Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 14, 2000

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


APPROVE MINUTES

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes from the January 10th regular meeting and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AUDIT REPORT FOR 1998-1999 FISCAL YEAR

Wayne Beyer from Beyer & Company presented the audit report for fiscal year 1998-1999. Mr. Beyer reviewed the different funds with Council and said the general fund is in excellent shape and that the enterprise funds are in good shape, too. He said the water and sewer funds have a lot of depreciation. Mr. Beyer told Council that tax collections were excellent for the fiscal year. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council accept the audit report and approve payment. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING AUDITING FIRM FOR 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR


CONSIDER PRELIMINARY PLAT ON GUZMAN PROPERTY - BERTHA HAASS

Bertha Haass told Council that she and her sisters have reconsidered and will now be dividing her mother's property into two parcels. She said her mother's piece of property would be landlocked but that she has a 25 ft. easement. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council he saw no problems with the proposed preliminary plat. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council approve the preliminary plat presented by Mrs. Haass. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM SONIC DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL TEXAS FOR VARIANCE ON SIZE OF SIGNS - MARK TEDDER

Mark Tedder and Tony Sinkins from Sonic Development showed Council a sketch of the standard sign Sonic uses for their drive-ins and requested Council grant a variance on the size of sign allowed in a B-1 district to allow them to use their standard sign. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council grant this variance on sign size to Sonic Development. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF COMMUNITY CENTER RULES AND REGULATIONS - ANTHONY ANNIS
No action taken due to Mr. Annis' absence.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LYTLE I.S.D. TO CLOSE OFF PORTION OF POCO STREET BETWEEN N. BENTON AND PRAIRIE
No action was taken on this item since no one from Lytle I.S.D. was present.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO PLACE VETERANS' MEMORIAL IN CITY PARK - WILLIAM VAUGHN
William Vaughn, sophomore at Lytle High School, requested Council's permission for him to place a veterans' memorial at the City park next to the gazebo and waive the building permit. Mayor Fincher expressed his appreciation for Mr. Vaughn's interest in the veterans and said it was a great idea, but that he had a problem with the location for this memorial. The Mayor suggested the memorial be placed at the mini-park on Main Street. Mr. Vaughn showed Council a sketch of what he is proposing and said he would build it and would do odd jobs to finance this project if Council approves his request. After discussion, Alderman Evans made the motion that Council give William Vaughn permission to place a veterans' memorial at the mini-park on Main Street and the building permit be waived or this project. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously. Mayor Fincher commended Mr. Vaughn for his interest in the veterans and said he would ask Council to name the mini-park, Veteran's Park at the March meeting and that the City would look into having lights placed by the flagpoles.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LYTLE YOUTH PROGRAM TO RENEW LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF BALL FIELDS AT CITY PARK
Jon Devaney, Lytle Youth Program President, requested Council renew the license agreement with the Lytle Youth Program for the use of the ballfields and park facilities for this season. Mr. Devaney commended the Council on their new Council chamber and presented an all-star cup to the City Secretary and cup and t-shirt to the Mayor. Mr. Devaney also presented a plaque to the City expressing the youth program's appreciation for the City's support. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the renewal of the license agreement with the Lytle Youth Program for the use of the ballfields and park facilities. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER LEASE FOR WATER RIGHTS FROM GIDLEY FARMS
Council discussed the proposed lease of ground water with Gidley Farms. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council approve this lease as presented. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO LIBRARY BOARD
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that present Library Board members Toni Reyes, Lucy Luker, Ann Van Winkle and Lucy Chapa have all agreed to serve another two-year term on the board if Council is agreeable. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council appoint Toni Reyes, Lucy Luker, Ann Van Winkle and Lucy Chapa to two-year terms on the Library Board. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 131 (NO PARKING ZONE ON HWY. 132)
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 244, repealing Ordinance No. 131 of the City's Code of Ordinance. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF UVALDO RAMIREZ, JR.
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that Patrolman Uvaldo Ramirez had completed his 6-month probation and recommended he be hired as a regular City employee and be given a $100.00 per month salary increase, uniforms and all benefits available. Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council hire Uvaldo Ramirez as a regular employee and that he be given a salary increase of $100.00 per month and all City benefits. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PURCHASING NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR COMMUNITY CENTER
Mayor Fincher told Council he had gotten prices from three companies on the new sound system for the community center. He said the first one was between $7,500 and $8,000 and was a lot more than Council allowed for new system. He said Alamo Music gave a price of $3,803, but he was not impressed with their proposal. The Mayor told Council that Sound Distributors gave a price of $4,973.28 for a sound system and that the speakers would be in the ceiling. He recommended Council accept the price quote from Sound Distributors. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council accept the system recommended by Sound Distributors at a price of $4,973.28. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTING OVERSEER FOR SEWER PLANT PROJECT
Mayor Fincher told Council about the progress made at the sewer plant site and discussed the need for an overseer on this project. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council appoint Mayor Fincher as overseer for the sewer plant project. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.
Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 14, 2000 (cont.)

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR E.M.S. BUILDING
Mayor Fincher told Council that he has received a lot of comments about the way the E.M.S. building looks and takes away from the City Hall building. He told Council he has been checking on prices to either brick the building or have it painted, so that it will look better. He said the prices for bricking the building are high, due to not leaving a footing when the building was put up. He said the prices for bricking this building would be over $12,000.00, whereas painting the building would cost $1,550.00. Alderman Elias suggested that brick be used up to a custom height, then paint the rest of the building. Council discussed using a veneer siding. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion to have the E.M.S. building painted for $1,550.00 and that the Mayor and Alderman Elias check on siding. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CALLING FOR ELECTION
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council call for an election for the purpose of electing a Mayor and two aldermen. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Mayor Fincher presented the 1999 Daniel J. McGrath, D.V.M. Citizenship Award to City Secretary Josie Campa.

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

1 - J M Knowlton Co. have 6-inch water line in already and are finishing up driveways;
2 - sewer samples have not been good;
3 - ducks are being a real problem to the sewer plant;
4 - clutch on 1-ton truck replaced;
5 - hydraulic cylinder in Ford backhoe repaired;
6 - hydraulic pump in Case backhoe repaired;
7 - crew has been fixing water leaks;
8 - new stop signs and yield signs have been installed;
9 - gas line for Sonic installed;
10 - water line for Sonic ready, tied 6-inch line onto 3-inch line for now; will tie onto 6-inch later;
11 - sewer line for Sonic will be finished up this Saturday;
12 - water tower crew will be here February 15th and the crane will be available on the 22nd and will be set February 23rd and work done February 24th and 25th;
13 - crew has been replacing boards on benches at City park;
14 - benches at tennis court also need to be replaced; and
15 - sewer plant brush has been cleared; need to break up some roots.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.
Chief Priest told Council that vehicles are in good shape now and that only routine maintenance is being required on these vehicles.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reviewed her written report with Council and then reported on the following additional items:

1 - sales tax allocation for February will be $33,935.56, approximately $3,000.00 more than last February;
2 - Jesus Roel repaired ice machine and installed filter;
3 - tourism events coming up include Kohtz concert and Easter Eggs-travaganza;
4 - Hearts & Crafts Show held Saturday, February 12th was very successful;
5 - Lytle night at the Iguanas game will be February 26th; tickets available at City Hall;
6 - will be checking on upcoming schools for water and wastewater;
7 - told Council first day for filing for a place on this year's ballot is February 21st and last day to file is March 22nd;
8 - water tank in need of recoating on inside and painting on outside; have checked on getting new, larger tank put up instead. Engineer says present legs won't support larger bowl; and
9 - low-interest loans and grants are available for new sewer plant, however they are based on sewer rates and indebtedness and City's rates are very low and City has no indebtedness; will have Mark McLiney from Southwest Securities at March meeting.
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MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Fincher read letter from Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs concerning Local Operator Elda Perez having a 95% utilization rate. Mayor Fincher told Council Mrs. Perez is doing an outstanding job.

The Mayor told Council there is a problem with the water tank; the fiberglass coating is chipped and it will have to be recoated and painted on outside.

Mayor Fincher told Council that the sewer plant property is looking really good since last month. He said the dozer and other equipment were not only used to clear the land, but also provided excellent training for public works' employees. The Mayor told Council that soil samples have been taken and sent to Texas A&M.

Mayor Fincher reported that the State Highway Department personnel had looked at the problem at the St. Andrews Catholic Church and that "church" signs will be put up on Hwy. 132.

The Mayor gave a report on the work completed on the E.M.S. building and what is needing to be done to finish the building.

The Mayor told Council that the Lone Star Fiddlers Association had a jam session at the annex building and that is was packed.

Mayor Fincher told Council that a concert would be held on April 8th and that Steve and Dawn Kohtz would be performing for an hour and a half. The Mayor told Council this concert was made possible by Lytle businesses.

Mayor Fincher invited Council members to go out and see the sewer plant property now that it has been cleared.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary