Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 8, 2001

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Mark Bowen, Gerry Elias, Louis Trouart, Juan J. Garcia and Erik Dahler; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate; Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga.

Visitors: Jose Garcia, Julie Dunnavant, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tudyk; Kaycee Priest, Natalie Spencer.

APPROVE MINUTES/APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council approve the minutes from the public hearing and regular meeting held September 10th and the special meeting and work shop held September 18th, and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR WRECKER SERVICE CONTRACT
Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council approve Mr. Tudyk's proposal on the wrecker service contingent upon Tom Cate's approval. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council stay with the Leader News as the City’s official newspaper. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SETTING FEE FOR INSTALLATION OF EXCESS FLOW VALVES
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga told Council he needed them to set a fee for installing an excess flow valve, and recommended a $100.00 fee. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council set a fee of $100.00 for installing an excess flow valve. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SPONSORING A HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIAL DISPOSAL DAY
City Secretary Josie Campa reported to Council that the cost of holding a hazardous waste disposal would cost the City between $25,000.00 to $28,000.00 and this does not included tires. She also reported that the City would be handled separately and that the price for tires to be hauled in would be .80¢ per tire or $4.00 per truck tire or $80.00 per ton. Mayor Fincher assigned Aldermen Elias and Dahler to look into this matter and make a recommendation to Council.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ENGINEER TO START WORK ON NORTH BENTON STREET DRAINAGE PROJECT
Mayor Fincher asked Council to consider authorizing the engineer to look at the drainage problem on North Benton Street. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council authorize the engineer to start work on the drainage project on North Benton Street. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ALLOWING POLICE CHIEF TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT
After discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council allow the Police Chief to interview the applicants for the police department. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM GIDLEY FARMS ON WATER LEASE
Mayor Fincher explained to Council about the contract with Gidley Farms for leasing water rights and also what had happened at the Edwards' Protest hearing. Mayor Fincher asked Tom Cate to look into this matter for another meeting.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' ALFREDO AGUINAGA REPORTED ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
1. Public Works employees have put in a lot of overtime to try and catch up;
2. Hector Muniz hurt his back last Tuesday;
3. have repaired several water leaks;
4. have installed a six-inch line for Bill Miller;
5. thanked Council and City Secretary for allowing money in budget to allow the employees to change their uniforms to include blue jean pants; and
6. will be on vacation starting the 15th for two weeks and Hector will be in charge.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council. The Chief told Council that the new police officer had started last Friday and that officer's would be taking vacations in November and the department should be back to normal by December.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
The City Secretary reported on the following items:
1. Lytle donated $1,353.53 for the "Help America Fund";
2. sent former Council member Bennie Evans a plant while he was in the hospital for cancer surgery;
3. told Council about the ACEDC Awards banquet being held on October 17th;
4. sewer jetter cost about $1,500.00 less than originally quoted;
5. Natalia's Veterans' Day Parade is being held Saturday, November 10th; and
6. plans for the City's fiftieth anniversary celebration are being made and invitations have gone out.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Fincher told Council that he has called a special meeting for 10:00 o'clock Saturday morning to have Council tour the new sewer plant.

The Mayor told Council he has ordered that all utility facilities be locked down to keep out unauthorized people.

Mayor Fincher reported to Council that Bennie Evans had cancer surgery and everything looks okay now, and the plant sent by City really lifted Mr. Evans spirits. He asked Council to keep Mr. Evans in their prayers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary