Minutes of Regular Meeting held November 12, 2001

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Horace Fincher; Aldermen Louie Trouart, Erik Dahler, Gerry Elias, Juan J. Garcia; City Secretary Josie Campa; City Attorney Tom Cate; Police Chief Richard Priest; Director of Public Works Alfredo Aquinaga; Alderman Mark Bowen was absent.

Visitors: Elaine Perales, Laura Ossinger, Jackie Traeger, Juan & San Juana Guerrero, Dora Swann, Mr. & Mrs. Valdemar Martinez, Valdemar Martinez, Jr., Julie Dunnivant, Mr. & Mrs. Juan V. Garcia, Gregoria Guzman, Eva Chapa, Mary Garcia, Kelly Carroll, Ramiro & Janie Garcia, Virginia Medina, Elisa Garcia, Ron Garcia, Daniel & Marisol Garcia, Simona Guilguero, Julie Dunnavant, Mr. & Mrs. Juan V. Garcia, Gregoria Guzman, Eva Chapa, Mary Garcia, Kelly Carroll, Ramiro & Janie Garcia, Virginia Medina, Elisa Garcia, Ron Garcia, Daniel & Marisol Garcia, Simona Guilguero, Julie Dunnavant, Mark Reyes, Mark Goodrich.

APPROVE MINUTES/APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

City Secretary Josie Campa added three bills to list. They were Tom Cate for $806.52; Troy Martin for $1400.00; and RP Constructors for $122,561.35. Alderman Gerry Elias made the motion that Council approve the minutes and bills to be paid, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Fincher presented Virginia Medina with a Certificate of Merit for her work on the City's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LAURA OSSINGER FOR EXCEPTION TO ORDINANCE NO.93 REGARDING PLACEMENT OF MOBILE HOME APPROVAL DUE TO UNMITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Laura Ossinger told Council that since they are not meeting in December, she will have to wait until January to get approval on placing her mobile home and said she needs it here sooner due to grandmother's ill health. No action was taken on this item, as council agreed to schedule a special meeting.

ELAINE PERALES-DISCUSS ISSUES AND PLANS FOR EXIT TO BE PLACED IN BACK OF COAL MINE AND DISCUSSION ON MAYOR'S EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF COAL MINE

Elaine Perales told council she has talked to Mayor Fincher on the phone about the trains blocking the Coal Mine railroad crossing. She said this is detrimental to the inhabitants of Coal Mine and raised concerns. Ms. Perales asked Mayor why he has refused to go back to Mr. Estrada. Mayor Fincher explained what had been done in past and why he doesn't want to go back to Mr. Estrada. The Mayor also explained the three ways people can be evacuated from Coal Mine, if need arises. Mayor Fincher suggested Ms. Perales meet with Commissioner Kelly Carroll. Several suggestions were made during this discussion. After the lengthy discussion, Mayor Fincher told Ms. Perales that she and her committee should meet with their district representative, Juan Garcia concerning this item.

APPOINT MEMBER TO ATASCOSA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alderman Elias made the motion that Council appoint George Harris to serve a two year term on the Atascosa County Appraisal District's Board of Directors. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER HIRING COMPANY FOR REDISTRICTING OF CITY LIMITS

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she had gotten prices on redistricting. They were: Walsh, Anderson Brown, Schulze & Aldridge-$15,000-$25,000 and Rolando Rios-$8,000. She said that Rolando Rios had said he could have this done in time for election and recommended Council hire his firm. Alderman Elias made the motion that the Council hire Rolando Rios. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Discussion. After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion to reconsider this item. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously. After more discussion Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council hire Rolando Rios as per terms presented and on the condition that City Attorney Tom Cate approves and accepts the contract and that fees be broken down. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF VIRGINIA MEDINA

City Secretary Josie Campa recommended that Virginia Medina be hired as a regular employee and that she be given a salary increase to $7.00 per hour and full benefits. Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council approve the recommendation from the City Secretary and Virginia Medina be hired at $7.00 per hour and be given city benefits. Seconded by Alderman Trouart. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF ROLAND GUTIERREZ

City Secretary Josie Campa explained to Council that Roland Gutierrez has only worked one month for the city since he was injured and asked that his probation be extended until he completes six months of work with the city. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve this request and that Roland Gutierrez probation be extended until he completes six months of work with the city. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER HIRING EMPLOYEE(S) FOR PUBLIC WORKS' DEPARTMENT
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga recommended to Council that they hire Johnny Salas and Thomas Weatherford to fill positions in Public Works department. Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council hire Johnny Salas and Thomas Weatherford at $6.00 per hour after they successfully complete physicals and drug screens. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PURCHASING TRUCKS FOR PUBLIC WORKS' DEPARTMENT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that she had gotten prices on a couple of Chevrolet trucks for the Public Works' Department from HGAC. They were as follows:
- $14,824.76 on a ½ ton regular cab, v-6, LWB
- $15,373.40 on a ¾ ton regular cab, v-8, LWB
After discussion, Alderman Elias made the motion that Council purchase two V-6 Chevrolet trucks for the Public Works Department. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF FIRE HYDRANT AT IH 35 SOUTH ACCESS ROAD
Alderman Trouart told Council that the law for fire hydrant is that they be 300 feet apart in a business district and that a hydrant is needed between the car wash and McDonald's. Alderman Elias made the motion that Council approve the installation of a fire hydrant between the car wash and McDonald's. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

Alderman Trouart asked Council to consider adopting an ordinance requiring businesses to install fire hydrants if not within 300 feet of their business. This item will be on the next agenda.

CONSIDER OPTIONS CONCERNING NEW LAW REGARDING THE DEREGULATION OF ELECTRICITY
City Attorney Tom Cate explained to Council that all investor-owned utilities will go into deregulation in 2002 and said a group of cities are getting together to form the South Texas Aggregation Project and recommended Lytle be part of this. He said the cost would be 10 cents per capita, so it would cost the city a little over $250.00. Alderman Dahler made the motion that the city become part of the South Texas Aggregation Project. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS
Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council approve the renewal of the park maintenance contracts. Seconded by Alderman Garcia. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER INCREASING WATER RATES DUE TO LEASING OF WATER RIGHTS
Council discussed increasing water rates in order to pay for lease on water rights from Gidley Farms. Alderman Dahler recommended the city determine what it actually needs before increasing rates. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER OVERALL COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES
Alderman Garcia made the motion that Council approve overall compensation for city employees as budgeted. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CANCELLING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND ALLOWING BILLS TO BE PAID
Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council cancel the regular meeting in December and allow the City Secretary to pay incoming bills. Seconded by Alderman Elias. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT
Director of Public Works Alfredo Aguinaga reported on the following items:
1. water samples good last month;
2. sewer samples good last month;
3. Pedro Billalobos attended an animal control course & took test;
4. Hector Muniz on vacation;
5. Well #3 being run every day;
6. Somerset Street cut for utility service, will be patched;
7. walls of center's stage have been repainted;
8. will paint rest of center at later date;
9. crew will be putting up Christmas lights next week; and
10. will be mowing along streets.

Alderman Elias asked about having Main Street swept. City Secretary Josie Campa said she would call the State Highway Department to sweep Main Street & FM 2790.
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POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
1. Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.
2. Chief Priest told Council that Officer Gamez has been trained and is now on his own.
3. The Chief told Council he is waiting for a sample policy on racist profiling.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reported on these items not covered in her written report:
1. Aracelli Eckardt resigned effective November 19th; will advertise to fill full time position in January;
2. meter deposits will be on the agenda in January to discuss possibility of increasing them;
3. payroll audit will be done November 14th;
4. audit will be conducted November 15th & 16th; and
5. still waiting to sign contract on Texas Capital Fund Grant. Mr. Ruiz has correction being made to contract.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Fincher reported on the following items:
1. need list of streets to be retopped at January meeting;
2. sewer plant construction is on time;
3. Santa's Hayride & Christmas will be held November 24th;
4. received contract for water & sewer lines on south side of IH 35;
5. city had a good turnout for its 50th anniversary;
6. will have a disaster exercise in February;
7. need list of street lights at January meeting;
8. drainage project by primary school will be more extensive & expensive;
9. requested anyone with trailer or trucks to assist with hayride; and
10. hopes Council can work on Coal Mine project.

Alderman Elias asked that the "tire" problem on Adams Street be placed on next agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary