Minutes of Regular Meeting held July 8, 2002

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

Visitors: Laura Ossinger, Jacquelyn Traeger, Amy Edge, Ann Hinds, Joe Carter, Julie Dunnavant, Sylvia Carrizales, Lorraine Vaughan.
Minutes of Regular Meeting held July 8, 2002

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

City Secretary Josie Campa added the bill from the building inspector Troy Martin for $525.00. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council approve the minutes of regular meeting on June 10th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Bushart. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

Alderman Garcia told Council and the Mayor about the shelter set up at the school for the La Coste people. He said he would find out who contributed for the shelter so that they can be thanked.

Mayor Fincher read the letter from Aldermen Dahler and Elias asking Council to table items for discussion.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING CREATION OF AN OFFICIAL CITY WEB SITE-AMY EDGE (#5) DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING EARMARKING FUNDS FOR A PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL-AMY EDGE (#6) DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING GRANTING APPROVAL FOR RESIDENT AMY EDGE TO SEEK OUT GRANTS ON CITY'S BEHALF TO AIDE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL-AMY EDGE (#9) CONSIDER ALLOWING JAMES BENNETT TO PROVIDE HOSTING SERVICE FOR WEB SITE-JAMES BENNETT

Mayor Fincher told Council that he is proposing committees look into the website and swimming pool items. The Mayor assigned Aldermen Dahler and Garcia to look into the setting up of a website and Aldermen Dahler & Elias to look into the feasibility of a swimming pool. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council table items four, five, six and nine until the August meeting. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER OLD CAR ORDINANCE-JOE M. CARTER

Joe Carter told Council that he doesn't have junk vehicles on his property that he has old vehicles. He told Council he will move a lot of the vehicles but not all of them as he will be working on some. He said he would work with city on getting the vehicles moved away. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER JUNK VEHICLE ORDINANCE-JOE GATES

Mr. Gates was not present, therefore, no action was taken.

CONSIDER OPTIONS AVAILABLE CONCERNING CITY’S PROTEST ON EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY’S PROPOSAL ON CITY’S INITIAL REGULAR PERMIT FOR GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWAL

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council they have the following three options available concerning the city’s protest on the EAA’s proposal on the city’s initial regular permit for groundwater withdrawal:
1. withdraw your protest;
2. provide additional material for staff review and
3. continue on to contested case hearing.

Mayor Fincher recommended Council continue with protest. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council continue the protest. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASING GARBAGE RATES DUE TO RATE INCREASE BY WASTE MANAGEMENT

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that effective August 1st, Waste Management is going up on garbage rates and recommended Council pass through the increases of garbage fees. She told Council that the average residential garbage rate would be increased by twelve cents ($.12). Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council pass through the increase in garbage rate effective August 1st. Seconded by Alderman Bushart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE REGULATING FIREWORKS IN CITY LIMITS

Mayor Fincher questioned the City Attorney about the proposed ordinance on banning "aerial" fireworks. The City Attorney defined "aerial" fireworks as fireworks that leave the ground. Jacquelyn Traeger complained to Council about the 60-day ban and said the ban should have been lifted after the rain occurred. Laura Gossinger told Council that a contingency plan to reverse ban, if it rained should have been in place. Lorraine Vaughan told Council she doesn't want the use of fireworks done away with. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council take no action on the ordinance regulating fireworks in the city. Seconded by Alderman Bushart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER STREETS FOR REPAVING PROJECT

Mayor Fincher told Council that he feels the list of streets for the paving project needs to be revised. He showed Council pictures of Hester Street from Florence to Martin showing it is in good shape and pictures of Oak Street from S. Davis to Gray Street showing all the bad spots. The Mayor also said Live Oak Street doesn't need topping all the way to the end, just to Walker residence. The Mayor recommended Council go out for bids on the streets, as revised. Alderman Bushart made the motion that Council go out for bids on the revised list of streets. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.
Minutes of Regular Meeting held July 8, 2002 (cont.)

CONSIDER BIDS RECEIVED ON LIBRARY ROOF
The following bids were received on the library roof:
- Patrick Construction: $4,483.00
- Texana Roofing: $3,650.00
- Dacon Roofing: $3,447.90

After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Texana Roofing be awarded the bid on the library for $3,650.00. Seconded by Alderman Bushart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL
Mayor Fincher recommended Council appoint Steve Britt as Assistant Fire Marshal since Fire Marshals are not always available. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council appoint Steve Britt as Assistant Fire Marshal. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS’ REPORT
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:
1. Rains caused problems at new sewer plant, are monitoring it closely;
2. Rains caused flooded roads;
3. Power at well #2 was out for a while due to storm, but there were no problems with water system;
4. The crews have been shredding, patching and getting park cleaned up for July 4th;
5. The crews started patching streets again this week, since rains messed up streets;
6. A new employee, Johnny Stevens started work, the other person hired took another job;
7. City advertising again to fill vacant positions;
8. A mesquite tree on Live Oak fell down during storm and had to be cut up and moved by crew;
9. Sewer lines were overloaded due to rain;
10. Power went off at City Hall during storm;
11. Roof in City Hall had a few leaks during storm; and
12. Trying to get someone to fog for mosquitoes.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council. He told Council that June was the slowest month in the past two and a half years.

The Chief told Council he had discussed items for disaster preparedness during the past week with Mayor Fincher.

Chief Priest told Council he is trying to get vacation and personal days scheduled over the next couple of months while school is out.

The Chief told Council the police department has a good record on cases filed.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reported on the following items:
1. Current ad valorem taxes collected in June totaled $4,019.45; fiscal year total is $243,829.13 or 98.32% of taxes budgeted;
2. Delinquent taxes collected in June totaled $487.54 fiscal year total is $5,743.46 or 114.87% of the amended total;
3. Franchise taxes collected in June totaled $46.93, and in July City collected $1,180.17 from Charter Communications;
4. Sales tax collected last month was $29,702.89, bringing fiscal year total to $273,656.27, or 82.93% of what was budgeted; and
5. Gas system survey rated the system at 79%, above average.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:
1. Sirens are now in place, will be tested next week;
2. Copies of signals are available in lobby and will be printed in the paper;
3. Bids on the demolition of ponds will be opened July 30th, and on August agenda;
4. Bids for sewer and water lines on south side of IH 35 may also be on August agenda;
5. Ciro Rodriguez called to check if city fared okay during past week of rain;
6. Had meeting on July 1st with Time Warner representative and they will be doing a feasibility study;
7. Former Council member Bennie Evans passed away on July 4th, Mr. Evans served on Council from 1995 to 2001 and did a lot of work on Christmas decorations;
8. Will be looking into things for future shelters; asked permission to get one hundred(100) cots, blankets and pillows; and
9. 4th of July fireworks display was cancelled due to weather.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.
Minutes of Regular Meeting held July 8, 2002 (cont.)