Minutes of Regular Meeting held April 14, 2014

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Ruble Farmer, Ward Sanders, Kevin Keith, Sam Cortez; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Captain Frank Reyes; Assistant City Attorney Chris Schuchart, Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger, Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger, Police Sergeant Daniel Gamez, Library Director Cassandra Cortez.
Aldermen Jerry Stone was absent.

Visitors: Barrett House, Luz Moreno-Lozano, Chuck Bayne, Ernie Kroeger, Sam Parks, Jamanda Darby, Friday Carrillo, Matthew Martinez, Brad Boyd, Roland Hinojosa, Bryan Mask, Wayne and Judy Newman, Mary Ann Rodriguez, John Leal, Jose Casares, Preston Darby, Wendy Conover, Case Conover, E.J. Adams, Marc Martinez, Jesus Casiano, Tracy Tumblin, Billy Stewart, Rynda Naegelin, George Harris, Jeff Toscano, Erwin Jaloway, Emma Garcia.

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

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Mary Ann Rodriguez told Council she was present to follow up on her requests from last month concerning pot holes on her street. Mrs. Rodriguez told Council she is still not happy and is not giving up on this topic. Mayor Bowen told Mrs. Rodriguez that the city will continue to fill pot holes with base until paving project starts.

Mayor Bowen presented Wayne Newman with a Certificate from the Council for his work on the ball fields at the park during the critical phase and commended him for an outstanding job.

Mayor Bowen introduced attorney Chris Schuchart to everyone and said he would be filling in for Tom Cate over the next few months.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO NAME T-BALL FIELD IN HONOR OF DOUGLAS TILLEY
E. J. Adams told Council that several parents had discussed the possibility of having the T-ball field named in honor of Doug Tilley who had worked at the T-ball field, as well as the other fields over the last several years. She requested that Council allow the T-ball field to be named in Mr. Tilley’s honor and showed them a sign she had made up for the field, if Council approves this request. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve this request and the T-ball field at John Lott Park be named the Doug Tilley Field. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER USE OF CITY PARK ON APRIL 26TH AND JUNE 7TH AND 8TH FOR TOURNAMENTS - JAMANDA DARBY
Jamanda Darby requested permission to use the city’s ball fields on April 26th after LYP games are completed. Mrs. Darby withdrew her request for use of the fields on June 7th and 8th. Mrs. Darby was asked if Lytle kids are on the teams that are competing in these games. Mrs. Darby told Council that twenty (20) girls from Lytle play on the teams that would be playing on April 26th. Council voiced concerns about the need for resting the newly renovated fields. After discussion on the maintenance of said fields, Mrs. Darby assured Council that they have drags and will take care of the fields. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve Mrs. Darby’s request to use the fields on April 26th after LYP completes its games on that day. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP FOR FRENCHIE BURKE MUSIC FESTIVAL - BRAD BOYD
Brad Boyd talked to Council about the upcoming Frenchie Burke Festival and requested, on behalf of the Greater Lytle Chamber of Commerce, $10,000.00 plus help with the cost of generators. Mr. Boyd told Council this year’s festival will be held on Saturday, May 17th. After discussion, Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve this request. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER USE OF CITY’S BASEBALL FIELDS FOR TOURNAMENTS
Matthew Martinez talked to Council about issues that have come up with LYP using the city’s ball fields, and gave Council a written account of these issues. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Bowen told Council Mr. Martinez is working closely with Park Maintenance Manager Wayne Newman and no action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER RECONSIDERING DECISION ON PROPOSAL FROM CPS ENERGY ON CAPITAL FUNDING AND FRANCHISE FEES SURCHARGE - ROLAND HINOJOSA
Roland Hinojosa from CPS Energy introduced John Leal and Jose Casares and addressed the Council concerning the memorandum of understanding concerning the additional 1/2 % of franchise tax. Mr. Hinojosa asked Council to reconsider their decision from the previous month and explained there would not be an additional charge to electric customers and that the 1/2 % is already in the city’s rate structure. Mr. Hinojosa told Council the 1/2 % will replace the CIED that is currently being collected. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve the 1/2 % franchise fee since it is already in place. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:32 p.m. and reconvened at 7:44 p.m.
CONSIDER REQUEST FOR VARIANCE OF SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE FROM GEORGE HARRIS AND CAMINO REAL
Erwin Jaloway with Camino Real introduced Emma Garcia, the Executive Director of Camino Real. Together they gave Council a background on the Camino Real in Lytle. Mr. Jaloway told Council he had discussed the purchase of a three (3) acre tract of land from George Harris with City Attorney Tom Cate and Mr. Cate had suggested he talk to Council about getting a variance of the city’s subdivision ordinance to save time and money for their plans of building additional office spaces and a residential structure on said tract of land. Mr. Jaloway told Council this would improve their service to the community and showed Council members a conceptual drawing of Camino Real’s plan for adding on. Police Captain Frank Reyes raised questions about their pysch services and if the police department would be required to provide adequate coverage. Mr. Jaloway and Mrs. Garcia both said their program doesn’t require additional security needs. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council grant the variance requested. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion on coordinates with city’s police department. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BIDS RECEIVED ON GIDLEY PROPERTY REVITALIZATION PROJECT
Bryan Mask told Council that three bids were received on the renovations at the Gidley property, but one had to be disqualified since no bid bonds were with the bid. Mr. Mask explained the bids and the alternate bids to Council. Mr. Mask told Council that Leonard Contracting submitted the lowest bid ($265,000.00) and alternate bid ($207,488.00), which includes electrical service connection.

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she had discussed the bids with Mr. Mask and the Mayor. She said even though the bid exceeds what the city budgeted for this entire project ($190,000.00) that since this project is behind schedule and won’t be completed until the new fiscal year the Council could appropriate the money that was going to be used to fix the porch and roof on the Gidley house this year and then budget for the porch and roof in next year’s budget. The Secretary also told Council that because this project won’t be completed until close to the end of this budget year, holding off on the porch and roof shouldn’t present a problem. Both Mr. Mask and the City Secretary told Council that they were concerned with prices increasing as time goes on. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council accept the alternate bid from Leonard Contracting that includes electrical service and total $207,488.00. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR ALLOWING CITATIONS TO BE WRITTEN BY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AND CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER
Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger told Council she is requesting that the Animal Control Officers be allowed to issue citations and gave Council reasons for changing from police officers issuing the citations. The City Secretary told Council that City Attorney Tom Cate had reviewed Mrs. Kroeger’s request and suggested that if Council grants this request that this include the Code Compliance Officer. Attorney Chris Schuchart told Council he knows of three (3) other
CONSIDER REQUEST FOR ALLOWING CITATIONS TO BE WRITTEN BY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AND CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER (CONT.)
cities that allow this and it works well. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve Mrs. Kroeger’s request and the City Attorney’s suggestion to allow both the Animal Control and Code Compliance Officers to issue citations. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF RACHEL FAISH
Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger told Council that Rachel Faish had successfully completed her Animal Control course and recommended she be given a $1.00 per hour increase she was promised for this accomplishment. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve this request and Rachel Faish be given a $1.00 per hour salary increase. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING PROCLAMATION AUTHORIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE CITY’S EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH
Alderman Keith made the motion that Council adopt the Proclamation authorizing April as Fair Housing Month and authorizing the Mayor to act as the City’s Executive Officer and representative in all matters pertaining to April as Fair Housing Month. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HOLDING AUCTION FOR UNUSED CITY EQUIPMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
City Secretary Josie Campa talked to Council about the need to get rid of a lot of stuff the police department has due to the move and that she will have after remodeling occurs. The City Secretary told Council the library, animal control and public works also have stuff to get rid of and asked for permission to hold an auction. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the request for holding an auction. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Discussion on date for this auction. The City Secretary told Council once everything could be gathered and there is a date available at the center. She said she would advertise this auction and estimated it might be held in two to three (2-3) months. Motion was passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET
The City Secretary reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2013-2014 budget with Council, and said this was the most amendments we have had in a long time. There was a total of fifty-five (55) amendments proposed, (list of amendments will be on attachment to minutes), and therefore, will not be listed separately in minutes. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve these proposed amendments to the 2013-2014 budget. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER UPDATING CITY’S PLANS AND GOALS
Alderman Sanders asked Council to consider new rules for the city park and possibly form a committee to come up with these rules. Mayor Bowen suggested that as things get done in the park, rules be drawn up for those things. Council agreed to look into this further.

Council discussed the water well work being done by Peerless and were told they would be out the next day.

Council discussed adding more streets to list to be repaved.

The City Secretary told Council she has talked to contractors about work needing to be done at City Hall once Police move out and that Tyler Technologies and Art Com will be getting together to discuss needs for server room.

REPORT FROM BARRETT HOUSE ON CITY’S ON-GOING PROJECTS
Barrett House presented a power point presentation on the city’s on-going projects.

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

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

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger reported on the following:

Will start concentrating on water since pumpage has gone up and will be going out at night to check on people watering yards;

he has called several people and so far eighteen (18) yards have been cleaned-up;

he is working with City Attorney on a waiver letter to people concerning dilapidated buildings and it looks like the owner of a house on Hidalgo Street in Coal Mine will sign one of the waivers.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT
The Director of Public Works was ill and not in attendance.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Captain Frank Reyes presented the Police Chief’s written report and reviewed it with Council.
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CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reviewed her written report with Council.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Bowen reported the following to Council:

The Texas Trash-Off held April 5th went well and there was less trash than last year;
new business in town, “Shake It” is located on Main Street; and
being asked about Lytle getting apartments; and
getting well #2 work completed is critical and needs to get done.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.