Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 8, 2001

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Gerry Elias, Louis Trouart, Juan Garcia, Bennie Evans, Mark Bowen; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate.

Visitors: Bill Foell, Daniel Perez, Lisa Switzer, Colin Switzer, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Walker, Julie Dunnivant, Lou Ann Butler, Mark Rhodes, Steve Britt, Jesse Guajardo.

APPROVE MINUTES

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes from the regular meeting held November 13th, the special meetings held November 20th, December 11th and 19th and the public hearing held December 19th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BANNING FIREWORKS IN CITY LIMITS - SAM DOWDEN

Mayor Fincher told Council that Sam Dowden had called him about people shooting fireworks in the City and that he was very irate and had requested Council consider banning fireworks in the City. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Garcia make the motion that Council leave the ordinance as is, and that the City educate the public on what the City ordinance allows. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM MIKE WALKER ON PLACEMENT OF MOBILE HOME

City Secretary Josie Campa explained to Council about Mike Walker’s request for placement of a mobile home on his property on Live Oak Street that had been tabled back in May of 2000 until Mr. Walker found another mobile home to place on his property. The City Secretary told Council that Mr. Walker now has a 1998 28'x56' double-wide that he wants to place on his property. Alderman Bowen make the motion that Council allow Mr. Walker to place said double-wide on his property. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROBLEMS IN FIRE DEPARTMENT - MARK RHODES

Mark Rhodes, President of the Lytle Volunteer Fire Department and Steve Britt, firefighter explained to Council that the fire department was experiencing financial problems, and asked if Council would consider deviating with the contract to allow them to get $4,000.00 from the $12,000.00 set aside for equipment, and they could pay back the $4,000.00 after fund raisers are held. City Secretary Josie Campa recommended to Council that they amend the equipment amount to $8,000.00 and allow the $4,000.00 to be paid to the department now, with no requirement for paying back this amount. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council give $4,000.00 from the budgeted $12,000.00 to the fire department now, and that this amount not have to be repaid to the City. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RESIGNATION FROM POLICE OFFICER ANDREW EWING

Mayor Fincher told Council that officer Andrew Ewing had resigned for a new job. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept Andrew Ewing’s resignation. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING POLICE OFFICER TO REPLACE OFFICER EWING

Chief Priest told Council that he has some non-paid officers interested in filling the vacancy in the department created by officer Ewing’s resignation. Council agreed to set up interviews for interested non-paid officers. Mayor Fincher will call a special meeting for this at a later date.

CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 234 MODIFYING WATER USE TABLE AND ADDING RESTRICTIONS BASED UPON COMAL SPRINGS FLOW

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 255. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.
Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 8, 2001 (cont.)

CONSIDER HIRING SOUTHWEST SECURITIES TO FILE CONTINUING DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS AS PER SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RULE 15c2-12
Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council hire Southwest Securities to file the continuing disclosure documents required by the Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12 for the quoted $2250.00. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AMENDING CONTRACT WITH GIDLEY FARMS FOR ADDITIONAL ACRE FEET OF WATER
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council authorize the City Attorney to amend the contract with Gidley for an additional 11.3 acre feet of water. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES
Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council renew the contract for collection of delinquent taxes with Tom Cate. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Mayor Fincher asked Council if they had any nominees for the annual citizenship award. Mayor Fincher and City Secretary Josie Campa both nominated Michael Wooten for this annual award. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council award the Daniel J. McGrath, D.V.M. Citizenship award for 2000 to Michael Wooten. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:57 p.m.

CONSIDER CLEAN UP PROGRAM AND HIRING DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS TO CLEAN PROPERTIES FOR CITY AND CLARIFICATION OF ORDINANCES
Mayor Fincher told Council that he and the City Secretary had discussed this item and that the City crew has too much work to have to be cleaning people's lots and that the City probably needs to hire independent contractors to mow, shred and clean lots. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council hire independent contractors to clean lots that are in violation of the City ordinance in the future. Discussion on liability. Passed unanimously.

The City Secretary asked Council for clarification of the ordinance concerning cactus and other items in the ordinance. Chief Priest told Council that he feels that about 75% of the City's residents have some type of litter or trash on their properties. He told Council he would be attending a litter abatement course the end of this month. Council agreed that Chief Priest and the City Secretary should present a plan to Council once he completes the course and gets ideas for code enforcement.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT
The Director of Public Works was absent.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council. Chief said officers have been attending schools.

The Chief told Council that the new police car is up and running.

Mayor Fincher set up January 15th as a tentative date to hold interviews for the police officer position.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
The City Secretary reviewed her written report with Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:

1 - sewer permit approved;
2 - contracts for sewer project signed;
3 - preconstruction conference will be held soon;
4 - street project completed and Cummings will be back to clean up;
5 - McDonald's has started construction and should be complete in eighty seven (87) days;
6 - grant for sewer on other side of IH 35 looks good; should know something by middle of February.

Meeting adjourned.

Mayor

City Secretary