Minutes of Regular Meeting held September 12, 2011

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


APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the minutes of public hearing held August 8th; the regular meeting held August 8th; the special meeting held August 15th; and the budget workshops held August 15th and 22nd, and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Pablo Cortez requested the city lend the Coal Mine Church one hundred fifty (150) chairs for an event being held on Wednesday, October 5th. Mr. Cortez invited everyone to the Church festival being held October 9th.

Ernie Kroeger asked Council about the annexation of Phase 2, Lake Shore Estates. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that he still needs to get to this.

Brad Boyd asked Council to consider taking down some of the small buildings at the Gidley house when it becomes the city’s property. He told Council a parking lot is needed in this area.

Atascosa County Commissioner Bill Torans told Council that Commissioners Court is finishing the new budget and that the County is in good shape.

Mayor Bowen showed Council the plaque presented to the City from the VFW in appreciation of the help and support given for the Freedom Walk Festival and Memorial Service.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM AMANDA AND SALVADOR SOLIS FOR VARIANCE ON SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE
Amanda and Salvador Solis told Council that her step father wants to give them property on Wisdom Road and they would like a variance of the subdivision ordinance. Mrs. Solis told Council that the property has been surveyed and she is being given one acre out of a ten acre tract. After more discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council grant this variance to Amanda and Salvador Solis. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER REQUEST TO ALLOW PLACEMENT OF SELF-CONTAINED TRAVEL TRAILER NEXT TO BOB ROBERT’S SCALE BARN TO OPERATE RECYCLING BUSINESS-GARY HACK
Gary Hack talked to Council about his request to place an RV at the Robert’s Scale barn to provide a restroom for a recycling center. Mr. Hack showed Council pictures of what he wants this recycling center to look like after he starts fixing up the said location. Council had a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of a recycling center on the city’s Main Street area. After this discussion, Mayor Bowen recommended no action be taken on this item.

CONSIDER ALLOWING ELECTRIC POLE (S) TO BE PLACED ON COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT TO PROVIDE ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR HACK BUILDING
Gary Hack talked to Council about allowing CPS to place a pole at the northeast side of the front community center parking lot. Public Works Director James McGrath sketched the locations for the proposed pole(s) and said the first option was to have Mr. Hack pay $10,000.00 and run the line from Hwy 132. Mr. McGrath said the second option would call for a pole to be placed in the middle of the center parking lot which would create problems for parking and the third option is a pole on the northeast corner about six feet from the property line. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant Mr. Hack permission to have a pole placed on the city’s property as per Option 3 having it closest to the property line. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM H.E.B. TO APPROVE CONFIGURATION OF SOUTHERN DRIVE
Ben Scott from H.E.B. presented Council a sketch of a proposed street (Southern Drive) that runs behind the current store and cuts to the left to the new store’s parking lot. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve this configuration for Southern Drive. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE GERRY ELIAS
A. CONSIDER JUDGE’S FEES
B. CONSIDER JUDGE’S SCHOOLS AND SEMINARS
Lytle’s Municipal Court Judge Gerry Elias told Council he would like to clarify a couple of things that appeared in the newspaper.

He asked for a closed session and Mayor Bowen announced that Council would go into closed session as allowed by Chapter 551.074, Subchapter D of the Government Code at 7:45 p.m. The meeting was reopened at 8:10 p.m. and Mayor Bowen announced that Council had talked to the Judge and will talk about a policy at a later date. No action was taken.

Council took a short break and reconvened at 8:23 p.m.
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CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO REVITALIZATION/BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Mayor Bowen asked the Council for names of people to appoint to the Revitalization/Beautification Committee. Alderman Sanders named: Lori Ralph, Roy Garza, A.J. Frausto, Jeanice Farmer and Nan Boyd. Alderman Keith named: Larry Sanders and Annie Villarreal. Mayor Bowen told Council he would work with this committee. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council appoint the above mentioned to said committee. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF DEPOSITORY CONTRACT WITH LYTLE STATE BANK
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council renew the depository contract with Lytle State Bank. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RATIFYING PROPERTY TAX LEVY INCREASE REFLECTED IN PROPOSED 2011-2012 BUDGET
Alderman Keith made the motion that Council ratify the property tax levy increase reflected in the proposed 2011-2012 budget. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 2011-2012 BUDGET
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt the proposed 2011-2012 budget. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 2011 TAX RATE
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt the proposed tax rate of $ .3175 per $100.00 valuation for 2011. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REPAIR OF SEWER PLANT ROAD
Public Works Director James McGrath told Council that four contractors have looked at the sewer plant road and have agreed on what needs to be done. He said two more contractors want to look at it. He told Council that the scope of work would be given to the contractors and he would get proposals for the October meeting. No action was taken.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF LAURA RODRIGUEZ
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council hire Laura Rodriguez as a regular employee and she be given a $1.00 per hour increase and full benefits. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER DISPOSITION OF 2005 FORD CROWN VICTORIA (OLD POLICE VEHICLE)
CONSIDER DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY AT 19138 N. SOMERSET STREET
After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Keith made the motion that the city keep the property located on North Somerset Street. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR 2012 CITY ELECTION DUE TO CHANGES BY LEGISLATURE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council of the problems created by legislature for even-numbered years city elections.

After lengthy discussion on options no action was taken until more information is obtained.

CONSIDER ALLOWING PAYMENT OF INCOMING BILLS FROM THIS FISCAL YEAR’S BUDGET
Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council allow payment of incoming bills from the current budget. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS
Alderman Sanders suggested Council set a special meeting to review the plans and goals. Council agreed to hold a workshop on September 26th.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Mark Medbury told Council he has worked heavily at getting junk vehicles removed, yards cleaned and structures removed. He told Council he is currently working on trying to get the house behind the renal center demolished. He told them he is also working with Ronnie Jimmie on the tar paper building on Main Street. He told Council three (3) cases have been sent to Municipal Court. Mr. Medbury told Council he is starting to get more aggressive with people he has already talked to and that he has talked to the City Attorney and it is a slow process to attach liens on properties. He discussed the new graffiti ordinance with Council and said he would start work on this and will hit Main Street really hard.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Library Director Cassandra Cortez was ill and was not in attendance to present a report.

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

1 - 213 work orders completed last month;
2 - 7 water leaks fixed - 3 on meters and 4 on service lines;
3 - 8 customer leaks fixed;
4 - 1 new water meter installed;
5 - changed out 2 angle stops;
6 - took water samples for H.E.B. water line;
7 - 1 sewer main was unstopped;
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT (CONT.)
8 - 1 sewer customer line was unstopped;
9 - CPS has installed H.E.B. new gas service;
10 - new Best Western gas line was sleeved;
11 - the boring for the new gas line will be done Wednesday;
12 - gas line should be completed by this weekend;
13 - received 20 hours of credit for Wastewater last month;
14 - lift station at sewer plant went down and electrician has tried to fix it;
15 - part was ordered and should be delivered in 5 or 6 days for repairing lift station; and
16 - crew worked at Freedom Walk Festival and Memorial Service.

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 Mark Bowen reported the following:

1 - severe drought has hurt park area, so city will be watering with the shallow wells;
2 - H.E.B.’s grand opening will be October 28th;
3 - On October 27th H.E.B. will hold a pre-grand opening for elected officials;
4 - Best Western getting ready for their opening; and
5 - told Council planning is critical.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.