Minutes of Regular Meeting held July 14, 2008

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

Visitors: Jonathan Bowen, Philip Ruiz, Olga and Richard Sharer, Christina Barberie, Steven Troudt, Bobbie Lassiter, Sam Parks, Ralph Taylor, Richard Hughes, Atascosa County Judge Diana Bautista; Atascosa County Commissioner Bill Torans, Frank Reyes, Julio Inocencio, Bobby Roberts, Jolinda Harris-Richards, Kelley Haney.
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APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa added the bill from El Paso Reata Energy for $12,625.60, and corrected the minutes concerning liaisons to read Alderman Stone chose the sewer department and adding that Alderman Dahler chose the water and gas departments. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the minutes of June 9th, as amended and the minutes of the special meeting and workshop held July 1st, and payment of the bills as presented. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Wayne Herl welcomed Mark Bowen as the new Mayor. He then told Council he was told a year ago that the city would work at getting rid of junk vehicles. He asked what the status was on this matter. Chief Priest told Mr. Herl that he and the Mayor had taken a look at the problem and that they are trying to figure out the best way to hand the problem.

Mr. Herl told Council that the brush matter is also needing to be addressed since a lot of stuff is being dumped on Wisdom Road. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Herl the city will be looking into this matter, too.

Police Chief Richard Priest presented a 10-year service award to Sergeant Frank Reyes.

Ralph Taylor complained about the brush pick-up. City Secretary Josie Campa explained how Waste Management had backed out of the agreement for picking up brush.

Bobby Robert commented that he had asked about metes and bounds for Bexar County portion of city for Southwest I.S.D. The City Secretary told Mr. Roberts that she had received them only that day and would give him a copy.

Mr. Roberts asked about the status of Ball Road and was told Alderman Dahler is working on this matter.

Jolinda Harris-Richards presented Gabe Garcia T-shirts to Police Chief Richard Priest for each of his police officers, and said she had some for Council members.

CONSIDER 2009-2010 TX CDBG6 APPLICATION
Philip Ruiz told Council that application for the next grant cycle are due by the end of September. Mr. Ruiz said the State has changed the procedure and that the city will not have to make a presentation to AACOG. He explained that water and sewer are again listed as priorities and if the city chooses to apply for funding surveys will again have to be completed. He then told of the income guidelines for the three counties Lytle is in. After more discussion, Mayor Bowen recommended that Council move forward with a grant application. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council proceed with a grant application. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM STEVEN TROUDT TO HOLD A "FREEDOM WALK" IN OBSERVANCE OF PATRIOTS' DAY
Steven Troudt with the VFW Post asked permission to hold a Freedom Walk in observance of Patriots’ Day on September 13th from St. Andrews Church to the Veterans’ Memorial Park. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant this request. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BLUEBONNET CHILDREN’S CENTER FOR BEING ADDED TO 2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET-LISA BALLESTEROS
Lisa Ballesteros was not present, however, Chief Priest told Council that the police department does use the center for children of sexual assault cases. After more discussion Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve $1,000.00 be given to the center for the services they provide. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM WATER ALLIANCE GROUP FOR MEMBERSHIP FEE-JERRY STONE
Alderman Stone told Council that the Water Alliance is requesting $200.00 for assisting with grant for a feasibility study. After discussion, Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council grant this request. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM TRUE AUTOMATION FOR PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION SYSTEM

City Secretary Josie Campa explained to Council that the Atascosa CAD has elected to go with a new computer system. She explained that in order for the city to be more compatible with the CAD’s new system True Automation has given a proposal. She told Council that the present system is already obsolete and will be more so and expressed the need for an updated tax collection system. After more discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the proposal from True Automation. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASING GAS SURCHARGE DUE TO INCREASING NATURAL GAS PRICES

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the price of natural gas is increasing every month, she said last month, the price of gas went up to $11.5452 per MCF and that on this month’s bill, the price per MCF is $12.4268. She said the last time the surcharge was adjusted, the price per MCF was $10.50, therefore the difference is now $1.9268 per MCF. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council increase the gas surcharge to $1.93 per MCF and this item be revisited in three months. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT LIAISONS

Council discussed the departments still needing liaisons. Alderman Sam Cortez agreed to work with the Street and Museum departments and Alderman Sanders agreed to oversee Animal Control and Administration. Alderman Stone made the motion Council approve all of the liaisons. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director of Public Works James McGrath reports on the following:

1-256 work orders completed over past month;
2-2 new water meters installed;
3-4 water main breaks fixed;
4-8 minor leaks were fixed;
5-1 leak on customer’ side fixed;
6-2 sewer stoppage unclogged;
7-3 gas leaks fixed;
8-water storage tank finished and samples taken were okay, so back on line;
9-TCEQ water inspection done on Friday;
10-Edwards’ Aquifer people taking samples; and
11-valve will be taken care of when all parts have been delivered.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

The Chief told Council he would have a proposal on next month’s agenda for forming a civilian auxiliary.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT

City Secretary Josie Campa reported on the following items:

1-current taxes are about $1,500.00 more than last June;
2-delinquent taxes are running about $700.00 behind last year’s total;
3-motel tax for last quarter should be received by end of month;
4-franchise tax is running about $2,000.00 less than a year ago;
5-sales tax down for third straight month, however, fiscal year total is still about $5,500.00 higher than a year ago;
6-water usage for June total 59.49 acre feet and calendar year total is 51 acre feet more than last year; and
7-comparison report of water for years 2005 through 2008 completed for Council’s convenience.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Bowen reported to Council on the following:

1-TxDOT says new exit ramps should start being addressed over next few month;
2-informed Council of grant available for utilities for new motel;
3-asked people to put up signs for Gabe Garcia and to vote for Gabe;
4-informed Council of the San Antonio paper featuring Gabe Garcia in Monday’s paper; and
5-After Gabe is through with contest, the city will have a large party and sponsors are already calling to participate in this event.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
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Mayor  

Mark Bowman

City Secretary  

Josie Canno