Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 28, 2021

Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Ruben Gonzalez; Aldermen Joseph Morrow, David Emery, Sam Cortez, Charles Cate; City Secretary Josie Campa; Public Works Director James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Police Officer David Lopez; Animal Control Director Santiago Morantez, Finance Director Edward Eichelberger; City Attorney Tom Cate; Library Director Cassandra Cortez; Alderman Jerry Stone was absent.


CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Ruben Gonzalez opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge to the flag.

VISITORS’/CITIZENS’ COMMENTS
Mayor Gonzalez told Council that Alderman Stone could not be at the meeting.

REFRESHER ETHICS TRAINING
Council skipped this item since Mr. Ruiz was not present.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON STREETS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.
ALDERMAN CATE
Alderman Emery made the motion that Council allow the Public Works Director to do repairs on streets while Council reviews the streets for the Capital Improvement Project. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION ON THE INSTALLATION OF NEW STREET LIGHTS-ALDERMAN CATE (1) RAILROAD STREET, BEHIND “THE BAKERY” (2) BALL ROAD *APPROXIMATE LOCATION UNKNOWN* (3) END OF MESQUITE STREET (BEHIND PECAN GROVE APARTMENTS)
Alderman Cate made the motion that Council approve street lights for Railroad Street behind the Bakery Pub, Ball Road and the end of Mesquite Street behind the Pecan Grove Apartments. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion. Alderman Cortez asked for lights to be installed at Juarez Street at San Jose Street and 63340 Juarez Street. Alderman Cate amended his motion to include these two lights in Coal Mine. This motion was seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL SPEED BUMPS ON N. PRAIRIE STREET-ALDERMAN EMERY
Alderman Emery made the motion that Council table this item and let the Police Chief get estimates and suggestions for speed bumps/humps on N. Prairie Street. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACT WITH FRONTERA CONCEPTS
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council have the City Attorney review the contract with Frontera Concepts. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Vote: FOR-Aldermen Cortez, Morrow and Emery. Alderman Cate abstained. Motion carried.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON HIRING PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE FOR VACANCY CREATED BY BILL DIXON’S RETIREMENT
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Chris Alcala at $12.00 per hour as recommended by Public Works’ Director James McGrath. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON BRUSH PICK-UP BID
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council accept the bid from Hector Barrera Construction for $5,225.00 per month for brush pick-up service. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPOINTMENT OF MOBILE HOME COMMISSION MEMBER
Alderman Cate made the motion that Eliza Grothues be appointed to the Mobile Home Commission. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FORMING COMMITTEE FOR UPDATING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK-ALDERMAN EMERY
Alderman Cate made the motion that Council have the department heads serve on the committee to review the employee handbook along with Alderman Emery and report to Council next month. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.

4 J - NOT ON AGENDA

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON SIGNATURE STAMP/ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE POLICY
Alderman Cortez made the motion that this item be tabled. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 8:01 p.m. and reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON NEW EMERGENCY DECLARATION
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council extend the Emergency Declaration for 90 days with no Exhibit A. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM POLICE CHIEF TO HIRE PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER FOR REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR AND HAVING BUDGET AMENDED ACCORDINGLY
Alderman Emery made the motion that Council approve the Police Chief's request to hire John Cortez as a part-time police officer for the remainder of fiscal year and the budget be amended accordingly. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE CONDITION OF EXISTING WATER SUPPLY LINES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE CITY—ALDERMAN CATE
After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Cate made the motion that Council have the Public Works' Director get preliminary estimates for the replacing water transmission lines throughout the city. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON LIAISONS FOR ANIMAL CONTROL AND STREET DEPARTMENTS
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Alderman Cate be appointed as liaison for the Street department and Alderman Cortez serve as liaison for Animal Control department. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REPLACING OF BOLLARDS WITH GUARDRAILS ON N. SOMERSET STREET
Alderman Emery made the motion that the city proceed with the project on N. Somerset Street as per the quote received from JCW Construction for $19,250.00. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON SETTING DATE FOR NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hold the next budget workshop on Thursday, July 8th. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON MEETING WITH BMA CONCERNING LAKE SHORE ESTATES' DRAINAGE—ALDERMAN CORTEZ
Alderman Cortez reported to Council on the meeting held with BMA concerning Lake Shore Estates' drainage issues and the ideas that BMA proposed for trying to solve these issues.

UPDATE ON RAILROAD COMMISSION SAFETY EVALUATION
Mayor Gonzalez gave Council copies of letters to and from the Railroad Commission on the 2020 safety evaluation and alleged violations and gave a brief summary. The Mayor recommended these letters be tracked in the future. No action taken.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Item 41 was moved by the Mayor to follow the Department Head reports.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written report for May and June with Council.

ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Santiago Morantez, the Animal Control Director gave his report to Council, and said he had e-mailed copies to everyone.

PUBLIC WORKS’ DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Public Works’ Director James McGrath presented his report to Council, and reviewed the report with them.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his Chief’s written report with Council.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Finance Director Edward Eichelberger gave his report to Council.

CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa reviewed her written report with Council.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Mayor Gonzalez thanked the Police Dept. and EMS for their help with an undocumented alien that jumped off train and was injured.

The Mayor told Council that Larry Sanders was now the VFW Vice Commander for Texas.

The Mayor congratulated the Lytle League District Champions.

Alderman Cate made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.