, Board Secretary, called the roll. A quorum of the members was present.

Judge Martinez, Board President, introduced himself, indicated the Board is now convening today's Second Public Hearing on the proposed 2016 Laredo Community College Property Tax increase. He presided as Chair of the Hearing and provided the following background information:

- Laredo Community College published in the Laredo Morning Times on August 3, 2016, a Notice of the 2016 Effective Property Tax Rate for Laredo Community College.
- Afterwards, on August 11, 2016, the Laredo Community College Tax Assessor Collector published in the Laredo Morning Times a Notice of Public Hearing advising that the First Public Hearing on the proposed 2016 Property Tax increase would take place in this room at 6:00 p.m. A second notice was published in the Laredo Morning Times earlier this week notifying of this hearing. Tonight we are conducting the Second Public Hearing on the proposed Property Tax increase.
- The Laredo Community College 2016 effective property tax rate for maintenance and operations and debt service combined is \$0.318164 per \$100 valuation. The 2016 property tax rollback rate for maintenance and operations and debt service combined is \$0.343162 per \$100 valuation.
- If the Board of Trustees approves the proposed tax rate increase, the proposed 2016 property tax rate for maintenance and operations and debt service combined will be \$0.343000 per \$100 valuation. This rate is less than the rollback tax rate but more than the effective tax rate.
- Each proponent and opponent may now step up to the podium to express his or her views regarding the proposed tax increase to the Board of Trustees, one at a time. The Board will allow each proponent and opponent up to three minutes of time to present his or her views. According to Board of Trustees policy CC (Local), no officer or employee from the College is required to respond to questions from speakers.

There being no comments or testimony, he announced the Third Public Hearing on the proposed property tax increase is scheduled to take place on September 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Laredo Community College Campus, Elpha Lee West Building room 105, West End Washington St., Laredo, TX

78040. The Board is scheduled to adopt the tax rate on that particular day. Judge Martinez concluded the Laredo Community College Second Public Hearing on the 2016 proposed property tax increase and entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:18 p.m., Mr. Rene De La Viña, Board Member, moved to adjourn the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mares; motion carried.

Ms. Mares asked about the motion she made at the last meeting that passed regarding that, at this meeting, administration would go back and look at possible cuts in the different departments and bring options to the Board to improve the proposed tax rate. The College Attorney, Mr. Meurer, mentioned that this could be addressed under item number 4 on the agenda.

The special meeting of the Laredo Community College Board of Trustees convened at 6:20 p.m. immediately following the public hearing. Judge Martinez asked Ms. Mares to call the roll. A quorum of the Board was present.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mercurio Martinez Jr., President
Allen Tijerina, Vice President
Cynthia Mares, Secretary
Rene De La Viña
Gilberto Martinez Jr.
Michelle De La Peña
Jackie Leven-Ramos
Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis
Rusty Meurer, College Attorney
Nora Stewart
Patricia Barrera, Webb County
Tax Assessor-Collector

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leonides G. Cigarroa Jr.
Cin Bickel, Faculty Representative

**STATUS REPORT WITH DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS AT LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE FORT MCINTOSH CAMPUS
- MS. CYNTHIA MARES**

Ms. Mares acknowledged the Phase III construction and renovation projects. She mentioned the reason for putting this item on the agenda was that it was brought to her attention and had gotten an inordinate amount of phone calls. She went on to say, "I want a status report of exactly what are the improvements that are being done to the president's house. I don't recall this Board approving anything specific. I mean did we just give administration a blank check?" Judge Martinez made the following observation, "I'm afraid I'm the person responsible for that Ms. Mares because I was fortunate enough I took advantage of taking a visit to that house while some work was being done and I do not mind telling you that I was shocked to see the conditions of the interior of that house." Judge Martinez mentioned it was his intention to place this item on the agenda for the September 29, 2016 Board meeting. During discussion, Board Members expressed their views. Ms. Mares closed the item by stating it is about transparency and accountability. Judge Martinez took full responsibility.

Ms. Leven-Ramos mentioned she had questions regarding the construction master plan. Judge Martinez called on Mr. Robert Porter, Construction Project Manager. He distributed the Facilities Master Plan Status Report and answered questions from the Board with the assistance of architects Mario Peña and Robert Sepulveda. CMAR, Mr. Gary Leyendecker, was available to address questions about the construction schedules, budget, drawing phase, soliciting of bids, and process to be followed to bring GMAX for Board approval. Mr. Porter made reference to the status report that contained the steps to access on-

line the status of the construction projects. Ms. Mares recognized the good work of the architects, Mr. Leyendecker, and Mr. Porter. The status report was presented for information purposes. Judge Martinez noted this item was on the September 1st meeting agenda and recommended to continue the discussion at that time.

**RESCIND ACTION
TAKEN BY THE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES DURING
THE AUGUST 18, 2016
SPECIAL BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING
IN RELATION TO
AGENDA ITEM #4 –
JUDGE MERCURIO
MARTINEZ, JR.**

Judge Martinez asked for a motion to approve this item. Mr. De La Viña asked for clarification. Ms. Mares inquired if this was to rescind her motion. Judge Martinez confirmed this and noted it was so the Board could continue with the matter in which it was recommended. Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor-Collector, explained if the tax rate is lowered the Board would have to start the whole process again. She verified this with the State Comptroller and also mentioned Mr. Meurer confirmed this upon his review of the tax code. Board Members expressed their views, concerns, questions, and considered the motion that was to be rescinded during the discussion. College Attorney, Mr. Meurer, mentioned the higher education code requires community college board of trustees to adopt a budget on September 1, 2016, not after. The tax code states a tax rate could be adopted as late as September 30th and explained if the College Trustees entertain to adopt a lower tax rate that the currently proposed one the process has to be restarted and noted on September 1st a full discussion on the tax rate and the budget could take place. Judge Martinez asked for a motion to rescind the action. Board Member, Dr. Gilberto Martinez Jr., so moved. The motion was seconded by Board Member, Ms. Michelle De La Peña; motion carried with six votes. Ms. Mares and Mr. De La Viña voted against.

**NEXT MEETING
DATES:**

Judge Martinez acknowledged the next meeting dates as noted below:
6:00 p.m. in Elpha Lee West room 105
Thursday, September 1, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 p.m., Mr. Tijerina moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. De La Peña seconded the motion; motion carried.

Judge Mercurio Martinez Jr., President Ms. Cynthia Mares, Secretary