Minutes of Regular Meeting held September 10, 2018

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Jerry Stone, Ruben Gonzalez, Jamie Dahler, Ruble Farmer, Sam Cortez; City Secretary Josie Campa; Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger; Public Works’ Department Director James McGrath; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate; Library Director Cassandra Cortez; Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger.

Visitors: Frankie Carrillo, Alex Chapa, Larry Sanders, William Cross, Rudy DeLeon, Mark Lovelace, Mark McIney, Nan Boyd, Sam Parks, Janice Petit, Donna Green, Chris Petit, David Carter, Cynthia Carter, Rachel Falish, Gabriel Romero, Mr. & Mrs. Santiago Morantez, Lorena Gorum, Luke Priest.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Bowen opened the regular meeting at 6:42 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO CARTER AND SONS
Mayor Bowen read a Proclamation honoring Carter & Sons. The Mayor thanked the Carter family for their business serving Lytle for sixty-seven (67) years. He presented a copy of the Proclamation to all of the Carter children.

VISITORS/CITIZENS’ COMMENTS
Alex Chapa asked Council for info concerning the creek next to his property. City Attorney Tom Cate suggested TCEQ be contacted about this problem so they can come look at the problem. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Chapa that he will get TCEQ to come look at this area along with Mr. Chapa.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa gave Council members copies of a correction to the August 13th meeting minutes requested by Alderman Gonzalez. She also added the following bills to the lists already provided. They were as follows:

- Applied Concepts $8,565.00 for Speed Awareness Trailer;
- Auto Zone $27.38 for Police Supplies;
- DPC Industries $130.00 for Demurrage Fees;
- Zoetis $495.61 for Animal Medical Supplies

Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council approve the August 13th minutes, as corrected; the minutes of the special meeting August 20th, the budget workshop on August 20th, the special meeting held August 27th, the budget workshop held August 27th, the public hearing held September 4th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND DISCUSS GOLF CART ISSUES-MARGARET WILSON
Item was scratched from the agenda since Margaret Wilson was not present.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM SCHOOL FOR ALLOWING THE USE OF GOLF CARTS BY LYTLE I.S.D. FOR TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR SPECTATORS AT ALL LYTLE I.S.D. VARSITY FOOTBALL GAMES
William Cross, the Lytle I.S.D. Director of Operations asked Council for the school to be allowed to use golf carts to transport visitors at games. There was discussion on the city passing an ordinance to allow this and City Attorney Tom Cate presented an ordinance allowing the use of golf carts by ANYONE that follows the criteria in the ordinance. After discussion, Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council adopt this ordinance. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM LYTLE I.S.D. TO ALLOW CITY TO COORDINATE WITH SCHOOL FOR BRUSH FROM CITY PICK-UP FOR SCHOOL’S HOMECOMING BONFIRE
Nan Boyd, Lytle I.S.D. School Board member told Council the school is bringing the bonfire back and asked Council to allow the school to use the brush from the city’s monthly pick-up for their bonfire. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve this request. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM MAYUNE VOUGHT FOR ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHT AT THE END OF MAGNOLIA STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH BENTON
This item was scratched since Mayune Vought was not present.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM LYTLE VFW POST #12041 TO USE JOHN LOTT PARK AND THE VETERANS’ MEMORIAL PARK FOR FREEDOM WALK ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
Larry Sanders, VFW Commander asked Council for permission for the VFW to use the park pavilion and gazebo at the veterans’ park for the Freedom Walk being held September 15th. Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council grant this request, and this be done automatically each year from now on. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM LYTLE VFW POST #12041 TO USE JOHN LOTT MUNICIPAL PARK FOR VFW EVENT ON OCTOBER 20TH
Mark Lovelace from Lytle VFW Post #12041 talked to Council about the VFW’s plans for a chili cook-off becoming an annual event. Mr. Lovelace told Council that the VFW would like to hold this year’s event on October 20th and would like permission to use the park on this day. Mr. Lovelace told Council about some of the plans for the event and asked for the City to contribute $6,000.00 and pay for a generator. The City asked whether portable toilets would be needed for this event, as in the past. After more discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the request from the VFW to use the park and the city will also provide security, portable toilets, a generator and $6,000.00 for the event. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON HIRING A NEW FULL-TIME DIRECTOR FOR ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL DEPARTMENT
Betty Kroeger told Council that interviews had been held for the top three candidates for the Director’s job and the committee had agreed on promoting Santiago Morantez from within. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Santiago Morantez as the new Animal Control Director. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON UPDATE ON LYTLE’S BOND RATING: WHAT IS CITY’S CURRENT BOND RATING? WHAT ARE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES? ANY CONCERNS OF CITY’S BOND RATING SLIPPING IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS AND IF SO, WHY?-RUBEN GONZALEZ
Mayor Bowen welcomed Mark McLinney from SAMCO to explain the city’s bonding rating and the city’s strengths and weaknesses. Mark McLinney told Council about the different ratings for bonds and said the city’s current bond rating is A Plus. He told Council that before the 2013 certificates the bonds did not have a rating. Mr. McLinney told Council that the city has the obligation to give its financial information according to the contract, so that the investors can review these records. Mr. McLinney told Council that historically Lytle has very good audits. Mr. McLinney said the weakness for the city is social economics that is out of the city’s control. He said historically the city has been able to put money aside and is supposed to keep at least three months of reserves in savings. Mr. McLinney encouraged the city to get caught up on the audits as soon as possible to satisfy bond requirements, and encouraged Council to get auditor on board already for 2018 audit. Mr. McLinney told Council that the city’s auditor Mr. Beyer is very well respected throughout this area. Mr. McLinney told Council that the city’s bond rating could be in jeopardy since the city agreed to provide audited information in a timely fashion. Mr. McLinney urged the Council to strive for a higher rating and said if our rating is lowered, it will affect future bonds.

Mayor Bowen thanked Mr. McLinney and suggested the Council have Mr. McLinney come in once a year to talk to Council.

Council took a short break at 8:03 p.m. and reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR VACANT POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Public Works’ Director James McGrath told Council that Tony Alamillo had resigned his position to go into the Army and asked Council for permission to advertise to fill the vacant position. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council allow Mr. McGrath to advertise to fill this position. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ADOPTING ORDINANCE INCREASING UTILITY RATES AS PER DISCUSSIONS HELD AT BUDGET WORKSHOPS FOR 2018-2019 BUDGET

Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council adopt the water rates for out of town customers to be one and one-half times higher than the in town rates. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council adopt the utility increases incorporated in this year’s budget. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON WAIVER ON NOISE ORDINANCE FOR OCTOBER FESTIVAL IN COAL MINE ON OCTOBER 27, 2018-SAM CORTEZ

After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant the waiver on the noise ordinance for the October Festival in Coal Mine on October 27th. Seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON BRUSH AND RUBBISH UPDATES; CLARIFYING LOCATION FOR PICK-UP IN ORDINANCE AND PROVIDING A TIME PERIOD TO PLACE ITEMS OUT FOR PICK-UP-RUBEN GONZALEZ

Alderman Gonzalez talked to the rest of the Council about the city’s current ordinance on rubbish/garbage location, and amending the ordinance to say placement should be in front of your own property not in front of the neighbor’s property. A discussion was held on whether a fine should be imposed. Chief Priest told Council he feels the only option is a fine. Council also discussed when people should place the rubbish out for pick-up. Alderman Gonzalez recommended that rubbish be allowed ten days before the pick-up date. After more discussion, Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council have the City Attorney write an ordinance amending the current ordinance to reflect his recommended changes. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST TO CHANGE VETERANS’ DAY HOLIDAY FROM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH TO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH TO ALLOW COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT ITS REGULAR TIME OR CHANGE DATE OF NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the November regular meeting date is a city holiday and gave suggestions for changing this date. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council change the November meeting date to Tuesday, November 13th. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS ON MAIN STREET AND CR 6842
City Secretary Josie Campa showed Council slides of three areas in the city that people are requesting street lights for. These pictures showed the number of lights in the areas. Council discussed the number of lights already in these areas, then Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that no action be taken on this item at this time. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger gave her report with a power point presentation.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Cassandra Cortez gave a power point presentation for the Library Director's report.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger told Council that people are not watering now due to the rain fall.

He talked to Council about a drainage situation on Norvell Street and City Attorney Tom Cate told him to get the people’s names to him and he will look at the paperwork.

Mr. Traeger also told Council about a problem that has occurred in Coal Mine because the developer has created a drainage and street issue. He said this developer has agreed to try and solve the problems he has created for area property owners.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Public Works Director James McGrath gave his monthly report with a power point presentation.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
A power point presentation was given by Police Chief Richard Priest for his monthly report.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa presented her monthly report to Council with a power point presentation.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Bowen reminded everyone of the Freedom Walk on Saturday.

The Mayor also told Council that this meeting was Betty Kroeger’s last regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.