Minutes of Regular Meeting held March 14, 2011

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

Visitors: Russell Dempsey, Angie Sutter, Michelle Smith, Nan Boyd, Wayne Beyer, Chuck Bayne, Ernie Kroeger, Jose Garza, Jim Becker, Daniel Gamez, Sam Parks, Jason Stricker, Brad Boyd, Christopher Bowen, Johnathan Bowen, Susan Bowen, Santiago Morantez.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 14th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Chuck Bayne asked Council what can be done about the men collecting money for a church at the four-way stop intersection by H.E.B. Chief Priest told Council and Mr. Bayne that he has checked on this with TXDot and they have permission to do this from them. Chief said TXDot leaves it up to the local authorities and you have to be careful to not violate anyone’s rights. The Chief said he would continue to monitor this situation and if safety becomes an issue he will talk to these men.

CONSIDER AUDIT REPORT FOR 2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR
Wayne Beyer presented the audit report for 2009-2010 fiscal year. Mr. Beyer reviewed this report with Council and gave the city an unqualified opinion which is the best that can be given. Mr. Beyer told Council that the city’s ratios are great and that the city is doing just fine financially. Mr. Beyer also reviewed the management letter with Council. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the audit report for 2009-2010 fiscal year and payment be made to Beyer and Company. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING AUDITING FIRM FOR 2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Beyer and Company would do this year’s audit for $500.00 more. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council hire Beyer and Company to do the 2010-2011 fiscal year audit for the price quoted. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-UTSA REPRESENTATIVE RUSSELL DEMPSEY
Russell Dempsey from UTSA told Council that they work with cities and small businesses to assist with economic development and planning. He gave Council a packet and reviewed some of the things UTSA does to assist cities and businesses. Mr. Dempsey told Council that they are funded by ORCA to help cities. After answering questions from Council members and the City Attorney, Mr. Dempsey said he would be glad to work with city..
NAN BOYD, LYTLE SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON
Nan Boyd, the School Board’s liaison to the city talked to Council about the problem with the school’s track being damaged by community members. Mrs. Boyd told Council if the city had a place for people to go to walk instead of the track, this would help out the school. Mayor Bowen told Mrs. Boyd and School Superintendent Michelle Smith that he has gotten several calls about the school opening the track for people to walk and that the planned sports complex is coming, but will take time.

CONSIDER SHARING COST OF DEMOGRAPHICS STUDY WITH LYTLE I.S.D
Nan Boyd talked to Council about the school needing a demographics study and that since the city is doing a long range plan maybe they could go together and save each entity money by sharing cost. Mrs. Boyd and Superintendent Smith told Council if city agrees to this, the cost would be $6000. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the request from Lytle I.S.D. to share the cost of a demographics study. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM-BOWEN FAMILY
Mayor Bowen, his wife Susan and son Christopher asked Council for the city’s support in the Keep Texas Beautiful project that includes the Texas Trash Off on April 2nd. After discussion on the need for cleanup along Hwy 132, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council support the Bowen family with the Texas Trash Off on April 2nd. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM GREATER LYTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ANNUAL FRENCHIE BURKE MUSIC FESTIVAL
Brad Boyd, President of the Greater Lytle Chamber of Commerce, told Council that the Frenchie Burke Music Festival will be held a Friday, May 20th and Saturday, May 21st, this year. He told Council that this year they have a better band on Friday night and the cook-offs are IBC sanctioned. Mr. Boyd told Council they are expecting 25 to 30 teams for the cook-offs. Mr. Boyd asked Council for the same support as last year. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council the city had given the Chamber approximately $5000.00 last year. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve the Chambers request and support the Frenchie Burke Festival with $5000.00. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ATASCOSA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Library Director Cassandra Cortez told Council that the terms of Sandra McGory and Mary Garcia are up on the County Board, and said Mrs. McGory is willing to continue to serve, but Mrs. Garcia has chosen to not serve again. Ms. Cortez told Council that Wanda Egerton volunteered to take Miss Garcia’s place on this board. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council appoint Sandra McGory and Wanda Egerton to serve on the Atascosa County Library Board of Directors. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF LINDALE FOR “TLETS” ACCESS
Police Chief Richey Priest presented an Interlocal agreement with the City of Lindale to Council. Chief Priest told Council that this agreement in for the purpose of using Lindale’s computer system for the new ticket writing system. Chief Priest told Council he had gotten the City Attorney to look at this agreement and that Mr. Cate had made some suggestions. Chief Priest asked Council to approve the City of Lindale’s Interlocal Agreement as per the City Attorney’s recommendation. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve the Chief’s request. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:45 p.m., and reconvened at 7:58 p.m.

CONSIDER PROPERTY ON NORTH SOMERSET STREET
Council discussed having the house removed from N. Somerset Street before putting property out for bids. Council discussed “best offer” and liability. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve the city advertising for the best offer on the city structures located on North Somerset Street to be removed and/or demolished. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING PART-TIME ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
Police Chief Richey Priest told Council that five (5) applications had been received for the part-time Animal Control Officer. He recommended to Council that Santiago Morantez be hired to fill this position. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council hire Santiago Morantez to fill the vacant position of part-time Animal Control Officer at $8.00 per hour and after completing physical and drug screen successfully. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING OFFICE EMPLOYEE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that twenty-two (22) applications had been received for the office clerk position. She recommended Laura Rodriguez be hired to fill this position. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Laura Rodriguez for the office clerk position at $8.00 an hour after she completes a physical and drug screen satisfactorily. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER LONG RANGE PLANS AND GOALS
Alderman Sanders told Council that it takes a long time to get a City Hall benefit and the city needs to start looking at property for this.

City Council asked the City Secretary to check with Mr. Dempsey on times available for a workshop with Council.

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

Ms. Cortez thanked Council for their support during her illness and said the doctor had given her a clean bill of health.
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Director of Public Works James McGrath reported the following to Council:
1- 186 work orders completed last month;
2- 2 new water meters were installed;
3- changed out 2 water meters;
4- replaced 1 water meter;
5- 3 service leaks repaired;
6- installed a new fire hydrant meter for HEB;
7- 3 sewer main stoppages were unclogged;
8- replaced part of cyclone fence at T-ball field;
9- changed out some stop signs;
10- got decals put on a new truck;
11- had light bars put on new truck and his unit;
12- H.E.B. plans to put a 12-inch water line around store and will leave a 12-inch tap for future tie-in;
13- CPS is looking at H.E.B.’s gas service plan and is asking H.E.B. to hire a qualified contractor for this project;
14- CPS will furnish material for this construction;
15- H.E.B. waterline will be connected to a 6-inch and an 8-inch line until.
16- water samples from well #3 are being taken and results will be sent to TRC to figure out ways to treat water;
17- TRC will send someone out soon to inspect water storage tanks;
18- electrician is asking for guidance in repairing park lights; and
19- agreed to check with engineer on Wisdom Road drainage project

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

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

Mayor Bowen told the City Secretary to get the Code Compliance Officer to attend the next Council meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Bowen thanked Council members for all they do and for signing up for re-election.

The Mayor told Council that the H.E.B. people are really happy about their record sales in past months.

Mayor Bowen told Council we are still waiting on ward from the state on Best Western’s grant application.

The Mayor told Council that a company had looked at two properties in Lytle and had met with city officials to discuss company locating in Lytle. He said we should hear something soon. The Mayor said a lot of people are looking at Lytle for their business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.