Minutes of Regular meeting held May 10, 2010

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

Visitors: Tony Rendon, Charles Rothe, Jim Becker, Johnny Rodriguez, Chuck Bayne, Pam Fintel, Jeanne Stiewig, Jeff Stiewig, Olga Sharer, Richard Sharer, Sam Parks, Brett Pitts, Christopher Bowen, Ernie Kroeger, Danny Robison, Albert Villegas, Mr. and Mrs. Hasmukh, Mr. and Mrs. Bhakta.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Sam Cortez made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the April 12 regular meeting and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Police Chief Richard Priest presented Reserve Officer Danny Robison with a certificate for ten years of service to the police department and city.

UPDATE ON BEST WESTERN
Mr. Hasmukh representing Lytle Lodging showed Council some pictures of how the Best Western will look and said that the Best Western website has more pictures. Mr. Hasmukh told Council that since construction on Best Western hasn’t started he felt that an update was necessary. He told Council the project has been held up due to the economic climate, but in 30 to 45 days, everything should be ready to proceed, as they are waiting for USDA approval. Mr. Hasmukh told Council if everything goes well, the motel should open by next spring or early summer. Mr. Hasmukh answered questions from the Council, and said this project will cost $3.5 million.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICE AT BEST WESTERN LOCATION
Mr. Hasmukh told Council that they are still wanting natural gas for the Best Western, as it is more reliable and cheaper than propane. He said if natural gas is provided, he feels restaurants will want to to connect to it. Mayor Bowen told Council that the city has a nine-month period to provide gas to that side of IH 35 before the motel will open. The Mayor told Council that if they agree the city should provide gas on the south side of IH 35, then CPS can probably do a model plan and present it to Council. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the providing natural gas on the south side of IH 35 and have CPS start working on plans. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Discussion. City Secretary Josie Campa asked Alderman Stone if his motion included the area on the west side of FM 3175. Alderman Stone said that his motion did include that section. Alderman Sanders agreed that his second was also for that section to be included. Motion was passed unanimously.
CONSIDER REQUESTS FROM LYTLE VFW FOR THINGS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING FREEDOM WALK
Johnny Rodriguez, from VFW Post #12041 told Council they are planning another Freedom Walk for September. He also thanked Council for the upgrade to the Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Rodriguez told Council that they would like to use John Lott Park and the Veterans Park once again for the Freedom Walk. Mr. Rodriguez told Council that approximately 300 people participated in the walk last year, and that hopefully this year’s walk will exceed that total since they have asked other cities and organizations to participate. After more discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the requests from Mr. Rodriguez. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER FINAL PLAT APPROVAL FOR LAKE SHORE ESTATES-UNIT 2
Charles Rothe told Council that the plat he had submitted to Council for this meeting is the final plat for Lake Shore Estates. City Secretary Josie Campa asked Mr. Rothe if a copy of this plat had been sent to the City Engineer. Mr. Rothe said he had not sent a copy to Mr. Bell but that over the past several months he had been discussing this plat with the engineer. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Rothe and Mr. Rendon, that he had talked to Craig Bell and that there are some concerns on drainage. Mr. Rothe told Council he is working on this matter and is looking at how to alleviate the problems with drainage. After a lengthy discussion, City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that the engineer won’t recommend approval of this plat until certain issues are addressed. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Rendon and Mr. Rothe and Council that since there is a special meeting set for Monday, May 17th, he will place this item on that agenda to allow some of these issues to be addressed. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM MIRACLE MEADOW HORSE RESCUE TO ALLOW THEM TO PROVIDE HORSE RIDES AT FRENCHIE BURKE FESTIVAL IN PARK
Pam Fintel told Council that Miracle Meadows relies on fund raisers and contributions to take care of the horses that come to his horse rescue. Jeanne Stiewig asked Council for permission to have horses at park during Frenchie Burke Festival. She explained that everyone that rides a horse has to sign a liability release. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve the request from Miracle Meadows, as long as they work with Reagan Clamon on location. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR USING CITY’S ACREAGE NEAR ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that no proposals were received for the city’s property by the shelter.
CONSIDER PAY FOR RESERVE OFFICERS WORKING PART-TIME DUE TO VACANCY IN DEPARTMENT
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that since they have a vacancy in the police department at this time and hiring another officer takes time, he would like to use reserve officers to work part-time. He requested that salary budgeted for the 6th officer be used to pay the reserve officers. He told Council that he feels that these reserve officers could work up to 32 hours per week total and recommended that they be paid $13.00 an hour. After more discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the Chief’s proposal to pay reserve officers when they work part-time, during the time this vacancy exists. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER IMPROVEMENTS TO JUAREZ STREET AND OTHER CITY STREETS
Alderman Cortez told Council that Juarez Street is in need of repaving, as well as Cottage Street in front of the Jr. High School. Mayor Bowen told Council he would like for each of them to look at the streets in their districts and then at the June meeting Council will look at these streets and prioritize them for retopping project. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER ADDING SURCHARGE TO WATER BILLS DUE TO EAA PENALTY FOR OVERPUMPING IN 2009
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council about the penalty being charged by the Edwards Aquifer Authority for overpumping in 2009. She told Council that she had calculated a factor for figuring surcharges for water usage in 2009 and gave examples of what surcharges could total. She told Council she felt this would be the fairest way of charging customers to pay for this fine. After discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve this surcharge for water customers. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

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

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

1 - 132 work orders completed;
2 - 1 new water meter was installed;
3 - 3 water main breaks were repaired;
4 - 4 water leaks were located and repaired;
5 - 2 water meter were retapped to a new water mains;
6 - old 2 inch water line ruptured and has been cut off;
7 - during heavy rains time was spent at Lake Shores Estates due to flooding;
8 - BMA cleared out canals and city burned stuff taken out of canal;
9 - 2 sewer main stoppages were unclogged;
10 - having trouble at sewer plant and only half of plant is working now- will work to get the other half working; and
11 - crew getting ready for Frenchie Burke Festival.
POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

The Chief told Council, that with the Frenchie Burke Festival this weekend, Memorial Day on 31st and school graduation, the time period will be a busy one for the police department.

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

The City Secretary told Council she had received a resignation in her office and would be trying to hire someone at the June meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Bowen reminded Council that the Frenchie Burke Festival would be held May 14th and 15th. The Mayor told Council that this year there are cook offs for chili and barbeque being held at the festival.

Mayor Bowen told Council that Fred Morales is having its grand opening on Saturday, May 15th and Council was invited.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.