Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 11, 2019

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

Visitors: Wayne Herl, Marilyn Jossner, Carol Cantu, Laurie Camacho, George Harris, Abe Camacho, Lauren and Abigail Camacho, Haley and Holli Matson, John Young, Carmen Cantu, Steven Santana, Butch Shoemaker, Louis Martinez, Jr., Luke Priest, Betty Kroeger, Mark Lovelace, Christina Cate, Bobby Roberts, Tom Gidley, Clay Schlinkle, Andy Rodriguez, Sam Parks.

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

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO THE WINNER OF THE 2018 DANIEL J. MCGRAITH, D.V.M. CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Mayor Bowen told everyone how the annual citizenship award came to be in the city. He then presented the Annual Daniel J. McGrath, D.V.M. Citizenship award for 2018 to Wayne Herl, and for his efforts in getting Texas Western Wearhouse to move to Lytle. Mr. Herl thanked the Mayor and Council for this award and explained how he came to Lytle years ago and his thoughts behind getting Moses Hernandez to bring his business to Lytle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Ruben Gonzalez asked the City Secretary to add the names of the CDs being used to the minutes. The City Secretary said she would and that most of the funds being used are money market accounts. Alderman Gonzalez also asked the City Secretary to add the paragraph about the budget amendments being discussed with the City Secretary under the Animal Control Director’s report. Alderman Farmer then made the motion that Council approve the January 14th regular meeting minutes as amended and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM JOHN BRITTEN FOR AT & T VARIANCE ON SIGN INSTALLATION OVER NORMAL ALLOWABLE SITE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the new AT & T Store on FM 2790 next to Subway is requesting a variance for a larger sign on the building than the city code allows. Alderman Farmer made the motion that Council grant this variance. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RECOMMENDATION FROM MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM LOUIS Y. MARTINEZ, JR. ON PLACEMENT OF A MOBILE HOME ON N. BENTON STREET
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the recommendation from the Mobile Home Commission on the placement of a mobile home by Louis Martinez, Jr. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON BIDS RECEIVED ON ELECTRICAL SERVICE FOR SCORE BOARDS AT JOHN LOTT MUNICIPAL PARK
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council two bids were received for installing the score boards at the park. They were as follows:

Brandon Haby Electric - $3,031.00
Brown Electrical Service - $1,800.00

She explained the difference in the bids was that Mr. Brown would be using existing conduit. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council accept the bid from Brown Electrical Service for $1,800.00. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON AMENDMENT TO SMALL CELL ORDINANCE
City Attorney Tom Cate told Council there were some changes to the law concerning small cell ordinance. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council adopt the amended ordinance. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON TERMINATING EASEMENT GIVEN BY JOE ESTRADA FOR EMERGENCY EXIT FOR COAL MINE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Joe Estrada was wanting the easement on his property to be terminated. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council this easement can't be used anyway and recommended this lease be terminated. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council terminate easement with Joe Estrada. Seconded by Alderman Farmer. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON LETTER FROM THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS CONCERNING VIOLATION FOR FAILURE TO USE ALL INFORMATION NECESSARY TO MARK THE UNDERGROUND PIPELINE ACCURATELY AND SETTLEMENT OFFER FROM THE RRC
City Secretary Josie Campa explained to Council that the city had been cited by the Railroad Commission for not locating gas line correctly. She said she had talked to CPS about this matter and was told the city had not given CPS good map. She told Council the Railroad Commission had offered a settlement of 50% of the fine and recommended this be approved. City Attorney Tom Cate recommended Council accept settlement offer from the Railroad Commission and take this matter up with CPS. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the settlement offer from the Railroad Commission for $1,250.00. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC WORKS' DIRECTOR TO HIRE PUBLIC WORKS' EMPLOYEE TO FILL VACANCY

Public Works Director James McGrath recommended to Council that Joshua Allen Martinez be hired to fill the vacancy in the Public Works' Department after he completes the background check and physical and drug screen satisfactorily for $11.00 per hour. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Joshua Allen Martinez as recommended by Mr. McGrath. Seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RECOMMENDATION FROM COMMITTEE CONCERNING WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DEWATERING PROPOSAL

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the committee found to review the dewatering proposal had talked with the City Engineer and City Attorney about the proposal and they both had some issues with the proposal. She said that the city is going to have subdivision going up in the city that will be on city sewer, the dewatering would take up the present capacity of the city’s sewer system and the city would be forced to start building a new sewer plant. Therefore, the committee was in 100% agreement that the dewatering proposal not be approved. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council not accept the dewatering proposal. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST TO HAVE CITY ENGINEER PERFORM A STUDY ON PROVIDING SEWER SERVICE TO SADDLE RIDGE SUBDIVISION, RIDLEY PROPERTY AND MCDONALD PROPERTY

Tom Gidley told Council he is trying to get a contract signed for the Gidley property currently under contract with a developer that wants to put in a subdivision with about 700 homes. He said they haven’t been able to get answers on utilities for this subdivision. Representatives for the developer, Clay Schlinkle and Andy Rodriguez presented a conceptual plan for this subdivision and said it would be done in phases of eighty (80) houses per phase and could take five (5) to ten (10) years to complete. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council there are also inquiries on the McDonald property and he feels a study should be done by the city engineers to make sure the city can provide utilities for these proposed subdivisions. After more discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council hire TRC to do a feasibility study on city sewer and water utilities to make sure the city can serve these proposed developments. Seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 7:43 p.m. and reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH WEBSITE COMMITTEE, AS WEBSITE NEEDS TO BE UPDATED

Alderman Gonzalez told Council there are strides being made with “Go Medina” and at the last meeting the door was opened for discussions on websites. He told Council the city’s website needs to be updated, and requested a website committee be set up to look into other capabilities for the website. Christina Cate told Council she had partnered with a San Antonio website agency and she is interested in working on Lytle’s website and her services are available. Alderman Gonzalez told Council he would like to work with the department heads on this
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH WEBSITE COMMITTEE, AS WEBSITE NEEDS TO BE UPDATED (CONT.)
committee. Mayor Bowen asked that the website be user friendly. Chief Priest told Council that when the current website was set up the committee wanted to have a company that could maintain the website at all times with no fear of not having someone available to maintain it at all times like a small “mom & pop” business. After more discussion, Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council appoint Alderman Gonzalez to this committee along with the department heads. Seconded by Alderwoman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

AUDITOR COMMITTEE UPDATE (CLOSED SESSION)
City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that the Open Meetings Act will not allow this item to be in closed session. The City Attorney explained things that can be discussed in closed session. Alderwoman Dahler told Council she recommends the city not change auditors and she has a list of pros and cons. Alderman Gonzalez told Council he doesn’t feel the report should be in open session and that he would leave it up to the attorney to come up with a way to cover this due to the sensitivity of this matter. City Attorney Tom Cate told Council an independent contractor cannot be discussed in closed session. After further discussion, Mayor Bowen said a special meeting for this item only could be held since Attorney says it cannot be done in a closed session. No action was taken on this item.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PRESENTATION OF RACIAL PROFILING REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest presented the 2018 Racial Profiling Report and told Council this was the first year for this type of report where the new requirement calls for everyone stopped by the police being in the report. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the Annual Racial Profiling Report presented by Chief Priest. Seconded by Alderman Stone. 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 report with a power point presentation.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger reported to Council that some brush is being put out early and he has addressed all of these cases. He also said there are some bad spots in the city where bulky waste has been placed and he is looking in to these.

Mr. Traeger told Council that he and the Public Works Director had walked the creek and that there is a swamp in that area now. He told Council he feels that TCEQ needs to be called to look into this matter.
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CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT (CONT.)
Mr. Traeger told Council he is a bit worried about the city’s sewer plant capacity and water well production with the new developments that are coming to Lytle. He told Council the plant is already at 50% capacity and this growth would mean building a new plant. He also said that the new well needs to be acidized to get it to produce more to try and meet requirements for the anticipated growth.

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

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Richard Priest gave a power point presentation as the Police Chief monthly report.

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

Alderman Gonzalez asked the City Secretary to add the two (2) audit reports to the Task Slide in her report.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Bowen told Council that there are a lot of people interested in homes in Lytle, but some are interested in businesses.

The Mayor told Council the City has to stay ahead of the needs and control growth.

Mayor Bowen told Council that Las Palomas is 95% sold out already.

The Mayor said that good restaurants and other things will be coming to Lytle, but these businesses want to see roof tops.

Mayor Bowen told Council he wants working or a traffic study on the March agenda. Alderman Gonzalez told the Mayor and Council that if the City requests a traffic study from TxDOT, we need to set the dates for these traffic studies to make sure there are no school holidays or other things to keep traffic down.

The Mayor said he wants to start having monthly meetings with the department heads and as we can plan as we go forward.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.