Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 10, 2002

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Charles Bushart, Gerry Elias, Mark Bowen, Juan J. Garcia, Erik Dahler; City Secretary Josie Campa; Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga; City Attorney Tom Cate.

Visitors: Amy Edge, Caroline White, Jack McFarland, Mr. & Mrs. William Dixon, Jr., Julie Dunnavant, Sylvia Carrizales, John McGinnis.

APPROVE MINUTES & APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held May 13th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.
Amy Edge talked to Council about her interest in seeing the city get a web site. She told Council she feels it would be beneficial to the city and told of some of the things that would have to be done to get this done. Mrs. Edge asked that the items listed in her letter be placed on the July agenda.

**CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM WILLIAM DIXON, JR.**


**CONSIDER FIRING OF FIREWORKS IN CITY LIMITS-JACK MCFARLAND**

Jack McFarland and Caroline White spoke to Council about considering an ordinance prohibiting the use of fireworks in the city. They each complained about having bottle rockets land on their roofs. Mr. McFarland told Council he has a lot of brush area around his property and raised concerns due to the dryness. Council discussed this item at length. John McGinnis told Council that he felt 'aerial' fireworks displays were the main concern. After more discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council ban the use of all aerial fireworks displays for the next sixty (60) days, due to the dry conditions creating a fire hazard. Also, that Council set up a designated area and times for people to use fireworks and that Council work on an ordinance for the future. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Discussion on designating an area for using fireworks. Council agreed that the twenty (20) acres by well #3 would be a good area for this. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER QUESTIONS ON CABLE TV FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS-JOHN MCGINNIS**

John McGinnis asked Council about the city's responsibility for having the cable television company provide better service to its customers. Mayor Fincher told Mr. McGinnis what he has done over the past several months to try and service from the cable t.v. company. The Mayor told Mr. McGinnis that he is presently checking with another company for this service. No action was taken on this item.

**CONSIDER AGREEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY EXIT OUT OF COAL MINE**

Alderman Elias told Council Mr. Estrada has signed an agreement and gave the changes made to original agreement. Mayor Fincher asked Alderman Elias if he had talked to the Cemetery Committee about letting the city use the cemetery road for an emergency exit. Alderman Elias said he had not talked to the Cemetery Committee. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that the Committee has asked the road be maintained. Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council approve the easement agreement signed by Mr. Estrada and have Mr. Cate draw up an agreement with the Cemetery Committee. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. VOTE: FOR: Aldermen Elias, Garcia, Bowen, and Dahler. Alderman Bushart abstained. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE TO MEET CURRENT NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM'S MINIMUM STANDARDS**

City Attorney Tom Cate told Council he had reviewed the NFIP ordinance and that a couple of changes needed to be made. Alderman Bushart made the motion that Council adopt the NFIP ordinance with these changes. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER HIRING PUBLIC WORKS' EMPLOYEES TO FILL VACANCIES**

Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga recommended to Council that they hire Johnny Stevens and Jim Cochran to fill the vacancies in the Public Works Department. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council accept the Director's recommendation to hire Johnny Stevens and Jim Cochran. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CURRENT ORDINANCE ON OVERGROWN LOTS & YARDS**

City Attorney Tom Cate presented an ordinance amending the city's current overgrown lot ordinance as per current state law. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council adopt this ordinance. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER PURCHASING RADIOS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Fincher told Council that he is needing to purchase three (3) radios for the emergency management people to be able to communicate with County officials in case of an emergency. The Mayor told Council these radios would cost $2,280.00 and asked for permission to purchase these radios. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council approve the purchase of these radios and the budget be amended accordingly. Seconded by Alderman Bushart. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER REMOVAL OF SLUDGE FROM NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

Mayor Fincher told Council that he has been trying to find a solution for having the sludge removed from the new sewer plant and cannot get an answer on whether this sludge poses a health hazard. He said that Waste Management can haul the sludge off once a dumpster has been filled to a special site, and this could cost the city anywhere from $2,600.00 to $3,000.00 a year. The Mayor told Council he feels this is the safest way to go and asked for
permission to do so. Alderman Bowen made the motion that the city have Waste
Management haul off the sludge from the new sewer plant, as needed.
Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH REX MAYHEW FOR FARMING CITY PROPERTIES
Mayor Fincher told Council that Mr. Mayhew will be glad to farm area at
sewer plant that does not have sludge and at well #3 site at no expense to
either party. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council allow Mr. Mayhew
to farm these areas. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Discussion. Motion was
passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADVERTISING FOR BIDS ON STREET PAVING PROJECT
Mayor Fincher told Council that the streets for repaving project had been
prioritized. He said it would be approximately 81,000 feet and gave
estimate of cost and asked Council to consider having all streets on list
retopped. City Secretary Josie Campa suggested Council wait to see what
bids are before doing this. Mayor Fincher asked Council for permission to
go out for bids on designated streets. Alderman Bowen made the motion that
Council allow the Mayor to advertise for bids on the paving project.
Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT LIAISONS
Mayor Fincher appointed the following department liaisons:
Fire Department-Alderman Bushart
Police Department-Alderman Bowen
Parks & Streets-Alderman Garcia
EMS & Office-Alderman Elias
Gas & Water-Alderman Dahler; and
Sewer-Mayor Fincher

CONSIDER PRINTING DELINQUENT TAX ROLL IN NEWSPAPER
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the publishing of the
city’s delinquent tax roll in the city’s official newspaper. Seconded by
Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:
1-Sewer samples are better;
2-RP Constructors still working on punch list for new sewer plant;
3-Engineer Craig Bell sent recommendation on clarifier for plant;
4-ponds at old plant have been pumped down as much as possible;
5-have had several water leaks due to dry season;
6-gas main on Blume Drive extended; and
7-larger electrical poles being installed at FM 3175 & FM 2790.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
City Secretary presented the Police Chief’s written report to Council.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
The City Secretary did not have anything to add to her written report.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:
1-city will be going out for bids on pond demolition soon;
2-will be starting work on all-weather road at new sewer plant soon;
3-plans for water & sewer lines south of IH 35 reworked for TXDOT &
resubmitted;
4-asked Council members to check their boxes for mail once or twice a
month;
5-Railroad crossing arms will be put at the McDonald Street crossing;
6-July 4th celebration at the park starts at 5 p.m.; fireworks show
starts at 9 p.m., this year there will be live music and food booths;
7-he is working with businessmen to try to get access road extended up
to Trinity Baptist Church; and
8-TXDOT has changed ruling and now access roads will be built if
economic growth is a factor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.