Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 8, 2018

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


CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Bowen opened the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge to the flag.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO RICK SMITH OF FARMERS TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT COMPANY
Mayor Bowen introduced Rick Smith and his wife, Ruth to the audience. The Mayor then read a Proclamation recognizing Mr. Smith for operating his business, Farmers Tractor & Equipment Company since 1975. The Mayor also presented Mr. Smith with a Certificate of Recognition from Congressman Henry Cuellar's office.

VISITORS'/CITIZENS' COMMENTS
Wayne Herl talked to Council about Moses Hernandez owner of Texas Western Wear buying Morales Feed Store. He told Council that Mr. Hernandez will be bringing his store from Southwest Military Drive to Lytle. Alderman Gonzalez told Council that Mr. Herl's efforts brought this business to Lytle.

Betty Kroeger asked for clarification of a paragraph in the city newsletter concerning non-profit groups in the Christmas Decorating Contest. The City Secretary explained the reason for the change in the rules to Mrs. Kroeger.

Stella Casias talked to Council on behalf of her mother Eliza Bustamante who lives on Hidalgo Street in Coal Mine. She told Council that the new people on Hernandez Lane are speeding on their street and requested speed bumps be installed on Hidalgo Street to stop the speeding. She told Council that she feels once this road is paved it will make the problem worse. The City Attorney agreed to look at the minimum speed for this street. Mayor Bowen told Mrs. Casias he would take a look at this, too. Police Chief Richard Priest told Mrs. Casias to call the police when the speeders come down their street.

Larry Sanders, Lytle VFW Post #12041 Commander thanked Chief for the great job he did on National Night Out.
VISITORS'/CITIZENS' COMMENTS (CONT.)
Mr. Sanders announced that Lytle State Bank would be given “Purple Heart” recognition on October 19th.

Director of Public Works James McGrath presented a plaque to Pete Billalobos for twenty (20) years of service to the City of Lytle completed on September 28th. Mayor Bowen thanked Mr. Billalobos for all that he does for the city.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa added two more bills. They were as follows:

Childrens' Hospital of San Antonio - $800.00 for a sexual assault exam and
Bendele Air Conditioning - $122.00 for City Hall air conditioner repairs.

Alderman Gonzalez asked that the minutes of September 10th be changed to reflect that the use of the park by the VFW for the Freedom Walk be automatic each year. Alderman Gonzalez also questioned the wording for the school’s request to use golf carts. The City Secretary explained that the ordinance adopted is for “anyone” meeting the criteria, not just the school. Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearing held September 10th and special meeting held September 17th, as presented and the minutes of the regular meeting on September 10th, as corrected and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RECOMMENDATION(S) FROM ENGINEER AND
GRANT ADMINISTRATORS FOR WATER LINE IMPROVEMENT GRANT
CONCERNING UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD’S NEW REQUIREMENT ON BORING
PERMIT CALLING FOR OBSERVATION FOR EACH BORE TO BE DONE BY
CITY’S CONTRACTOR ON SAID GRANT PROJECT AND APPROVING
ADDITIONAL FEES FOR THIS WORK
Jared Niemann presented options for the city and explained the project and the bores required. He said that there will be additional cost now that the railroad has approved the permits for the horizontal boring to be observed by a third party contractor. He told Council it could take five to seven days to get this work (Option 1) done and could cost as much as $28,000.00 for observing the two bores. Rudy Ruiz told Council that he has never run into this and that he feels the railroad is being excessive with their permit requirements. The engineer told Council they could go with Option 2 and just do one bore and maybe some portion of Adams Street, and bore to be done would have to be determined by Council. After discussion, Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council approve Option 1. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM REY REYNA TO IMPROVE DRAINAGE AT THE INTERSECTION OF ADAMS AND DAWSON STREET
Rey Reyna talked to Council about the poor drainage on Dawson and Adams Street, and showed pictures. She said there is no sense in filling pot holes cause they will be washed out again due to the drainage problem. Public Works’ Director James McGrath told Council what could be done and Mrs. Reyna said she thought this would make it worse. Mrs. Reyna’s neighbor, Nora Garcia also showed Council pictures of the drainage problem in this area and two of her neighbors also said they have problems with drainage in their back yards. After discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council get the engineer to look at this problem area to see what can be done. Seconded by Alderwoman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM FRANKIE CARRILLO TO PASS PROCLAMATION FOR WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY
Frankie Carrillo told Council that October 15th is White Cane Awareness Day and asked Mayor Bowen to issue a Proclamation. Mayor Bowen read the proclamation aloud and signed this proclamation. The Mayor thanked Mr. Carrillo for bringing this to the city’s attention.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM GAIL JOHNSON TO USE CITY’S MARQUEE FOR PROMOTING EARLY VOTING AT ATASCOSA J.P.’S OFFICE FOR UPCOMING ELECTION
Gail Johnson asked Council to allow Atascosa County to use the city’s marquee for notifying people of the November 6th election and early voting for this election being held at the J.P.’s office. She told Council that voters have complained and requested early voting be held in Lytle area, so this year it will be provided at this county office. Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council approve Mrs. Johnson’s request and grant permission for the City’s marquee to be used to notify people about early voting. Seconded by Alderwoman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST (S) FROM LYTLE LITTLE LEAGUE FOR UPCOMING SEASON
Rachel Lathe, President of Lytle Little League and Laura Reyna, Little League Board member, asked Council to renew the contract with Little League to use ball fields for next season from January thru August. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the Little League has not submitted their report for the year as required by the contract. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council renew the contract with the Little League contingent on report being submitted. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:46 p.m. and reconvened at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor Bowen thanked Grace and Joy Priest for the cake provided during the break.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RENEWAL OF SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE LYTE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council renew the service contract with the Lytle Volunteer Fire Department for $72,000.00 a year. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FOR PAY INCREASE FOR LORENA GORUM DUE TO OBTAINING CET CERTIFICATION
Animal Control Director Santiago Morantez asked Council to increase Lorena Gorum’s salary by $.50¢ per hour for her receiving her euthanasia certification. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council raise Lorena Gorum’s salary $.50¢ per hour as per the director’s recommendation. Seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ALLOWING TXDOT TO PROCESS A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION SPEED ZONE ON IH 35
Chief Priest explained the request from TXDOT for lowering speed on IH 35 during construction, and said he discussed the matter with the City Attorney. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council authorize the City Secretary and City Attorney to send a letter to TXDOT saying the city allows TXDOT to process this speed zone request through the TXDOT Commission minute order. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ADOPTING ORDINANCE AMENDING CURRENT ORDINANCE CONCERNING BRUSH AND RUBBISH LOCATION FOR PICK-UP AND PROVIDING A TIME PERIOD TO PLACE ITEMS OUT FOR PICK-UP
Council discussed the ordinance amending the present ordinance concerning rubbish and brush. There was a discussion on giving people ten (10) days to place brush out in front of their property. Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger told Council he thinks this can create a problem. Mayor Bowen told the Code Compliance Officer that he will have to talk to people and if the problems persist he can come back to Council. After further discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt the new ordinance and allow an implementation period of 120 days before issuing citations, and if problems arise and this does not go well, come back to Council. Seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON HIRING AUDITING FIRM FOR 2017-2018 FY AUDIT

DISCUSSION ON NEW AUDITOR FOR 2018-2019 FY AND SELECTING THIS AUDITOR BY SEPTEMBER, 2019 - ALDERMAN RUBEN GONZALEZ
Alderman Gonzalez told Council he feels they need to consider another auditing firm for the next year. Alderman Dahler told Council nothing has convinced her to change. Alderman Stone said he would like to see more pros and cons. Alderman Cortez said he doesn’t have a problem with the current auditor. Mayor Bowen told Council different auditors do the interviews and that each
DISCUSSION ON NEW AUDITOR FOR 2018-2019 FY AND SELECTING THIS AUDITOR BY SEPTEMBER, 2019 - ALDERMAN RUBEN GONZALEZ (CONT.)
Alderman brings up good points. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council have a committee of two consisting of Alderwoman Dahler and Alderman Gonzalez get input from different people and department heads, and other cities in area about auditors and then have this on January agenda. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON MAKING COLUMBUS DAY A CITY HOLIDAY EFFECTIVE IN 2019 - ALDERMAN RUBEN GONZALEZ
Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council add Columbus Day to the holidays for city employees in 2019. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM POLICE CHIEF FOR TEMPORARY ONE-WAY STREET AND/OR ROAD CLOSURES FOR HALLOWEEN (WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST)
Chief Priest asked permission to close off N. Prairie Street from Laredo Street to FM 2790 N., and make Blume Drive a one-way street, and the back area of Lake Shore-a one-way street for Halloween night. Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council grant the Police Chief’s request. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Santiago Morantez gave his Animal Control Director’s report with a power point presentation.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Library Director Cassandra Cortez gave her monthly report with a power point presentation.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger showed Council slides of the drainage easement on Norvell Street and said the problem has been corrected.

The Code Compliance Officer told Council that a person is wanting to sell the corner lot across from Gidley Square. Mayor Bowen asked Mr. Traeger to tell this person to come to Council.

Mr. Traeger told Council that the problem by creek was approved by TCEQ.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT
James McGrath gave a power point presentation for his Public Works’ Director’s report.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest presented his monthly report with a power point presentation.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa gave her monthly report with a power point presentation.
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**MAYOR'S REPORT**
Mayor Bowen welcomed Santiago Morantez, the new Animal Control Director.

Mayor Bowen also reminded everyone about the VFW's Chili Cook-off on Saturday, October 20th.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.