Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 14, 2019

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

Visitors: Brandon Crisp, Rick and Pam Fintel, Betty Kroeger, Diana and Russell Lindsay, Sam Parks, Butch Shoemaker, Albert and Ronnie Solis, Juan Padilla, Gabriel Romero, Ralph Minard, Cheryl Vaughan, Trisha Willman.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Bowen opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge.

PRESENTATION OF CHECKS TO WINNERS OF CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTESTS
Mayor Bowen presented checks to the winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest. Sam Cortez accepted the check for St. Andrews Catholic Church for 1st place in the Business Category.

The 2nd place Business winner Patriot Gas and 3rd place winner Tots to Teen Pediatric Dentistry were not present to receive their checks.

Mayor Bowen presented checks to the non-profit organizations. VFW member Rick and Pam Fintel accepted 1st place prize for the Veterans’ Park and the Lytle Animal Allies received 2nd place for the Lytle Animal Control Facility.

Diana and Russell Lindsay received 3rd place prize check for the Residential Category from Mayor Bowen.

Blanca Duron was not present to receive the 2nd place prize. Mayor Bowen presented the 1st place Residential Winner Cheryl Vaughan with the check for $500.00.

The Mayor thanked all the people who decorated their homes and businesses and participated in these contests.

VISITORS'/CITIZENS' COMMENTS
Ronnie and Albert Solis told Council that CR 6842 is in need of some work and that she has asked for something to be done several times. Mayor Bowen told the Solises that the city is talking to Medina County about working with the city on this road. The Mayor told everyone the city is aware of how bad the road is and the city will work with the county to make it better.

Fire Chief Matt Dear told Council that Congressman Henry Cuellar will be at the Fire Station on January 22nd to present the Fire Department with a check for a grant they applied for.
VISITORS’/CITIZEN’S COMMENTS (CONT.)
Trisha Willman told Council there has been a water leak on N. Prairie Street for quite some time and she has reported this every month when she pays her utility bill. Public Works’ Director James McGrath told Council this leak had been fixed and then broke again. He said they have called for locates and will need to close the street to repair this leak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Gonzalez questioned the amendments listed in the minutes of November 8th meeting. City Secretary Josie Campa explained the amendments had been revised during the meeting since the Animal Control Director had said he could bring in $2,500 for fundraising proceeds from the March yard sale. After discussion, Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the November 8th regular meeting and December 21st special meeting and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM SOUTHWEST ISD FOR JOINT ELECTION ON MAY 4, 2019 WITH CITY OF LYTLE
Brandon Crisp asked Council to allow the Southwest ISD to hold a joint election with the City of Lytle on May 4th. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant this request. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON BIDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF CITY PROPERTIES
City Secretary Josie Campa presented the bids received from three companies. They were as follows:

Ripps Land Services - $2,000 per month for the nine city properties;
Mesquite Lawn Care - $1,820 per month; and
Daniel Gallegos - $1,700 per month.

The City Secretary told Council that even though Ripps bid is more than the other two bids, Mr. Ripps does an excellent job and has a license for applying pesticides and is a licensed arborist. Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council award the bid to Ripps Land Service. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR PAYING FOR WATER TRANSMISSION LINE AND BOOSTER STATION PROJECTS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the bids for the water transmission line and booster station total $725,495.98 and the city only has $502,598.60 in water fund revenues (that include water CD-$359,850.84; water money market account-$3,868.21; water savings-$4,724.67; impact fee fund savings-$10,997.90 and acquisition fund-$123,156.98). She said in order to pay for both projects, the city would need to use about $223,000.00 from other revenues by Council for other projects (such as center CD-$129,484.00; museum CD-$61,501.94; and gas CD-$250,000.00) or take out a loan. She recommended the city Council use some of the other funds.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR PAYING FOR WATER TRANSMISSION LINE AND BOOSTER STATION PROJECTS (CONT.)
rather than go out for a loan. She told Council since time is of the essence to complete the well project, it would be much quicker to transfer funds than applying for a loan. The City Secretary told Council there are three accounts that could lend the water fund monies since these projects are not being done anytime soon like the foundation at the center, the building of a museum and gas main line. The City Secretary recommended the center and museum funds be used before the gas funds since the Railroad Commission might have the city replace lines at any time. The City Secretary also asked Council to allow each account to be paid back with the interest they would have generated if these funds had not been touched. Mayor Bowen told Council he had discussed this matter with the City Secretary and City Attorney and he agrees that this is the best way for the city to go instead of applying for a loan. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council use the funds from the center, museum and gas accounts to help pay for the water improvements and that these funds be repaid by the water fund with interest and the budget be amended to show these loans from other accounts. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON BIDS RECEIVED FOR WATER TRANSMISSION LINE AND BOOSTER STATION FOR NEW WELL
Council reviewed the bids received at the November meeting on the water transmission line and booster pump station and the letter from Southwest Engineers. Alderman Gonzalez made the motion that Council award both projects to Ram II General Contractors, Inc. for a total of $725,495.98. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CALLING FOR AN ELECTION (CONSIDERAR LLAMAR PARA UNA ELECCION)
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council call an election for Saturday, May 4th for the purpose of electing Aldermen for Districts 1, 2 and 3. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RENEWAL OF DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION CONTRACT
Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council renew the delinquent tax collection contract with Attorney Tom Cate. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPOINTING COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCHING DEWATERING PROPOSAL
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that they had voted on having a committee review the dewatering proposal and consider whether it would be beneficial to the city as well as the sewer system capacity. She recommended that Public Works' Director James McGrath, City Engineer Craig Bell, Sewer Department liaison Alderman Jerry Stone work with her on this committee. Alderman Gonzalez told Mayor Bowen he would volunteer for this committee, if needed. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council appoint the committee of four suggested by the City Secretary. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPOINTING COMMITTEE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT
Animal Control Director Santiago Morantec asked Council to appoint Dr. Elizabeth Lowe, Betty Kroeger and Alderman Jamie Dahler along with him to the Animal Advisory Committee. Alderman Cortez made the motion that the above mentioned be appointed to said committee as recommended by the Animal Control Director. Seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON WINNER(S) OF 2018 DANIEL J. MCGRATH, D.V.M. CITIZENSHIP AWARD
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that she had discussed the annual citizenship award with Mayor Bowen and that they were both in agreement that Wayne Herl should be nominated for this award since Mr. Herl went above and beyond to get Texas Western Wearhouse to move to Lytle to occupy the Morales Feed Store building. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council award the 2018 Daniel J. McGrath, D.V.M. Citizenship award to Wayne Herl. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7:51 p.m.

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

Alderman Gonzalez told Council that there is confusion on the amendments to the Animal Control budget. Mayor Bowen told Mr. Gonzalez that Santiago and the Animal Control liaison and Alderman Gonzalez need to get with the City Secretary and work this out.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Cassandra Cortez presented her Library Director’s Report with a power point presentation.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger told Council of an abandoned vehicle near the Little Red Schoolhouse that was finally moved.

The Compliance Officer told Council he has been working with people to educate them on the new ordinance for bulky waste and brush.

Mr. Traeger told Council he is working with a resident in Coal Mine to find an area for him to place his brush and bulky waste since there is no frontage in the front part of his property and once this is done Waste Management and Hector Barrera will be notified.

PUBLIC WORKS’ DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Public Works’ Director James McGrath gave his monthly report with a power point presentation.
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POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT
Richard Priest gave his monthly Chief's report with a power point presentation.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa gave a power point presentation as her monthly report.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Bowen told Council that Saddle Ridge is getting close to starting.

The Mayor told Council that Lytle had hosted the Go Medina meeting on Thursday, January 10th at the Community Center and had a large group attend.

Mayor Bowen said that Hwy 90 and IH 35 had been discussed at the Go Medina meeting and a lot of work is going to happen in the near future. He said that right-of-ways along IH 35 were not purchased and feeder roads between Lytle and Devine can’t be built unless this is done.

The Mayor told Council that truck traffic on IH 35 has gone up and there are a lot of trucks stopped along 35 because Bexar County has a “No idling” ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.