Minutes of Regular meeting held August 12, 2013

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


Mayor Bowen opened the regular meeting at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
After review, Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the July 8th public hearing and regular meeting and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Richard Arnold asked about an update on the ESD problem Lake Shore residents have been inquiring about. City Secretary Josie Campa told Mr. Arnold one of the ESDs had brought a letter saying there is no debt incurred by their district and the city is waiting to hear from the other ESD. Mr. Arnold voiced his opinion on this matter.

Bobby Roberts asked about the railroad crossing on Benton Street. The City Secretary told everyone that Ivan Jaime from Union Pacific had called and said this crossing will be opened by the railroad and work should be starting soon.

Lee Remy asked about the pre-clearance requirement when annexing. The City Secretary told him that the City Attorney had said that a Supreme Court decision had overruled that requirement.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM VERONICA SOLIS
Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve the recommendation from the Mobile Home Commission on the request from Veronica Solis. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER REQUESTS FROM LYTHE VFW POST #12041 FOR SPONSORING FREEDOM WALK AND FREEDOM FESTIVAL AND USE OF CITY PARK FOR THESE EVENTS
Larry Sanders, VFW Post #12041 Commander and member Ernie Kroeger asked for the city’s support for this year’s Freedom Festival. Mr. Sanders asked for use of the park facilities, permission to have horses in the park, a letter to TABC and for the curfew to be extended to a later time. Mr. Sanders told Council of some of the things planned for this festival. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant the requests from Mr. Sanders and the VFW and co-sponsor this event with $8,500.00. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PLAT FOR REAGAN AND GARNET WAGNER
After review, Alderman Keith made the motion Council approve the plat presented by RLW Operations and approved by the city’s engineer. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR VARIANCE ON SUBDIVISION PLATTING IN CITY’S ETJ (PROPERTY ON FM 2790 EAST OWNED BY JORGE A. URIBE)
After review, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant a variance to Jorge Uribe of the city’s subdivision platting ordinance. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ATASCOSA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT’S PROPOSED 2014 BUDGET
Kim Faulk talked to Council about the large increase of some salaries at the Appraisal District. She told Council that she doesn’t oppose pay raises, however, there are no set plans for these raises. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt the resolution opposing the Appraisal District’s proposed budget for 2014. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR MAINTENANCE OF CITY PROPERTIES DUE TO JOHN TURNER TERMINATING EXISTING CONTRACTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 2013
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that she had received two (2) proposals for replacing the existing maintenance contracts. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that the city go with Mesquite Lawn Care at the same price as last year’s contracts. Seconded by Alderman Stone. VOTE: For motion-Aldermen Sanders, Stone, Cortez and Farmer. Alderman Keith abstained. Motion carried.

CONSIDER BIDS FOR STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
After review, Alderman Farmer made the motion the city accept the bid from Clark Construction on Diaz Street retopping for $39,605.94. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF CHARLES WAYNE NEWMAN
Director of Public Works James McGrath asked Council to put Wayne Newman on as a regular employee in the Public Works’ department and be given an increase of $1.00 per hour and all benefits. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council accept Mr. McGrath’s recommendation. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF DAVID D. LOPEZ, JR.
Police Chief Richard Priest recommended to Council that David Lopez, Jr. be hired as a regular employee and be given a salary increase of $2,000.00 per year. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the Chief’s recommendation for David Lopez. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO FILL POLICE SHIFTS DURING JOSE GUZMAN’S ABSENCE FOR MILITARY DUTY
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that Officer Joey Guzman has been called to Military Duty for a year and asked for permission to fill his shifts with reserve officers to serve as part-timers at a rate of $15.00 per hour. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the Chief’s request to fill Officer Guzman’s shifts. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF NEW POLICE VEHICLE
The Police Chief gave Council the proposal for a new police vehicle. The Chief told Council the HGAC price for the vehicle is $27,083.87 and the equipment will bring the cost of this vehicle to $50,000.00 without radar and $53,000.00 with the radar unit. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the Chief’s proposal for a new police vehicle. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSION OF SEWER LINE ON HESTER STREET
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council of the need to extend the city sewer to the new police facility property. She presented the proposal from TRC and said the cost would be less than half because the labor would be done by the Public Works crew. After discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the proposed sewer project as per the written proposals. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:46 p.m. and reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

CONSIDER CREATION OF ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT
Chief Priest presented his proposal to Council for a new Animal Control Department. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council create an Animal Control Department and authorize the City Attorney to move forward with an ordinance creating this department. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER GETTING PROPOSALS FOR DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURE ON NEWLY ACQUIRED BANK STREET PROPERTY
After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council get proposals for the demolition of the structure on the Bank Street property. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF GROUND LEASE WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT ON FM 2790 N. PROPERTY
Alderman Keith made the motion that Council renew the ground lease with the fire department for the property on FM 2790 North. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND/OR CONSIDERATION FOR ACCOMPLISHING PRESENT PLANS AND GOALS
A. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ALLOCATING MONIES FROM CERTIFICATES FOR PRESENT PLANS AND GOALS & B. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TIME FRAME FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF PRESENT PLANS AND GOALS
Council discussed the present plans and goals and how to allocate the monies for said plans and goals. They also discussed time tables for the projects. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council accept the proposal from the Mayor and City Secretary for allocating the monies from the certifications of obligations. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Council discussed the planned improvements for the city’s parks, then Alderman Keith made the motion that Council get Bryan Mask to design a plan for the parks. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Council agreed to allow Mr. Mask to talk to the School Board about using land around the library for a nature trail.

Council discussed the revitalization of downtown, Alderman Keith then made the motion that Council get a proposal for demolition of the accessory buildings on the Gidley property. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BRUSH PICK-UP FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR
Alderman Keith made the motion that Council get proposals for brush pick-up for the next fiscal year. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO 2012-2013 BUDGET
The City Secretary reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2012-2013 budget with Council. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council adopt these amendments. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.
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**UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS**
Council agreed no discussion was needed on this line item.

**CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT**
Code Compliance Officer Skip Traeger reported that he has been watching to see if people are watering when they are not supposed to.

Mr. Traeger told Council most of the people contacted about evaporative covers for their swimming pools have complied.

Mr. Traeger told Council that the Chief has talked to the lady about the building on Main Street and that right now there is no basis for a search warrant. Mr. Traeger said the attorney had said the city might have to file a lawsuit calling the building a public nuisance.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
Library Director Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written report with Council.

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

1 - 219 work orders completed last month;
2 - 1 new water meter was installed;
3 - 1 angle stop was repaired;
4 - 4 water meter leaks fixed;
5 - 3 service leaks were fixed;
6 - 4 customer leaks found;
7 - 1 fire hydrant leak was repaired;
8 - water meter for new P.D. installed;
9 - water pressure was checked for customer;
10 - 1 sewer stoppage was unclogged;
11 - changed out float switch at sewer plant;
12 - CPS replaced 1 gas meter, and
13 - water samples were taken by the Edward Aquifer Authority.

**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.
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MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Bowen told Council work has started across the street for Dollar General and down the street for Alexander Insurance. He said a dental office will be built on the Trouart property, and that H.E.B. is redesigning its old store for spaces wanting to be rented by businesses.

The Mayor reminded Council that the Lytle Homecoming Parade will be held September 21st.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.