Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 8, 2000

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Pro-tem Gerry Elias; Aldermen Louis Trouart, Juan J. Garcia, Bennie Evans and Mark Bowen; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga; City Attorney Tom Cate. Mayor Fincher was absent.

Visitors: Ruth Spadafore, Mark McLiney, Rudy Ruiz, Joe Juarez, Lauren Spadafore, Elizabeth Spadafore, Vincent Spadafore, Richard Delgado, Robert Perez, David and Debbie Valles, Michael Valles, Julie Dunnavant, Julie Myers, Lauro Garza, Sr., Lauro Garza, Jr., Frankie Aguinaga, Kevin Brown, Anthony Lopez, Sam Smith, Scott Cunningham, Susana Garcia and husband.

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION
Tom Cate administered the Oath of Office to Aldermen Gerry Elias and Louis Trouart. Each was presented a Certificate of Election.

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

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM MIKE WALKER
Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council table this item until further notice from Mike Walker. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

APPOINT MAYOR PRO-TEM
Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council appoint Gerry Elias as Mayor Pro-tem. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROJECT(S) FOR TDHCA'S 2001/2002 GRANT FUNDING CYCLE
Rudy Ruiz recommended to Council that the City apply for grant funding for deactivating two ponds at sewer plant. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPEED BUMPS ON CR 681 - JOE JUAREZ
Joe Juarez asked Council about putting speed bumps on CR 681, due to people speeding on this street. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion to have the Police Chief and the Director of Public Works review the options for CR 681 and report back to Council on the next month's agenda. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

City Secretary Josie Campa introduced Susana Garcia, the owner of the new McDonalds.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LYTLE MEDICAL CLINIC FOR A 50-FOOT MEDIAN CUT ON PRIEST BLVD. - RICHARD DELGADO
Richard Delgado told Council he is overseeing the construction of the Lytle Medical Clinic. He asked Council for permission to have a 50-ft. median cut on Priest Blvd. at the entrance to the clinic parking lot. After discussion, it was agreed to have the City Secretary research said street and determine the street belongs to the City. This item was tabled for next month's meeting.
CONSIDER CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION FOR FUNDING WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
Mark McLiney addressed the Council concerning certificates of obligation for funding the new sewer plant. Mr. McLiney gave a synopsis of what would happen if Council agrees to authorize sale of certificates of obligation. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council authorize sale of certificates of obligation not to exceed $1.5 million. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:48 p.m. and reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

CONSIDER ADVERTISING FOR BIDS ON IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO COMPLETE 50,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER TANK
After discussion, Alderman Evans made the motion that Council advertise for bids on the improvements needed to complete the 50,000 gallon elevated tank. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING PUBLIC WORKS' EMPLOYEE
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga recommended to Council that Kevin Warren be hired to fill the vacancy in the Public Works department. Alderman Evans made the motion that Council hire Kevin Warren as a Public Works' employee at $6.00 per hour, as per the director's recommendation. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REPAIRS TO SIREN SYSTEM
City Secretary Josie Campa explained to Council that Mayor Fincher had requested $3,000.00 for fixing the City's sirens. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council approve the Mayor's request for $3,000.00 to fix the sirens. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER “NO PARKING” ZONE ON LYTLE-SOMERSET STREET BY H.E.B.
City Secretary Josie Campa and Chief Priest told Council about the traffic problems on Lytle-Somerset Street due to 18-wheelers parking in the street. They recommended a no-parking zone be established on this street. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council have the City Attorney draw up an ordinance establishing a no-parking zone on Lytle-Somerset Street from stop sign to access road intersection on both sides. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASING UTILITY RATES
Council discussed increasing utility rates and agreed to hold a workshop on May 22nd to discuss the utility rates.

CONSIDER INCREASE OF GARBAGE SERVICE FEES DUE TO WASTE MANAGEMENT'S INCREASE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Waste Management is increasing the garbage rates effective July 1st. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council pass through the garbage rate increase to the customers. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BUILDING ANIMAL QUARANTINE FACILITY
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the City has had problems in the past several months with locating quarantine facilities for animals. She said there was money in the budget for building a quarantine facility and asked permission to build such a facility. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council authorize the building of a quarantine facility not to exceed the amount in the budget. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION OF RESTROOM FACILITIES AT PUBLIC WORKS' SHOP
City Secretary Josie Campa explained to Council the need for restroom facilities at the City Shop. After discussion, Alderman Evans made the motion that Council authorize the building of restroom facilities at the City Shop. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:

1. Benton City drainage project almost complete; just have rough areas to touch up;
2. pump and motor at sewer plant have been replaced;
3. Ford backhoe still in shop;
4. Kirk's Welding working on siren;
5. Well #3 not registering properly;
6. water and sewer installed to EMS building;
7. will be replacing catwalk at sewer plant;
8. some plugs in park not working properly and breaker boxes need to be changed out;
9. brakes on Unit #16 replaced;
10. generator on Case backhoe is acting up; and
11. attended a back flow prevention class.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa announced to Council that Chief Priest had received his advanced certification.

Chief Priest reviewed his written report with Council.
POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT (CONT.)
Chief Priest told Council that Jay Maples had resigned as a Reserve Officer, and that Danny Robison is a new reserve officer and should be a full-time peace officer in six months.

The Chief told Council he had attended a new chief's school in Huntsville and it was paid 100% by the State, no cost to the City.

Chief Priest reported that the lights at the City Park are in need of repair and that the park is really dark.

Chief Priest also reported that Unit #3 had a few repairs done, but otherwise vehicles are doing okay.

The Chief also told Council that the department had not been dispatched to an incident on Adams Street and explained problems with the radios.

The Chief told Council he is looking into laptop computers and grants for the department.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the sales tax allocation for this month will be $31,696.89, an increase of over $6,000.00 from last year's May total.

The City Secretary told Council that the Student Council is wanting to hold the Activity Banquet at the center on May 18th, but that they do not have the funds. She told Council she considers the Student Council a non-profit organization and therefore feels they are entitled to use center once a year at no charge. Council agreed this could be allowed.

MAYOR PRO-TEM'S REPORT
Mayor Pro-tem Gerry Elias told Council the EMS building is coming along and that the EMS should be in within the month. He suggested Council establish a set of rules for this building before turning it over to the EMS.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary