Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 11, 2002

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Louis Trouart, Gerry Elias, Juan J. Garcia, Mark Bowen, Erik Dahler; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate; Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga.


APPROVE MINUTES & APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa added to bills from Troy Martin-$735.00 and Don’s Electrical Service-$91.25. Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held January 14th and the special meeting held January 28th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Alderman Garcia reported to Council that he has talked to someone with the railroad and that he said he will send instructions not to block the Coal Mine Crossing. He said he has also talked to Ciro Rodriguez’ office about this matter. Council discussed keeping documentation on this matter in the future.

Mayor Fincher told Council that the Blackwood concert on Saturday had between 600 and 700 in attendance and that the Hearts and Crafts Show was also a success.

PRESENTATION OF CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Mayor Fincher presented the annual Daniel J. McGrath, D.V.M. Citizenship Award to Tom and Linda Cate and thanked them for all their work in the community. Mayor Pro-term Gerry Elias presented the annual citizenship award to co-winner Horace Fincher and thanked him for all his work in the community.

CONSIDER AUDIT REPORT FOR 2000-2001 FISCAL YEAR
Wayne Beyer of Beyer & Company presented the audit report for fiscal year 2000-2001 and reviewed report with the Council. Mr. Beyer told Council that he was giving the City an unqualified opinion and said the City is in healthy shape. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept the audit and approve payment. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING AUDITING FIRM FOR 2001-2002 FISCAL YEAR
Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council hire Beyer & Company to do the 2001-2002 audit for $6,500.00. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LYTLE YOUTH PROGRAM TO RENEW LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF BALL FIELDS AT CITY PARK
After discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council approve the renewal of the license agreement with the Lytle Youth Program for the use of the ball fields at the park upon receipt of the year end report. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER REQUEST FROM WELDA HISSNER TO WAIVE CENTER FEES FOR WANJURA FAMILY REUNION

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Welda Wanjura Hissner is requesting the center fees for the Wanjura reunion be waived. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council not waive the fees since it will set a precedent. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Discussion. Motion was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A 2003/2004 (FY) TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF RURAL COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (ORCA) FOR FUNDING UNDER THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (TCDP) AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE CITY’S EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A 2003/2004 (FY) TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Philip Ruiz explained when the grant application is due for the next grant cycle, and asked Council to consider applying for a grant in this cycle. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council authorize the preparation and submission of a 2003/2004 (FY) Texas Community Development Program Application to the Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) for funding under the Texas Development Program (TCDP) and authorize the Mayor to act as the City’s Executive Officer and authorize representative in all matters pertaining to the preparation and submission of a 2003/2004 (FY) Texas Community Development Program Application. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING EMPLOYEE (S) FOR PUBLIC WORKS’ DEPARTMENT

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council advertise for the positions in the Public Works department. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER STREETS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Council discussed the streets for retopping project. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council prioritize the streets for the retopping projects as follows:

- Live Oak Street past City Park
- Norvell Street
- Oak Street between Gray & Martin
- Mesquite Street between S. Prairie & S. Benton
- Hester Street between 26th & Martin

Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS

Council discussed additional street lights. Alderman Elias made the motion that all the lights on the list plus a light on Richard Street by Mr. Todd’s residence be installed. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HOLIDAYS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES—GERRY ELIAS

Alderman Elias recommended to Council that Martin Luther King’s Day be added to the employee holidays. He also suggested a floating holiday be added and explained reason for it.

Alderman Dahler made the motion that Martin Luther King Day be added to employee holidays. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council add a floating holiday. Motion died for lack of a second.

CONSIDER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH RIVER CITY OFFICE MACHINES FOR ALL OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Alderman Bowen made the motion to approve the maintenance contract with RCOM. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Discussion. Alderman Bowen retracted his motion and Alderman Trouart took back his second. Council agreed to table this item.

CONSIDER CALLING FOR ELECTION

Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council call for an election for May 4th to elect a Mayor and two Aldermen. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:55 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

CONSIDER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH RIVER CITY OFFICE MACHINES FOR ALL OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Alderman Dahler told Council he had discussed the RCOM maintenance contract with the City Secretary and she knew what machines to deduct from the contract. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the RCOM contract as per the Secretary’s deductions. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH REX MAYHEW TO FARM SEWER PLANT PROPERTY

City Attorney Tom Cate has drawn up the lease agreement with Rex Mayhew, on the sewer plant property. Mayor Fincher asked him to include the acres at the well site. This item was tabled.

CONSIDER REMOVAL OF TIRES FROM MARTINEZ PROPERTY & CITY LIMITS—GERRY ELIAS

Alderman Elias told Council he had talked to Mrs. Martinez about cost of removing tires from her property and said she agreed to the City billing her on the monthly utility bill. Council discussed a spring cleanup program and Mayor Fincher asked Alderman Elias & Dahler to draw something up for Council’s consideration. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council have
CONSIDER REMOVAL OF TIRES FROM MARTINEZ PROPERTY & CITY LIMITS—GERRY ELIAS (CONT.)
Aldermen Elias & Dahler work up program criteria. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO MOBILE HOME COMMISSION TO REPLACE ANTONIA REYES
This item was tabled. City Secretary Josie Campa agreed to ask Brenda Granberg about serving on commission.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT
Council discussed having the City Attorney incorporate the litter abatement State law into the City’s Code of Ordinances.

CONSIDER HAVING LIBRARY PROPERTY SURVEYED
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council have the library property surveyed. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASING UTILITY METER DEPOSITS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council of the need to increase utility deposits, and gave examples of bills for renters and owners. She recommended that the renter’s deposits be raised from $150.00 ($50.00-water and $100.00-gas) to $200.00 ($75.00-water and $125.00-gas) and the owners deposits be raised from $40.00 ($15.00-water and $25.00-gas) to $90.00 ($40.00-water and $50.00-gas). After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council increase the utility deposits, as recommended by the City Secretary. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously. It was agreed these deposits are effective February 12, 2002.

CONSIDER LEASING LARGE SUMP PUMP FOR DRAINING PONDS AT SEWER PLANT
Mayor Fincher told Council that the City is needing to rent a large sump pump to drain the ponds at the sewer plant. The Mayor was not able to get prices but estimated less than $1,500.00 per month. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council allow the Mayor to lease a sump pump for draining the ponds at the sewer plant for up to $1,500.00 per month. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER "NO PARKING" ZONE IN FRONT OF BILL MILLER BARBEQUE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that there is a traffic hazard in front of the Bill Miller restaurant due to large trucks parking in the front. Council discussed the need for a no-parking zone. Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council have the City Attorney draw up an ordinance for a no parking zone in front of Bill Millers. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS’ REPORT
Director of Public Works’ Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:
1. chlorinating system and odds and ends being installed in new sewer plant;
2. sewer samples weren’t good last month;
3. put up signs around primary school;
4. replaced section of sewer line at Harris Park;
5. had some sewer lines jetted by All-Pro;
6. Robert Hernandez, now doing on-call duty;
7. engineer Craig Bell will be out later this week to go over things needed at new sewer plant;
8. lights at park have been redone;
9. did some fix-up work at community center.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council. The Chief told Council he has two projects planned—a warrant round up and cleaning the evidence room. Chief Priest told Council that the vehicles have not required any major repairs and that Glen Estes is on vacation. The Chief told Council he and a couple of his officers will be attending a TML law enforcement liability training seminar.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
The City Secretary told Council that the two new trucks for the Public Works’ department should be here in a day or two.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:
1. sewer plant property looks really good since it’s been cleared; contractor will start burning brush;
2. hopefully sewer plant will be working Wednesday;
3. Mayor says there are old trucks and scrap metal at sewer plant that he can’t get anyone to remove; asked Council if City Crew can remove and let them keep whatever monies it brings—City Attorney Tom Cate suggested this be placed on March Agenda;
4. asked Council to list what they feel constitutes an emergency for going through Estrada property and bring it to March meeting;
5. discussed having police department, EMS personnel, fire department, and every officer at drill in March.
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

[Signatures]

Mayor

City Secretary