Minutes of Special Meeting held March 22, 2021

Special meeting with the following present: Mayor Ruben Gonzalez; Aldermen Jerry Stone, Guadalupe Castro, Sam Cortez, Charles Cate, Laura Reyna; City Secretary Josie Campa; Public Works Director James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; City Attorney Tom Cate; Finance Director Edward Eichelberger; Animal Control Director Santiago Morantez; Library Director Cassandra Cortez.

Visitors: Matt Dear, Gordon Hanson, Mary Hanson, David Emery, Richard Cortez, Wayne and Judy Newman, Paola Rios, Edgar Rios, Mabel Rios, Jayden Rios, Salvador and Michelle Aguinaga, Sergio Pena, Mario Andrade, Lupe Garcia.

Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge to the flag.

Council had the photographer from the Devine News take a picture for their community guide.

Mayor Gonzalez handed out certificates of recognition to the following: H.E.B. representative, Sal Aguinaga, D & D Power, Police Officers Matt Dear, Sergio Pena, Gordon Hanson, Police Administrative Assistant Paola Rios, Police Chief Richard Priest and Park employee Wayne Newman. These certificates were given to these people that were not present at the last meeting.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PARTICIPATING IN TEXAS TARGET COMMUNITY PROGRAM
Mayor Gonzalez gave Council some background information on the Texas Target Community Program. The Mayor told Council the city would only have to pay the cost of travel, lodging, mileage and meals if they agree to participate in this program. The Mayor told Council that at this time the city doesn’t need a comprehensive plan, but the city could have work on designing something. He said maybe the city could have them work with the Beautification Committee. The Mayor told Council that the city would have to commit by this summer. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that the city participate in this program. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM ST. ANDREW’S CATHOLIC CHURCH TO ALLOW THEM TO RENEW BUILDING PERMIT WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FEES
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that St. Andrew’s Catholic Church had gotten a building permit last year for the church’s event center. She said that due to Covid-19 the project was stopped before it even started. She told Council they have requested that the fees they paid a year ago for the permit be put towards a new permit since nothing had been done. The City Secretary told Council she did not have a problem with this request as long as the plans have not changed and all the contractors register with the city again since some of their licenses have expired. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the Catholic Church’s request. Seconded by Alderwoman Reyna. Discussion. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PHASE 1 OF ADAMS STREET DRAINAGE PROJECT
Mayor Gonzalez gave Council the background on the Adams Street drainage project. City Secretary Josie Campa asked Council to wait on this until the budget is reviewed at the second April meeting, due to monies not coming in due to Covid-19. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council wait for the budget review meeting at the second meeting in April to discuss this item. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CITY HOLDING FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE 4TH OF JULY
Mayor Gonzalez told Council he wants them to consider holding a fireworks display on the 4th of July. He said venues are being discussed should Council agree to this display. The City Secretary told Council the guy who normally does the fireworks display usually wants half of the amount in April. Chief Priest told Council if the display is held at the park and attendance is like that of past events the social distancing cannot be practiced. Alderwoman Reyna made the motion that Council not approve a fireworks display for the 4th of July. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE FOR RVs IN A BUSINESS DISTRICT
Mayor Gonzalez asked questions of the City Attorney on his proposed RV ordinance. The City Attorney explained his reasoning for the ordinance he wrote. Council then discussed the proposed ordinance and the enforcement of this document. After lengthy discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council leave the RV ordinance on the books as is and not go forward with the proposed ordinance. Discussion. Alderman Cate seconded the motion. VOTE: For motion-Alderman Stone, Cate, Castro and Cortez. Against motion-Alerwoman Reyna. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION ON FUNDING FOR STREET PROJECTS-ALDERMAN CHARLES CATE
After discussion, Alderman Cate made the motion that this item be tabled for the meeting after the budget review workshop. Seconded by Alderman Castro. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON TxDOT 2021 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE (TA) CALL FOR PROJECTS PRELIMINARY APPLICATION-ALDERMAN CHARLES CATE
Alderman Cate gave Council an update on the TxDOT project applications that were submitted on March 1st. Council discussed prioritizing these projects.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON COVID-19 PERSONNEL LEAVE POLICY
City Attorney Tom Cate explained the COVID-19 personnel leave policy he drew up. Alderwoman Reyna questioned Mr. Cate due to things she had read in the new bill. After lengthy discussion, Alderwoman Reyna made the motion that Council table this item until the City Attorney and she can work out the details for this policy. Seconded by Alderman Castro. Passed unanimously.
Council took a short break at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

**CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON COAL MINE EMERGENCY EXIT (EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.072)**

Alderwoman Reyna made the motion that Council go into executive session as per Chapter 551.072 of the Government Code. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 8:43 p.m. Mayor Gonzalez reopened the meeting at 9:07 p.m. and announced that no action had been taken in the executive session. Alderman Castro made the motion that Council instruct the City Attorney to proceed with what had been discussed during the executive session. Seconded by Alderwoman Reyna. VOTE: For motion-Aldermen Castro, Reyna, Cortez and Stone. Alderman Cate abstained. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON AMENDED CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES WITH THE ATASCOSA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

City Secretary Josie Campa explained to Council that since the Lytle School would not be holding an election, the contract with the Atascosa County Elections Department would cost $612.70 more and asked for Council to approve this change. Alderwoman Reyna made the motion that Council approve the amended contract with the Atascosa County Elections Department. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPOINTING AN ELECTION JUDGE**

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the Atascosa County Elections Administrator had asked that Council appoint the Election Judge. She told Council that she had talked to Margie Ellis about this and she had agreed to serve as Election Judge. Alderman Cate made the motion that Council appoint Margie Ellis as Election Judge for the May 1st election. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSAL FROM TRC FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT REVIEW FOR IRMA & DONALD DUNFORD**

City Secretary Josie Campa presented the proposal from TRC for the Dunford property. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council accept the said proposal for $2,000.00 from TRC. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Alderman Cate made the motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Alderman Castro. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.