Minutes of Regular Meeting held March 10, 2014

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


APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the February 10th regular meeting and February 24th special meeting, and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Mary Ann Rodriguez talked to Council about work orders she has turned in over the last three years for pot holes to be fixed on Live Oak Street. Mrs. Rodriguez told Council that this street is getting really bad and asked if something could be done.

Mayor Bowen told her that Alderman Sanders is in charge of District 1 and he will look at this street.

Mrs. Rodriguez told Council that the pot hole on Somerset Street by the light also needs to be fixed.

Ira Collins who lives next door to Mrs. Rodriguez told Council the road is in bad shape and has ten residents that live on it. He asked that Council help them out with getting the 800 feet of road fixed.

Mayor Bowen told Mr. Collins and Mrs. Rodriguez that the City would look into this matter.

CONSIDER CONTRACT WITH THE LYTELE YOUTH PROGRAM FOR USE OF CITY’S BALL FIELDS AT JOHN LOTT MUNICIPAL PARK
City Attorney Tom Cate told Council he had revised the contract with LYP as per their instructions, and the part that says the organization will maintain the fields has been taken out and says the city will maintain. Mr. Cate said the part of the contract that says the proceeds from the concession stand will go for park improvements was also taken out. Mr. Cate said Page 5 addresses concerns about other organizations using the ball fields and Page 6 doesn’t waive governmental immunity. The City Attorney told Council that Page 7 of the contract addresses coaches and schedules and that these are needed so the city knows when to have the fields ready. Mr. Cate said if LYP fails to do any of these items, the contract will be breached. Council discussed the events the city will have this year that will prevent LYP from using the fields,
CONSIDER CONTRACT WITH THE LYTHE YOUTH PROGRAM FOR USE OF CITY’S BALL FIELDS AT JOHN LOTT MUNICIPAL PARK (CONT.)
and asked that the Freedom Festival be added to this contract. The City Attorney told Council this contract could be from March 10, 2014 to March 9, 2015. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the contract with LYP, as amended. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PETITION FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION FOR A 60.281 ACRE TRACT OF LAND BELONGING TO GIDLEY FAMILY
Tom Cate told Council that the Gidley family has filed a petition for voluntary annexation of a 60.281 acre tract that adjoins the ninety (90) acres already in the city. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council accept the petition for voluntary annexation of the Gidley property and the zoning for this property be the same as on the adjoining ninety (90) acres. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BID (S) RECEIVED ON GIDLEY PROPERTY RENOVATION PROJECT
Bryan Mask told Council that the bid received from Petro-Swift, LLC for $260,766.36 was not complete and he has talked to three (3) possible bidders about this project, and the city may need to take something out in order to be able to get the bid we are looking for. After more discussion, Alderman Keith made the motion that Council reject the bid from Petro-Swift. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM MASK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOR JOHN LOTT MUNICIPAL PARK RENOVATION CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS
Bryan Mask explained the fees for the master plan on John Lott Park, and showed Council how these fees are broken down. After lengthy discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council accept the proposal from Bryan Mask that totals $55,562.50. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM CPS ENERGY FOR MOU FOR CPS ENERGY CAPITAL FUNDING AND FRANCHISE FEE SURCHARGE OPTION
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that CPS has said most of the cities are giving with the ½ % franchise tax option and said if Council approves this, then a slush fund could be set up for capital improvements.

Richard Priest told Council he doesn’t want to pay anymore than he already does to CPS and would rather see property taxes increased. Chuck Bayne complained that the bills keep going up. After these remarks, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council not approve this ½ % increase in CPS franchise tax. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER CHANGING WAITING PERIOD FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR NEW FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES DUE TO PPACA REGULATIONS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that a new law will not allow the city to provide medical insurance to a new employee after six months and that the city will be fined $600.00 per violation and therefore, TML was recommending the city change its waiting period to comply with the PPACA regulations and the waiting period be changed to ninety (90) days after date of hire. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council make the change on the waiting period for medical insurance to ninety (90) days after date of hire. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF WATER METERS AT JOHN LOTT PARK FOR MAINTAINING NEWLY RENOVATED BALL FIELDS
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council authorize the installation of two (2) water meters at John Lott Park for maintaining the improvements made to the ball fields. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER WATER STORAGE TANK (S) FOR WELLS AT JOHN LOTT PARK FOR MAINTENANCE OF NEWLY RENOVATED BALL FIELDS
No action was taken on this item at this time since Bryan Mask said this could be part of park renovations.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF ITEMS NEEDED FOR MAINTAINING NEW RENOVATED BALL FIELDS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Lee Smith had provided the city with a list of equipment needed to maintain the ball fields. Bryan Mask provided information on this equipment and prices quoted. After reviewing the list and prices, the City Secretary asked about checking with Buy Board for better prices. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion to purchase the equipment listed and pay no more than $12,000.00 for said equipment. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS
Alderman Jerry Stone and Sam Cortez presented a list of additional street lights needed in the city. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve this list and order the five (5) additional street lights. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:42 p.m. and reconvened at 7:52 p.m.

CONSIDER HIRING SOUTHWEST SECURITIES TO FILE CONTINUING DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS AS PER SECURITIES EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Southwest Securities to file the Continuing Disclosure documents as per the Securities Exchange Commission at a cost of $2,250.00. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER ALLOWING LTYLE’S FOOD PANTRY (LYTLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH) TO USE CITY UTILITIES IN EXCHANGE FOR USE OF LAND BEHIND FOOD PANTRY FOR LTYLE’S COMMUNITY GARDEN
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council about an idea for a Community garden using the land behind the United Methodist Church’s Food Pantry in return for providing water and sewer to the Food Pantry at no cost per month. She said the Methodist Church has approved this idea and she had talked to Garnet Wagner at the school about the horticulture class planting this garden and they are excited about doing this. The City Secretary also asked Council for permission to have the gas meter removed from this property to avoid someone backing into it. After more discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve this request in return for the city using the land for a Community garden. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CHANGES TO COMMUNITY CENTER POLICIES:  
A. DEPOSITS BEING CASH ONLY IN THE FUTURE  
B. NOT ALLOWING CONFETTI-THROWING MACHINES TO BE USED BY RENTER AND/OR AGENTS  
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council about a DJ having a confetti throwing machine at an event at the Community Center that ruined the floors. Chief Priest told Council in detail what happened at this event. The City Secretary also told Council that the renter of this event put a stop payment on the money order, so the city is out the expense of additional cleaning fees.  
A. The City Secretary requested deposits be in cash only from now on, since money orders and cashier’s checks can have payment stopped on them.  
B. The City Secretary asked Council to prohibit the use of confetti-throwing machines at the center.  
After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that deposits for the Community Center be cash only in the future and confetti-throwing machines not be allowed at the center. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE AS PER SECTION 2.053 OF THE ELECTION CODE ALLOWING CITY TO DECLARE EACH UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE ELECTED AND CANCELLING CITY’S GENERAL ELECTION  
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 370 declaring the unopposed candidates for office elected. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS  
Alderman Sanders presented a copy of the long range goals to each department head and members of the Council.  
Council then discussed items on this list that have been completed and are presently being worked on.
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UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS (CONT.)
Alderman Sanders told Council that since most of these goals have been done or are being done, Council needs to make a new list of goals, and asked each Council person to come up with a new list for the April Council meeting.

REPORT FROM BARRET HOUSE ON CITY’S ON GOING PROJECTS
Barrett House gave a Power Point presentation to Council on the police facility, ball fields and Gidley property renovations.

ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Animal Control Director Betty Kroege reviewed her written report with Council.

Mrs. Kroege reported that $2,898.00 had been made on the yard sale.

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

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger told Council he is working with someone to get the Imogene Rutledge property demolished.

Mr. Traeger also told Council that the Martin property on Bank Street has been boarded up and the owner hasn’t decided whether to sell it or renovate it.

The Code Compliance Officer also told Council about several oak trees being trimmed in the area and getting the owner to have the limbs trimmed be painted to prevent oak wilt.

The Code Compliance Officer and City Attorney told Council that jurisdiction is still in question on the Jimmie Property and will get this question answered before proceeding.

PUBLIC WORKS’ DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Public Works Director James McGrath reported the following to Council:
1 - 158 work orders completed in February;
2 - 1 new water meter was installed;
3 - 3 angle stops replaced;
4 - 4 water service leaks fixed;
5 - 1 meter changed out;
6 - pump on Well #2 will be pulled on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week;
7 - dirt removed from park ball fields;
8 - raised valve boxes for police station;
9 - cleaning around shop;
10 - will look at Live Oak and Hester Streets to see if they need to be retopped; and
11 - will be trying new stuff for pot holes.
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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 Mark Bowen reported the following to Council:

1 - Dr. Ayala is getting ready to start on the dentist office;
2 - Gary Hack has demolished a building on Main Street and has plans for improving our Main Street;
3 - we should have comprehensive plan soon; and
4 - should see something get started on the Brown property very soon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.