Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 11, 2010

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


APPROVE MINUTES & APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 9th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Julio Inocencio told Council that Ball Road has several pot holes and asked when they would be fixed. He told Council he had turned in a work order a week ago. The City Secretary said she would check with Public Works about this matter.

Sam Parks showed Council the bigger rear view mirror he had for Chief Priest, since he heard about the backing up accident.

Alderman Ward Sanders told everyone that the city would be holding the grand opening for the Animal Control facility on January 30th at 2 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES TO WINNERS OF CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST
Mayor Bowen presented plaques and checks to the winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest.

Residential Winners were:
3rd place-Jason Stricker
2nd place-Steven Solis
1st place-Valdemar Martinez

Business Winners were:
3rd place-Pyron’s Gifts & More
2nd place-F & D Flea Market
1st place-Lytle Feed & Seed
CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM ZONING COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM DAVID EMERY TO REZONE PROPERTY FROM R-1 TO R-2
Mayor Bowen told Council that the Zoning Commission had met and voted unanimously to recommend to Council that the Emery property be rezoned from R-1 to R-2 as requested. Brad Boyd told Council he is in the process of buying the property from Mr. Emery and that he plans to build a duplex. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council accept the recommendation from the Zoning Commission and the Emery property be rezoned to R-2. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM TONY RENDON TO PERMIT HIM TO START CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW HOMES AT LAKE SHORE ESTATES-UNIT 2
Tony Rendon asked Council for permission to start building two new houses in the second unit of Lake Shore Estates. He told Council the new unit is about 95% completed and that the city’s engineer has fixed a punch list. Mr. Rendon, also told Council that he will have to finish everything in the new subdivision before he can close on homes, so he hopes to have everything done in three months when the homes will be completed. After a lengthy discussion about variances of the subdivision ordinance, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council grant Mr. Rendon’s request based on Mr. Rendon’s merit. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM DANIEL FLORES FOR CITY TO PROVIDE GRAVEL ROAD AT THE END OF CORTEZ LANE THRU LOTS 10 AND 11 AND THE BEGINNING OF HIS PROPERTY
Daniel Flores told Council that he bought property past Cortez Road, about 250 feet past the gate. He told the Council that he is planning on building on this property, but he is needing a gravel road. He asked Council for the city’s help with building this gravel road. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council he has researched this road and that the road Mr. Flores is talking about is a private easement. After a lengthy discussion with Mr. Flores, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that this item be tabled and the city allow Mr. Flores to discuss this matter and other legalities with the City’s attorney. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LYNDA PARSON FOR CITY UTILITIES FOR HER MOTHER’S CABIN LOCATED AT 15321 MAIN STREET
Lynda Parson told Council that her mother is up in age and she needs to move her close to her so she can watch her. She told Council she had moved a cabin onto her property located on Main Street. She said she didn’t think there would be a problem since there was another building there years ago. Mrs. Parson told Council that she wanted to connect this cabin to the existing water meter but Mr. McGrath had told her that State law prohibits this. Mrs. Parson told Council that the fees for water and sewer will create a hardship on her. After a lengthy discussion, Mrs. Parson asked Council to consider waiving the impact fees and water acquisition fees. After more discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that this item be tabled until Mrs. Parson follows procedures and all permits are in place. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER BID RECEIVED ON POLICE VEHICLE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council one bid had been received on the old police car. She said the bid was for $850.00 and did not meet the minimum bid Council had set. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council accept the bid of $850.00. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. After discussion about the minimum bid requirement, Alderman Hernandez withdrew his motion. Alderman Hernandez then made the motion that Council rebid the vehicle and the minimum bid be set at $850.00. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSALS ON PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that three proposals had been turned in for John Lott Park maintenance contract. She told Council that the bids were:

- Daniel Gallegos-$650.00 per month;
- Mesquite Lawn Care-$650.00 per month; and
- Wormy's Lawn Service-$750.00 per month.

The Secretary told Council about the services Mesquite Lawn Care would provide and recommended Council award the contract to Mesquite Lawn Care and that the Coal Mine park contract be awarded to Juan Escareno for $75.00 per month. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council award the park maintenance contracts to Mesquite Lawn Care and Juan Escareno. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:55 p.m., and reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

CONSIDER HIRING POLICE OFFICERS TO FILL VACANCIES
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that he had two vacancies in his department and had received nineteen (19) applications. He said fourteen (14) of the applicants had tested and eight (8) were interviewed. He recommended Council hire Christopher Lopez and Joseph Petrash. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council hire Christopher Lopez and Joseph Petrash, as recommended by Chief Priest, contingent on all tests being passed satisfactorily. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the Municipal Court Clerk had resigned her position effective December 31st. She recommended that the Assistant Court Clerk be promoted to Court Clerk and be paid $10.00 per hour. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council appoint Paola Rios as Municipal Court Clerk and she be paid $10.00 per hour. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER POLICIES FOR NEW ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY
Police Chief Richard Priest presented policies for animal surrender fees for the new animal control program. The fees were $20.00 for city residents and $30.00 for ETJ residents along with delivery. Council discussed what would be done if residents don’t have the money to pay these fees. After discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council adopt the policies and fees, as presented by Chief Priest, and allow discretion for hardship case of one time per year. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CALLING FOR ELECTION
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that an election has to be held to elect a Mayor and Aldermen for Districts 4 and 5. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council call for an election to be held May 8th to elect a Mayor and two Aldermen. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION CONTRACT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the contract for delinquent tax collections is the same as last year. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council renew the contract for collection of delinquent taxes with Tom Cate. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING EMPLOYEES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Library Director Cassandra Cortez told Council that the Library Advisory Board had voted to recommend to Council that Hattie Wachendorf and Shirlene Darnold be hired to fill the two part-time positions at the library. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council hire Hattie Wachendorf and Shirlene Darnold, as recommended. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASE OF SALARY FOR LIBRARY EMPLOYEE NORMA JO PITTMAN
After discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Norma Jo Pittman, library aide, be given a salary increase of $0.50 per hour. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ANNUAL DANIEL J. MCGRATH, D.V.M. CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Mayor Bowen gave Council the background on the citizenship award. He asked Council members if they had anyone they would like to nominate for this award. Alderman Sanders nominated Betty Kroeger for her work as Volunteer Coordinator for the Animal Control Facility. Alderman Hernandez suggested Hector Barrera, Jr. for this award. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council Alderman Sanders had done a lot of work on the shelter. Alderman Sanders also said that Alan Rader had done all the electrical at the shelter at no cost to city. Mr. Sanders also told Council that Betty Kroeger’s husband Ernie had worked along side Betty for the shelter. After discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that the Annual Daniel J. McGrath, DVM Citizenship Award be awarded to Betty and Ernie Kroeger, Hector Barrera, Jr., Alan Rader and Ward Sanders for all the work they did for the new animal shelter. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Discussion. Passed unanimously.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Library Director Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written report with Council.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Public Works' James McGrath reported the following:
1 - 270 work orders completed in November and December;
2 - 1 new water meter installed;
3 - 7 water service leaks fixed;
4 - 1 fire hydrant was replaced;
5 - 3 water customer leaks were fixed;
6 - Edwards Aquifer people read meter at old well;
7 - 1 main sewer stoppage was unclogged;
8 - 2 small sewer stoppages were fixed;
9 - 2 gas leaks were fixed;
10 - changed out 4 gas meters
11 - 1 gas customer leak was fixed;
12 - 1 gas regulator changed out;
13 - taking Christmas decorations down right now;
14 - had trouble at water station and well due to freeze; and
15 - elbow at sewer plant that cracked due to freeze has been replaced.

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

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa read her written report to Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Bowen reported the following:

1 - Subway is now open and has been well received;
2 - still working on getting a Whataburger for Lytle;
3 - Harris Western Center is undergoing some changes that will be announced at February’s meeting;
4 - trying to get Best Western to meet with Council to try and determine the city’s needs;
5 - receiving calls about sport complex due to track controversy, so he will have a committee in place by the end of the month;
6 - met with Chief Priest, Mayor Pro-tem Stone and the City Secretary before warning people about cold weather;
7 - asked Council members to attend Shelter grand opening;
8 - will be working on a special program for all the volunteers; and
9 - thanked Council for a great year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.