

Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 12, 2009

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

Visitors: Commission Bill Torans, Christopher Bowen, William Alonzo, Bobbie Aguniaga, Chuck Bayne, Ernest Kroeger, Mark McLiney, Julio Inocencio, Sam Parks.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the minutes from the regular meeting held September 14th, the public hearing held September 14th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Bowen presented Police Chief Richard Priest with a Certificate of Recognition for his ten (10) years of dedicated service to the City of Lytle.

CONSIDER ACQUIRING CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-MARK MCLINEY

Mark McLiney of Southwest Securities told Council that if they choose to get certificates of obligation for a project, it will not be difficult; since the city's audit reports have been very good. He gave Council a couple of scenarios and said interest rates are very low right now. Mr. McLiney told Council that a notice of intention would have to be passed and then published two weeks in a row, if no one petitions for an election then the certificates can be issued, and the city can get money. If the Council chooses to do the notice of intention at the November meeting, Mr. McLiney said the city could have the money by January. Mr. McLiney told Council that the city could probably get an interest rate of less than 5%.

CONSIDER "SCHOOL ZONE" ON N. PRAIRIE STREET

A. CONSIDER CHANGE ON NORTHERN BOUNDARY

Alderman Keith told Council he had checked on the boundaries for the school zone on N. Prairie Street and then made the motion that the school zone on N. Prairie's north side starting on Laredo Street. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

B. CONSIDER CHANGING TIMES FOR THIS ZONE

Alderman Keith told Council he had talked to the Primary School Principal about the time for the school zone and that the time for the school zone on N. Prairie can be the same as all the rest. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council set the same hours for the N. Prairie Street school zone as the rest of the school zones set at the last meeting. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REMOVAL OF HANDICAP PARKING SPACE ON WEST SIDE OF N. SOMERSET STREET

Mayor Bowen told Council that TxDot recommended doing away with the handicap parking area on the West side of N. Somerset Street since there is not enough space to meet minimum state requirements. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council have the handicap parking space removed on the West side of N. Somerset Street. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADVERTISING FOR BIDS ON UNUSED CITY VEHICLES

Chief Priest told Council that he has a 1997 Ford Crown Victoria that he will want to get rid of once the new car is online. He asked for permission to advertise for sealed bids on this vehicle. The Council discussed other vehicles that can be put out for bids such as the Animal Control truck and the Directors truck. Council discussed minimum bids for these vehicles. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council allow the Chief to advertise for sealed bids on the 1997 Crown Victoria and the a minimum bids of \$1,000.00 for the car and \$750.00 for the truck. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SERVICE CONTRACT WITH LYTLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council enter into a contract with the Lytle Volunteer Fire Department as per the budgeted amount. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM GIDLEY FARMS TO PURCHASE WATER RIGHTS

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Bill Gidley has agreed to sell the city ten (10) acre feet of water due to the city's prior commitment. Alderman Stone made the motion that the city purchase ten (10) acre feet of water at \$5,200.00 per acre foot from Gidley Farms. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH TEXAS WATER ASSOCIATION

Alderman Stone told Council that the city has participated in the South Texas Water Alliance over the past couple of years, but he doesn't see where this is helping the city. He also told Council that he doesn't want to be the city's representative to this group anymore. He said the dues are \$200.00 a year and he thinks Lytle is capable of getting its own water, and should no longer participate. After more discussion, Alderman Keith made the motion that the city terminate its current engagement with the South Texas Water Alliance. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that \$10,000.00 had been allocated in this year's budget for capital improvements to parks; and asked permission to proceed with improvements to the Veterans Park to try to get it ready in time for Veterans' Day. The City Secretary asked Council to include the sign requested by the VFW as part of these improvements. Mayor Bowen told

CONSIDER IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK (CONT.)

Council he agreed that the signs should be part of the improvements since Veterans had served their country and should be honored. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council allow the City Secretary to start working on the capital improvement to the Veterans Park and to include the sign for the park as part of these improvements. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PARKING LOT FOR ANIMAL SHELTER

Alderman Sanders told Council that the work needing to be done at the shelter has been divided into three parts-the parking lot, fill for the area and fencing. He told Council Brenda Granberg is working with an engineer to draw up plans and specs and they should be ready soon. Mayor Bowen said no action is needed on this item until plans and specs are reading and then a special meeting could be called.

CONSIDER SALARY INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES

Council discussed the salary increases proposed in this year's budget. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve the salary increase as proposed in the budget. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written report with Council.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT

Director of Public Works James McGrath reported the following:

- 1 - 138 work orders were completed last month;
- 2 - 1 new water meter installed;
- 3 - 1 angle stop was repaired on a water service;
- 4 - 2 service line leaks were repaired;
- 5 - 3 customer water service leaks were fixed;
- 6 - 2 main line leaks were fixed;
- 7 - 1 fire hydrant was repaired;
- 8 - 1 fire hydrant was changed out;
- 9 - 2 sewer stoppages were unclogged;
- 10 - 3 customer sewer stoppages were unclogged;
- 11 - checked sewer mains;
- 12 - 1 gas leak fixed;
- 13 - 1 gas leak found;
- 14 - 3 septic tanks were set at shelter;
- 15 - picked up supplies to finish inside of shelter;
- 16 - Railroad Commission did audit of city's gas system; and
- 17 - thanked Council for new truck.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council, and said over the next thirty (30) days, officers will be having training on accident forms, arson and other items.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT

City Secretary Josie Campa added the following items to her written report:

- 1 - Council will have a parade float to ride on the line up start at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 17th;
- 2 - reported on how well the last fiscal year's budget did; and
- 3 - showed Council reports on city's website.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bowen thanked Council members for their participation in "National Night Out" and praised them for their 100% participation.

The Mayor told Council he attended a Shelter Volunteer Class on Saturday.

Mayor Bowen told Council that Main Street is being spruced up for Homecoming.

The Mayor told Council that the Vaughns had reported that all monies made on the sale of food at National Night Out is being used for care packages to Iraq.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.