Minutes of Regular Meeting held March 8, 2004

Regular meeting held with the following: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen A.Jay Frausto, Mark Bowen, Louis Trouart, Gerry Elias, Erik Dahler; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate.


APPROVE MINUTES & APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing and the regular meeting from February 9th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Frausto. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Pablo Cortez asked Council if the pot holes in front of the Coal Mine Church could be fixed. Mayor Fincher told Mr. Cortez a work order would be written to get this fixed.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES TO CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST WINNERS
Mayor Fincher presented plaques to the following winners of the Christmas Decorating contest:

2nd place - residential - Pablo Cortez
3rd place - residential - Domingo Reyes; and
1st place - business - St. Andrews Catholic Church;

Plaques for the remaining winners will be sent to them.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LEE SCHOOLEY TO HAVE TRAVEL TRAILER PLACED ON PROPERTY WHILE HIS MANUFACTURED HOME IS BEING PLACED (CONSTRUCTED) ON PROPERTY
Mayor Fincher asked Mr. Schooley what kind of time frame would be involved with his request. Mr. Schooley told Council he did not know a specific time frame, but would probably be the rest of March. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council grant this request. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

TOM KOCH - INFORMATION ITEM - BEXAR METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT'S DEVELOPMENT AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM THAT MAY IMPACT CITY OF LYTLE
Tom Koch, a consulting engineer who serves Bexar Met, told Council he was just present to make Council aware of Bexar Met’s plans for the future. He said Bexar Met would like to connect their north and south service areas and put in a distribution loop, and they are researching the possibility interconnections. Mayor Fincher suggested Council have Mr. Koch talk to the city’s engineer.
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HORATIO GARCIA - CONSIDER REQUEST AND/OR COMPLAINT CONCERNING PLACEMENT OF WATER METER OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS

Horatio Garcia told Council that if they allow his new water meter to be placed sixty feet past present line, then he has no problem. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Mr. Garcia is wanting a water meter outside of the city and past where the city's present line is located. She said she told him what city policy is and he requested to talk to Council about this matter. Mr. Garcia told Council a list of things he has done for the city and said he doesn't feel it is right for him to not be able to get a meter in front of his property. Council held a discussion on previous variances granted or ordinances. Alderman Dahler asked Mr. Garcia if he would volunteer to be annexed to the city. Mr. Garcia told Council he would agree to be annexed. After further discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that the city extend the existing four inch water line sixty (60) feet to Mr. Garcia's property contingent upon his volunteering to be annexed. Seconded by Alderman Frausto. Council discussed whether this annexation would be legal and City Attorney Tom Cate said as long as he volunteers to be annexed there will be no problem. Motion was passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RATE ORDINANCE REDUCING ELECTRIC RATES BY AEP TEXAS CENTRAL COMPANY

City Attorney Tom Cate explained to Council that the law firm handling the CP & L rate case has advised us to pass this ordinance. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 279. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM TITAN INDUSTRIAL COMPANY FOR PURCHASE OF GENERATORS AND DONATION OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Mayor Fincher told Council that the City had received a proposal from Titan concerning equipment. He said the company will donate certain equipment if the city purchases two generators totaling $4699.00. The Mayor told Council that Alderman Trouart had checked the equipment and found that the prices for the generators were higher than most other places. Council discussed whether those pieces of equipment were really necessary. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council delay purchasing this equipment. Seconded by Alderman Frausto. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF INVESTMENT POLICY

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council review the three investment policies submitted by the City Secretary for the April regular meeting. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER STREETS FOR STREET PAVING PROJECT

Mayor Fincher asked Council members to get a list of streets that need to be retopped for discussion at the April meeting.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATASCOSA COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Alderman Frausto volunteered to serve on the Atascosa County Sesquicentennial Committee. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council appoint Alderman Frausto to this Committee. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM ATASCOSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR USE OF CITY'S BACKHOE

Mayor Fincher told the Council that the Atascosa County Commissioner has asked for the use of the city's backhoe for a project outside the city limits. The Mayor told Council that this commissioner is working with the city and has had his crew working on Railroad Street and hauling material to the sewer plant. He said the commissioner has also volunteered their crew to work on the all-weather road at the sewer plant. After discussion, Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council grant the request from the County Commissioner and allow him to use the city's backhoe for up to five (5) days. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:34 p.m. and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.
CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SIREN FOR DISASTER PROGRAM
Mayor Fincher told the Council that a siren is needed for the Coal Mine area and said that this would cost about $3200.00, plus installation fees for moving the siren from the Fire Station to the Antique Building. Mayor Fincher told Council he would need $4000.00 for the new siren. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council allow the Mayor to get an additional siren as specified. Seconded by Alderman Frausto. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING OF PUBLIC WORKS' DIRECTOR
Mayor Fincher announced that Council would go into closed session as allowed by Chapter 551.074 Subchapter D of the Government Code.

The meeting was reopened at 8:29 p.m.

Mayor Fincher announced that Council had discussed the position of Director of Public Works and that eight (8) applications had been received and they had been narrowed down to one. Alderman Frausto made the motion that Council hire Greg Presley as Director of Public Works with a starting salary of $40,000.00 a year-straight salary and allow him to use a S-10 pick-up to go back and forth from home. All the above is contingent upon successfully completing his physical and drug screen. Also, upon receiving gas training and completing the probationary period that there be a possibility of a raise. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Presley thanked Council and said he would give the City of Natalia notice that his employment will end with them at the end of March.

CONSIDER INCREASING COMMUNITY CENTER RATES FOR OUT OF TOWN USERS
Mayor Fincher told Council that people from out of town do not take care of the community center and asked them to consider raising the rates for out of town users. Alderman Dahler suggested deposit be increased and Mayor Fincher recommended security fees also be raised to a minimum of $25.00 per hour. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that the deposit for the center be increased to $500.00 for out of town users and the fees for the center be increased to $500.00 and security fees increased to $25.00 per hour for out of town users. Also, that the ETJ users be charged $250.00 for the center rental fee and their deposit and security fees remain the same as they are now. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

The Chief told Council that Lee Pate has been added to the department as a Reserve Officer, and that now this will enable him to make a presentation at the Intermediate School.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reported on the following items:
1-the second meeting of the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee will be held on March 11th;
2-the franchise tax from Charter Communication was received that day and is about $160.00 more than last year; and
3-SBC decided to not forgive all the long distance charges on the tax computer line, but will take off half of these charges; therefore the bill is now $3500.00 and she will attend the Appraisal District board meeting to ask for reimbursement.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:
1-permit application for sewer problem on FM 2790 E. has been submitted to TXDOT for a permit;
2-will have specs for drainage project very soon; and
3-gas meters have not all been painted, so city employees will have to finish this project.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
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Mayor

Josie Camara
City Secretary