Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 10, 2011

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


Mayor opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and told everyone about former employee Jeff Tillman being killed in an accident and asked for a moment of silence.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 13th and payment of the bills be approved as presented. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Sam Parks addressed the Council concerning what he feels is a coverup, and then told the City Secretary she was the one responsible since he had found out that she has worked for the city for thirty-five (35) years. At that time, employees from the city office and other departments along with some of Ms. Campa’s family entered the Council chamber and surprised the City Secretary with flowers, balloons, gifts, cake and a plaque. Mayor Bowen presented the plaque to the City Secretary and thanked her for her years of service to the city. Mayor Bowen invited everyone to stay and have cake after the meeting. Ms. Campa thanked everyone for the surprise.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES TO WINNERS OF RESIDENTIAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST
Mayor Bowen presented plaques to the winners of residential Christmas decorating contest. He presented the 3rd place plaque to Bruce Stockham. The second place winner Valdemar Martinez and the first place winner, Domingo Reyes were not present to receive their plaques.

PRESENTATION BY SCARLET EAGLES-BARTHOLOMEW SYKES
Bartholomew Sykes told Council that they have a lot of children that come to the classes being held at the center. The Scarlet Eagles gave a short demonstration of what they are learning and thanked Council for the use of the community center.
CONSIDER HIRING EMPLOYEES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Library Director Cassandra Cortez told Council about the applicants she had for the three vacant positions. She then recommended that Beth Dillon be hired as an assistant to her working thirty (30) hours a week and that Carolyn Biediger and Amanda Sanchez be hired as part-time library clerks each working twenty (20) hours per week at minimum wage upon completion of background checks, physicals and drug screens. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council accept the Library Director’s recommendations and the above mentioned be hired for the library. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER
City Secretary Josie Campa recommended Mark Medbury be hired as the Code Compliance Officer at $12.00 per hour. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Mark Medbury as a part-time Code Compliance Officer after completing the background check, physical, and drug screen satisfactorily. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING COMMISSION
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Olga Sharer asked to be replaced on the Zoning Commission and had recommended Kenneth Zamzow be appointed to her position. The City Secretary told Council that Richard Crain had agreed to serve for another year as had John McGinnis and Alex Sawicki. Alderman Farmer made the motion that the following be appointed to the Zoning Commission:

- Richard Crain - 1 year;
- John McGinnis - 1 year;
- Alex Sawicki - 1 year;
- Kenneth Zamzow - 2 years.


CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO MOBILE HOME COMMISSION
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that all of the members of the Mobile Home Commission had agreed to serve again. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council reappoint all the members of the Mobile Home Commission. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CHANGE TO SPAY/NEUTER COST SHARE PROGRAM
Betty Kroeger, Volunteer Coordinator for the Animal Control Facility gave Council a review of adoptions in 2010. Mrs. Kroeger asked Council to consider paying 60% of the spay/neuter fees instead of just $30.00 flat fee. She told Council that this fee is paid out of only donated monies. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve Mrs. Kroeger’s proposal. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER CALLING FOR AN ELECTION (CONSIDERAR LLAMAR PARA UNA ELECCION)
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council call an election for May 14th for the purpose of electing Aldermen for Districts 1, 2, and 3. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION CONTRACT
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council renew the delinquent tax collection contract with Tom Cate. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ANNUAL DANIEL J. MCGRATH, D.V.M. CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Mayor Bowen asked Council to nominate someone for the Annual Citizenship award. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council award the Annual Citizenship to Wallace Pressley. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Director of Public Works James McGrath was called away to a water main break and was not available to give his report.

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 that a meeting with State officials had been held for the Texas Capital Fund Grant Program and said the city should know something in a couple of weeks, but everything looks favorable.

Alderman Sanders asked for the self evaluations to discussed at the January 24th special meeting. Council agreed to have this item on the agenda, however, the meeting was rescheduled for January 25th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.