

Minutes of Planning Meeting held April 27, 2015

Planning meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Kevin Keith, Jerry Stone, Ward Sanders, Ruble Farmer and Sam Cortez; City Secretary Josie Campa; Director of Public Works James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; Animal Control Director Betty Kroeger; Library Director Cassandra Cortez; Park Maintenance employee Wayne Newman; Reserve Police Officer Danny Robison; Animal Control Officer Santiago Morantez.

Visitors: Wayne and Christy Vaughn, Elizabeth and Mitchell Watkins, Richard and Olga Sharer, Joe and Matilde Cuellar, Jeanie Sanders, Jeanice Farmer, Guadalupe Castro, Philip Medellin, Andy Reyna, Larry Sanders, Jamie Dahler, Naomi Huron, Angela Perdue, Laura Rodriguez, Jim Becker, Ernie Kroeger, J.J. Villarreal, Betty Cortez, Brad and Nan Boyd, Bryan Mask, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Garcia, K. Robbins, Jesse Camarillo, James Engle, Maria Salinas, Samantha Borrego, Jonathan Salinas, Christopher Bowen, Johnathan Bowen, and Beverly McCune.

Mayor Mark Bowen opened the planning meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor then introduced the members of the City Council and City Department heads to the people in attendance.

Mayor Bowen told everyone about the things that have been accomplished over the past five years, and told people they could take a look at the board that has all the things listed.

The Mayor then explained the purpose for the meeting was to get input from the public on what they would like to see done over the next five years.

The Mayor then asked for people to speak to Council about what they would like to see for the city.

Joe Cuellar told Council that the streets are really bad with lots of potholes. Mr. Cuellar said he doesn't see why a work order has to be written to get these pot holes fixed.

Guadalupe Castro voiced his concern about the drainage situation and asked if the city will get it looked at by the engineers.

James Engle, pastor for First Baptist Church, told everyone that this year's National Day of Prayer is May 7th. He told everyone that he would like everyone to come together for prayer, and to pray for the nation, pray for the governor. Mr. Engle said he knows it's too late this year, but maybe next years plans could be made for an event on this day.

J.J. Villarreal talked to Council about the multi-housing unit on Main Street that looks so bad. He said he doesn't feel this complex is up to code and it should be.

Mr. Villarreal also told Council that he feels that property owners on Main Street should submit designs before making any improvements to their properties. He said other cities have to approve designs submitted by property owners.

Mr. Villarreal told Council he feels that parking lots on Main Street should be asphalt or seal coated, and that this is not fair to other businesses.

Brad Boyd told Council that he feels the way a city looks is important, and this either attracts people or not.

Mr. Boyd also told Council that the business district in Lytle isn't growing because space is limited.

Mr. Boyd told Council that they need to keep control of ETJ areas and people should have to bring plats to the city. Mr. Boyd then expressed his concern over how plats are approved in the city.

Mr. Boyd also told Council that when a contractor has to register with the city before a building permit is issued, this holds up the building process and he feels this process needs to be improved.

Mr. Boyd agreed with Mr. Villarreal that the apartment units at the end of Main Street need to be in compliance with the city's code.

Mr. Boyd told Council he doesn't like a salvage yard on the city's Main Street.

Mr. Boyd stated that he is not in favor of lowering taxes if money is needed for projects such as fixing potholes that are a real problem right now.

Mr. Boyd told Council he feels that building restrictions should be stricter and no metal buildings should be allowed and the facade of buildings should be controlled better.

Naomi Huron told Council she will be setting up her café next to the recycling center and that the property owner has brought a lot of business to Lytle, and is spending a lot of money to build this business center. Ms. Huron then asked questions about the grease traps and food handler's permits.

Philip Medellin told Council that potholes are a big problem right now.

Mr. Medellin also told Council that cars should not be allowed to drive inside the park. Council told him this would change with the improvements being made and that we are presently working to correct this matter.

Betty Cortez voiced her concern about the truck traffic on Main Street increasing so much. She also stated the vehicles are traveling too fast on Main Street.

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Maria Salinas complained about her neighbor's overgrown lot and was told to contact the City's Code Compliance Officer.

Mayor Bowen told everyone that a lot is happening in Lytle and that since Beall's, there are several companies showing interest in Lytle, and he feels the city's future is very bright.

Larry Sanders thanked Council members and department heads for what they do for the city.

Mayor Bowen told everyone that a Suggestion Box was available and if they have something, they should fill one out.

Meeting adjourned.