Minutes of Regular meeting held October 10, 2005

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

Visitors: Richard Hughes, Lupe Castro, Brad Boyd, Kurt Castner.

APPROVE MINUTES & APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearings and regular meeting held on September 12th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Fincher told Council that a young Lytle man was killed in a tragic accident that weekend.

CONSIDER MISLEADING SPEED LIMIT SIGN-ROBERT PETERSON

Mr. Peterson did not show up for the meeting, however Mayor Fincher told Council that the signs on N. Prairie do confuse people and signs are being made by the sign shop to try to educate people on the speed limit and school zone. He said this problem should be eliminated when this area is reconfigured. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER ALLOWING BABY HUEY'S TO GET 2:00 A.M. PERMIT; PETITION OF SIGNATURES; AND CHANGING THE RULES-RICHARD HUGHES

Richard Hughes asked Council to consider allowing him to get the 2 a.m. permit for Baby Huey's. Mr. Hughes told Council his place is more family oriented and that in order for his business to improve this permit is necessary. Mayor Fincher asked Chief Priest for comments. Chief Priest told Council he didn't have any information as stats on Mr. Hughes' business and asked for some time to research this matter. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council have the Chief research Mr. Hughes' request and put this item off for a month. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE LYTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

City Secretary Josie Campa reported that the Library Board was asking Council to reappoint the following: Ann Van Winkle, Lucy Chapa, Lucy Luker and Shelle McMillan. Alderman Cortez made the motion that the above mentioned persons be reappointed to the Library Board. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO APPRAISAL DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that George Harris' term on the Appraisal district's board of directors is expiring soon. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council reappoint George Harris to the ACAD Board. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SERVICE CONTRACT WITH LYTLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Council discussed the addition of a couple of stipulations to the Fire Department Contract. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council have the stipulations discussed added to the Fire Department's service contract. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASING GAS SURCHARGE DUE TO INCREASING GAS PRICES

After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council increase the gas surcharge on a monthly basis. Seconded by Alderman Elias. VOTE: FOR—Aldermen Bowen, Elias, Cortez and Farmer; AGAINST—Alderman Dahler. Motion carried.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS-
A. JEFFREY TILLMAN
B. PABLO MORALES
C. ROBERT HERNANDEZ

a-Public Works' Director James McGrath told Council that Jeff Tillman's extended probation was expiring and recommended he be hired as a regular employee and be given a raise of $1.00 per hour and full benefits.
b-Mr. McGrath told Council that employee Pablo Morales is experienced with operating heavy equipment and recommended he be given a raise of 50 cents per hour.
c-The Director also asked Council to promote Robert Hernandez to Foreman with a salary increase of $1.00 per hour.
CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS—(cont.)

A. JEFFREY TILLMAN
B. PABLO MORALES
C. ROBERT HERNANDEZ

Mayor Fincher recommended to Council that they approve the Director’s recommendations. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council approve all three of Mr. McGrath’s recommendations. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Discussion. Motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Fincher commended Director of Public Works James McGrath for the job he is doing for the city and said the improvement in the department is because of his leadership.

CONSIDER HIRING OFFICE EMPLOYEE

City Secretary Josie Campa asked Council to consider hiring a full-time employee for the office instead of just part-time. She explained the need for this full-time position and told Council it was budgeted. Alderman Farmer made the motion to hire another office employee. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Director of Public Works’ James McGrath reported on the following item:
1-department fixed six water main breaks this past month;
2-Somerset Street was reopened the week of the last Council meeting;
3-had three sewer stoppages in Harris Park;
4-fixed one gas leak this past month;
5-had to lower culvert on N. Benton Street in order for water to drain properly;
6-installed one new water service;
7-casing for water line relocation on FM 3175 has been installed and will be installing line in next few weeks;
8-all city public works’ employees worked the parade on September 17th;
9-booster pump shaft is broken and will need to be replaced;
10-sewer grades on IH 35 have been done;
11-have done a walk through with the engineer on the drainage project;
12-crew assisted with a car wreck; and
13-will be attending a Wastewater class for the next three days.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

Police Chief reviewed his written report with Council.

The Chief told Council he gets a lot of complaints about people not stopping at stop signs.

Chief Priest told Council that all the computers have been installed in the cars and are working.

The Chief told Council the department would be working with the businesses closely during the holidays.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT

City Secretary Josie Campa added the following items to her report:
1-city’s insurance premiums this year totaled about $5,700.00 less than last year;
2-city received all the restitution due from Jesrael Salinas which totaled $2,678.25;
3-Henry Soto has filed for unemployment; and
4-a special meeting will be held October 24th to discuss salaries.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:
1-public works crew is working well now;
2-having problem with booster pump;
3-hayride is next month and he is needing trailers; and
4-will have parking lot retopping on the next agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary