Minutes of Special Meeting held November 17, 2020

Special meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Mayor-elect Ruben Gonzalez; Aldermen Jerry Stone, Sam Cortez, Laura Reyna, Erik Dahler; Alderman-elect Charles Cate; City Secretary Josie Campa; Director of Public Works James McGrath; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; Police Chief Richard Priest.

Visitors: Linda Cate, Medina County Judge Chris Schuchart, Ruben Gonzalez, Jr., Mrs. Ruben Gonzalez, Sr., Jeff Dahm, Clay Binford, James Griffin, Aretha Carter-Stewart, Christopher Bowen, Pam Wanjura, Betty Kroeger, Wayne Herl, Mark Lovelace, Simon Garcia, Lupe Castro, Gerry Stranfield, K.K. Calome, Rachel Faish.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CANVASS OF CITY’S GENERAL ELECTION RETURNS
City Secretary Josie Campa reviewed the election returns with Council. They were as follows:

For Mayor:  
Ruben Gonzalez - 620  
Mark Bowen - 510

For Alderman, District 4:  
Jerry Stone - 209  
Mark Lovelace - 139  
Simon Garcia - 95

For Alderman, District 5:  
Charles Cate - 895  
Frank Carrillo - 243

Proposition A-  
FOR - 895  
AGAINST - 243

Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the election Canvass, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

SWEAR IN NEWLY-ELECTED OFFICIALS AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATIONS OF ELECTION
Medina County Judge Chris Schuchart thanked Mayor Mark Bowen for his years of service to the City of Lytle and Medina County. He then administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-elect Ruben Gonzalez.

Linda Cate administered the Oath of Office to District 4, Alderman Jerry Stone. Mrs. Cate then administered the Oath of Office to District 5, Alderman-elect Charles Cate.

Mayor Mark Bowen presented each of the elected officials with Certificates of Election.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPOINTING MAYOR PRO-TEM
Mayor Gonzalez told everyone that the Mayor Pro-tem appointed tonight will serve until May. He said he had reached out to all the Aldermen to see if they were interested in serving as Mayor Pro-tem and three are interested. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council appoint Sam Cortez as Mayor Pro-tem. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Discussion. Alderwoman Reyna told Council she was interested in being Mayor Pro-tem and gave a list of her accomplishments since serving on the Council. VOTE: FOR Motion-Aldermen Stone, Cate and Cortez. AGAINST Motion-Alderwoman Reyna. Motion carried.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON FILLING DISTRICT 1 UNEXPIRED TERM IF VACATED BY ALDERMAN DUE TO BEING ELECTED TO THE OFFICE OF MAYOR

Mayor Gonzalez requested that this item be placed on the December agenda, so Council could reach out to former Council members. The Mayor requested this item be tabled. Alderwoman Reyna made the motion this item be tabled. Alderman Sam Cortez made the motion that Council appoint Lupe Castro. Mayor Gonzalez asked Alderman Cortez to wait since a motion had already been made by Alderwoman Reyna. He called for a second to the motion made by Alderwoman Reyna twice. Motion died for each of a second. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council appoint Lupe Castro to Council to fill the vacancy created by Alderman Gonzalez being elected Mayor. He then told Council members about Mr. Castro’s experience and on school board. Alderman Stone seconded the motion.

Alderwoman Reyna asked to hear from Mr. Castro. Mr. Castro told Council he would love to serve the city and he was present and ready. Motion passed unanimously.

City Secretary Josie Campa administered Pre-Oath to Mr. Castro and Linda Cate administered Oath of Office to Mr. Castro.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ADOPTION OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (PID) POLICY FOR LYTLE FARMS

Clay Binford told Council he had talked to them about the PID policy several times and he had incorporated the changes by Council members. He told Council the revised policy has the change from 50¢ to 40¢ on the maximum assessment per $100.00 of assessed value. Alderman Cortez made the motion Council approve the proposed PID policy. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Reyna asked if the PID policy should be in form of an ordinance and it was agreed to talk to the City Attorney about this.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSAL FROM TRC FOR NEXT PHASE OF WATER WELL PROJECT

Jeff Dahm from TRC reviewed the amended proposal for the next phase of the water well project, and said the addition of an inspector being hired was included. He told Council they had asked Maurice Rihn to be the inspector on this project and report to TRC. The City will pay the inspector’s fees. Mr. Dahm told Council this project will take approximately twelve (12) months from notice to proceed with a two month permitting process. Council discussed Mr. Dahm’s definition of periodic inspections and Mr. Dahm explained. After discussion, Mr. Dahm agreed to change the wording in the proposal. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the proposal from TRC with the amendment discussed. Seconded by Alderwoman Reyna. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON DESIGNATING THE LYTLE COMMUNITY CENTER AS ALTERNATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATION CENTER
Mayor Gonzalez told Council about the recent gas outage and said the police station was used as the Emergency Management Operations Center. He told Council that there were so many people at station that it was realized that a better place is needed in case a large number of people are involved. He told Council the Community Center would be ideal for this center but a few resources are needed to make building acceptable for an Alternate Emergency Management Operations Center. After discussion, Alderman Cate made the motion that Council designate the Community Center as the Alternate Emergency Management Center. Seconded by Alderman Castro. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CHANGING THE CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ALLOW FOR SMALLER CORNER LOTS (SECTIONS 36.104(C))
James Griffin addressed the Council once again on his request for a variance for corner lot width. Mayor Gonzalez told Council that engineer Jeff Dahm had said allowing corner lots to be ten feet less in width would not hurt anything for future projects. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council adopt the ordinance making the above mentioned change to the city’s subdivision requirements. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON OPTIONS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES GROUP INSURANCE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the department heads had talked to the insurance representative about the proposed options for the city’s employee group insurance as requested by Mayor Gonzalez. She told Council the department heads had agreed unanimously that Option #1 was best, for both the employees and the city. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve Option #1 as recommended by the department heads. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

Alderrwoman Reyna made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.