Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 9, 2012

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


Mayor Bowen opened the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa called attention to the bill from the Edwards Aquifer Authority and told Council the price per acre foot had been increased to only $47.00 not like had originally been proposed. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held November 14th, the special meeting held December 27th and the emergency meeting held December 29th; and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Donna Delaney, member of the Lytle Education Foundation, gave Council invitations to the Foundation’s Kick-off Breakfast on Wednesday morning.

Brad Boyd told Council that he is aware of a project coming to the city and said that planning needs to be done to keep certain things from locating in our city. He told Council he has the name of someone that does a lot of work with master plans and gave info to the Council.

Chuck Bayne told Council that a group from New Life Church has been asking for donations at a 4-way stop by old H.E.B. and asked if something could be done about this. Council discussed this matter with members of the audience and the city attorney. After discussion, Mayor Bowen said he would have this on next month’s agenda.

PRESENTATION OF CHECKS TO WINNERS OF CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST
Mayor Mark Bowen and Mayor Pro-tem Jerry Stone presented checks to the winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest. Checks were presented to: Lytle Band Boosters Member Misty Jurss and Band Director Mark Fender for participation in contest. Lytle Cub Scouts represented
PRESENTATION OF CHECKS TO WINNERS OF CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST (CONT.)

by Cub Scout Master Cliff Garrison and several Cub Scouts for 5th place; Lytle Youth Program President E.J. Adams for 4th place; Girl Scouts represented by Killeen Bragg, Erika Spain, Stephanie Medrano, Nadia Robinson, Jeanette Wimberley and Terry Wimberley for 3rd place; Lytle Animal Control Facility represented by Betty Kroeger, Sandy Fuchs, Maria Herrera, and Tabitha Salazar for 2nd Place; and Lytle VFW #12041 represented by Larry Sanders and Carlos Vela for 1st place. The National Honor Society and Boy Scouts were not present to receive their participant’s checks. Mayor Bowen thanked all the participants for helping to make Lytle more festive during the holiday. Lytle State Bank President Franklin Wanjura, Jr. told Council that this was a great program and said the corner by Lytle State Bank can be decorated each year by the Girl Scouts.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM SOUTHWEST I.S.D. TO CONDUCT JOINT ELECTION ON MAY 12, 2012 WITH CITY OF LYTLE-WILLIAM ATKINS

William Atkins, Assistant Superintendent for Southwest I.S.D. asked Council for permission to have their school election at the City Hall once again. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant this request. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER USE OF LYTLE CITY PARK FIELDS FOR TOURNAMENTS ONCE A MONTH-JUAN G. GUERRERO

This item was scratched since Mr. Garcia was not present.

E.J. ADAMS-QUESTIONS REGARDING PARK FIELD MAINTENANCE, FENCING, RESTROOMS, CONCESSION AREA REGARDING ANY HELP WITH LYTLE YOUTH PROGRAM

Erin Adams told Council she was the newly elected President of LYP. She then expressed her concerns about safety at the park due to the fencing needing a lot of work and the dug outs being in such bad shape. She also expressed concerns for the condition of the concession stand and restrooms. Mayor Bowen told Mrs. Adams that each year when the contract is renewed for use of the ball fields, LYP gives the City a list of things needing attention, and asked her to do the same for this year.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH LYP FOR UPCOMING BASEBALL SEASON

Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council renew the contract with LYP for use of the ball fields at John Lott Park. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

RACHEL LATHE-FOLLOW UP ON BRINGING ZUMBA CLASSES TO COMMUNITY CENTER

Rachel Lathe told Council she was present once again to discuss the use of the Community Center for Zumba classes. She told Council H.E.B. had invited her to put on a presentation for a wellness program, and that a lot more people are interested in taking these classes. She told
RACHEL LATHE-FOLLOW UP ON BRINGING ZUMBA CLASSES TO COMMUNITY CENTER (CONT.)
Council that she is still having classes at Natalia School, but it is getting more and more difficult. Council members expressed their thoughts about use of the center for profit, since others getting to use the center are non-profit. Alderman Keith said the classes are a great idea, but there is a problem with allowing this when it puts her in direct competition with a private tax paying business in town. Mayor Bowen told Ms. Lathe to see where H.E.B. wants to go with Zumba program and to check with the Methodist Church on use of their fellowship hall. After a lengthy discussion, Council asked the City Attorney to look at this matter. No action was taken.

CONSIDER STREET LAMPS ON ADAMS STREET AND BENTON STREET TO THE PARK-RALPH WEAVER
Ralph Weaver talked to Council about putting street lights along Adams Street from Benton Street to the park. He showed Council pictures of decorative lamps he had in mind and said he would buy the lights and install them along Adams Street. He said if the city would pay the electric bill on these lights then he would donate a number of lights for the Main Street. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council authorize the City Attorney to look into this. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion. Mayor asked City Attorney if this could be done for next month. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM TxDOT TO USE WATER FROM FIRE HYDRANT FOR RAMP PROJECT
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the request from TxDot to use water from a fire hydrant for the ramp project. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR MAINTENANCE OF CITY PROPERTIES
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that proposals had been received from Mesquite Lawn Care for all the city properties except Galicia Park. She gave Council a printout of what the fees would be and said that Juan Escareno had asked for an increase for doing Galicia Park from $75.00 per month to $90.00 per month. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council accept these proposals. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION CONTRACT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the contract for delinquent tax collections needed to be renewed. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council renew the contract with Tom Cate for delinquent tax collections. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RECOGNIZING VETERANS’ DAY AS A CITY HOLIDAY
Police Chief Richard Priest asked Council to consider recognizing Veterans’ Day as a holiday and employees be given this holiday. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council add Veterans’ Day to the list of employees’ holidays. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER ADOPTING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR FIRE MARSHAL INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS
Fire Marshal Richard Priest asked Council to review a fee schedule he had prepared for fire marshal inspections and permits. He reviewed the different types of permits and fees he was proposing. After more discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve these fees and authorize the City Attorney to draw up an ordinance for next month’s meeting. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:49 p.m. and reconvened at 8:03 p.m.

CONSIDER CHARGE FEE FOR USING BALL FIELDS AT JOHN LOTT PARK WHEN NOT BEING USED FOR LYP
Mayor Bowen told Council he had asked for this item to be on the agenda so Council could discuss charging for the use of the ball fields at the park. After discussion, Mayor Bowen asked the Police Chief and City Secretary to research this item.

CONSIDER CALLING FOR AN ELECTION (CONSIDERAR LLAMAR PARA UNA ELECCION)
Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council order an election for May 12, 2012 for the purpose of electing a Mayor and Aldermen for District #4 and #5. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ANNUAL DANIEL J. MCGRATH, D.V.M. CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Mayor Bowen asked Council to consider nominees for the Annual Citizenship Award. Alderman Sanders told the Mayor that Larry Sanders came to his mind and Aldermen Keith, Farmer and Stone agreed. After more discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council award the Annual Citizenship Award to Larry Sanders. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS
Alderman Sanders told Council that there are several of the plans and goals that need to be discussed and that department heads need to be evaluated. Council agreed to set up a special meeting on January 23rd to discuss these items and take care of the evaluations.

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

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Mark Medbury reviewed several of the things that he has been working on with Council. Mr. Medbury told Council that two cases went to court last month and five more citations have been set up for court. He told Council an old case has been set up for a bench trial. Mr. Medbury told Council that the Johnson house was torn down, and that six (6) letters are currently being prepared for mailout.
PUBLIC WORKS' DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Public Works Director James McGrath reported the following:

1 - 264 work orders completed for November and December;
2 - 3 main line water leaks were fixed;
3 - 1 new water meter was installed;
4 - 3 angle stops were repaired;
5 - 2 service line water leaks were fixed;
6 - 1 customer leak was fixed;
7 - water leak at park was fixed;
8 - 6 sewer stoppages on mains were unclogged;
9 - 3 customer sewer lines unclogged;
10 - sewer plant road has been fixed and is open;
11 - crew mowed 1 lot and cleaned 1 lot;
12 - 1 gas meter was installed;
13 - drainage project started on Wisdom Road area; and
14 - monitored water pumpage daily the last couple of weeks of December.

Mayor Bowen told Council that Mr. McGrath and his crew had to fix a main break water leak on Christmas Day.

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council Mr. McGrath put alot of hours in on monitoring the water pumpage to keep the city from overpumping from the Edwards Aquifer for the calendar year.

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 reported the following to Council:

1 - McDonald's is having a re-grand opening on Saturday, January 14th at 1 p.m.;
2 - Best Western opened about the middle of December and is very nice;
3 - new things are coming to Lytle and city has received plans for 2 buildings; and
4 - ramp project on IH 35 has started.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.