Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 28, 2022

Regular meeting with the follow present: Mayor Ruben Gonzalez; Aldermen Sam Cortez, David Emery, Jerry Stone, Charles Cate, Joseph Morrow; City Secretary Josie Campa; Finance Director LaNet Hester; Director of Public Works’ James McGrath; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; City Attorney Tom Cate; Animal Control Director Santiago Morantez; Code Compliance Officer Scott Traeger; Library Director Cassandra Cortez; and Assistant City Secretary Paola Rios.

Visitors: Jeff Dahm, Andrew Friedman, Adalia Gonzalez, Stuart Knowlton, Brad Beazer, Dennis and Maddie Barringer, Cumorah Eldredge, Cody Davenport, Chris Clouser, Anthony Reyna, Gerry Elias, Bobby Roberts, Marian Knowlton, Rebecca Davenport, Adam Keller, John Garza, Christian Toler.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Ruben Gonzalez opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge to the flag.

VISITORS'/CITIZENS' COMMENTS
Atascosa County Commissioner Stuart Knowlton told Council that a master plan for Atascosa County is being done through AACOG and said that Lytle should be included.

Mr. Knowlton also told Council that the Atascosa CAD’s tax values had been reviewed and four of the school districts had failed the market value study. Mr. Knowlton told Council that the tax rates are higher due to the lower taxable values. Mr. Knowlton told Council that Judge Hurley will be writing a letter to the CAD about this matter.

Bobby Roberts told Council that Wayne Herl is now in rehab and is not doing well. He said he may be coming home soon.

DISCUSS AND ACT UPON ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CITY’S ENGINEER AND FINANCIAL ADVISORS FOR FUNDING NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
Alderman Cate made the motion that Council table this item for the March 14th meeting. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON UPDATE ON PROPOSAL FROM LYTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A DIGITAL SIGN FOR THE CITY OF LYTLE-BRAD BEAZER
Alderman Emery made the motion that the city get a 5’ X 10’ digital sign contingent on getting a price as a member of Buy Board and not exceeding $60,000.00, from any cooperative buying agency. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.
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**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PROPOSAL FROM CODY DAVENPORT TO INSTALL AWNINGS ON BLEACHERS AT T-BALL FIELD IN JOHN LOTT MUNICIPAL PARK**

Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve $5,616.00 to be spent for awnings at both the softball and T-ball fields. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE REMAINING BUSINESS GRANTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A STORAGE SHED TO BE LEASED TO THE LYTLE LITTLE LEAGUE**

Alderman Emery made the motion that Council appoint Alderman Cortez to head up the committee to come with a proposal. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Alderman Emery made the motion that this item be tabled until Council gets the committee’s proposal. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REQUESTS FROM DENNIS BARRINGER FOR BALL ROAD**

Alderman Cortez made the motion to add Ball Road improvements to the city’s wish list for Certificates of Obligation. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON USAGE OF CITY E-MAIL ACCOUNTS AS PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND DISCONTINUING USAGE OF PERSONAL E-MAILS FOR CITY BUSINESS**

Alderman Cate made the motion that no action be taken on this item. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ESTABLISHING INTERNET ACCESS AT COMMUNITY CENTER**

Alderman Emery made the motion that Council table this item for the next budget. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. Passed unanimously.

Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council move item 4 T up. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON HIRING PART-TIME HELP FOR COURT**

Alderman Stone made the motion that Council allow the City Secretary to advertise for part-time help for the Municipal Court. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND ACT UPON CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH CUMORAH ELDREDGE**

Alderman Emery made the motion that Council approve getting the contract ready for Council for this purpose. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. VOTE: For motion-Aldermen Emery, Morrow, Cortez and Stone. Alderman Cate was opposed. Motion carried.
Consider and Act Upon Nominations for 2021 Annual Citizenship Award
Alderman Morrow made the motion that Council award the Annual Citizenship Award to Scott Martin. Seconded by Alderman Emery. VOTE: For motion—Aldermen Morrow, Emery, Cate and Stone. Alderman Cortez was opposed. Motion carried.

Consider and Act Upon Eligibility and Nomination for Annual Citizenship Award
Alderman Cate made the motion that item be tabled to the 2nd meeting in May. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Consider and Act Upon Hiring Atascosa County Tax Collector to Collect City Taxes
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve Atascosa County to collect city taxes and have Harris Govern to start the transitioning. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Consider and Act Upon Having Water and Wastewater Rate Study Done
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council get the Texas Rural Water Association to do a water and wastewater rate study. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

Consider and Act Upon Election Contracts with Atascosa, Bexar, and Medina Counties for Election Services
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the election contracts with Atascosa and Medina Counties contingent upon the City Attorney’s approval. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Consider and Act Upon Purchase of Quick-Connects for Water and Wastewater Facilities
Alderman Emery made the motion that Council approve the purchase of the quick-connects as per the prices obtained by Matt Dear for the water well, water booster station and wastewater treatment plant. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.
CLOSED SESSION-CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY CONCERNING CAUSE NO 22-02-0062-CVA, RACHEL FAISH ET AL V. THE CITY OF LYLTE ET AL PENDING LITIGATION, PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.071 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
Mayor Gonzalez announced at 9:02 p.m. that Council would go into closed session as per section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

The Mayor reopened the meeting at 9:19 p.m. and announced that no action had been taken in the closed session.

Alderman Cortez made the motion that no action be taken on this item. Seconded by Alderman Emery. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON PLUMBING INSPECTOR’S REQUEST FOR INCREASE OF PLUMBING INSPECTIONS FEE
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the request from the Plumbing Inspector and his fees be raised from $167.50 to $190.00 per day. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RELEASING PERFORMANCE BOND FOR PHASE 1 OF SADDLE RIDGE ESTATES
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council allow the release of performance bond for Phase 1 of Saddle Ridge Estates upon the engineer’s approval. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON APPLYING FOR A GENERATOR GRANT UNDER ATASCOSA COUNTY
Alderman Stone made the motion that Council table this item. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES-CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.072, DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
Mayor Gonzalez announced that Council would go into closed session as allowed by Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code at 9:31 p.m.

The Mayor reopened the meeting at 9:42 p.m. and announced that no action had been taken in the closed session.

Alderman Stone made the motion that Council allow the City Attorney to negotiate for land. Seconded by Alderman Morrow. VOTE: For Motion-Aldermen Stone, Morrow, Cortez and Emery. Alderman Cate abstained. Motion carried.
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ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Animal Control Director Santiago Morantéz added the following to his written report:

1 - thirty-four (34) dogs had been transported;
2 - sixty-five (65) pet owners picked up food at Bella’s Pantry;
3 - Pam Harris is working with Allies and has donated $10,000.00 for vouchers for spays and neuters;
4 - employee that was hired didn’t come to work.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Cassandra Cortez, the Library Director told Council she had e-mailed her report and that she is waiting on results of the physical for the new part-time library employee. Ms. Cortez told Council that Devine people used the Lytle library when their library was closed and there has been a lot of wi-fi use.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER’S REPORT
Code Compliance Officer Skip Traeger reported the following:

1 - it has been slow the past month;
2 - worked with customer concerning an over charge by Waste Management;
3 - brush was placed out too early at three (3) locations;
4 - removed bulky waste from fifteen (15) locations;
5 - Saddle Ridge people have to put up a fence between a heritage oak tree;
6 - investigated complaint on raw sewage odor on Railroad Street;
7 - the septic system has been pumped out and he also had an RV removed from the same lot; and
8 - Atascosa County has agreed to allow City to use side arm and sweeper for Railroad Street.

PUBLIC WORKS’ DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Public Works’ Director James McGrath added the following to his written report:

1 - cost per post for street signs on Lytle-Somerset Street was $200.00 for each;
2 - crew trimming trees from the ground and will have to rent bucket for higher limbs;
3 - fixed three (3) water leaks; and
4 - have three (3) new water meters to install.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT
Police Chief Richard Priest told Council he had nothing to add to his written report and that he would work with the Public works’ department on the rest of the 25 mph signs.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Finance Director LaNet Hester told Council she is working on September, 2021 recons now and audit is scheduled for April 4th and hope to have it completed in two months.
CITY SECRETARY’S REPORT
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that George Harris is expanding his mobile home park and got the zoning for it years ago.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Alderman Cortez told Council that the St. Andrews Catholic Church is having a Fish Fry every Wednesday and Friday.

MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Gonzalez reported the following to Council:

1 - Well #4 schedule is on target;
2 - Emergency Management TCEQ paperwork for water plan was sent in;
3 - COVID rate is half of last week’s total;
4 - FEMA Winter Storm Grant completed and will be getting money soon;
5 - will be starting CPS contract negotiations soon;
6 - Outlaw Seafood Bar & Grill opened on the weekend;
7 - we should encourage people to use the parking lot by the Gidley house;
8 - 711 should open in August;
9 - wants Council to be aware that City employees are getting involved in the city election;
10 - thanked St. Andrews Catholic Church and Roxanne Estrada for having COVID testing at church;
11 - thanked everyone for supporting Veteran couple;
12 - thanked Pam Harris for donation;
13 - thanked the Police Department and Public Works’ Department for getting 25 mph signs installed on Lytle-Somerset Street;
14 - thanked Chief Priest and Matt Dear for all the funeral escorts and escorting the girls’ basketball team;
15 - Lady Pirates’ basketball team advanced to Regional playoffs;
16 - congratulated Alderman Emery’s son Stephan for his accomplishment at Band Contest;
17 - Community National Bank and Texas Banks merged;
18 - gave everyone info for contacting Wayne Herl while he is recuperating; and
19 - said a lot of people have been lost in the last week.

Alderman Cortez made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.