Minutes of Regular Meeting, July 10, 2000

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

Visitors: Julie Dunnavant, Julie Myers, Mr. and Mrs. David Gardner, Jesus Moreno, Mark McLiney.

APPROVE MINUTES
APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 12th and the payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

Mark McIneey from Southwest Securities explained to Council that the average interest rate the City will receive on the certificates is 6%, which is excellent and said all the wording in the proposed ordinance is required by the Attorney General. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council adopt the ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

JESUS MORENO - COMPLAINT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF RESERVE OFFICER DAVID GARDNER

Jesus Moreno appeared before City Council to complain about David Gardner being hired as a reserve police officer. He said that Officer Gardner had made an error when he was called to his place a couple of years ago and that at the very least, he wanted an apology from the officer. Mayor Fincher and the City Secretary both told Mr. Moreno that the former Chief had investigated the incident in question and Officer Gardner was found to not be negligent in the matter. Council members tried to explain to Mr. Moreno that probable cause was needed before an arrest could be made. After more discussion, no action was taken.


City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the matching funds for a grant that is recommended is 15%, and that Ruiz always suggests the City go a little more. She said 15% of $250,000.00 is $37,500.00 and recommended the City pledge $40,000.00 as matching funds for this grant application. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council adopt the resolution authorizing submission of a grant application and pledge $40,000.00 as matching funds. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYTLE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE PROCUREMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (TCDP) AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE CITY'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, IF GRANTED AND AWARDED BY THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council adopt the resolution authorizing the procurement of professional services for the TCDP program, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT ON PHONE SYSTEM WITH SOUTHWESTERN BELL

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the proposed maintenance agreement on the phone system with Southwestern Bell. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

This item was tabled for a later date.

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF UVALDO RAMIREZ, JR.

Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council accept the resignation from Uvaldo Ramirez, Jr. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS

Police Chief Richard Priest asked Council for two additional slots for reserve officers since all positions are filled now and Uvaldo Ramirez, Jr. would like to stay on as a reserve officer. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council grant the Chief's request. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING POLICE OFFICER TO FILL VACANCY CREATED BY RESIGNATION OF UVALDO RAMIREZ, JR.

After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that the City advertise to fill the position vacated by Uvaldo Ramirez, Jr. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER OVER 65 EXEMPTION AMOUNT ON PROPERTY TAXES
Mayor Fincher and City Secretary Josie Campa recommended to Council that the over 65 exemption on property taxes be raised from $3,000 to $10,000. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council increase the "over 65" exemption from $3,000 to $10,000 for the year 2000 taxes. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING SOMEONE TO DISK CITY PROPERTIES LOCATED AT SEWER PLANT FACILITY AND BY NEW WATER WELL
Mayor Fincher recommended to Council that the City have the properties by the sewer plant and new water well disked instead of shredded. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council authorize the Mayor and City Secretary to have the properties disked instead of shredded. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF EXTRA SET OF FILTER BALLS FOR AERATION/SEDIMENTATION TANK
Mayor Fincher showed Council the filter balls for the aeration/ sedimentation system and explained that the water system will be down less time if an extra set of these filter balls are purchased. He said that an extra set would cost $7,297.00 plus $875.00 shipping fees. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council approve the purchase of the filter balls. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:
1 - Ford backhoe will be fixed by end of week;
2 - Case backhoe hydraulic leaks have been fixed;
3 - side railing on gazebo was knocked out and has been fixed again;
4 - the gazebo on Main Street had more sealer put on it;
5 - ceiling at community center was repaired;
6 - a few water main breaks have been fixed;
7 - gas leak survey is being done;
8 - sewer samples have been better; and
9 - water samples were good.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Chief Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

Chief Priest told Council that Reserve Officer Mark Smith had worked his first shift and that he hated to lose Uvaldo Ramirez as a regular officer.

The Chief reported that the 1998 Ford patrol car had been vandalized and that apparently when the window was broken in the unit, the chrome on the 1997 Ford patrol car was dented.

Chief Priest told Council that July 4th was a very busy day for the police department due to fireworks. He asked Council to look into stopping the use of fireworks inside the City.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she will be looking over fourteen (14) applications she received for the position in the office and that possibly this item would be set up for a special meeting.

The City Secretary told Council that nine (9) apps were received for the Public Works position.

Ms. Campa told Council that James Bradley would be attending a Basic Animal Control Course on July 19th and 20th.

The City Secretary reminded Council of the upcoming "Dog Day at the Park" celebration on August 5th.

Ms. Campa told Council that the roof at the community center had leaked again. Mayor Fincher said he would look into this matter.

The City Secretary then reviewed her written report with Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Fincher told Council that he had obtained estimates for the streets the Council had designated for capital improvements, and that the asphalt coating would cost approximately $106,000 and that a new type of seal coat would cost $38,000. He told Council that he wants to have the contractor explain the new type of seal coating to the Council at a future Council meeting.
Mayor's Report (cont.)
The Mayor told Council that Alderman Garcia will be going into town to order the two water sprinklers for the park.

Mayor Pro-tem Gerry Elias told Council that the EMS personnel had started work on the new building and that at first things went really great, but that now nothing is being done because the City hasn't turned over the building to the EMS. Mayor Fincher said that the City is done with the building and it can be released to the EMS. Alderman Elias recommended that Council set up some rules for this building.

The Mayor told Council that the tourism committee will be going to Laredo on July 15th to get Christmas decorations and said that a bluegrass concert will be held July 22nd. He reminded Council of the Dog Day Festival on August 5th; El Mariachi Los Caporales in October; the Christmas lighting ceremony in November; and the Poinsettia Show and New Year's Party in December.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary