Minutes of Regular Meeting held March 13, 2017

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

Visitors: Megan Tschetter, Craig Bell, Jose Castillo, Ruben Gonzalez, Jim Becker, Butch Shoemaker, Lupe Garcia, Andrew Lopez, Alex Chapa, Ana Ortega, Ernie Kroeger, James McCandless, Rachel Lathe, Chuck Bayne, Sam Parks, Luis Diaz, Jesse Camarillo.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Bowen opened the regular meeting at 6:34 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the February 13th regular meeting and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Sanders. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSALS FROM KAVEH KHRZAD AND SOUTHWEST ENGINEERS FOR NEW WELL AND ANY OTHER ITEMS RELATED TO DRILLING OF NEW WELL SUCH AS OBTAINING LAND FOR SAID PROJECT
Mayor Bowen asked the City Attorney to announce the closed session. City Attorney Tom Cate told everyone that Council would be going into closed session as described in Chapter 551.072, Subchapter D of the Government Code to deliberate with the City Attorney at 6:40 p.m.

The Mayor reopened the meeting at 7:08 p.m. and announced no action was taken in the closed session.

Alderman Stone then made the motion that Council allow the City Attorney to make a counter offer on the land as discussed. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RECOMMENDATION FROM THE MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM ANN URRUTIA
Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council accept the recommendation from the Mobile Home Commission for Ann Urrutia’s request. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUESTS FROM LYTLE LITTLE LEAGUE FOR OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES
Megan Tschetter, Vice-President for Lytle Little League, invited Mayor Bowen to throw the first pitch at Opening Day ceremony on April 1st, and asked the Police Chief to catch the first pitch. Ms. Tschetter told Council that they are planning to hold a fundraiser that day and gave a list of some of the activities planned. City Attorney Tom Cate said that the league would need liability insurance. Ms. Tschetter told Council that Little League has insurance. The Mayor and Council agreed that the league could hold the above mentioned fundraiser as long as they have insurance. Mayor Bowen asked Ms. Tschetter to meet with the Police Chief and Park Manager prior to this event.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM ANA ORTEGA FOR WAIVER OF SUBDIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS SINCE PROPERTY IS IN CITY’S ETJ
Ana Ortega told Council that they have 4.9 acres on CR 681 that are outside of the city that they are dividing the property and then conveying an acre to her parents. She said was told by Mr. Cate’s office that since the land is in the city’s ETJ, they needed to ask Council for a variance of the city’s subdivision ordinance. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant this variance. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM ST. ANDREW’S CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR A VARIANCE OF CITY’S NOISE ORDINANCE ON JUNE 4TH FOR CHURCH JUNE FEST
Andrew Lopez, Co-chairman for St. Andrew’s Catholic Church’s June Fest asked Council for a variance of the city’s noise ordinance for this event. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council grant the requested variance. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION FROM SHAWNEE HEATHER FROM ATASCOSA FAMILY CRISIS CENTER ON SERVICES THEY PROVIDE AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CENTER
Mrs. Heather was not present, so this item was scratched.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON GRANTING EASEMENT TO CPS ENERGY FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS LINES RIGHT-OF-WAY
City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that CPS is needing the city to grant an easement (16ft) on the library property for gas and electric purposes. The City Attorney told Council that approval of this easement will require an ordinance. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve this easement contingent on an ordinance being adopted granting said easement. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM MATTHEW DEAR, FIRE CHIEF FOR VARIANCE ON SOLICITORS AND PEDDLERS ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY BOOT DRIVES
Matt Dear, Fire Chief for the Lytle Volunteer Fire Department asked Council for a variance on the Solicitors/Peddlers’ Ordinance to allow the department to hold quarterly boot drives. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council he has a problem with this request as he feels granting this request would set a precedent and will then have to allow others. The Fire Chief told Council that the department is in need of funds to pay for a new fire truck. Council discussed this request with the Fire Chief and discussed other ways to obtain funding like asking utility customers to donate on their utility bills in the city’s newsletter and possibly increasing the Fire Department’s service fees in next year’s budget. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES WITH ATASCOSA COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council the Atascosa County Elections Administrator had presented an Election Services Contract that totals $4,768.96. She said this contract includes early voting services, too, and the city would be responsible for paying election judges and clerks for early voting and election day. She told Council that these costs would put this budget line item over by nearly $1,000.00, but she could use funding from either the professional fees or miscellaneous line item to cover this expense. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve this contract. Seconded by Alderman Keith. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:59 p.m.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ADOPTING ORDINANCE AS PER SECTION 2.053 OF THE ELECTION CODE ALLOWING CITY TO DECLARE EACH UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE ELECTED
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt the ordinance declaring the unopposed candidates elected. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF RESERVE POLICE OFFICER LUIS DIAZ
Police Chief Richard Priest recommended Council hire Reserve Officer Luis Diaz to fill the vacancy in the Police Department. The Chief asked Council that Mr. Diaz starting salary be $39,500.00 a year. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Luis Diaz at a starting salary of $39,500.00 a year. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSAL FROM ENGINEER ON REPAIRS TO BE MADE AT COMMUNITY CENTER AND ANNEX BUILDING
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Rick Penshawn had submitted a proposal for overseeing the repairs to be made at the community center and annex building. She said the cost would be $11,950.00. Alderman Sanders made the motion that Council approve this proposal. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER AND ACT UPON MAYOR'S REQUEST TO GIVE EMPLOYEES MONDAY, JULY 3\textsuperscript{rd} AS AN ADDED HOLIDAY SINCE THE 4\textsuperscript{TH} FALLS ON A TUESDAY
Mayor Bowen told Council that this year July 4\textsuperscript{th} falls on a Tuesday and asked Council to consider giving employees the Monday before July 4\textsuperscript{th} off, too. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council allow Monday, July 3\textsuperscript{rd} as an extra holiday for employees. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPOINTMENT TO ZONING COMMISSION TO FILL VACANCY
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that there will be a vacancy on the Zoning Commission the middle of April, and asked them to think about someone for this position. No action was taken.

UPDATE ON PLANS AND GOALS
Council reviewed the Plans and Goals 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 a power point presentation as her monthly report.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger told Council they may need to look into something concerning tiny houses and portable buildings.

Mr. Traeger also told Council that Alex Chapa was present and wanted to talk to them about the drainage situation on his property due to Park Place owner damming up the creek. After discussion, Mayor Bowen told Mr. Chapa the city would look into this.

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

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Bowen told Council that there are a ton of people using the park and walking trail.

The Mayor told Council that Band Director Mark Fender had told him that the band had won “Sweepstakes” designation at the U.I.L. contest.

Mayor Bowen also reported that he and Ruben Gonzalez had met with dignitaries in Austin and visited with the Railroad Commission.

The Mayor reported that the VFW banquet the previous week had been a great event.

Alderman Sanders thanked the Mayor and Council for working with him during his time on the Council. Alderman Sanders also thanked department heads. He told Council he has a prior commitment for April and won’t be at the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.