

Minutes of Public Hearing held April 18, 2016

Public hearing with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Jerry Stone, Ruble Farmer, Ward Sanders, Sam Cortez, Kevin Keith; City Secretary Josie Campa; Director of Public Works James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; City Attorney Tom Cate; Bryan Mask, landscape architect.

Visitors: Wayne & Judy Newman, Beverly McCune, Bob Roberts, Wayne and Christi Vaughn, Wil Vaughn, Kathy Garcia, Veronica Garcia, Simon Garcia, Dr. JoAnn Ayala, Ricardo Ruiz, Scott and Jackie Traeger, J.J. Villarreal, Brad Boyd, Amado Zamora.

Mayor Bowen opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. and explained the reason for the meeting was for Council to get ideas of what people are wanting for the city's master plan overlay for the city's downtown areas. The Mayor told people in attendance if they would like to see something for the downtown area to feel free to talk about it tonight.

The Mayor then introduced Bryan Mask, the landscape architect that has worked on a plan for Lytle's downtown area.

Mr. Mask told everyone that the city had adopted a master plan about a year ago and that work has already been done to address the downtown area. Mr. Mask said the "downtown area" was defined as the area between the old post office and Prairie Street.

Mr. Mask said some buildings are in bad shape and some are already being addressed.

Mr. Mask told everyone that the city had taken the first step with the building of the parking lot by the Gidley house and having an architect take a look at what can be done to the Gidley house.

Mr. Mask said parking along Railroad Street as well as adding benches, trash cans and signs are things being considered.

Mr. Mask told everyone that the city is wanting to adopt ordinances to help keep the downtown beautiful.

Several questions were asked about the maintenance of Hwy 132.

Mayor Bowen told everyone that the city's main focus is to let the businesses know that the downtown area is a main focus to the Council and that the city wants to partner with the businesses to get things done. The Mayor said the city may be applying for grants in order to get more things done.

Bryan Mask told the Council and audience that ordinances for the city's master architectural design, range of colors and guidelines are needed, and Council needs input from the businesses.

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City Attorney Tom Cate told people in attendance that in order for the city to try and do things for the downtown area, the city needs everybody to be open and honest about their feelings and wants and the city needs to know that the businesses will work with the city to accomplish goals.

Mr. Cate said if someone feels the city's ideas for the downtown are all wrong, they need to tell us now.

J.J. Villarreal told everyone that he feels that there is no purpose for him spending money on his business, if others aren't going to do their part.

Mr. Villarreal brought up several other items, however, Mayor Bowen reminded him that this meeting was for learning what people want to see done to the downtown area.

Brad Boyd told Council that a lot can be done by the city on the downtown area without grants. He gave a list of things the city can do to make this area look better.

Christi Vaughn voiced concerns and said businesses already have a hard enough time making a living without the city trying to become an HOA for the Main Street and asking businesses to do more to their business property.

Mayor Bowen told everyone businesses wanting to come to Lytle ask about the city's future plans.

Beverly McCune voiced her concerns for parking along Main Street creating more problems.

Mayor Bowen thanked everyone for their input and adjourned the public hearing at 8:12 p.m.