Minutes of Regular Meeting held March 8, 2010

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

Visitors: Dimitri Karastamatis, Julio Inocencio, Wayne Beyer, Chuck Bayne, Simon Pena, Reagon Clamon, Brad Boyd, Patrick Diver, George Harris, Fred Morales, Kelly Haney, Darren Lange, Jason Stricker, Ernie Kroeger, Bobbie Aguinaga, Michelle Keith, William Alonzo, Jim Becker, Ismael Carrillo, Sam Parks, Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew Sykes.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 8th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Julio Inocencio told Council he appreciated the efforts made by the Public Works’ crew on Ball Road. Mr. Inocencio told Council he felt the grader should have been used.

REPORT FROM SIMON PENA ON PROPOSED GAS OUTAGE IN JULY
Simon Pena and Dimitri Karastamatis of Centerpoint Energy gave Council a report on the upcoming gas outage due to the pipeline integrity testing. Mr. Pena told Council this testing is scheduled for July 7th through July 26th, if there are no problems with the pipeline. Mr. Pena told Council he has been talking to two (2) companies about supplying the cities with gas during the outage. Dimitri Karastamatis of Centerpoint Energy gave a power point presentation and said he would be looking at the city’s gate station and then provide an estimate to be considered by Council at a later date. Both Mr. Pena and Mr. Karastamatis answered questions from the Council. Mr. Pena told Council he should have estimates for the April meeting. No action taken.

CONSIDER AUDIT REPORT FOR 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR
Wayne Beyer presented the audit report for 2008-2009 fiscal year. He told Council that the city had received a good, clear unqualified opinion which is the best rating. He also commended the current ratios the city has and said Lytle is the only city where you see these ratios. Mr. Beyer told Council that the utility funds are very solid and that the general fund is also in great shape. Mr. Beyer told Council he had reviewed the management letter with the City Secretary. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council accept the audit report and approve its payment. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

GEORGE HARRIS-PLANS FOR HARRIS WESTER CENTER AND MORALES FEED STORE
George Harris thanked the Mayor for the invitation to introduce Fred Morales. Mr. Harris told Council that he had just completed his 51st year of business in Lytle. He told Council that he decided to have Fred Morales take over his business on January 1st of this year.
GEORGE HARRIS-PLANS FOR HARRIS WESTER CENTER AND MORALES FEED STORE (CONT.)
Fred Morales told Council he is delighted to be in Lytle now and that by the end of March he should be fully-ready for business. Mr. Morales told Council that he wants to be part of Lytle and to call on him for upcoming events.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LYTLE LITTLE LEAGUE TO USE CITY PARK AND BALL FIELDS FOR SPRING/SUMMER LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON FROM MARCH THRU JULY, 2010-PAT DIVER
Patrick Diver thanked Council on behalf of the Lytle Youth Program for the use of the ball fields last year. He asked Council’s permission to use the ball fields at the park again this year. He told Council that opening day for baseball this year is April 10th. After discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council authorize the LYP and Little League to use the City’s ball fields and facilities again this year. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Diver the city would work with LYP on the work that needs to be done at the ballfields and park facilities as in the past.

CONSIDER REQUESTS FROM GREATER LYTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR FUNDS FOR ANNUAL FRENCHIE BURKE MUSIC FESTIVAL AND WAIVER OF THE FOOD HANDLERS ORDINANCE AND DISCUSS HIGHWAY BANNERS FOR MUSIC FESTIVAL-REAGON CLAMON
Chamber of Commerce President-Brad Boyd told Council that they are excited about this year’s Frenchie Burke Festival because they have added another day to the festival. Mr. Boyd told council they have a dance scheduled for Friday night and that they are trying to get people to stay over in Lytle. He said they are also having a chili cook-off and a brisket cook-off. Mr. Boyd told Council that they are asking for more help to expand the festival to one more night. The Chamber’s president also asked Council to consider banners for the event for the locations in the city where banners can be placed. Mr. Boyd said these banners could be used again next year and the following years and all that would have to be done is to change the date every year. Mr. Boyd went on and explained the things that are done at the annual festival and answered questions from Council. He also asked Council to consider granting a variance on the food handler’s ordinance for the non-profit groups. Kelly Haney told Council that the City of Devine grants a variance each year to non-profit groups that have booths at the Fall Festival. Mr. Boyd told Council that they are needing another $1,000.00 from the City for the Frenchie Burke Music Festival in order to expand the festival to one more night and have a dance. After discussion, Alderman Hernandez told Mr. Boyd that he would like to see a recap of last year’s event to see where the money was spent. Council discussed several issues with Mr. Boyd. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council give the Chamber of Commerce $4,500.00 for the Frenchie Burke Music Festival, to grant variance on food handler’s ordinance for non-profit organizations at festival and that Council require the Chamber to submit a budget and recap report for this event. Discussion on banner. Alderman Stone agreed to amend his motion to include the city will pay for one banner for this year’s festival. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Discussion. Alderman Hernandez asked Chamber members to look at reducing the city’s input and getting more sponsors in the future to make this festival self-sustaining. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION JUDGES
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Olga Sharer had agreed to serve as Election Judge this year and Richard Sharer has agreed to serve as Alternate Judge. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council appoint Olga and Richard Sharer as Election Judge and Alternate Judge. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written report with Council.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Director of Public Works James McGrath reported the following to Council:
1 - 116 work orders completed;
2 - 2 new water meters were installed;
3 - 4 water leaks on customer line fixed;
4 - 4 water meters were replaced;
5 - 3 sewer main stoppages fixed;
6 - checked manholes;
7 - crew has been trimming trees and patching potholes;
8 - Railroad Commission will conduct safety audit in May;
9 - attending meeting at Devine concerning gas outage in July; and
10 - will be working with property owner by gas regulator station to fix pad for parking tanker truck and trailers during gas outage.

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 Bowen told Council he would call engineer to look at Ball Road again and have it on next agenda.

The Mayor told Council he would be talking to Chief Priest and the City Attorney about an ordinance calling for the removal of graffitti.

Mayor Bowen told Council that as soon as he hears from Best Western he will call a special meeting.

The Mayor told Council that since tornado season is upon us, there will be some training and siren system will be checked and worked on, if necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.