Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 13, 2000

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

Visitors: Kittie Eastman, Ron Richards, John Patton, Jolinda Harris-Richards, Julie Dunnavant, Julie Myers, Christi & Wayne Vaughn, William Vaughn, Joan Speer, George Harris.
Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 13, 2000 (cont.)

APPROVE MINUTES
APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 14th, the special meeting held February 21st and the public hearing held March 6th and payment of the bills listed, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
William Vaughn told Council he has collected nearly half of the money needed for building the veterans' memorial marker.

George Harris reminded Council that he has had problems with Mrs. Eastman on the drainage problem in the past.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM JOLINDA HARRIS-RICHARDS
Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council approve the recommendation of the Mobile Home Commission on Jolinda Harris-Richards' request. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER FINAL APPROVAL FOR PLAT OF GUZMAN PROPERTY
This item was scratched from the agenda due to Mrs. Haass' absence.

CONSIDER BIDS RECEIVED ON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK
Mayor Fincher gave Council a letter from City Engineer Paul Boedeker concerning the bids received on the 100,000 gallon water storage tank and demolition of the old tower. Bids were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New 100,000 Gallon Legged Elevated Tank</td>
<td>$265,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demolition of Existing 50,000 Gallon Tank</td>
<td>$18,400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Boedeker recommended in his letter that all bids be rejected due to the bid prices being higher than anticipated and that Pittsburg Tank & Tower Company be directed to re-commence their existing tank-raising contract immediately. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept the engineers recommendation and reject all the bids that were received and have Pittsburg Tank re-commence the tank-raising project immediately. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER NAMING MINI PARK
Mayor Fincher recommended to Council that they name the mini park where they agreed to have the veterans' memorial marker placed, "Veterans' Memorial Park". Alderman Elias made the motion that Council name the said mini park "Veterans' Memorial Park". Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NON-RADIOACTIVE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ROUTE PLAN
Mayor Fincher read caption of the proposed resolution supporting non-radioactive hazardous materials route. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council adopt this resolution. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL SALES TAX HOLIDAY
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that this year the City has the option of being part of the annual sales tax holiday before school starts and if they decide to participate, nothing needs to be done. If Council chooses not to participate, the City must have a public hearing to vote on this matter, and must adopt an ordinance to repeal the tax exemption, March 31st. Ms. Campa recommended the City continue to participate in the sales tax holiday. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council approve the City's participation in this year's tax holiday. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PLAN CHECKING FEE TO BE ADDED TO BUILDING PERMITS
City Secretary Josie Campa asked Council to consider adding "plan checking" fee to the building permits, since the building inspector does have to spend his time reviewing plans before people can obtain a building permit. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council implement a $25.00 plan checking fee and this be added to the cost of a building permit. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASING AMOUNT ALLOWED FOR EMPLOYEES' MEALS WHILE ATTENDING SEMINARS & SCHOOLS
The City Secretary told Council that in the past the City has paid its employees $5.00 per meal when they are away at a seminar. She said she had talked to the City's auditor and that he had told her that the current per diem rate for meals is $34.00 per day. She suggested Council break the per diem up by meal since a lot of times employees are only away for the evening meal. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council set the per diem cost for meals at $34.00 per day if employees are gone the full day and that they set the meal expense separately if employees are just away for one meal. The breakdown per meal is to be: Breakfast - $9.00; Lunch - $10.00 and Dinner - $15.00. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER PROVIDING ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR EMPLOYEES' DEPENDENT INSURANCE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that she is still waiting for some information on this item and recommended this be placed on the next regular meeting's agenda.

CONSIDER ALLOWING CITY SECRETARY TO GET CREDIT CARD FOR CITY
City Secretary Josie Campa asked Council for permission to get a credit card for the City and explained reasons for getting this card. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that the Council approve the City Secretary's request to get the City a credit card and that rules be drawn up for using the City's credit card. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously. The City Secretary told Council she would work up some rules and present them at the next regular meeting.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest gave Council a copy of his monthly report and reviewed this report with them.

Chief Priest told Council things are going well and that the vehicles are being maintained and there are no problems with the vehicles other than routine maintenance.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reported on the following items:

1 - State Highway Department has closed off the FM 3175 north-bound ramp due to construction and detours are set up but are out of the way for motorists. Chief Priest told Council this is causing a problem with people crossing the median and tickets are being written for this;

2 - Texas Rural Water Association's representative visited with her and said he feels certain the City can get a low-interest loan for funding the new sewer plant;

3 - newsletter being prepared for mail out with the April utility bills. If they have anything they want added, please let her know.

Ms. Campa then reviewed her written report with Council and asked for questions.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Fincher told Council he sent a letter to the Highway Department to remove the no-parking signs on Main Street next to the catholic church.

The Mayor said he also sent the Highway Department a letter requesting a vehicle count be conducted to determine the need for a red light at Prairie Street and Main Street intersection.

Mayor Fincher informed Council that he met with representatives of TXDot concerning many scheduled improvements for the City and explained each project. He said the cost to the City, for these projects, would total 2½ million dollars. He said he will be checking on grants that are available for these type of improvements. George Harris volunteered to work with Mayor on this project.

The Mayor reported to Council that the sewer plant property has been pretty much cleared and that the engineer has prepared the permit application for the new sewer plant and will be delivering it to TNRCC before the end of the week.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary