Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 10, 2009

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Alderman Jerry Stone, Ward Sanders, Sam Cortez, Kevin Keith, Rudy Hernandez; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; Director of Public Works James McGrath; City Attorney Tom Cate; Librarian Cassandra Cortez.

Visitors: Johnny Rodriguez, Christopher Bowen, Ernest Kroeger, Julio Inocencio, Chuck Bayne, Michelle Keith, Mary Barrios, Cynthia Stanukinos, Julie Myers, Matt Dear, Anthony Kircus, Sam Parks, Bobbie Lassiter, Bobby Roberts.

**APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 13th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

**A. CONSIDER REQUEST FROM VFW POST TO USE CITY FACILITIES FOR UPCOMING FREEDOM WALK ON SEPTEMBER 12TH-JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ**

Johnny Rodriguez, member of the VFW asked Council for permission to use the park pavilion for the Freedom Walk being held September 12th. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant Mr. Rodriguez’ request to use the pavilion and the city provide police, fire department and EMS for Freedom Walk. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

**B. CONSIDER REQUEST FOR UPGRADING VETERANS’ MEMORIAL PARK IN THE NEW BUDGET YEAR-JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ**

Mr. Rodriguez asked Council if Veterans’ Memorial Park could be upgraded. Mayor Bowen asked Mr. Rodriguez to explain what the VFW has in mind. Mr. Rodriguez told Council a sign for this park is needed, as well as fixing it up and painting the gazebo, and upgrading the present memorial. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Rodriguez this request would be considered when working on the budget and will try to get it incorporated. No action was taken on this request until Mr. Rodriguez comes back with information on the sign.

**CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BLUEBONNET CHILDREN’S CENTER FOR FUNDING**

Cynthia Stanukinos from the Bluebonnet Childrens’ Advocacy Center told Council about what the center provides for Lytle and asked for a contribution from the City. Alderman Stone made the motion that the City give the Bluebonnet Childrens’ Advocacy Center $1,000.00, in consideration for the services provided to the City of Lytle. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER IMPROVEMENTS TO BALL ROAD**

Mayor Bowen and Director James McGrath told Council that the engineer had taken a look at Ball Road and had told them that there were several items discussed for the street being paved. Mayor Bowen told Council that the engineer will be working at getting a letter drawn up concerning improvements for Ball Road and should have something ready for Council’s consideration in a couple of weeks, and that no action was needed at this meeting.
CONSIDER REQUEST TO USE CITY’S NEW ANIMAL SHELTER FOR DOG GONE 
FUN RUN IN NOVEMBER
Alderman Sanders told Council that Dr. Broach had asked if the Animal Shelter is open in November, if they hold a fundraiser for the shelter and horse farm during the Dog Gone Fun Run in November. He said if so, the fun run will be done at Lake Shore Estates. City Secretary Josie Campa reminded Council that the Dog Gone Foundation had donated $2,000.00 to the city’s shelter last year. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council grant this request. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING AUDITING FIRM FOR 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Beyer and Company will do the city’s annual audit for $9,500.00 this year due to additional items being required. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council hire Beyer and Company to perform the audit for the 2008-2009 fiscal year for $9,500.00. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BIDS RECEIVED ON OLD POLICE CAR
City Secretary Josie Campa presented the bids received on the old police car. They were as follows:

Mel Mendoza - $1,500.00
Jacob Grothues - $1,600.00
Michael Heard - $1,250.00
Johnny Shodeen - $1,556.99
Javier Guerra - $1,870.00
Christopher Harris - $1,806.00

Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council accept bid from Javier Guerra for $1,870.00. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF NEW FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE
City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that the new floodplain ordinance is pretty standard and the city doesn’t have much choice and recommended this ordinance be adopted. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 331. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF VEHICLE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that a vehicle is needed for Animal Control. He told Council he had looked at used vehicles and used trucks are pretty fancy and selling for $8,000.00-$10,000.00. The Chief told Council that a new truck thru the Houston COG will run $14,600.00 for a ½-ton Dodge pickup and $500.00 less for a ½-ton Dakota Truck. The Chief gave Council the information he had on used trucks he found that are all at least six years old to eight years old with a lot of miles and run from $4,995.00 to $8,995.00. Council discussed this item at length and the pros and cons for new truck or older used truck and the perception of the public. After a long discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council buy a new truck for the
CONSIDER PURCHASE OF VEHICLE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL
DEPARTMENT (CONT.)
Animal Control Officer and price for this vehicle be capped at $16,000.00. Seconded by
Alderman Keith. Discussion. VOTE-FOR-Alderman Sanders, Keith, Cortez and Stone.
AGAINST-Alderman Hernandez. Motion carried.

CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE AMENDING SPEED LIMITS ON IH 35
FRONTAGE ROADS AS PROPOSED BY TxDOT
Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 332 reducing speed
limit on IH 35 access roads from 50 mph to 45 mph. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed
unanimously.

CONSIDER FIRE MARSHALS' PAY
Mayor Bowen told Council he had asked that this item be on the agenda because Chief Priest and
Corporal Dear had done a lot of work to become Fire Marshals. City Secretary Josie Campa told
Council $2,000.00 for each had been put in the budget. After discussion, Alderman Cortez made
the motion that Council pay each Fire Marshal $2,000.00 more a year effective immediately.

Council took a short break at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

CONSIDER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR CITY PARK
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that there is $10,000.00 for capital improvements to the
park in this year’s budget and Alderman Hernandez had suggested covers for the bleachers.
Alderman Hernandez explained to Council about the need for these covers. Alderman
Hernandez made the motion that Council spend the $10,000.00 capital improvements monies for
as many covers for the bleachers that this money can buy. Seconded by Alderman Sanders.
Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO 2008-2009 BUDGET
City Secretary Josie Campa read the proposed budget amendments to Council. They were as
follows:

GENERAL FUND
Revenues
Discounts - + $ 1,200.00
Franchise Taxes - + $ 4,000.00
Sales Tax - + $ 5,000.00
Garbage Fees - + $ 8,700.00
CONSIDER PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO 2008-2009 BUDGET (CONT.)

Disbursements  
**Public Safety Dept.**
- Attorney Fees - + $3,000.00  
- Misc. Equipment - + $21,000.00  
- System & Eqpt.-Repairs & Maintenance - - $5,000.00  
- Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance - - $3,000.00  
- Gasoline & Oil - - $13,000.00  

**Public Works Dept.**
- Garbage Collections Fees - + $7,600.00  

**WATER FUND**

**Revenues**
- Water Service Fees - + $20,000.00  

**Disbursements**
- Salaries & Wages - - $3,000.00  
- Overtime Pay - + $3,000.00  

**GAS FUND**

**Revenues**
- Gas Services Fees - - $25,000.00  

**Disbursements**
- Salaries & Wages - - $4,000.00  
- Overtime Pay - + $4,000.00  
- Gas Purchased For System - - $25,000.00  

**SEWER FUND**

**Revenues**
- Sewer Fees - - $7,500.00  
- Expenditures - - $7,500.00  

Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the budget amendments proposed by the City Secretary. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

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CONSIDER BRUSH PICK-UP
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that there is a lot of brush along city streets again and due to the dry conditions this brush is a fire hazard. She requested permission to hold another pick-up even though that line item in the current budget is over at this time. Council discussed the brush situation and Mayor Bowen told Council he wants to try and find a solution to this problem. He asked Alderman Keith to assist him with this project. After more discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that the city hire someone to clean up the brush this time and amend the budget to reflect this expenditure, and that the City Secretary come up with a proposal for resolving this problem. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

LIBRARIAN’S REPORT
Librarian Cassandra Cortez told Council about the success of the Summer Reading Program and showed them photos. The librarian also showed Council pictures of some of the stepping stones crafted for the library grounds by the children attending this program.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS’ REPORT
Director of Public Works James McGrath reported the following:

1 - 182 work orders completed last month;
2 - two new water meters installed;
3 - one of these was for the new HEB ice machine;
4 - two water service leaks fixed;
5 - two water main breaks fixed;
6 - one of these leaks was by the railroad tracks at Coal Mine;
7 - broke a gas line at this location and had to fix that first;
8 - one water service leak fixed;
9 - three sewer stoppages unclogged;
10 - manholes have been checked;
11 - one gas meter installed last month;
12 - one gas leak fixed;
13 - HEB is checking on current pressure to see if they can do away with their storage tank;
14 - line locations were done;
15 - TCEQ inspected sewer plant and files and didn’t find any violations;
16 - needing engineers for four projects;
17 - Jacob Grothues started work; and
18 - still waiting on Derek Foraker’s background check.

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POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.
The Chief told Council work would soon be started on abandoned houses, and will need help from the building inspector.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reviewed her written report with Council.

The Secretary reminded Council that the first budget workshop would be held next Monday, August 17th.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Bowen told Council that Best Western has been set back a bit by a couple of challenges from TxDot and drainage, but we should receive their plans this week.

The Mayor told Council new businesses are still interested in Lytle and the future looks bright.

Mayor Bowen told council the Website go-live date is set for September 18th.

The Mayor told Council he would be working with the Police Chief and city attorney on the city’s second biggest complaint-graffiti.

Mayor Bowen told Council this has been the worst drought and asked everyone to conserve water.

The Mayor told Council that a parade will be held October 17th for Homecoming and he would like to have a float.

Mayor Bowen informed Council that Subway will be in Lytle in December and that he is still working on getting a Whataburger.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.