Minutes of Regular Meeting held November 10, 2003

Regular Meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Mark Bowen, Louis Trouart, A.Jay Frausto, Gerry Elias; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate; Public Works Foreman Henry Soto; Alderman Dahler was absent.


APPROVE MINUTES & APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 13th, and payment of bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Alderman Bowen commended the Public Works crew for fixing the gas leak by the Masonic Lodge.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM VENTANA COMMUNITIES FOR CITY TO PROVIDE WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO 104 ACRE PARCEL LOCATED WITHIN CITY-JACK STEVEN BROWN AND ALLEN GHORMLEY
No action was taken on this item, as Mayor Fincher told the Council that he and a committee will meet with Mr. Ghormley in January.
CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BUILDING INSPECTOR TROY MARTIN FOR CHANGES TO BUILDING PERMIT POLICIES

Mayor Fincher told Council he is not in total agreement with the building inspector's request, and recommended stay with present building permit policies. Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council take no action on this request. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SUSPENDING CP & L'S REQUEST FOR RATE CHANGE AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERVENTION IN THE PUC'S PROCEEDINGS AND REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT OF CITIES RATE CASE EXPENSES

City Secretary Josie Campa and City Attorney Tom Cate recommended to Council that the said resolution be adopted. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council adopt the said resolution. Seconded by Alderman Frausto. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BIDS RECEIVED ON BOBCAT OR ITS EQUIVALENT

City Secretary Josie Campa read the bids received on the Bobcat. They were as follows:

Farmers Tractor- $20,900.00
Holt Caterpillar- $19,900.00
Texana Machinery Corp.- $20,650.00

Mayor Fincher recommended Council accept the bid from Holt and include an additional 36-month warranty for $350.00. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council accept the bid from Holt for $19,900.00 and also a 36-month warranty for $350.00. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH GIDLEY FARMS ON WATER RIGHTS LEASE

Mayor Fincher told Council he had discussed the water lease with Bill Gidley and told him that the City had not budgeted for leasing water, but had added monies only for purchasing water rights. The Mayor said Mr. Gidley had agreed to sell the city 25 acre feet of water at $1,500.00 per acre foot. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council renegotiate water lease agreement with Mr. Gidley so that the city can purchase 25 acre feet of water at $1,500.00 per acre foot and that the budget be amended accordingly. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE ATASCOSA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mayor Fincher told Council that George Harris is willing to serve on the CAD's board. Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council reappoint George Harris to the County Appraisal District's Board of Directors. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING SOUTHWEST SECURITIES TO FILE CONTINUING DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS AS PER SECURITIES EXCHANGE COMMISSION RULE 15c2-12

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council hire Southwest Securities to file the continuing disclosure documents. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF TRENCHING MACHINE FOR PUBLIC WORKS' DEPARTMENT

Mayor Fincher told Council that Horatio Garcia had offered to sell the city a trencher for $4,500.00. The Mayor said the trencher is in good condition and had cost $8,000.00, in 1999 when it was new. He said today's price would be about $1,000.00. After discussion, Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council approve the purchase of the trenching machine. Seconded by Alderman Frausto. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING PUBLIC WORKS' EMPLOYEE TO FILL VACANCY

Public Works Foreman Henry Soto recommended Council hire Jesse Guajardo to fill the vacancy in Public Works at $6.50 per hour. After discussion, Alderman Frausto made the motion that Council hire Jesse Guajardo at $6.50 per hour after tests are completed satisfactorily. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING PUBLIC WORKS' DIRECTOR

Council discussed the job description for the Public Works Director and agreed to call for 10 years experience and 5 years supervisory experience. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council advertise for the Public Works Director position with a deadline of December 31st. Seconded by Alderman Frausto. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF ABEL YRACHETA

Public Works Foreman Henry Soto recommended to Council that Abel Yracheta be hired as a regular employee and he be given a $1.00 per hour increase in pay and benefits. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council hire Abel Yracheta as a regular employee and he be given a $1.00 per hour salary increase and benefits. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF VIRGINIA MEDINA

City Secretary Josie Campa recommended to Council that Virginia Medina be appointed Assistant City Secretary and be given a salary increase to $11.00 per hour. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council follow the City Secretary's recommendation and name Virginia Medina Assistant City Secretary and raise her salary to $11.00 per hour. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF CITY SECRETARY

Mayor Fincher told Council he had evaluated the City Secretary and recommended a 5% salary increase. Alderman Bowen made the motion that the City Secretary be given a 5% salary increase. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council renew the park maintenance contracts with Arcadio Lopez Jr. and Juan Escareno. Seconded by Alderman Frausto. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER OVERALL COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council pay overall compensation to city employees, as budgeted. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

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

Alderman Trouart made the motion that Council cancel the December meeting due to the Christmas holidays and allow the City Secretary to pay the bills. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ALLOWING CITY EMPLOYEES TO HAVE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS OFF

After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council give city employees Friday, December 26th off. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council. The Chief told Council that there have been a lot of cases at the school over the past couple of weeks. Council talked to Chief about getting with the school to educate the kids on how laws can impact their lives.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The City Secretary added the following items to her written report:

1. playground equipment has been installed at the park;
2. will be attending a Public Funds Investment Law Seminar in December; and
3. auditors will be conducting audit next week.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:

1. asked Council's permission to work with Commissioner on Railroad Street;
2. received a good report on water storage tank and will be able to add a ring and a half without having to make other improvements;
3. will be getting about 300 yards of material from Highway Department for the all weather road;
4. new hard hats, goggles and reflector vests have been purchased for Public Works employees;
5. will be getting jackets for Public Works employees;
6. work on the asphalt bins will be started next week;
7. asked for permission to give away junk at sewer plant, Alderman Elias told Mayor he should call Monterrey Metal;
8. radios for Public Works have been received and will be installed; and
9. Santa's Hayride is Saturday, November 29th at the Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
Minutes of Regular Meeting held November 10, 2003 (cont.)

Mayor

City Secretary