Minutes of Regular meeting held April 10, 2006

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Mark Bowen, Ruble Farmer, Gerry Elias, Sam Cortez, Erik Dahler; City Secretary Josie Campa; City Attorney Tom Cate; Police Chief Richard Priest; Director of Public Works James McGrath.


APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILL
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 13th and the special meeting held March 27th, and payment of the bills as presented. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM ZONING COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM BOBBY AND ROBIN BASCH
This item was scratched from the agenda.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYTLE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROVIDED BY THE SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE AND EFFICIENT-TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS (SAFETEA-LU) OF 2005
Rudy Ruiz told Council that the grant amount for the museum/visitor center grant is $1,123,500.00 and that the matching funds will total $224,710.00. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council adopt the resolution for applying for the museum grant. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING AND ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CDMC, INC. TO SUBMIT SAFETEA-LU APPLICATION TO TXDOT
Rudy Ruiz told Council that his contract for preparation of the museum grant is a single page contract that his fees will come out of the grant funds. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council authorize Rudy Ruiz/AKA Community Development Management to prepare the grant application for the museum project. Seconded by Alderman Farmer.

CONSIDER VARIANCE TO SUBDIVISION REGULATION (S) TO SELL HALF OF PREVIOUSLY SUBDIVIDED LOT ON FM 3175-BRAD BOYD
Brad Boyd passed out literature to Council members concerning his request for a variance to the city’s subdivision ordinance. He told Council that AmeirSuites is interested in purchasing the north half of Lot 3 and all of Lot 2 in the Earl Snavely Subdivision and asked Council to grant a variance to the subdivision ordinance, so that they can sell an acre of land from Lot 3 to AmeirSuites. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council grant this variance. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF MUSEUM ACTIVITIES-MARGARET TROUART
Margaret Trouart, Chairman of the Museum Board asked Council for $16,000.00 to move the house located on N. Somerset Street farther back on the property to make it safer for parking at said property. She also asked for an additional $2,500.00 for removing the old back porch and the two add-on rooms from this structure. Alderman Bowen asked Mrs. Trouart where museum will be located—on Main Street or Somerset Street. Mrs. Trouart said new museum would be on Main.
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CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF MUSEUM ACTIVITIES - MARGARET TROUART (cont.)

Street, however, it will be years before this comes to be if the grant is approved and that the old building needs to be made usable now, and could be used for a children's museum, meeting room, etc. After discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council authorize the demolition of the porch and two add-on rooms for $2,500.00. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Discussion.

Motion was passed unanimously. Mayor Fincher called for a motion on the first request from Mrs. Trouart three times. No motion was made on this request. After more discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that his previous motion be rescinded. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PLACING PRIVACY FENCE NEAR T-BALL FIELD TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH OWNER WHO LIVES ON CORNER NEAR T-BALL FIELD

Dora Balencia and Mayor Fincher told Council that an incident occurred at the T-ball field last week due to the neighbor's dogs. Mrs. Balencia said other incidents had occurred before last week with this neighbor and asked Council to consider putting up a privacy fence for the length of this neighbor's property to keep this from happening again. Chief Priest told Council that the police have made many calls to the park for this reason. After more discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council have a privacy fence installed over by the T-ball field. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Discussion. Motion was passed unanimously. Aldermen Cortez and Elias will oversee this project.

CONSIDER ADOPTING OF PROCLAMATION AUTHORIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE CITY'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council adopt the Fair Housing Proclamation. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened at 7:43 p.m.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION JUDGE TO REPLACE MARGARET TROUART

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Margaret Trouart had stepped down as Election Judge and JoAnn Null had agreed to serve as Judge. Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council appoint JoAnn Null as Election Judge. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AS PER SECTION 2.053 OF THE ELECTION CODE ALLOWING CITY TO DECLARE EACH UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE ELECTED

Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 304. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO ZONING COMMISSION

Council agreed to think about this item for the next regular meeting. No action taken.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MUSEUM BOARD

No action was taken on this item. Alderman Farmer will think about this item for the next meeting.

CONSIDER PETITION FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION FOR MCDONALD PROPERTY

Council discussed the petition for voluntary annexation by the McDonald family. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept this petition. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH ATASCOSA COUNTY TO LEASE ACCESSIBLE VOTING SYSTEMS FOR UPCOMING ELECTION

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept the agreement with Atascosa County for leasing the accessible voting systems for the upcoming election contingent upon the City Attorney's review and approval. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
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**CONSIDER HIRING INDEPENDENT COMPANY TO CONDUCT GAS LEAK AND CATHODIC PROTECTION SURVEYS**

Director of Public Works James McGrath asked Council to consider allowing "PAPS" to conduct this year’s gas leak survey along with a cathodic protection survey. He also told Council that Simon Pena, the city's gas consultant has recommended this be done to help the city get into compliance with the Railroad Commission. He also told Council that by having both surveys done at the same time the city would save money. The cost for these surveys would be $525.00 per day plus expenses and surveys could take 3 to 5 days. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council hire "PAPS" to conduct these surveys. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER HIRING OFFICE EMPLOYEE TO FILL VACANCY**

City Secretary Josie Campa recommended to Council that they hire Marjorie Lothringer to fill the vacancy in the office. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council hire Marjorie Lothringer after she successfully completes the background check, physical and drug screen. Second by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER INCREASING PRICE OF BUILDING INSPECTIONS DUE TO INCREASED GASOLINE PRICES**

City Secretary Josie Campa recommended to Council that the price of building inspections be increased from $35.00 to $40.00 due to the increase of gasoline prices. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council increase the price of building inspections to $40.00 per inspection. Second by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER GETTING SCHOOL’S AG DEPARTMENT TO BUILD BARBECUE PITS FOR PARK**

Director of Public Works James McGrath told Council that he talked to the school’s Ag teacher about building barbeque pits for the park. He said that the Ag teacher told him that his class would build as many as the city needs, if the city provides the material. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council allow the Ag department to build the barbeque pits. Second by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORKS’ DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director of Public Works James McGrath reported the following items:

1-crew fixed three 3-inch main breaks on IH 35 access road due to boring company working on FM 3175;
2-crew completed 150 work orders last month;
3-work on the booster pump project is going on at this time;
4-existing pumps have been rewired;
5-three employees attended two gas schools in Floresville and Uvalde;
6-crew is getting park ready for Easter Egg Hunt;

**POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT**

Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with council. The Chief told the Council his department is getting ready for the Frenchie Burke Festival on May 20.

**CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT**

The City Secretary reviewed her written report with Council.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:
1-“quiet zone” for railroad will require the city to install horn at the FM 2790 N. crossing. The price of this horn is $75,000.00;
2-should know something on "project green" by April 28th;
3-the Coal Mine cemetery road escape route had a lot of junk dumped by the gate and the City may need to move this debris.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

[Signature]
Mayor

[Signature]
City Secretary