Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 9, 2021

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


CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Gonzalez opened the regular meeting at 6:34 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The pledge was given before the public hearings

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mayor Gonzalez asked that the following line be added to the July 26th minutes paragraph on the sanitary easement. “This sanitary easement will be needed for finalizing the well”. Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the July 12th regular meeting and the August 2nd budget workshop and special meeting, as presented and the minutes of the July 26th meeting be approved, as amended. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CITY ATTORNEY’S MONTHLY BILL
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve payment of the City Attorney’s bill. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. VOTE: For motion: Aldermen Cortez, Morrow and Stone. Alderman Cate abstained. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve payment of the bills. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSAL FROM TRC FOR BELLA SUBDIVISION
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve TRC’s proposal for reviewing the preliminary plat for Vista Bella. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH FRONTERA CONCEPTS
Alderman Stone made the motion that this item be tabled for the August 23rd meeting. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.
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CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RECOMMENDATION FROM ZONING COMMISSION ON REQUEST FROM SADDLE RIDGE FOR VARIANCE ON LOT SIZE FOR FIFTY-NINE (59) LOTS AND REVISED MASTER PLAN
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the Zoning Commission’s recommendation for approval of the request from Saddle Ridge for variance on lot size for 59 lots and the revised master plan contingent upon TRC’s approval. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021-2022
Mayor Gonzalez said that the proposed budget be adjusted by $3,000.00 in the Administration budget for salaries. Alderman Stone made the motion that approved the proposed 2021-2022 budget with this amendment. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Discussion. VOTE: For Motion: Aldermen Stone, Cortez and Morrow. Alderman Cate was opposed. Motion carried.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR 2021
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council adopt the proposed 2021 tax rate of $0.3905 per $100.00 valuation. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MEDINA COUNTY
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council table this item until we can talk to someone at Medina County. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTING POLICY FOR RUBBER SIGNATURE STAMP
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council table this item until Alderman Emery is present. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPOINTING A BROAD BAND POINT OF CONTACT FOR CITY
Alderman Cate made the motion that Council table this item until August 23rd meeting. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON MUNICODE/WEBSITE UPDATES FOR APPROVED ORDINANCES
The City Secretary told Council that the most recent approved ordinances would be uploaded on the city’s website and sent to municode for codifying. No action was taken.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON EXTENSION OF DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council approve the six month extension of current Declaration of Public Health Emergency. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.
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UPDATE ON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council the Beautification Committee will be holding a meeting on August 17th at 6:30 p.m. No action was needed.

UPDATE ON COAL MINE EMERGENCY EXIT
Alderman Cortez told Council that he and the City Attorney, engineer and Public Works Director had looked at the proposed exit from Coal Mine and had agreed it is really rough and that maybe a better route would be Hernandez Lane to 1st Street. The City Attorney and Alderman Cortez agreed to look into this some more and try to get more options for Council. Alderman Cortez said he would come back to the Council in thirty (30) days.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Mayor Gonzalez reported on the following:

1 - H.E.B. is in negotiations with a department store;
2 - asked the City Attorney to check with BMA concerning the Alfaro easement and them wanting on the BMA district;
3 - thanked Public Works’ employees Robert Hernandez and Pete Billalobos for keeping things going while the Public Works’ Director has been out;
4 - thanked the City Secretary for taking care of flowers for the funerals of Alfredo Aguinaga, Ronnie Mumme and Arthur Bowen;
5 - thanked the Police department for the three (3) funeral escorts;
6 - told Council their shirts will be picked up tomorrow;
7 - Dr. Neal is asking people to increase practice of wearing masks, washing hands and social distancing and that Dr. Neal had contracted Covid;
8 - encouraged everyone to wear masks while indoors;
9 - 9-1-1 Festival will be monitored due to Covid surge;
10 - wished Chief and wife well on the birth of their son; and
11 - St. Andrews’ Church Festival on October 10th and noise variance will be on next agenda.

Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.