Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 11, 2016

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Sam Cortez, Jerry Stone, Ruble Farmer, Ward Sanders, Kevin Keith; City Secretary Josie Campa; Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger; Public Works Director James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; Library Director Cassandra Cortez; Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger.

Visitors: Ernest Kroeger, Butch Shoemaker, Benny Lopez, Paola Rios, Edgar Rios, Jaden Rios, Mabel Rios, Mr. & Mrs. David Lopez, Jr., Chuck Bayne, Billy Stewart, Sam Parks, Roy Verstuyft, Jeanice Farmer, Cheryl Vaughan, Valdemar Martinez, Megan Tschetter, Gerry Elias, Mark Montgomery, Luz Moreno-Lozano, Steven Whitaker, Virginia Medina, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Campa, Paula Campa, Darlene Fincher, Nora Garcia, Kimberly Faulk, Brandon Crisp, Donna Burrell, Donna Hendrick, Joan Collins.

Mayor Bowen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS’/CITIZENS’ COMMENTS
Luz Moreno-Lozano, editor of the Leader News introduced Steven Whitaker the new reporter for the Leader News that will be in Lytle to talk with Council members and department heads.

Butch Shoemaker thanked Council and Mr. McGrath for getting the sewer clean-outs on Martin Street fixed.

Police Chief Richard Priest recognized his Administrative Assistant Paola Rios for her seven (7) years of service to the city.

Chief Priest presented a plaque to Police Officer David Lopez, Jr. for his five years of service to the city.

Mayor Bowen presented checks to the Christmas Decorating Contests winners.

The “business” winners were recognized. They were:

1st place - St. Andrews Catholic Church;
2nd place - Tots to Teens Pediatric Dentistry; and
3rd place - Lytle Feed & Seed.

The “non-profit” winners were:

1st place - Lytle Animal Shelter Volunteers;
2nd place - Lytle VFW Post #12041; and
3rd place - Chamber of Commerce.
VISITORS'/CITIZENS' COMMENTS (CONT.)
Residential winners receiving checks were:

1st place - Valdemar Martinez;
2nd place - Blanca Duron; and
3rd place - Cheryl Vaughan.

Mayor Bowen and Council recognized City Secretary Josie Campa for her forty years of service to the city.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa added two (2) bills to the list of bills to be approved. They were bills from Tom Cate for December legal fees totaling $1,601.25 and West Texas Gas Marketing for Natural Gas purchased in December totaling $9,211.69.

Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held November 9th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM SOUTHWEST I.S.D. TO CONDUCT JOINT ELECTION ON MAY 7, 2016 WITH CITY OF LYTLE
Southwest I.S.D. Roy Verstuyft asked Council for permission to hold a joint election with Southwest I.S.D. He said if approved, this would be the 7th joint election. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve this request. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

MONTY SMALL, CEO-STATUS OF LYTLE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
Monty Small was not present, so this item was scratched.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ALLOWING LITTLE LEAGUE AND/OR LYP TO USE BALL FIELDS AT JOHN LOTT PARK
Billy Stewart talked to Council about Little League being allowed to use ball fields at John Lott Park. Mr. Stewart told Council told that LYP cannot be in charge of Little League like it was with Pony League as national rules say Little League has to be on its own and not part of another organization. Mr. Stewart said the season will run from March through August and said Loren Davila will serve as President of Little League. After discussion, Alderman Keith made the motion that Council enter into a contract with Little League for the baseball season. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON BIDS RECEIVED FOR MAINTENANCE OF CITY PROPERTIES
Council reviewed the bids received for property maintenance. The low bidder for property maintenance was Mesquite Lawn Care. The City Secretary told Council she had received several complaints over the past year about Mesquite’s service. However, she said every time she had to call them, they did correct the problem. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that a “performance” clause could be added to the contract to try and alleviate these problems. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council go with Mesquite Lawn Care and if the performance clause is not honored, look at another company. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. VOTE-FOR: Alderman Stone, Cortez, Farmer and Sanders. Alderman Keith abstained. Motion carried.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON EXTENSION OF CONTRACT WITH CPS ENERGY FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF CITY’S GAS SYSTEM
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that CPS Energy would like to renew the O & M contract for one year at the same price and recommended this be done. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council renew the gas O & M contract with CPS for another year at the same price. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CONTRACTING WITH PET POINT FOR MICRO CHIPPING SERVICES
Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger told Council about Pet Point’s offer to microchip animals if employees tell the adopting party about insurance. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that he had reviewed Pet Point’s contract and they had agreed to all the changes he had requested. Mr. Cate told Council that there will be a small charge for this service and it is not free. Mrs. Kroeger recommended Council approve this contract, as this service will help the facility with better reporting. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve the contract with Pet Point. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CONTRACT WITH FISHER HECK ARCHITECTS FOR SERVICES RELATED TO CONCEPT DESIGN FOR CITY HALL AND GIDLEY HOUSE FEASIBILITY STUDY
After discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the contract with Fisher Heck Architects. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CALLING FOR AN ELECTION (CONSIDERAR LLAMAR PARA UNA ELECCION)
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council call for an election to be held May 7th for the purpose of electing a Mayor and Aldermen for Districts 4 & 5. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RENEWAL OF DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION CONTRACT
City Secretary Josie Campa recommended to Council that the city renew the delinquent tax collection contract with Tom Cate. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council renew the contract for collection of delinquent taxes with Tom Cate. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ANNUAL DANIEL J. MCGRATH, D.V.M. CITIZENSHIP AWARD
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that she had discussed the Annual Citizenship award with Mayor Bowen and said one person stands out as he works with the VFW and the Animal Control facility and is one of the original auxiliary officers for the Police Department. The City Secretary nominated Ernest Kroeger for all his work with these groups. Alderman Stone made the motion that Ernest Kroeger be given the Annual Citizenship Award. After more discussion, Alderman Stone amended his motion to include Chuck Bayne for this award. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS
The plans and goals were reviewed with a power point presentation.

ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger gave her report with a power point presentation.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Library Director Cassandra Cortez gave her report with a power point presentation.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger told Council that Bobby Roberts is slowly cleaning the property on Easy Street formerly owned by Gene Smith.

Mr. Traeger told Council he met with a TCEQ representative concerning the car wash drainage and they are looking into this matter.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Public Works’ Director James McGrath gave his report with a power point presentation.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest gave his report with a power point presentation.
CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa gave her report with a power point presentation.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Bowen told Council that American Pickers will be coming to Lytle for their show on the History Channel.

The Mayor told Council that Texas A & M is working on a project that would build a campus south of San Antonio for petroleum engineers and they are looking at land in the Lytle area.

The Mayor told Council he would look at his schedule to see when a special meeting can be held for department head evaluations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.