Minutes of Regular Meeting held July 12, 2021

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

Visitors: Larry Sanders, Polly Gonzalez, Noah Davila, Jacob Lindsey, Mario Obledo, Adalia Gonzalez, Luke Priest, Mark Lovelace, Chris Clouser, Wayne Herl, Stuart Knowlton, Sam Parks, John Garza.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Ruben Gonzalez opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge to the flag.

VISITORS'/CITIZENS' COMMENTS
Commissioner Stuart Knowlton told Council that Commissioners had approved a 2% hotel/motel tax for a rodeo arena and convention center. He said this tax would go away once this arena/center is paid off.

Mayor Gonzalez presented a Certificate of Recognition to Larry Sanders for being chosen as the Jr. Vice-Commander for the State of Texas.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mayor Gonzalez asked that the following be added to page 3 of the June 28th meeting paragraph on the RRC Safety Evaluation update, “and alleged violations”. Alderman Cate made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the June 14th regular meeting and July 8th budget workshop, as presented and the June 28th regular meeting, as amended. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CITY ATTORNEY’S MONTHLY BILL
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the bill from the Law Office of Thomas P. Cate. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. VOTE: For motion-Aldermen Stone, Cortez, Emery and Morrow. Alderman Cate abstained. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the bills. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK PRESENTATION
Mario Obledo, Jr. from the San Antonio Food Bank gave a presentation to Council on the San Antonio Food Bank and the area it serves and asked Mayor to contact him if there is need in Lytle.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM RYAN DOYLE AND CHARLES HOGUE TO ALLOW THE INSTALLATION OF WIRELESS RADIO EQUIPMENT ON THE WATER TOWER LOCATED AT 15222 MESQUITE STREET TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LYTLE
This item was scratched since the men requesting this item to be on the agenda were not present.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION BY LYTLE VFW POST #12041 ON 9-11 CELEBRATION PLANS
The Lytle VFW Post #12041 gave a power point presentation on their planned 9-11 celebration plans, which included using John Lott Park for their 9-11 memorial Freedom Walk, festival booth vendors and bands, Purple Heart run/walk and fire works display.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM LYTLE VFW POST #12041 FOR FUNDING FOR A 9-11 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TO INCLUDE: MEMORIAL CEREMONY, FREEDOM WALK, FESTIVAL, 5K RUN, ETC.
After Discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve $15,000.00 from tourism funds and fireworks display from event line item for this event. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH FRONTERA CONCEPTS
Alderman Emery made the motion that Council table this item until legal wording is straightened out. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUEST FROM LYTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW THEM TO TRIM TREES AROUND THE CITY SO THAT THE FIRE APPARATUS CAN PASS WITHOUT STRIKING LOW TREE LIMBS
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the Fire Department’s request to allow them to trim tree limbs. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Discussion. Alderman Cortez rescinded his motion and Alderman Stone seconded his second for Alderman Cortez’ motion. Discussion. Council agreed that the Fire Chief should submit a list of areas that are needing trees trimmed to the City Secretary and she will have the Code Compliance Officer work on sending letters to people to get this project done. Mayor Gonzalez told Council he would like an update in thirty (30) days.

Council took a short break at 7:55 p.m. and reconvened at 8:08 p.m.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION ON LOWERING THE SPEED LIMIT ON CITY STREETS TO 25 MPH-ALDERMAN CATE
After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the speed limit to be reduced to 25 m.p.h. for the following streets: N. Prairie from Main Street to FM 2790 N., N. Benton Street from Main Street to Lake Street; Somerset Street from Laredo Street to the state maintenance; Lytle-Somerset Street from Somerset Street to the IH 35 access road and all of Diaz Street. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER AND ACT UPON SPEED HUMPS FOR LYTLE-SOMERSET STREET
Alderman Emery made the motion that Council table this item until we see how the lowering of the speed limit will do to help the problem. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ADDITIONAL SPEED HUMPS FOR N. PRAIRIE STREET
Alderman Emery made the motion that Council table this item until they see what lowering the speed limit will do to help problem. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR DUNFORD PROPERTY
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the preliminary plat for the Dunford property. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR FY 2021-2022
After the Finance Director reviewed the 2021-2022 preliminary budget with Council, Alderman Emery made the motion that council accept the preliminary budget for 2021-2022 pending final approval. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARP) FUNDING FOR SMALL CITIES
Finance Director Edward Eichelberger gave Council an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) and said he would have the application submitted this week.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON SETTING DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR SETTING NEW IMPACT FEES
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council set date for the Public Hearing for the new Impact fees for August 23rd. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK-ALDERMAN EMERY
Alderman Emery gave Council an update on the employee handbook and said department heads have been asked for changes by mid-August. Alderman Emery told Council the city would need outside help (HR) to look at the final draft and there would be charges that could run $1,200 to $2,000.00. Alderman Emery told Council that his goal is to have the handbook revised by the end of the year.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON SIGNATURE STAMP/ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE POLICY
Alderman Emery made the motion that this item be tabled for the 1st meeting in August. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF MARIA MORIN
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that no action was needed on this item as the employee resigned her position.
CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ALLOWING CITY SECRETARY TO HIRE PART-TIME HELP
Alderman Cate made the motion that Council allow the City Secretary to hire part-time help for the office. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she had renewed her Tax Collector license.

Mayor reported the following:

1 - asked Council to remind people of the Waste Management’s rate increase;
2 - asked Council members to talk to people about streets in their districts;
3 - Railhead Café moving to the old Topis building across the street; and
4 - still waiting for circuit board for fixing the siren.

Alderman Cortez made the motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.