Minutes of Regular Meeting, August 9, 1999

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


APPROVE MINUTES

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing and the regular meeting held July 12, 1999, and the budget workshop held August 2, 1999, and the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

Roger Trevino told Council he had moved a double-wide mobile home into Coal Mine before the necessary hearings, due to a misunderstanding. He asked permission to put mobile home together and said he would not connect it to utilities until it is approved by the Mobile Home Commission and City Council. Council agreed this needed to be an administrative decision by the City Secretary and that they had no problem with Mr. Trevino's request.

Alderman Garcia commended the Mayor and City Secretary on the remodeling of the City Hall building.

Reverend Ben Walker from First Baptist Church told Council that the church would be holding a Children's Fair on October 2nd and requested permission to place a banner over Main Street. Council agreed this could be done and Mayor Fincher told Reverend Walker that the City crew would install this banner.

Mayor Fincher thanked Council, City Secretary, City Attorney and Richard Priest for help with Dog Day Celebration.
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CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE WITH PAY FOR CHIEF OF POLICE KATHY RAY
City Secretary Josie Campa recommended to Council that Police Chief Kathy Ray be placed on paid administrative leave pending investigation of her employment effective August 3rd and that Chief Ray had agreed to this leave. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council accept the recommendation from the City Secretary and that Chief Ray be placed on paid administrative leave effective August 3, 1999. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE
City Secretary Josie Campa recommended that Police Sergeant Richard Priest be appointed Acting Chief of Police. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council appoint Sergeant Priest acting chief with a salary of $15.00 per hour. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - CONSIDER CONTROVERSIAL OR THREATENED LITIGATION INVOLVING POLICE CHIEF KATHY RAY. CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY UNDER TEXAS GOVT. CODE SECTION 551.071
Mayor Fincher announced at 6:47 p.m. that Council would go into closed session as allowed in Chapter 551.071, Subchapter D of the Texas Government Code. The meeting was reopened at 7:06 p.m. Mayor Fincher announced that Council had discussed threatened litigation involving Police Chief Kathy Ray.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CONTROVERSIAL OR THREATENED LITIGATION INVOLVING POLICE CHIEF KATHY RAY
No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON SPEED HUMPS FOR LYTLE-SOMERSET STREET
Mayor Fincher and Council members stated that they had received several complaints about installing speed humps on Lytle-Somerset Street. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council not have speed humps installed on Lytle-Somerset Street. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM UNITED FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION FOR USE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER ANNEX BUILDING
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the United Fiddlers Association had requested the use of the Community Center Annex Building on the second Saturday of each month, and recommended that they not be charged a fee, since this type of event brings tourists to the City. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council allow the Fiddlers Association to use the annex building as requested and no fees be charged. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INSURANCE PROPOSALS FROM HECTOR VILLARREAL AND TML
Hector Villarreal of Associated Benefits Consultants, Inc. presented insurance proposals for group medical and life insurance. Joanna Benavides of TML presented the City's current medical, vision, dental and life insurance plan and gave a presentation of an alternate PPO plan. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TO HWY. 132 WATER LINE
Mayor Fincher told Council that he had checked on prices for enlarging the water line on Hwy. 132, as previously discussed, and that the price was more than $15,000.00 and therefore, he would recommend going out for bids. Alderman Elias made the motion that the City get an engineer to draw up specifications for improvements to the water line on Hwy. 132 and then go out for bids on this project. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER LEASING GENERATORS FOR WATER SYSTEM DUE TO Y2K
Mayor Fincher told Council that he had talked to Ken Kuranski from CPS and that he says they are ready for year 2000, but that he would come to Council and give a presentation at the next Council meeting. Alderman Evans made the motion that the City not lease any generators until Council hears from CPS at the next regular Council meeting. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROJECT(S) TO APPLY FOR FUNDING THROUGH ROAD PROGRAM
No action was taken on this item as Council wanted to hold off for more thought into this matter.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:
1. crew working on a gas leak and cathodic protection survey;
2. have fixed several water leaks;
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DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT (CONT.)

3 - are patching streets;
4 - cleaned up along streets in Coal Mine for festival;
5 - crews have been working on remodeling of City Hall;
6 - Hector Muniz tested for his "C" license in water and Jeremy Gebo for his "D" license;
7 - have been running well #3 a lot;
8 - Massey Ferguson tractor in need of repairs;
9 - attended sewer school and renewed license; and
10 - bees from old barn have gone across street.

Mayor Fincher read the police department report for July.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the preliminary figures show that the City will receive $28,417.45 in sales tax, a 21% increase over the past year.

The City Secretary told Council that the Dog Day Celebration had been a success and thanked Council members and the Mayor for their help with this event. The City Secretary also thanked City Attorney Tom Cate and Acting Chief Priest for helping with the dunking booth. She also thanked the public works crew and her office staff for helping, not only with the Dog Day Celebration, but also with the City Hall remodeling project.

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that she was able to get a car for each of them to ride in for the Homecoming Parade and asked if they were willing to do this. Council agreed to do this for the parade.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fincher thanked Council members, the City Secretary and office staff for putting up with the dust and noise during the City Hall remodeling project.

The Mayor told Council that the brick for the annex building should be here very soon.

The Mayor thanked Aldermen Bowen and Evans for all their help with the remodeling project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor

Josie Campa

City Secretary