Minutes of Regular Meeting held November 9, 2009

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


APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 12th and the special meeting held October 26th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the Christmas Decorating Committee was selling luminaries for Christmas as a money making project.

CONSIDER COMPLAINT FROM MARIA BARANY ABOUT NEIGHBORS HAVING TOO MANY PARTIES WITH LOUD MUSIC
Maria Barany told Council that her neighbors have a pavilion by their home and complained about how often they party and have loud music. After lengthy discussion, Mayor Bowen told Mrs. Barany that the city will monitor this situation. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER ESTABLISHING NEED FOR SAFE FOOD-HANDLING IN CITY AND REQUIRING TRAINING FOR FOOD HANDLERS AND PROVIDING ACCESS FOR TRAINING-MISSY HERNANDEZ
Missy Hernandez told Council she is a certified food safety trainer and she has noticed that Lytle does not have food safety regulations and this is very disconcerting. She told Council she feels the city should be more pro-active and recommended the city try and get an ordinance adopted and then support it by providing a venue for food handlers’ training. Mrs. Hernandez offered her services to Council. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council have the City Attorney draw up an ordinance concerning food handlers and training. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CONDUCTING JOINT ELECTIONS BETWEEN SOUTHWEST ISD AND THE CITY OF LYTLE FOR MAY 8, 2010 ELECTION
William Atkins, Assistant Superintendent at Southwest I.S.D. asked Council to consider allowing them to hold an election at the City Hall again next May. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council allow Southwest I.S.D. to hold an election in May at the City Hall. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A FINANCIAL ADVISORY CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LYTLE AND SOUTHWEST SECURITIES
Mark McLiney of Southwest Securities told Council that before he can give the city any help with bonds or certificates there has to be a contract for services between the city and Southwest Securities for financial advise. Mr. McLiney told Council that Southwest Securities will only get paid when bonds are sold. After more discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council enter into a contract with Southwest Securities for financial advise. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYTLE, TEXAS AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION; COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENT CONTAINED IN SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RULE 15c2-12; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
Mark McLiney talked to Council about the city’s chances for getting certificates of obligation. He said the city’s great financial condition will make it easier to get certificates. He then gave a timeline for getting these certificates and said this timeline can easily be changed when Council decides the amount they want to get and what they want these certificates for. Council held a lengthy discussion on what these certificates would be used for and then, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council table this item until more information is obtained. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Council agreed to hold a workshop to determine what city’s needs are before trying to get certificates of obligation or bonds.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM CPS ENERGY FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY’S GAS SYSTEM
Darren Lange from CPS Energy told Council that he was approached by City representatives to have CPS consider operating and maintaining the city’s natural gas system. Mr. Lange explained to the Council the role CPS would play, if Council decides to go with CPS Energy. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Mayor Bowen has asked her to look at the city’s gas budget to see if the City could afford to go with CPS to run the city’s gas system. The City Secretary told Council that CPS has agreed to drop the price from $90,000.00 a year to $78,000.00 which will mean the city will have to cut several line items of the current budget in order to be able to pay for this service. Mayor Bowen told Council that a driving force for this item was the gas outage scheduled for next July, and urged Council to consider this proposal. After a lengthy discussion on the services CPS will provide, if the city decides to go with this company, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council enter into a contract with CPS Energy for operating and maintaining the city’s natural gas system at a cost of $78,000.00 per year. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion. Alderman Stone added to his motion that approval be contingent on the legalities with the contract being agreed upon. Vote on this motion was unanimous.
CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO ATASCOSA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011
Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council reappoint Kim Faulk to the Atascosa County Appraisal District's Board of Directors for 2010-2011. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NOMINATING CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION OF MEDINA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011
Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council adopt the resolution nominating John Ward as the city’s candidate for election to the Medina County Appraisal District’s Board of Directors for 2010-2011. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMIT HOURS AND N. PRAIRIE STREET SCHOOL ZONE
Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 337. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CITY ATTORNEY TO ACT ON SERIOUS CODE VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO UNSIGHTLY LOTS AND DANGEROUS BUILDINGS
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that he had discussed serious code violations concerning unsightly lots and dangerous buildings with the City Attorney and recommended that Council authorize the City Attorney to act in these type of cases. After lengthy discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council authorize the City Attorney to act on serious city code violations pertaining to unsightly lots and dangerous buildings after consultation with appropriate officials. Discussion. Alderman Stone withdrew his motion. After more discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council authorize the City Attorney to act on serious code violations pertaining to unsightly lots and dangerous buildings upon the exhaustion of all guidelines and remedies called for in the ordinances. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER OVERALL COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES
Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the overall compensation for employees, as budgeted. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CANCELLING DECEMBER REGULAR MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAYS AND ALLOWING BILLS TO BE PAID IN DECEMBER
Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council cancel the December regular meeting and allow payment of the bills. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Library Director Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written report with Council.

PUBLIC WORK DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Director of Public Works James McGrath reported the following:

1 - 169 work orders completed;
2 - 1 new water meter installed;
3 - 1 angle stop replaced;
4 - 4 water service leaks fixed;
5 - 1 water main break was fixed;
6 - relocated 1 water meter;
7 - had 2 sewer main stoppages;
8 - 20 sewer man holes were checked;
9 - aerator at sewer plant had gear go out and will cost over $11,000.00 to repair;
10 - 1 gas leak fixed;
11 - 1 coupling left to remove;
12 - low CP reading fixed; and
13 - animal shelter septic tanks and laterals have been installed and dish washer and commode will need to be installed and about a day of work still needed at shelter.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

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

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Mark Bowen reminded Council and everyone about the annual hayride on November 28th.

Mayor Bowen told Council that the City has received a lot of compliments on the newly painted Gidley house.

The Mayor told Council work on the Veterans’ Park has started and that this a way we can tell Veterans how much we appreciate them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.