Minutes of Regular Meeting held April 11, 2011

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

Visitors: Curt Dempsey, Jay Troell, Angie Sutter, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vasquez, Lorianna Vasquez, Larrissa Vasquez, Ernest Kroeger, Desai Naraj, Aaron Parenica, Ben Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Carter, Johnna Nieto, Dannon Hunter, Kathy Boehme, Alice Tomlinson, Sam Parks, James LaCombe, Clarissa Cantu, Mariah Amador, Abigail DeLeon, Mr. & Mrs. Richard DeLeon, Veronica Guerrero.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she had received a late bill from West Texas Gas for $6,552.01. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 14th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Ernest Kroeger asked Council about what is being done with dilapidated buildings. He was told the Code Compliance Officer is working on this. Mr. Kroeger also asked about the junk vehicles at the city yard. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Kroeger the old vehicles and equipment would be removed.

Alderman Sanders told Council and the public that Sam Parks had rescued someone from a fire. Council commended Mr. Parks for this action.

Jay Troell gave Council an update on the brackish water situation with SAWS and said this project has been moved out of Atascosa County thanks to Commissioners’ Court and City Councils from the county standing up to SAWS.

PRESENTATION OF WINNERS OF LYTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY’S SHORT ESSAY AND POETRY CONTESTS
Library Director Cassandra Cortez and Alderman Jerry Stone recognized the winners of the library’s 2011 Short Story & Poetry Contests. Winners were as follows:

Short Story-Division 1 (Grades 3-4)
1st place-Clarissa Cantu
2nd place-Kannon J. Hunter
3rd place-Mariah V. Amador

Short Story-Division 2 (Grades 5-6)
1st place-Abigail M. DeLeon
PRESENTATION OF WINNERS OF LYTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S SHORT ESSAY AND POETRY CONTESTS (CONT.)
Poetry-Division 3 (Grades 7-8)
1st place-Larissa Vasquez

Winners were presented with prizes for their efforts.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM KATHY BOEHME
Alderman Fanner made the motion that Council approve the recommendation from the Mobile Home Commission on the request from Kathy Boehme. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM H.E.B. CONCERNING PROPOSED WATERLINE FOR H.E.B.
Ben Johnson, representative from H.E.B. told Council that H.E.B. would like to install a 12-inch line around the new store to be a public line and explained what H.E.B. is doing to give them needed water pressure and volume. Mr. Johnson told Council H.E.B. would give the city all the necessary easements to maintain said line. After more discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve H.E.B.’s request for a public water line. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER FINAL APPROVAL OF PLAT FOR H.E.B.
After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve H.E.B.’s final plat contingent upon the City’s engineer’s approval. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EXTENSION OF GAS LINE ON IH 35 ACCESS ROAD PAST BEST WESTERN
Curt Dempsey, engineer for TRC told Council that Director of Public Works James McGrath had asked about extending the new gas line on the access road that will be paid by the Texas Capital Fund Grant out past the Best Western property to assist with future development. Mr. Dempsey told Council that is order for his engineering firm to include this in the bid specs they needed Council’s approval and that this additional line would cost the city about $10,000.00. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve this additional to the new gas line and allow the engineers to include this in the bid specs. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER VARIANCE AND AMENDMENT TO FOOD HANDLERS’ ORDINANCE
Alderman Stone asked Council to consider an amendment to the present “food handlers” ordinance to exempt non-profit groups from those required to get a food handlers’ permit for festivals and events. After discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve an amendment to the present food handlers’ ordinance excluding non-profit organizations from having to get this permit. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS
Alderman Stone told Council that he and Alderman Cortez had done a street light survey and asked that fourteen (14) additional lights be added as per the list he submitted. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the addition of these fourteen street lights. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER STREET LIGHTING FOR NORVELL STREET
City Secretary Josie Campa gave Council a letter from CPS concerning lighting for Norvell Street. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Keith asked the City Secretary to send letters to the residents of Norvell Street asking if they mind overhead lighting. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL (S) RECEIVED ON DEMOLITION AND/OR REMOVAL OF CITY’S STRUCTURES LOCATED AT N. SOMERSET STREET
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that no proposals were received on the demolition and removal of the city’s structures on N. Somerset Street. Council discussed the safety issue of these dilapidated buildings. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council call for bids to have structures demolished. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL RECEIVED ON PARK LIGHTING
Alderman Stone told Council that Brown Electrical Service had submitted a proposal for repairing the lighting at the park, and this proposal totalled $4,185.00. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve this proposal. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER USE OF ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY BY SHELTER VOLUNTEERS
Alderman Sanders told Council that Sandy Fuchs, a volunteer at the Animal Shelter is asking permission to use the facility for obedience training classes. Alderman Sanders told Council that the parking lot would be used for these classes, while she is doing volunteer work at the shelter, and this would be done two times a week from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council allow Sandy Fuchs to use parking lot at shelter as long as her schedule does not interfere with the functions of the shelter and other cases be approved on an individual basis. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:32 p.m. and reconvened at 7:46 p.m.

CONSIDER SALE OF EFFLUENT WATER
Alderman Stone talked to Council about selling the effluent water from the waste water treatment plant. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council ask the city engineer to be at the next regular meeting to advise Council on the selling of effluent water. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER ADOPTING PROCLAMATION AUTHORIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE CITY’S EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH
Alderman Keith made the motion that Council adopt the proclamation for April as fair housing month. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE AS PER SECTION 2.053 OF THE ELECTION CODE ALLOWING CITY TO DECLARE EACH UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE ELECTED
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 346 allowing each unopposed candidate for office elected as per Section 2.053 of the Election Code. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON CITY’S PLANS AND GOALS
Alderman Sanders presented a list of goals for Council to review. Council reviewed the different goals set for each department and what is being done to complete goals. Mayor Bowen assigned Aldermen Sanders and Farmer to work on “Welcome to Lytle” sign by car wash. Mayor Bowen told Council he would work on the traffic flow investigation and have the city’s engineer look into the new sidewalk construction. City Secretary Josie Campa will get a landscaping ordinance for Council to review and will contact the Zoning Commission to start proceedings for zoning changes and will work on new technology for City Hall. Council agreed to let the department heads look into changes in the pay scale for city workers for the next fiscal year’s budget. Council asked for this to be presented at the June Council meeting.

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

The Director told Council that the Short Story/Poetry Contests would be an annual event.

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

1 - 224 work orders completed in month of March;
2 - 3 new water meters were installed;
3 - 2 water main leaks were fixed;
4 - 2 water service line leaks were fixed;
5 - 2 customer service line leaks were fixed;
6 - reinstalled a water meter;
7 - 1 sewer stoppage at resident reported and checked;
8 - 2 sewer stoppages unclogged;
9 - 1 gas leak on customer side reported to CPS;
10 - water towers were inspected last week and report will be sent;
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONT.)
11 - one of the tanks will be looked at again when water level is lowered;
12 - H.E.B. is checking water system and will be installing a 12-inch line around the store and looping it with city lines;
13 - a 12 inch line will be placed behind store to connect to city’s 12 inch on Magnolia Street and loop with other lines;
14 - storm drainage system is being built behind store;
15 - TML had Sammy Russo survey city’s gas system; and
16 - crew worked at park to prepare it for baseball season.

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.

The City Secretary told Council that Russell Dempsey from UTSA could meet with Council on June 6th. After discussion, Council asked the City Secretary to reschedule for June 20th.

The City Secretary reminded everyone about the Annual Easter Eggs-travaganza being held on April 23rd.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Bowen thanked Mr. Naraj and H.E.B. for partnering with the City and bringing their businesses to Lytle.

The Mayor thanked Desai Naraj for working with the City’s grant writers to obtain the Texas Capital Fund Grant for nearly $300,000.00 for much needed natural gas on the other side of IH 35.

The Mayor reported to Council that the construction of H.E.B. is really moving along due to dry weather.

Mayor Bowen told Council that RVK would like to have a meeting with Council to review their findings for the city’s proposed sports complex and that he has called a special meeting for April 18th.

Mayor Bowen told Council that seventeen (17) bags of trash were picked up on Main Street during the Texas Trash Off on April 2nd.

The Mayor thanked Mayor Pro-tem Jerry Stone for throwing out the first pitch at the LYP opening day.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.