Minutes of Special Meeting held August 21, 2006

Special meeting with the following present: Mayor Pro-tem Gerry Elias; Aldermen Mark Bowen, Jerry Stone, Erik Dahler, Sam Cortez; City Secretary Josie Campa, Police Chief Richard Priest; Director of Public Works James McGrath. Mayor Horace Fincher was absent.

Visitors: Paul Boedeker, Philip Ruiz.

CONSIDER PROJECT FOR 2007-2008 TxCDBG GRANT CYCLE
Philip Ruiz talked to Council about possible projects for the next grant cycle. He told Council the three projects that have been mentioned are: addition to the ground storage tank; drilling a Carrizo water well and repairing sewer lines. Engineer Paul Boedeker reviewed these projects with Council and gave price estimates for each. Council had several questions answered by Mr. Boedeker and Mr. Ruiz. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council apply for a grant to add on to the half million gallon ground storage tank. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER STREETS TO BE REPAVED
Council discussed the streets to be retopped and had the engineer answer some questions. After discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council have the following streets paved: Laredo Street from N. Prairie Street to FM 2790 North and N. Benton Street from Houston Street to Laredo Street. If money permits, then add optional blocks on said streets, Laredo Street from N. Somerset to N. Benton and N. Benton to N. Prairie and N. Benton Street from Adams Street to Houston Street and Main Street to Adams Street. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.
Minutes of Special Meeting held August 21, 2006 (cont.)

CONSIDER INCREASING UTILITY RATES

Council discussed increasing utility rates for the next fiscal year at length. Water rates were discussed first and Council agreed that increasing the tiers might get water customers to conserve. After discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that water rates be increased as follows:

- The minimum remain the same;
- from 3 to 10,000 gallons - 1.50 per thousand
- from 10 to 25,000 gallons - 2.50 per thousand
- from 25 to 50,000 gallons - 3.00 per thousand
- from 50 to 75,000 gallons - 3.50 per thousand
- from 75 to 100,000 gallons - 5.00 per thousand
- over 100,000 gallons - 10.00 per thousand


Gas rates were then discussed, and then Alderman Bowen made the motion that Council leave the gas minimum the same for now and charge $8.00 per thousand cubic feet thereafter for all gas customers. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Sewer rates were also discussed and Alderman Dahler made the motion the sewer rates be increased to 50 cents per thousand gallons up to 3,000 gallons; $1.00 per thousand gallons from 3 to 10,000 gallons and anything over 10,000 gallons be $2.00 per thousand. Seconded by Alderman Bowen. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 8:19 p.m. and reconvened at 8:29 p.m.

CONSIDER SALARY INCREASES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

Council discussed raises for City employees. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that she and the Mayor had incorporated the salaries discussed for the public works employees into the new budget and reviewed the following salaries with Council.

Robert Hernandez and Pedro Billalobos- $11.50 per hour
Jeff Tillman- $9.00 per hour;
Pablo Morales-$9.00 per hour;
Bubba Collins-$8.00 per hour and
new employees be started at $7.00 per hour.

The City Secretary recommended the office employees salaries be increased as follows:

Virginia Medina-$14.50 per hour;
Dana Caldwell- $8.50 per hour;
Jessica Gonzales-$7.00 per hour; and
new employee be started at $7.00 per hour.

Police salaries recommended by the City Secretary and Chief Priest were as follows:

new officer- $24,000 year and
Gordon Hanson- $26,000 year and
rest of officers 5% increases.

Council asked what had been proposed for James McGrath. The City Secretary recommended Mr. McGrath be raised to $40,000.00 in October and in the six months after acquiring his licenses be raised to $42,000.00 a year. After discussion, Alderman Bowen made the motion that the above mentioned salary increases be incorporated in the next fiscal years budget. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary