Minutes of Regular Meeting held April 9, 2012

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


APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 12th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Sara Vernon, Medina County Girl Scout Troop leader asked Council if a garage sale could be held at the Community Center to benefit the victims of the tornadoes. City Attorney Tom Cate said the Council could not take action on this matter since it was not on the agenda, but Ms. Vernon could work with the City Secretary on this.

Larry Sanders, VFW Vice-Commander told Council that Cason Hoffman had been named State VFW Scout of the year.

PRESENTATION ON LYTLE I.S.D. BOND ELECTION-NAN BOYD, MICHELLE SMITH
Nan Boyd, Michelle Smith and Matthew Koehl gave a power point presentation on the proposed Lytle I.S.D. Bond Election and handed out pamphlets concerning the vision for public education. Mrs. Boyd told Council and everyone in the audience that Lytle school could start sooner with preparing kids for the 21st century. Michelle Smith explained that if the school waits another year to pass this bond, they will not have 5.9 million dollars of OSLB monies that expire in June of this year, and then it will cost the taxpayers even more money.

BRAD BOYD-CONSIDER REQUESTS FROM LYTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
A. RESERVING PARK FOR FIDDLIN' FRENCHIE BURKE MUSIC FESTIVAL
Brad Boyd, President of the Greater Lytle Chamber of Commerce, asked Council for the use of John Lott Municipal Park for the Frenchie Burke Festival. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Boyd this event was already on the city’s event calendar.
B. REQUESTING INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR THE FIDDLIN' FRENCHIE BURKE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Brad Boyd asked Council for $8,500.00 for this year’s Frenchie Burke Festival. Mr. Boyd told Council this would be the 10th year for this event and that the cook-off would be even larger this year, and that a softball tournament would be held this year along with other games and competitions. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council grant this request from the Chamber for $8,500.00. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON TEXAS TRASH-OFF AND CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CITY TO PROVIDE SUPPLIES FOR THIS EVENT, NAN BOYD, KEEP LYTLE BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Nan Boyd, Chairman of the Beautification/Revitalization Committee, told Council that Lytle would have the Texas Trash-off on Saturday, April 14th, and asked if the city would provide vests, gloves and refreshments for the participants. Alderman Keith made the motion that the city provide the supplies requested for the Texas Trash-off. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION & CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM BEAUTIFICATION/REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Nan Boyd, Chairman of the Beautification/Revitalization Committee, told Council that several members of the committee had gone to Austin and attended a Texas Capital Fund Workshop to learn about the grants available for revitalizing the city’s Main Street area. Mrs. Boyd told Council that an overall plan is needed in order to apply for a grant. She told Council the next deadline for grant applications is July 12th. Mayor Bowen asked Philip Ruiz questions about the Texas Capital Fund Program. Mrs. Boyd said the committee has to act quickly if they are to meet the deadline and said the next agenda item is for that purpose.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE BEAUTIFICATION/REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Nan Boyd, Chairman of the Beautification/Revitalization Committee, told Council of the current members of the Beautification/Revitalization Committee. She told Council that A.Jay Frausto has never attended a meeting, and said Ward Sanders has attended all the meetings. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council appoint all the current members of the committee, and replace A.Jay Frausto with Ward Sanders. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION-BRYAN MASK

Bryan Mask talked to Council about the proposal he submitted for a Master Plan for Downtown Revitalization. He outlined the things needing to be done for this Master Plan and said the cost for getting this plan done is $25,040.00. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve this proposal. Seconded by Alderman Keith. 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 MATTER PERTAINING TO APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council adopt the Proclamation Authorizing April as Fair Housing Month. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM TEXAS CAPITAL FUND GRANT ADMINISTRATOR TO PAY GAS LINE CONTRACTOR WITH CITY FUNDS DUE TO HOLD UP WITH STATE FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT
Philip Ruiz told Council that the State is holding up on the Texas Capital Fund funding for the Best Western’s natural gas line because USDA has not sent closing documents that are required by this grant. Mr. Ruiz asked Council to consider advancing payment to the contractor since the gas line was put in back in July. He said when the State sends the funds to the city, the city can reimburse itself. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve payment to the gas line contractor from city funds as requested by Mr. Ruiz. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:42 p.m., and reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING FUNDS TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICER PATROL STAFFING OPTIONS
Police Chief Richard Priest asked Council for additional funding for additional patrolling in the city. He told Council that since the two armed robberies more patrolling is needed to deter crime. Chief Priest told Council that $8,500.00 is needed for an additional six hundred (600) hours of patrolling. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the Chief’s request for funding additional patrolling hours. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS
Alderman Jerry Stone told Council that he and Alderman Cortez had surveyed for street lights. Alderman Stone reviewed his list with Council for fixing lights and adding street lights. Mr. Stone told Council several new lights are needed on N. Prairie Street at: 15245 Adams Street intersection by the Primary School; at 18906 and 18828; one at 15441 Lake Street; and two in Coal Mine at end of Juarez Street and end of Diaz Street.

After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve this list. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS
Alderman Sanders asked Council for a special meeting to discuss the plans and goals. Mayor Bowen scheduled a special meeting for May 7th to discuss the plans and goals.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Library Director Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written report with Council.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Mark Medbury told Council that eighteen (18) letters had been sent out, and half have already complied before the deadline. Mr. Medbury told Council that there are warrants for three residents that have not complied with the court’s order or letters. Mr. Medbury told Council that the court dates set for people violating the Code are too far into the future. The City Secretary suggested Mr. Medbury discuss a closer docket with the Municipal Court Judge.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Public Works Director James McGrath reported the following to Council:

1. 182 work orders completed last month;
2. 2 new water meters were installed;
3. 1 water meter leak was fixed;
4. 1 angle stop was replaced;
5. 4 leaks on customer’s side were fixed;
6. 2 water meters were raised;
7. water pumpage has increased;
8. drainage project at a stand still;
9. dip on Laredo Street will be raised 4 1/2 inches;
10. crew worked at Easter Egg hunt;
11. lights at park are being installed;
12. gas system survey will take place on April 25th; and
13. sewer plant gear box on race track and clarifier and 30-phase breaker at lift station are needing repair.

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 thanked Alderman Cortez and Stone for doing the street light survey. He thanked Aldermen Farmer and Keith for attending opening day ceremonies for LYP. The Mayor thanked Alderman Keith for overseeing the park repairs project.

Mayor Bowen told Council that Lytle was truly blessed since it was not hit by a tornado like the surrounding area, and thanked Mayor Pro-tem Jerry Stone, Public Works Director James McGrath and Police Chief Richard Priest for their work the night of these storms.
MAYOR'S REPORT (CONT.)
The Mayor told Council they will be working on upgrading the siren system.

Mayor Bowen reminded the Council about the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner being held on April 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.