Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 10, 2016

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

Visitors: Ernie Kroeger, Chuck Bayne, Sam Parks, Butch Shoemaker, Jim Becker, Frank Herrera, Steve Britt, Rose and David Lynn, Rudy Gutierrez, Juan Cuellar, Lupe Villarreal, Arthur Sevier, Mary Lopez, Rey Reyna, Luz Moreno-Lozano.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Bowen opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

VISITORS'/CITIZENS' COMMENTS
Mary Cuellar Lopez talked to Council about the Cuellar family wanting to hold a reunion at the Community Center on October 7, 2017. She said they had checked in July to see if that date was available and were told it was. She told Council that Eva DeLeon had come to the office to pay the fees and was told the center was being used for Santa’s workshop and was not available. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council the center is used for Santa’s workshop in October, but she doesn't see a problem with it being moved back a week. Mayor Bowen told Mrs. Lopez to have someone come back and pay fees to hold this event.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held September 12th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM STEVE BRITT FOR PLACEMENT OF A HANDICAP WHEELCHAIR RAMP ON CITY’S RIGHT-OF-WAY ON ADAMS ST.
Steve Britt told Council he would like to place a handicap wheelchair ramp at his mother’s home since she is having trouble walking due to Parkinson’s disease. Mr. Britt told Council this ramp would meet all requirements but it would stick out some on the city’s right-of-way on Adams Street. Mayor Bowen asked City Attorney Tom Cate about this request. The City Attorney told the Mayor and Council that the city has something similar to this with the school’s bleachers and that an agreement can be drawn up if Council approves this request. After discussion, Mayor Bowen recommended to Council that they grant Mr. Britt’s request. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council grant this request and have the City Attorney draw up this agreement. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM MICHAEL LOCKWOOD FOR VARIANCE ON HEIGHT OF WIRELESS DATA UTILITY POLE TO BE INSTALLED ON TxDOT RIGHT-OF-WAY IN FRONT OF CVS (B-1 ZONE)

Michael Lockwood was not present to explain his request. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council about what other cities are saying about this request and that TxDOT does not recognize the said company. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM FRANK HERRERA (SOUTH TEXAS AFTERSHOCK) FOR LIGHTS FOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELDS AT JOHN LOTT MUNICIPAL PARK

Frank Herrera told Council he lives on the outskirts of Lytle and that he sees other cities have ball fields that are lighted. He said if Lytle could get lighted ball fields, tournaments could be held; and explained what a good sports system does for kids. Alderman Kevin Keith told Mr. Herrera there is an issue with people living in that area not wanting these lights. Council discussed the high cost of putting in lights for the ball fields and finding monies for this project. After discussion, Mayor Bowen asked Alderman Sam Cortez to work with Mr. Herrera and check on grants available for getting lights for ball fields. Mr. Herrera told Council he will get a petition signed by the neighbors approving of lights being added.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON HIRING A PART-TIME LIBRARY EMPLOYEE TO FILL VACANCY

Library Director Cassandra Cortez told Council that April Garcia was the applicant she had selected to fill the vacancy at the library. Ms. Cortez told Council that Mrs. Garcia had worked at the library a few years ago. She recommended Council hire April Garcia at $9.50 per hour contingent upon her physical, drug screen and background check. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council hire April Garcia as a part-time library employee starting at $9.50 per hour as recommended by the Library Director. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PURCHASING VEHICLES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Richard Priest told Council he had budgeted for two police vehicles and equipment this fiscal year. He said he got prices from Silsbee Ford for a 2017 F-150 for $26,337.50 and a 2017 Police Interceptor was $26,555.30 plus a Buy Board fee of $400.00. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council allow the Police Chief to purchase these vehicles. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR GARBAGE AND DUMPSTER SERVICE

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council Waste Management is still working on this item and it will be on the November agenda. No action taken.
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CONSIDER AND ACT UPON DATES FOR 2017 HOLIDAYS THAT FALL ON SATURDAYS OR SUNDAY AS PER SECTION 9.01 OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that next year the New Year holiday January 1st falls on a Sunday and Veterans’ Day falls on a Saturday and that according to Section 9.01 of the Personnel Policy manual the Council has to determine what days the city holidays should be on if they fall during the weekend. The Secretary showed Council a list of the federal holidays being observed in 2017. Alderman Keith made the motion that Council approve the same dates as the federal ones. Therefore, New Year’s holiday will be Monday, January 2nd and Veterans’ Day will be Friday, November 10th. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RENEWAL OF SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE LYTLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Alderman Cortez made the motion that the city renew its service contract with the Lytle Volunteer Fire Department. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUESTS FROM POLICE CHIEF FOR TEMPORARY ONE-WAY STREET AND/OR ROAD CLOSURES FOR HALLOWEEN (MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2016)
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that for the past 5 to 6 years N. Prairie Street and Blume Drive have been shut down on Halloween night and asked for permission to do this again. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council grant the Chief’s request. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:16 p.m. and reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS
Council discussed the plans and goals and agreed to hold a public hearing on October 24th for input from the public. The City Secretary was asked to contact Bryan Mask to see if he is available for this meeting.

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

Mrs. Kroeger told Council this year’s Doggone Fun Run/Walk will be held on November 12th.

Mrs. Kroeger also told council that interviews for the new position are going well.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Cassandra Cortez, Library Director gave her monthly report with a power point presentation.
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**CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger told Council that due to all the recent rains, overgrown lots have been the main focus. He told Council he had gotten Mr. Culbert to clean the area of his building on Adams Street.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Public Works Director James McGrath gave a power point presentation as his report.

**POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT**
Police Chief Richard Priest presented his report with a power point presentation.

**CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT**
City Secretary Josie Campa gave her report with a power point presentation.

She also told Council the city should be receiving some rollback taxes on the property by the Best Western.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**
Mayor Mark Bowen told Council there is a lot going on in Lytle with the closing on the O’Reilly property, the new Taco Bell and dialysis center. The Mayor also said that HEB is trying to work with Chick Fil-A on a pad site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.