Minutes of regular meeting held September 12, 2005

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Mark Bowen, Gerry Elias, Ruble Farmer, Jr., Sam Cortez, Erik Dahler; City Secretary Josie Campa; City Attorney Tom Cate; Police Officer Matt Dear; Director of Public Works James McGrath.

Visitors: Philip Ruiz, Craig Bell, Bryan Bippert, Beverly McCune, Richard and Olga Sharer, Rachel Martinez, Margie Martinez, Henry and Tammy Soto, Alice Perez, Erica Perez, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bush, Gloria Day, Kurt Kastner, Marisa Rodriguez.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 8th, the special meeting held August 15th; the budget workshop held August 15th; the special meeting held August 22nd, and the budget workshop held August 22nd. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Mayor Fincher reminded the Council that the Homecoming Parade is Saturday, September 17th.

CONSIDER AWARDING BID ON BOOSTER PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Craig Bell and Philip Ruiz presented the bids received on the booster pump station. They recommended Council award the bid to Mercer Construction even though it is about $28,000.00 over budget. There was a discussion on the difference between the bid and the engineer's estimate. Mr. Bell told Council that the contractor is willing to cut approximately $16,000.00 from his bid and then the bid will be about $12,000.00 over the budget. Mayor Fincher recommended Council accept the bid from Mercer Construction. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council accept the bid from Mercer Construction. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM ZONING COMMISSION ON REQUESTS FOR REZONING
Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council accept the recommendation from Zoning Commission. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CONTINUING MONETARY SUPPORT TO THE ATASCOSA FAMILY CRISIS CENTER—GLORIA DAY
Gloria Day requested the City continue its monetary support of the Atascosa County Crisis Center. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council give the Atascosa County Crisis Center $1,200.00 for counseling service. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER PREMATURE PLACEMENT OF BRUSH ON CITY STREETS FOR BRUSH PICK-UP-OLGA SHARER

Olga Sharer asked Council what could be done to keep people from putting their brush and debris out on the street too soon. After lengthy discussion, Mayor Fincher told Mrs. Sharer that the city would continue to try and educate the public. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER SPEED BUMPS FOR N. PRAIRIE STREET-RICHARD AND OLGA SHARER

Olga and Richard Sharer asked Council to consider having speed bumps placed on N. Prairie Street to slow down traffic. Mayor Fincher told the Sharers that the city is in the process of trying to get an island placed at the intersection of Prairie and FM 2790. He said the new configuration at N. Prairie Street should help to slow traffic down. The Mayor asked the Sharers and Council to wait until this is done to see if it will help slow things down. After more discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that the city install speed bumps on N. Prairie Street. This motion died for lack of a second.

CONSIDER ALLOWING LYTLE HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS TEAMS TO PRACTICE ON CITY'S TENNIS COURTS IN THE PARK-BRYAN BIPPERT

Bryan Bippert, Lytle I.S.D. Athletic Director requested the school tennis teams be allowed to practice on the city's tennis courts after school hours. Mr. Bippert told Council that the team tennis season is in the fall and single and doubles tennis is in the spring. He said at this time, the tennis courts are needed January thru April. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council grant Mr. Bippert's request to allow the school tennis teams to use the city's tennis courts for the 2005-2006 year, from January 1st thru April 15th on Monday thru Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 2005-2006 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 298 to adopt the 2005-2006 city budget. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF LIBRARY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council adopt the proposed library budget as presented. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 2005 TAX RATE

Alderman Cortez made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 299, setting the 2005 tax rate at $.41 per $100.00 valuation. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER USING ATASCOSA COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL AS CITY'S FIRE MARSHAL

Mayor Fincher told Council he had talked to the Atascosa County Fire Marshal Chuck Garris about serving as the City's Fire Marshal. The Mayor asked Council to pay the Fire Marshal for mileage when serving the city. Alderman Elias made the motion that the city use the County Fire Marshal for the city's needs and that an interlocal agreement with Atascosa County be drawn up for this purpose, and that the city pay Mr. Garris for mileage. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HENRY SOTO

Mayor Fincher asked Henry Soto if he wanted an open or closed session. Mr. Soto chose to have his item in open session. Director of Public Works' James McGrath read a prepared statement to Council recommending Mr. Soto be terminated for disruptive behavior. Mr. Soto gave Council several reasons for why he has acted the way he has over the past few weeks. Mayor Fincher told Mr. Soto he put his trust in him and that he had really let him down, and hurt him really bad. After more discussion, Mayor Fincher told Council that they had heard the Director's recommendation and asked for a motion. Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council terminate Henry Soto's employment without just cause. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. VOTE: For motion, Aldermen Dahler, Farmer and Bowen. Aldermen Cortez and Elias abstained. Motion carried.

Council took a short break at 8:00 p.m. and reconvened at 8:14 p.m.
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CONSIDER HIRING OF PUBLIC WORKS’ EMPLOYEE (S)

Director of Public Works James McGrath told Council that there were seven applicants for the Public Works' position, and recommended Council hire Alejandro Carrillo upon a satisfactory background check. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council hire Alejandro Carrillo at $6.00 per hour after we receive a satisfactory background check and successfully completes the physical and drug test. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DEPOSITORY CONTRACT WITH LYTLE STATE BANK

Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council approve the depository contract with Lytle State Bank. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REASSIGNMENT OF DEPARTMENT LIAISONS

Council discussed reassigning liaisons and appointing two new liaisons, one for Lytle I.S.D. and one for the Chamber of Commerce. Council listed the following departments and respective liaisons:

- Police Department- Mark Bowen
- Park & Lytle I.S.D.- Sam Cortez
- E.M.S. & Fire Dept.- Gerry Elias
- Sewer, Gas, Water & Streets- Erik Dahler
- Chamber of Commerce- Ruble Farmer, Jr.
- Administration- Mayor Horace Fincher

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept the above mentioned liaisons. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ALLOWING PAYMENT OF INCOMING BILLS FROM THIS FISCAL YEAR’S BUDGET

Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council allow payment of incoming bills from this fiscal year’s budget. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

James McGrath reported on the following items:

1. department has another project since the State has asked the city to move its water line on FM 3175 due to the improvements being made;
2. had another sewer stoppage at Harris Trailer Park and found that a manhole needs to be installed to help with stoppages in the future. Mr. Harris will furnish this manhole;
3. will be finishing up on the Somerset Street drainage project by installing signs and posts at the dip;
4. Lake Shore Estates water lines are being installed, lines will be chlorinated and tested upon completion;
5. department is preparing for Homecoming Parade on September 17th; and
6. had a 6” water main break and 4” water main break in past week that had to be fixed.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Chief Priest was sick and gave them his written report for the month of August.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT

City Secretary Josie Campa reminded Council of the parade on September 17th and said line up starts at 9 a.m. and she would purchase candy for this event.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:

1. water line on FM 3175 will have to be moved;
2. Council will have to assign a project manager for the grant project;
3. Senior Citizen Center door will have to be fixed and it will probably cost a lot since it appears that the foundation may be the problem;
4. City of Somerset has requested that Lytle’s Judge and Associate Judge work for them and the cities can share the expense of Judge’s school and
5. always hate to see an employee terminated, but sometimes it’s necessary, as actions dictate, and that he thought Council did the right thing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary