Minutes of Regular Meeting, November 8, 1999

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Louis Trouart, Bennie Evans, Juan J. Garcia, Gerry Elias and Mark Bowen; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate.

Visitors: Paul Boedeker, Craig Bell, Winnie Priest, Mr. and Mrs. Royce Todd, Julie Myers, Bertha and Dennis Haass, Gregoria Guzman, Felipe and Olivia Pardo, Julie Dunnivant, Mrs. William Dee, Steve Anderson.
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APPROVE MINUTES
APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the October 11th regular meeting and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Mayor Finchers told Council that the streets to be paved had been completed and look really nice.

Alderman Garcia asked about the possibility of providing some type of shed for the bus stop area. Mayor Finchers said he would talk to Mr. Riojas about this.

Alderman Bowen said the Operation Lifesaver train ride was very informative and was very nice.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM GUZMAN FAMILY FOR VARIANCE OF SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE
Bertha Haass told Council she was representing her mother and sisters on the request for variance to the subdivision ordinance. She told Council that they are requesting all subdivision restrictions be waived on the 12% acres. She told Council she feels the waiver is warranted due to the undue hardship and it being cost prohibitive. Council discussed roadway and utility easements with Mrs. Haass. Engineer Paul Boedeker told Council he doesn't feel the cost factor is grounds for a waiver and that they should consider public health and safety. Mr. Boedeker also brought up the drainage issue and the concern of setting a precedent. Council discussed the minimum requirements with Mrs. Haass and she agreed to have a 6-inch water line installed with fire protection. Council then discussed the need for a 50 foot roadway easement. Mrs. Haass then retracted her statement of having 6-inch water line installed if replating for street would have to be done. After further discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council grant a variance to the Guzman Family on all requests, except for 50 foot roadway and utility easement. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Mrs. Haass agreed to bring plat back to Council after it has been replatted per Council's action. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUESTS FROM MATEO & CINDY SALINAS AND FELIPE & OLIVIA PARDO
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the recommendation of the Mobile Home Commission on the request from Cindy & Mateo Salinas. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept the recommendation from the Mobile Home Commission on the request from Felipe & Olivia Pardo. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM EVELYN JOHNSON FOR VARIANCE ON NEW REGULATIONS FOR PLATTING
City Attorney Tom Catte told Council that State Statute had changed and that even if a piece of property fronts on a street, it must be platted unless Council grants a variance. He recommended Council grant the variance requested by Evelyn Johnson concerning platting property sold to Catholic church. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council grant Evelyn Johnson a variance on the new platting regulations. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PLANS ON HWY. 132 WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS ON THIS PROJECT
Paul Boedeker told Council plans and specs on the 6-inch water line extension on Hwy. 132 were ready and asked for permission to advertise for bids on this project. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council authorize advertising for bids on above mentioned water line. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PLANS FOR BENTON CITY ROAD DRAINAGE PROJECT AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS ON SAID PROJECT
Engineer Paul Boedeker told Council that plans and specs for the Benton City Road drainage project are ready and asked for permission to advertise. Mr. Boedeker told Council that if the project is less than $50,000.00 they can waive the bond and make one payment only. Alderman Evans made the motion that Council authorize the advertising for bids on the said drainage project. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ENGINEERS' RECOMMENDATIONS ON CITY'S WASTEWATER FACILITY
Craig Bell, engineer with Hunter Associates, talked to Council about their recommendations for the City's wastewater treatment facility.
CONSIDER ENGINEERS' RECOMMENDATION ON CITY'S WASTEWATER FACILITY (CONT.)

He said they have studied the issues addressed for correcting violations and that the City could expand the present pond plant or go with a new mechanical plant. Mr. Bell explained problems with pond plants and told Council that regulations are becoming stricter for pond systems. Mr. Bell told Council he feels obligated to recommend to the City to build a mechanical plant for approximately 1.2 million dollars. Mr. Bell told Council they need to decide which type of plant to go with so that they can proceed with projected timelines. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept the engineers' recommendation to build a mechanical wastewater treatment facility. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF JACKETS FOR PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES

City Secretary Josie Campa asked Council to consider the purchase of jackets for the Public Works employees. She told Council that the police department pays for jackets for their personnel and recommended this be done for the public works department. Ms. Campa explained the pros for doing so and said the jackets would cost $59.95 each, except for the extra, extra large, which would cost $69.95. Alderman Elias made the motion that the City purchase jackets for the public works crew. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council renew both park maintenance contracts for the same price with the same persons. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE FOR CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Alderman Evans made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 243, naming the Medina Valley Times as the City's official newspaper. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO ATASCOSA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council appoint George Harris as the City's representative to the Atascosa County Appraisal District's Board of Directors. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER OVERALL COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council approve the payment of overall compensation to City employees, as budgeted. Seconded by Alderman Evans. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CANCELLING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND ALLOWING BILLS TO BE PAID

Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council cancel the December regular meeting due to the Christmas holidays and allow bills to be paid during December. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT

Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga was not present, however, Mayor Fincher told Council the public works' crew had been busy with getting an influent meter installed at sewer plant; putting up Christmas decors and preparing streets for paving.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

Chief Priest told Council Glen Estes and David Gardner are working as non-paid police officers and that he will be trying to recruit two more officers to fill the four non-paid positions designated by Council. Alderman Elias complimented the police officers for all the help given to the EMS.

Chief Priest told Council he and Corporal Reyes will be attending a Crime Reporting class in Austin.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT

City Secretary Josie Campa reported on the following items:

1 - Alfredo Aguinaga will be out for a week due to injury that occurred on job;
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CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT (CONT.)

2 - asked Council to consider someone for citizenship award. Item will be on January agenda;
3 - meter deposits for owners need to be considered. This will also be on January agenda;
4 - the Gidley water rights lease will also be on next agenda;
5 - lighting ceremony will be held Saturday, November 27th;
6 - sales tax for November is $27,950.09; $4,600.00 more than last November. Fiscal year total is more than $8,900.00 over last year's total, to date;
7 - police cars were auctioned off at Sheriff's auction and brought more than expected ($5,600.00 instead of $3,500.00). She thanked Alderman Trouart for securing the minimum bids on these vehicles for the City; and
8 - collected total of $410.00 for families of Atascosa deputies.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Finchertold Council that Alfred Carroll will sell water rights.

The Mayor told Council he has talked to Bill Gidley about the City leasing the water rights from the Gidley family and that this item will be on the January agenda.

Mayor Finchertold Council that he had received a letter from the Highway Department asking him to prioritize projects and that he had written a letter telling them the City's priorities.

The Mayor said he would be attending two meetings with the Highway Department concerning upcoming projects in our area.

The Mayor reminded Council about the lighting ceremony and Santa's hayride on November 27th.

Mayor Finchertold Council that vandals have kicked all the lattice in and pulled out electrical in the park gazebo and expressed his dismay.

The Mayor reported that the City would be having a Thanksgiving for the Senior Citizens on November 18th with the money donated by the Pig Stand.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary