Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 8, 1999

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Louis Trouart, Juan Garcia, Mark Bowen and Bennie Evans; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Kathy Ray; City Attorney Tom Cate; Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguina. Alderman Elias was absent. 


APPROVE MINUTES

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

City Secretary Josie Campa added the bill from Tom Cate ($376.33) for legal fees and corrected the bill listings for Texas Gas Association from $17.00 to $170.00 and Texana Machinery Corporation from $4,769.03 to $4,746.85. Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the January 11th public hearing and regular meeting and the January 25th special meeting as presented and the bills list as amended. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Fincher welcomed Boy Scout Troop #369 to the Council meeting.

Alderman Garcia thanked the Council for the proclamation to the school and the City Secretary for representing the City at the school's programs.

CONSIDER AUDIT REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 1997-1998

Wayne Beyer of Beyer & Company presented the audit report for 1997-1998 fiscal year. Mr. Beyer reviewed the audit report with Council for each fund and said he did not prepare a management letter as the City is being run excellently. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council accept the audit report and pay the auditing firm for their services. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING AUDITING FIRM FOR 1998-1999 FISCAL YEAR

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Mr. Beyer had agreed to do next year's audit for the same price. Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council hire Beyer & Company to do the 1998-1999 audit for the price of $6,500.00. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BID(S) RECEIVED ON ELEVATED WATER TANK GRANT PROJECT

Paul Boedeker told Council one bid had been received on the elevated water tank. The bid was from Pittsburgh Tank & Tower Company for $179,600.00 and an alternate bid of $159,600.00. Mr. Boedeker told Council that after discussions with Pittsburgh representative Ben Johnston, a reduction of the bid price was given provided the City performs some of the work. He described what the City's crew needs to do on this project to lower the bid price to $130,888.00. After more discussion with Council, Mr. Boedeker agreed to get more information. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council table this item for the March 8th meeting. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ENGINEER'S REPORT & CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Paul Boedeker reviewed his very lengthy report of the City's wastewater treatment facility with the Council. Mr. Boedeker gave Council some options for correcting the problems with the sewer plant and explained everything in detail. Mr. Boedeker told Council that he needs to answer E.P.A. by February 15th, as to what the City plans to do to correct the problems with the wastewater treatment plant. Council agreed to take a short break.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION OF MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM MARIA ANITA LOPEZ

Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council approve the Mobile Home Commission's recommendation and allow Maria Anita Lopez to place a mobile home on her property in Twin Lakes. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 8:15 p.m. and reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

CONSIDER ENGINEER'S REPORT & CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (CONT.)

Mr. Boedeker discussed the options with Council and finances for solutions to the problem. Mr. Boedeker told Council he doesn't want to patch and fix the problem and feels going with a new larger facility would be the answer. After lengthy discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that the City upgrade the sewer facility to get the City in compliance with E.P.A. and TNRCC. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER PROJECT TO APPLY FOR IN NEXT GRANT CYCLE

Philip Ruiz told Council that if they want to submit an application for the next grant cycle, a public hearing would need to be held to determine the City's need. Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council authorize Community Development Management to apply for a grant and that a public hearing be set for February 22nd. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER POLICY FOR USE OF CITY VEHICLES BY EMPLOYEES

After lengthy discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council continue to allow Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga to take a truck home and that he be charged a per diem fee for the use of the vehicle as per the auditor's suggestion to meet IRS requirements. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STEERING COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT IN CP&L LAWSUIT

Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council adopt the resolution authorizing steering committee involvement in the CP&L lawsuit. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE

Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 236. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NO PARKING ZONE ON BOTH SIDES OF IH 35 SOUTH FRONTAGE ROAD FROM FM 2790 TO HARBOUR STREET

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 237. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF POLICE CORPORAL RICHARD PRIEST

Police Chief Kathy Ray recommended that Richard Priest be promoted to Sergeant. Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council promote Richard Priest to Sergeant as per Chief Ray's recommendation. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM POLICE CHIEF TO PURCHASE UNIFORMS FOR PROBATIONARY OFFICERS

Police Chief Kathy Ray recommended to Council that new police officers be given two uniforms while on probation and explained the hardships for the new officers. Alderman Evans made the motion that Council approve the Chief's request and in the future new police officers be issued two uniforms each. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER OPTIONS ON UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS FOR GASOLINE

Council considered options available for getting underground storage tanks in compliance. After discussion, Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council have the underground storage tanks closed and pay for insurance ($500 per year) to get City in compliance. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY CENTER ANNEX

Mayor Finchertold Council he had received several bids on several different jobs to build the Community Center annex. He read the quotes he had received and said that he had Tom Cate draw up several contracts for the companies that would be doing the work. He said the total for the building on the four jobs to be done total $36,999.00. Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council approve these contracts and authorize the Mayor to enter into these contracts with the companies mentioned by the Mayor (Devora, Graham & Chiles). Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER FEE FOR MOBILE HOME & ZONING APPLICATIONS

Council discussed charging a fee for a mobile home or zoning applications to defray some of the City's cost. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that the City charge $50.00 with each mobile home and zoning application and if people follow through, they get deposit back and if not, the deposit is forfeited to the City for costs incurred. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CALLING FOR ELECTION

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council call for an election on Saturday, May 1st for the purpose of electing Aldermen for districts 1, 2 & 3. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 1999 (cont.)

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT
Director of Public Works' Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:

1. TNRCC will be checking water system on Feb. 16th;
2. RRC will check gas system on March 3rd;
3. Attended gas seminar in Austin and City will have to set qualifications in 18 months for gas employees;
4. Sewer samples are not good now due to draining of pond #1 for testing;
5. Someone from Allen Plumber Co. took pictures of creek by sewer plant for a study being done;
6. Poles being put up around center parking lot;
7. Did work on a water line in Coal Mine;
8. Patching streets around City; and
9. James is working animal control.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Police Chief Kathy Ray told Council they are presently working on a junk vehicle list.

Chief Ray told Council the new officer should be starting work this week, and explained TCLEOSE rules being stricter and that new officer can't wear weapon until certificate is received from TCLEOSE, and that this takes about one month.

Chief Ray then reviewed her written report with Council.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council members that election packets would be ready by Wednesday, February 10th and that filing for Council starts February 15th and ends March 17th.

The City Secretary told Council that Castroville's Court Clerk will be loading court software and training office personnel starting February 13th.

Ms. Campa told Council the City would be receiving $30,713.93 in sales tax this month and that this is a 72% increase over the previous February.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Finch told Council that since the school was built, there have been drainage problems in that area and that they will be looking at this problem and try to resolve this matter.

The Mayor told Council that they need to be thinking about the expected blackout when the year 2000 starts and that they may want to have generators on standby like other cities. This item will be on the next agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Mayor

[Signatures]

City Secretary