Minutes of Regular Meeting held September 9, 2013

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


APPROVE MINUTES & APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Farmer made the motion that the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held August 12th; the special meeting and budget workshop held August 19th and the budget workshop held August 26th and payment of the bills be approved, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Dan Pitts told Council that the Woodman of the World will be installing a flag pole and donating flags for the new police facility as a thank you for all the City does.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR REFUNDING TRAFFIC FINES IN THE AMOUNT OF $441.00 DUE TO FRAUDULENT USE OF MY TEXAS DRIVER’S LICENSE- RICARDO FERDIN
Ricardo Ferdin told Council he had paid a fine to the city that was not his and asked for a refund of this payment. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve Mr. Ferdin’s request for a refund. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

OLGA AND RICHARD SHARER-PROPERTY BEHIND LIBRARY
Olga and Richard Sharer thanked Council for allowing them to present their case against the proposed nature trail. Olga Sharer talked to Council about reasons for opposing said trail. Mr. Sharer showed Council pictures of the proposed area and Mrs. Sharer told Council that the majority of the homeowners in this area are opposed to this trail. Mr. Sharer also showed Council pictures of a nature trail he and his wife had visited and said there is not enough area for a nature trail behind their home. Mrs. Sharer asked what the cost of this trail would be. Council told the Sharers the cost is not known yet since they haven’t gotten approval from the school to use their property for the natural trail and therefore nothing has been done or decided. Mayor Pro-tem Jerry Stone thanked the Sharers for all their information and said Council would take all of this under consideration.
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STATUS UPDATE ON WELL #3 STUDY AND CONSIDER PROPOSALS TO DO WELL SAMPLING AND VIDEO ON WELL #3
Eddie Bogard, TRC engineer, told Council that a few months ago a study on well #3 was started and then reviewed the findings with Council. Mr. Bogard told Council what the next steps are for testing well #3. Mr. Bogard said the worst case scenario would be to have to redo the casing on well #3, but we won’t know if this will have to be done until we know what the water quality is and then send a camera down the well to check the casing. After more discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council have the engineers proceed with testing well #3 as proposed. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Bogard gave Council an update on the Hester Street sewer line and said he would have everything ready for starting on this line by the end of the month.

Mr. Bogard told Council the police building is also coming along, and the first draw has been requested by the contractor.

CONSIDER ESD’S DECISION ON TAXATION OF LAKE SHORE ESTATES RESIDENTS
City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that the ESD’s Attorney Ken Campbell has not been available when he has called and that the city has still not received an amount for the debt owed. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the city needs to pursue this matter since the ESD has not notified us after such a long time. After more discussion, City Attorney Tom Cate suggested to Council that another letter be written to the ESD for now. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council have the City Attorney send another letter to the ESD. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUESTS FROM ATASCOSA COUNTY CRISIS CENTER, INC.
A. FOR ADDITIONAL MONIES IN SUPPORT OF CENTER
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the Atascosa County Crisis Center has asked for $8,000.00 due to increases caused by the Eagle Ford Shale projects. Chief Priest told Council that the center handles victims of domestic violence and the police department deals with them indirectly. However, he said Lytle is not part of Eagle Ford Shale. After more discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that the Council pay the Atascosa County Crisis Center the budgeted amount. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

B. FOR DONATION FOR UPGRADING CRISIS CENTER
After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Lytle pay the Crisis Center $500.00 for the upgrades to the center. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE CREATING ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT
After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance #367. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF DANIEL GAMEZ
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that Daniel Gamez has completed his probation and recommended he be hired as a regular officer and be given a $2,000.00 a year raise and benefits. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Daniel Gamez as per the Chief’s recommendation. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVING INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACT WITH TEXAS DPS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES
Police Chief Priest told Council that this contract is done every two years to enable the P.D. to get supplies for blood draws. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council renew the contract with DPS. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADVERTISING FOR PART-TIME DIRECTOR FOR THE NEW ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT
Police Chief Richard Priest gave Council a job description for the department head of the Animal Control department. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council advertise for this part-time position. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR BRUSH PICK-UP
City Secretary Josie Campa read the proposals from Mesquite Lawn Care and Barrera Construction for brush pick-up. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council stay with Barrera Construction Company for brush pick-up at the same price as last year. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF DEPOSITORY CONTRACT WITH LYTLE STATE BANK
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council renew the depository contract with Lytle State Bank. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:52 p.m. and reconvened at 8:08 p.m.

CONSIDER RATIFYING PROPERTY TAX REVENUE INCREASE REFLECTED IN PROPOSED 2013-2014 BUDGET
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council ratify the property tax revenue increase in the proposed budget. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 2013-2014 BUDGET
Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council adopt the proposed 2013-2014 budget. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 2013 TAX RATE
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council adopt the proposed 2013 tax rate of $.34 per $100.00 valuation. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER PURCHASING WATER RIGHTS FROM GIDLEY FARMS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that there is enough money in the Water Acquisition Fund to purchase 35 acre feet of water if Council were to buy water rights from Gidley Farms at $5,000.00 an acre foot. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council purchase up to thirty-five (35) acre feet of water from Gidley Farms at $5,000.00 an acre foot. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ALLOWING PAYMENT OF INCOMING BILLS FROM THIS FISCAL YEAR'S BUDGET IF AVAILABLE
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve incoming bills to be paid from this fiscal year's budget, if money is available. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS
Council said they had already heard about the well and police department building and the other goals are coming along.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT
Scott Traeger told Council that due to the rain, watering has been cut back, however, now lots are becoming overgrown and need to be cleaned so letters are being sent.

Mr. Traeger told Council he has also talked to some people about junk cars being removed.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Director of Public Works James McGrath reported the following:

1 - 187 work orders were completed;
2 - 5 water leaks were repaired;
3 - 1 2-inch water meter was replaced;
4 - 3 service water lines were fixed;
5 - 1 angle stop was replaced;
6 - 2 customer water leaks were reported;
7 - 1 faucet was repaired at park;
8 - 2 sewer stoppages were unclogged;
9 - cleared Gidley property of stuff stored in buildings;
10 - Edwards Aquifer retested water;
11 - base for railroad crossing brought in; and
12 - working at park for Saturday's festival.
POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

The Chief reminded Council that National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, October 1st at City Hall.

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

The City Secretary announced that the city’s bond rating had been upgraded.

MAYOR PRO-TEM’S REPORT
Mayor Pro-tem Jerry Stone told Council the city is fortunate that it can purchase more water rights.

The Mayor Pro-tem told Council that the VFW festival is this weekend, the Homecoming Parade is on September 21st, the National Night Out is October 1st and the hayride is on November 30th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.