Minutes of Regular Meeting held May 14, 2007

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

Visitors: Zachry Kircus, William Alonzo, Shawna Lewis.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she had another three bills to add to list for payment.

These bills were as follows:

- El Paso Reata Energy: gas for system $12,533.44
- Bear Claw Lock & Key: police department repairs $248.10
- and Thomas Cate: legal fees $1,722.25

Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the April 9th regular meeting and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

Zachry Kircus told Council that the UTSA Canoe team had placed 4th at contest.
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CONSIDER ACCEPTING GIFT FROM GIDLEY HEIRS AS PER PROVISIONS OF SAID GIFT

After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council accept the gift from the Gidley heirs as stipulated in their letter. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER LYTHE MUSEUM PROPERTY AND MUSEUM BOARD AND DUTIES

Mayor Fincher told Council that since the city has accepted the building donated by the Gidleys, he feels the other property originally bought for a museum should be sold and the city not put anymore money into this property. The Mayor told Council he would like to see the city put ten to fifteen thousand dollars ($10,000-$15,000) aside each year. He also said the present property could be used as part of the park or sold, and if the property is sold that money could be put into an account for the museum. The Mayor said if the city does this, there will be enough money to fix the donated building when the city receives it from the heirs. The Mayor also told Council he feels the Museum Board should be disbanded for now and that when the city receives the building it can be reinstated. After a lengthy discussion on the property and the disbanding of the board Mayor Fincher recommended to Council that the Museum Board be dissolved and given plaques to show Council’s appreciation. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council put the property on Somerset Street up for sale and a minimum price of $45,000.00 be requested and that Council disband the Museum Board and they be given plaques to show the city’s appreciation for all their work. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CONTRACT WITH TRC ENGINEERS, INC. FOR PROPOSED IMPACT FEE STUDY UPDATE

Mayor Fincher told Council that TRC Engineers is wanting to enter into a contract for the work to be done on the impact fee study. The Mayor told Council that another engineer has taken over the work being done by Paul Boedeker. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council of few changes he would like made to this contract. Alderman Dahler asked if the city could recoup the engineering costs in the impact fee. Council agreed to have this done. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council enter into a contract with TRC Engineers as per the City Attorney’s changes to their proposed contract. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF MORRIS R. COLLINS, JR.

Director of Public Works James McGrath told Council that Bubba Collins has proven to be an excellent worker, however he does have an issue that needs to be resolved before becoming a regular employee. Mr. McGrath recommended Council give Mr. Collins a 50 cents per hour salary increase now and once he resolves his personal issue he be hired as a regular employee with another 50 cents per hour increase in pay. Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council approve the Public Works Director’s recommendation on Morris Collins, Jr. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:02 p.m. and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO DULY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION

City Attorney Tom Cate administered the Oath of Office to duly elected Alderman. Mayor Fincher presented Certificates of Election to Aldermen Mark Bowen, Sam Cortez and Erik Dahler and thanked them for their work.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS’ REPORT

Director of Public Works James McGrath reported to Council on the following items:

1-255 work orders completed since last meeting;
2-a couple of water leaks were fixed;
3-three (3) new water services installed;
4-gas meters still being changed out;
5-Michael Lambert started work for city;
6-Animal Control department has been busy;
7-crew working on park for Frenchie Burke Festival;
8-during storm last week the propane building lost its roof and crew had to move it off of Main Street to scales;
9-TCEQ took water samples;
10-crews are mowing city right-of-ways; and
11-gas leaks were fixed on Adams Street and at McDonald’s.
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**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Police Chief Richey Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

The Chief told Council Matt Dear and Gordon Hanson had attended a bicycle patrol event at the State Capital.

Chief Priest told Council that this week is Peace Officer Memorial Week and requested the flag be flown at half staff the following day to commemorate Peace Officer Memorial Day.

The Chief told Council that the police department would be participating in the 'Click It or Ticket' program from May 23rd thru June 3rd.

Chief Priest told Council that department personnel would be working security at Frenchie Burke Festival.

The Chief told Council that a La Coste Police officer had responded to a call for backup at Baby Huey's this past weekend and had a blow out on the way over and was injured.

Chief Priest reported that five cases had been presented to grand jury and that they will also be at juvenile hearings.

The Chief told Council the department is preparing for graduation.

**CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

City Secretary Josie Campa added the following items to her written report:

1-James McGrath received his 'C' license for wastewater;
2-forgot to get plaque for former Councilman Gerry Elias when he resigned; will order plaque for June meeting; and
3-city received final scores on grant project and dropped from 11th place to 19th place, but should be funded by supplemental fund.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:

1-bad news on grant project scoring, but good news because we will still get funded by supplemental fund;
2-Frenchie Burke Festival is Saturday, May 19th;
3-has activated command post five times over the past month due to storms;
4-will hold a town hall meeting on June 14th at community center to discuss emergency management and disaster plan;
5-bought used 1984 Blazer with 4-wheel drive for emergency management;
6-bought the supplies talked about last month when Council gave him $4,000.00 more for emergency management;
7-will need to supply the vehicle for emergencies and may need more money. City Secretary Josie Campa told the Mayor and Council members that the miscellaneous line item monies in the Public Safety budget can be used for this; and
8-the Fire Department's ladder project has been called off due to the vehicle not having any heads. City had given department $15,000.00 for this project and $2,000.00 has been spent to date on this project. Alderman Dahler asked this item to be placed on the June agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

[Signatures]

Mayor
City Secretary