Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 8, 2007

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Mark Bowen, Jerry Stone, Erik Dahler, Rudy Hernandez, Sam Cortez; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate; Director of Public Works James McGrath.

Visitors: Pat Mosher, Shawn Mosher, George Waron, Dennis Crawford, Luke Crawford, Johnathan Bowen, Diana Bautista and husband, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Torans, William Alonzo, Norma Slaughter, Beverly McCune, Bobbie Lassiter, Rebecca Trevino, Jose Trevino, Hector Moreno, Caroline Moreno, Bob Ulcek, Arthur Troell, Hershel Keene.
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The meeting was opened at 6:33 p.m. by the Mayor. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor told Council and the people in the audience that Juan Garcia, an outstanding citizen who had served on the Council for fourteen years had died suddenly on Saturday. The Mayor asked for a moment of silence in Mr. Garcia's memory. The Mayor announced he was Proclaiming October 12th Juan J. Garcia Day.

APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing on September 10th, as presented and minutes of the September 10th regular meeting as corrected; and payment of the bills as listed. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

Alderman Bowen told Council and the public that Juan Garcia's death was a real loss for the community since Mr. Garcia always stepped up if something was needed. Alderman Dahler said Mr. Garcia was responsible for a lot of the improvements in the City Park since he oversaw the park for several years when he was on the Council.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ZONING COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM CASCADE COMPANIES, LLC

Mayor Fincher told Council that the Zoning Commission had approved some of the requests for rezoning, but not all. He said the B-2 was approved, but the R-2 was turned down. Pat Mosher, the representative for Cascade Companies said he was okay with it and will come back if more rezoning is necessary. Alderman Dahler told Council that if B-2 is approved, mobile homes would be allowed. City Attorney Tom Cate concurred with Alderman Dahler. Council then discussed B-1 zoning with Mr. Mosher and all the uses that are allowed in this zone.

After some discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that no action be taken at this time on the rezoning request. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Discussion. Mr. Mosher asked for Council to approve B-1 zoning at this meeting. Council agreed to consider this instead, and did not vote on the motion. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council rezone the property belonging to Cascade Companies to B-1 instead of B-2 and leave the rest of property at R-1. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM DENNIS CRAWFORD FOR VARIANCE ON SIGN SIZE FOR NEW PHARMACY

Dennis Crawford of Crawford Pharmacy asked Council for a variance on the sign size for his new pharmacy. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council grant this variance. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE LYTLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council renew the contract with the Lytle Volunteer Fire Department. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BIDS RECEIVED FOR PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Arcadio Lopez is not interested in renewing the park maintenance contract. She said the following bids had been received:

Mesquite Lawn Care: $800.00 per month includes, 2 times per month and no tree trimming;

Daniel Gallegos: $600.00 per month-as per present contract terms except he will furnish fuel;

James & Veronica Kohleppel: $649.00 per month-as per present contract terms;

Alberto Medina: $575.00 per month-as per present contract terms.

The City Secretary told Council that the city had paid about $800.00 for fuel for the park maintenance during the past year. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council award the park maintenance contract to Daniel Gallegos. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CONCERNING CONTRACT FOR SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM TO PUMP BRACKISH WATER FROM ATASCOSA COUNTY TO BEXAR COUNTY

Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt the resolution that Atascosa County used. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Discussion. Council discussed adding the last paragraph from Pleasanton's resolution. Aldermen Stone and Bowen agreed to this addition. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER REPORT FROM WATER COMMITTEE AND TAKE ACTION ON COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

Mayor Fincher told Council this item will be taken off due to negotiations not working out. The Mayor told Council he has two other sources that he would like to contact about water and then report back to Council. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council allow the Mayor to contact other sources for water. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER FINANCING FOR PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL WATER RIGHTS

Mayor Fincher said this item was not necessary at this time.

CONSIDER ALTERNATE EXIT FROM COAL MINE

Alderman Cortez told Council the city needs to find an alternate route for exiting Coal Mine in case of an emergency. Mayor Fincher asked if Aldermen Cortez and Hernandez would like to serve on this committee. They both agreed, therefore, Alderman Dahler made the motion that the committee of the Mayor and Aldermen Cortez and Hernandez work on finding said alternate route. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASING HOURLY RATE OF PAY FOR NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

Mayor Fincher told Council that Lytle is at the bottom of the totem pole of cities when it comes to starting salaries, and he would like to get a committee to work on salaries. After discussion Alderman Dahler made the motion that effective now the public works employees start at $8.00 an hour. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Discussion on committee studying salaries, too. Motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council approve a committee consisting of the Mayor and Aldermen Stone and Hernandez to work on salaries for city employees. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF VEHICLE(S) FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Richard Priest told Council he had checked on prices for police vehicles and said two are needed. The prices were as follows:

- Ford Crown Victoria- $21,800.00
- Dodge Charger- $20,129.00
- Dodge 4-door Pick-up (Quad cab with V-8)- $16,963.00

Council discussed car versus pick-up and V-6 engine versus V-8. After more discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the purchase of two Dodge trucks for the Police Department. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SELLING USED DESKS

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the city has several old desks that need to be sold since there is no room to keep them. Alderman Cortez made the motion to go out for bids on these desks. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Motion failed. Alderman Dahler made the motion that the city hold an auction for these desks and other surplus items. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Motion on time frame. Agreed on end of year. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING OFFICE EMPLOYEE

City Secretary Josie Campa recommended Council hire Laura Sanchez to fill the vacant position in the office. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council hire Laura Sanchez for the office clerk position at $7.00 per hour. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ALLOWING CITY SECRETARY TO APPROVE MINOR CHANGES TO PLATS

Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council allow the City Secretary to approve minor changes on plats. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
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PUBLIC WORKS' DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Director of Public Works James McGrath reported on the following items:

1-316 work orders completed;
2-4 minor water leaks fixed;
3-1 water main break fixed;
4-4 small gas leaks fixed;
5-Railroad Commission conducted their evaluation of gas system;
6-fire plug repaired;
7-relocated gas line at library;
8-will be relocating water line at library;
9-lost employee Michael Lambert;
10-waiting on background check for new employee; and
11-4 sleeves installed on CR 681.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reviewed her written report with Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported on the following:
1-ground breaking for Community National Bank being held October 16th;
2-fiscal year was really good;
3-property tax rate lowered to 34 cents; and
4-hopes next year will be as good.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.