Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 11, 2013

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Jerry Stone, Ruble Farmer, Ward Sanders, Kevin Keith, Sam Cortez; City Secretary Josie Campa; Director of Public Works James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; City Attorney Tom Cate; Library Director Cassandra Cortez.

Visitors: James Cotter, Ralph Taylor, Chuck Bayne, Betty Kroeger, Ernie Kroeger, Maurissa Herrera, Michelle Keith, Dan Pitts, Brett Pitts, Sam Parks, Janet Fisher, Bobby Roberts, Jr., Emma and Eleni Keith.

APPROVE MINUTES & APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she had received a bill from Tom Cate for legal fees totalling $3,877.70. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 14th, the special meeting held January 22nd and the workshop and special meeting held January 28th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Ralph Taylor read a poem to Council that he had written about the new gateway monument. He complimented Council on the new monument, but said it would look better with a flagpole by it with flags showing our American and State patriotism. After discussion, the City Secretary agreed to contact Carl Friesenhahn at TxDot about this request.

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL DANIEL J. MCGRATH, D.V.M. CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Mayor Mark Bowen presented Maurissa Herrera with the Annual Daniel J. McGrath, D.V.M. Citizenship Award. The Mayor told everyone that Nan Boyd had received her plaque at the gateway monument unveiling ceremony.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SUBMIT A 2010 (PY) TEXAS CAPITAL FUND PROJECT CONTRACT AMENDMENT TO AMEND ITS PROJECT #711002 FOR GAS SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF LYTLE LODGING, LLC FUNDED UNDER THE TEXAS CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM(TCF) - TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (TDA)
Mayor Bowen read the proposed resolution for amending the gas line grant contract. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council adopt this resolution. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM JAMES COTTER TO LIFT MORATORIUM ON REZONING TO ALLOW LYTLE NURSING HOME TO GET PROPER ZONING
James Cotter, owner of Lytle Nursing Home, asked Council to consider lifting the moratorium on rezoning to allow the Nursing Home to get zoning needed for refinancing. After discussion, Alderman Keith made the motion that Council lift the moratorium for the Lytle Nursing Home, and that they be allowed to go before the Zoning Commission as soon as possible. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION
Alderman Keith made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 362 that creates the “Keep Lytle Beautiful Commission.” Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM GREATER LYTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR FUNDING FOR FRENCHE BURKE MUSIC FESTIVAL
Michelle Keith told Council that the Frenchie Burke Festival will be held May 17th and 18th this year. She told Council that there will not be a charge for the Friday night event this year. Mrs. Keith told Council the Friday night event will be a battle of bands with a $500.00 first prize. Mrs. Keith told Council they would also like to add a carnival this year, and have already selected one that has its own insurance. City Attorney Tom Cate told everyone that an indemnification agreement is needed for this as in the past. Mrs. Keith told Council that the carnival people want to set up on Thursday and operate that night, as well as Friday and Saturday. Mrs. Keith asked for the same amount of funding as last year ($8,500.00), and said this event is not a fundraiser and is for bringing people to Lytle. Mrs. Keith told Council that everything that has been successful at previous events will be held again. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the request from Mrs. Keith and the Greater Lytle Chamber of Commerce. Seconded by Alderman Stone. VOTE: For-Aldermen Farmer, Stone, Sanders, and Cortez. Alderman Keith abstained. Motion carried.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF GORDON HANSON
Police Chief Richard Priest recommended to Council that Officer Gordon Hanson be promoted to Sergeant and be given a salary increase of $150.00 per month effective March 1st. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council accept the recommendation for Gordon Hanson from Chief Priest. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF DANIEL GAMEZ
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council he would like for Daniel Gamez to be reinstated at the rank of Corporal and salary of $37,000.00 per year. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council accept the Chief’s recommendation for Daniel Gamez’s rehiring. Seconded by Alderman Sam Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER POLICY REQUIRING ALL ADOPTED ANIMALS BE SPAYED/NEUTERED
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that Shelter Volunteer Coordinator Betty Kroeger is asking for permission to go to mandatory spay/neuter for all adopted animals. He told Council they had looked at several options such as people paying for adopting the animals, and feel this is the only way to go in order to solve the problem of unwanted dogs and cats. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council adopt the policy of mandatory spay/neuter for all animals adopted from Lytle’s Animal Control Facility, and that the City pay 25% of the spay/neuter costs from the Spay/Neuter fund. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
PRESENTATION OF RACIAL PROFILING REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest presented his annual racial profiling report to Council. He reviewed this report with the Council and showed the percentages for the last five years. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the racial profiling report presented by Chief Priest. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

PLANS AND GOALS UPDATE
Alderman Keith told Council that he had attended the meeting concerning the city’s master plan, and it had gone very well, and he feels the city will get a lot of input in this plan. Alderman Sanders told Council that the Revitalization Committee had met last week and that a city-wide yard sale will be held on April 27th. The City Secretary told Council this event is already on the website and will be included in the next newsletter.

Alderman Sanders told Council that the Texas Trash-off will be held April 6th, and that the committee has suggested something be done on Arbor Day which is April 26th. Mr. Sanders said Earth Day is April 22nd, and maybe trees can be planted for these events where the walking trail will be built.

Mayor Bowen told Council he will get in touch with Henry Lee Keller concerning the land for the well site.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written report with Council and handed out fortune cookies and pencils that they gave out for Chinese New Year, and Valentine’s Day bookmarks.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger told Council of some of the things he has been working on for the past month such as getting restaurants to get food handler certifications. Mr. Traeger also showed Council pictures of a property in Lytle that has been cleaned up by the owner since the city received complaints from the neighbors.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Public Works’ Director James McGrath reported the following to Council:

1 - 195 work orders were completed last month;
2 - 2 water main leaks were fixed;
3 - 4 smaller water leaks were fixed;
4 - 3 angle stops were replaced;
5 - water pressure was checked due to low pressure reports;
6 - 6 water service line leaks were fixed;
7 - 4 customer service line leaks were found;
8 - 5 sewer mains were unclogged;
9 - 1 customer sewer stoppage was unclogged;
10 - gear boxes at sewer plant will be checked this week;
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONT.)
11 - 3-phase breaker at sewer plant was repaired;
12 - CPS changed out 2 gas meters;
13 - gas line extension will be starting soon;
14 - Laredo Street has been fixed at the dip location;
15 - crew has been cleaning up at the shop; and
16 - sold surplus material at salvage yard.

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that James McGrath had completed an on-line course for UST operator last week.

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

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reviewed her written report with Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Bowen reported the following to Council:

1 - gateway monument has been completed and unveiled and looks great and he thanked Alderman Sanders and Farmer and the City Secretary for their work on this project;
2 - the new owner of the property by Best Western will start clearing brush on the 102 acres very soon and plans on using the frontage property for businesses and the back of the property for homes;
3 - the Trail Ride went through Lytle last week and stopped at Morales Feed Store for lunch. He said they had a great turnout and thanked Mr. Morales for holding the luncheon; and
4 - Natalia will be holding a ribbon cutting and dedication for the Love Truck Stop on Friday.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.