Minutes of Regular Meeting held November 14, 2005

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


APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 10th and special meeting held October 24th, and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Alderman Elias told Council he had heard on the news about the AmeriGas explosion and feels the Council should take a look at propane gas in the city.
CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CITY TO SIGN TxDOT PERMIT FOR CROSSING FM 3175 WITH SEWER LINE FOR FUTURE GROWTH—PAUL BOEDERKER

Paul Boedeker told Council he was working for George Harris to extend the sewer to Mr. Harris' remaining property. He said Mr. Harris would like to get this project done before TxDOT makes the improvements on FM 3175. He said TxDOT's permit for this project requires the city to sign their permit and asked Council to consider allowing the Mayor to sign said permit. After discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve said request. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TEXAS CAPITAL FUND

Philip Ruiz and Paul Boedeker explained the proposed project under the Texas Capital Fund Program to Council. Mr. Boedeker explained that the project is for supplying gas on the other side of IH 35, and installing another regulator station. Philip Ruiz recommended to Council that they adopt a resolution approving an application for funding through the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Capital Fund and that the amount in this resolution be subject to the project developer's final total for said project. Alderman Bowen made the motion to adopt this resolution as per the developer's final total on said project. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING TEXAS CAPITAL FUND REQUIREMENTS: (A) GENERAL CERTIFICATION FORM; (B) CERTIFICATION FORM REGARDING LOBBYING FOR CONTRACTS, GRANTS, LOANS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, (C) CITIZENS COMPLAINT PROCEDURES FOR TCDP AND (D) CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

Philip Ruiz explained the requirements for the Texas Capital Fund Program and said these forms are just a formality if the city participates in this program. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council adopt all these required items A thru D. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BABY HUEY'S TO GET A 2:00 A.M. PERMIT—RICHARD HUGHES

Richard Hughes asked Council to approve his request for a 2 a.m. permit for Baby Huey's. Chief Priest told Council that he had researched this matter and said this could be a potential problem, but he would work with Mr. Hughes on whatever Council decides. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion to deny Mr. Hughes's request for a 2 a.m. permit. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Discussion. VOTE: For: Aldermen Bowen and Farmer; Against—Aldermen Cortez, Dahler and Elias. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that an ordinance would have to be adopted city wide for a 2 a.m. permit and the ordinance can be repealed if things don't work out. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council adopt an ordinance allowing 2 a.m. permits. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. VOTE: For—Alderman Elias, Cortez and Dahler; Against—Aldermen Bowen and Farmer. Motion carried.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH AMERICANA FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE

Council discussed the contract with Americana Ambulance and their service over the past year. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council extend the contract with Americana one year with monthly reports submitted. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council renew the contracts for park maintenance for the same price as last year. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REMOVAL OF UNDERGROUND GASOLINE STORAGE TANKS

After discussion, Alderman Bowen made motion that Council get more proposals for removal of the city's underground storage tanks. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING OFFICE EMPLOYEE

City Secretary Josie Campa recommended to Council that Dana Caldwell be hired for the full-time position in the office. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council hire Dana Caldwell at $6.00 per hour once all tests and background checks are completed satisfactorily. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.
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**CONSIDER HIRING SOUTHWEST SECURITIES TO FILE CONTINUING DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS AS PER SECURITIES EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Southwest Securities to take care of the disclosure documents required by the Securities Exchange Commission. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER INCREASE OF GAS SURCHARGE**

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the gas price per MCF has gone from $10.20 to $10.94, an increase of 74 cents per MCF. Mayor Fincher read the letter he had written to Congressman Cuellar concerning high gas prices. After discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council keep the gas price, as is, until the first of the year. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PABLO MORALES**

Director of Public Works James McGrath recommended Council hire Pablo Morales as a full-time employee when he completes his probation on November 25th. Alderman Bowen made the motion to hire Pablo Morales as a full-time employee effective November 25th, and he be given a $1.00 per hour salary increase and full benefits. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MUSEUM BOARD**

Mayor Fincher told Council that at the January meeting he will ask each of them to name two (2) nominees for the Museum Board and gave them the list the Woman's Club members had submitted to Council.

Council took a short break at 7:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

**CONSIDER OVERALL COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES**

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve overall compensation for city employees. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

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

Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council cancel the regular meeting in December due to the holidays and allow the bills to be paid. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT**

Director of Public Works James McGrath reported on the following items:
1. had a leak on the 18-inch water line at 1 a.m. that morning caused by rock wedged in pipe;
2. working on permit for relocating FM 3175 water line;
3. sewer plant is doing better;
4. crew has been putting out Christmas decorations; and
5. took a 20-hour course in wastewater in October and will be taking a 20-hour course in water in November.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

The Chief reported to Council that Halloween night was safe.

Chief Priest told Council that Reserve Officer Lee Pate had requested a leave of absence for about sixty days.

**CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she didn't have anything to add to her written report.

She told Council that Americana is holding a luncheon at noon on November 15th and has invited members of the Council.

The City Secretary told Council the auditors would be here this week.
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MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported that he will be working on a quiet zone with the railroad.

Mayor Fincher reminded the Council that Santa’s Hayride will be held on Saturday, November 26th and asked if any had vehicles for pulling trailers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.