Minutes of Regular Meeting held March 10, 2003

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Charles Bushart, Gerry Elias, Mark Bowen, Erik Dahler, Juan J. Garcia; 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 the bill for legal fees from Tom Cate totaling $2146.95. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 10, 2003 and payment of the bills listed, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Jack McFarland told Council that Pine Street needs to be repaired. Richard Crain told Council that the Chamber of Commerce has regrouped and that he is attending the Council meeting to report to the Chamber and said the meetings are held on the 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Pig Stand. Mr. Crain invited people to attend.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM DANNY YANEZ
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council there was no opposition to the Yanez request. Alderman Elias made the motion that the Council approve the recommendation from the Mobile Home Commission. Seconded by Alderman Bushart. Passed unanimously.

FRANK HERRERA-INTRODUCTION OF CLEAR FLOW PLUMBING
Mr. Frank Herrera introduced his company “Clear Flow Plumbing” to the Council and gave a list of things his company does and said he is available if the City needs him.

JACK MCFARLAND-RAW SEWAGE BEING RUN ON PROPERTY BY NEIGHBOR
Jack McFarland asked Council members if they had received copies of the report made by Allianz Company. He then gave each Council member a copy of the letter from Allianz and told them he has been coming to the Council for the past seven months about this problem. Mayor Fincher told Mr. McFarland that his neighbors have been given until the end of March to correct the problem. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER RACIAL PROFILING REPORT FROM CHIEF PRIEST
Chief Priest gave Council an overview of the racial profiling report that is required by law.

CONSIDER HIRING PUBLIC WORKS’ EMPLOYEE
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga told Council that Jose Guerra had taken another job and recommended Timothy Revilla be hired for the Public Works Department. Alderman Bushart made the motion that Council hire Timothy Revilla as recommended by the Public Works’ Director. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF JAVIER PINONES
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga recommended to Council that Javier Pinones be hired as a regular employee and be given a $1.00 per hour salary increase and full benefits. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council hire Javier Pinones as a regular employee and that he be given a $1.00 per hour salary increase and full benefits. Seconded by Alderman Bushart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS
Council discussed additional street lights. Alderman Garcia told Council he feels lights are needed at the entry way to Coal Mine and by Bob Wagner's place on N. Prairie Street. Council discussed lights at intersection of Houston and Dawson, by Farmers Tractor, by library and by park entrance and intersection of Diamond B Trail and Lytle- Somerset Street. The City Secretary told Council of the request for a light at Magnolia & FM 3175. Alderman Garcia made the motion that all these lights be added contingent on Council members approving of the lights by the Wagner place and Magnolia Street. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER STREETS FOR PAVING PROJECT
Council discussed streets for repaving project. Mayor Fincher told Council that 54,000 sq. ft. needs to be repaved due to construction project. Blume Drive and Cottage Streets were also considered for this project. Alderman Dahler told Council he feels Wisdom Road is needing some attention. Council agreed to look at these streets before deciding which to retop. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER CONCERNS WITH E.M.S. SERVICE
Mayor Fincher told Council that the E.M.S. had not been available on the weekend and people had to call Devine for an emergency. After discussion, Council agreed to have the Mayor and Alderman Elias talk to the County Judge about this matter. No action was taken on this item.

Council took a short break at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

CONSIDER LEASING K-5 DOZER FOR WORK TO BE DONE AT OLD SEWER PLANT
Mayor Fincher told Council it would cost $6,900.00 per month for a K-5 dozer to do work at filling in ponds at old sewer plant. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council rent the needed dozer for $6,900.00 per month. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Alderman Dahler asked that the City Attorney to look at the lease agreement. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENAMING CITY PARK
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she has been approached by some people to ask Council to rename the city park in honor of John Lott. Alderman Garcia told Council that a lot of people have done work at the park and he feels a monument with their names should be placed at the park instead. After more discussion, no action was taken on this item.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:
1-all water and sewer lines have been installed on the bank project and that more testing will be done once the water lines are flushed, and then cleanup will be finished in the next few weeks; and
2-gas line on Cottage Street was relocated.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Chief Priest reviewed his written report with Council. The Chief also reported on the following items:
1-warrant round-up scheduled for March 22nd;
2-recall work done on three cars, and additional work done while the units were having the recall work done;
3-computer was installed in police unit and total cost of unit, including installation was about $900.00;
4-another computer has been purchased and it will be checked and prepared for installing, however this unit will cost more than the first unit; and
5-more officers are going to training courses.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reviewed her written report with Council.
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MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:
1-glad to have a member from the Chamber of Commerce attend a meeting;
2-the Disaster Mitigation Plan required for the city is very, very thorough;
3-city just about through with grant projects, so Council may want to go after a grant; and
4-mitigation plan also wants prices of homes in the flood plain.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary