

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE  
16<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2003**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2003 the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas, convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall with the following members thereof, to wit:

Louis A. Bronaugh	Mayor
Jack Gorden, Jr.	Mayor pro tem
Rose Faine Boyd	Councilmember, Ward No. 2
Lynn Torres	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Don Langston	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Dennis Robertson	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
C. G. Maclin	City Manager
Atha Martin	City Secretary
Bob Flournoy	City Attorney
Keith Wright	City Engineer
David Koonce	Director of Human Resources
Kenneth Williams	Director of Public Works
Douglas Wood	Director of Accounting
Stephen Abraham	Director of Planning

being present, and

R. L. Kuykendall	Councilmember, Ward 1
------------------	-----------------------

being absent when the following business was transacted.

1. Meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Frank Starr, First Lutheran Church.
2. Mayor Bronaugh welcomed visitors present. Councilmember Torres welcomed LHS students who were present as a requirement of their government class.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2003 and Workshop Meeting of December 3, 2003 were approved on a motion by Councilmember Lynn Torres and seconded by Councilmember Jack Gorden, Jr. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**4. SPECIAL USE PERMIT – APPROVED – SECOND READING – CENTRAL BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT – GREAT TEXAS FOODS, INC. – 3107 SOUTH FIRST STREET**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was Second Reading of an Ordinance to consider granting a Special Use Permit for a restaurant with private club within a "Central Business" zoning district on property described as Lot 1 of the Luby's Addition and more commonly known as 3107 South First Street as requested by Great Texas Foods, Inc.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd and seconded by Councilmember Lynn Torres that Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for a restaurant with a private club within a "Central Business" zoning district on property described as Lot 1 of the Luby's Addition and more commonly known as 3107 South First Street be approved on Second and Final Reading with the following conditions: That this Special Use Permit shall be for the sale of alcoholic beverages in conjunction

with a full service restaurant facility; and shall not be construed as allowing the structure to be used in a manner which constitutes a night club, tavern, lounge, dance hall or commercial amusement establishment. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

5. **ORDINANCE – APPROVED – FIRST READING – ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance for the adoption of the International Building Code.

City Manager Maclin stated that this is the result of an opportunity for the City to update our building code to reflect that which is pretty much going to be universally applied across the United States. Mr. Maclin stated there is a memo on the Council table from Mr. Williams, the Director of Public Works, asking Council to consider tabling item #10, which involves the International Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Maclin stated that this Ordinance is a little different from what the City's current practices are and as a result staff would like to table it and bring it back for consideration at a later date.

Beauford Chapman, Director of Inspection Services, stated that the City of Lufkin's adopted Standard Building Codes are obsolete. Mr. Chapman stated that the Codes are no longer supported with revisions nor interpretations. Mr. Chapman stated that the winds of change have brought new opportunities to the building industry and to cities in the form of the new Family of International Codes.

Mr. Chapman stated that at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the three major code organizations in the U. S. agreed to merge and write a single set of codes to address new and existing buildings. Mr. Chapman stated that the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, known as BOCA, International Conference of Building Officials, known as ICBO, and the Standard Building Code Congress International, known as SBCCI are the three code organizations that merged. They conferred to write and publish the new codes that we see today as the Family of International Codes. Mr. Chapman stated that the 2000 edition was the first publication of these codes. Mr. Chapman stated that the Inspection Services Department has meticulously reviewed these codes over the past three years and stands ready to move forward in recommending the adoption of the 2003 edition of these codes by the City of Lufkin.

Mr. Chapman stated that the City of Lufkin is not alone in this process; virtually every city in the state of Texas that has a population above 10,000 has adopted or is in the process of adopting the International Building Codes. Mr. Chapman stated that cities like Plano, Irving, Richardson, Garland, Waco, Denton, Austin, Beaumont and closer to home, Longview, Palestine, Tyler, Conroe, College Station, Bryan and Nacogdoches have adopted the Code.

Mr. Chapman stated that 44 states have adopted one or more of the International Codes (Louisiana, Florida, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Alabama and Tennessee).

Mr. Chapman stated that the Department of Defense and HUD have adopted the International Code.

Mr. Chapman stated that in compliance with State law, this Council has already adopted the International Residential Code on December 11, 2001. Mr. Chapman stated that the City Building Official is charged by law to interpret, apply and enforce the building codes of the City of Lufkin in a fair and impartial manner.

Mr. Chapman stated that with the assistance of the Inspection Services Department staff, the Construction Board of Appeals and the City Fire Marshall, he respectfully

submits the following building codes with appropriate amendments for Council's approval:

- 2003 International Building Code
- 2003 International Plumbing Code
- 2003 International Fuel Gas Code
- 2003 International Mechanical Code
- 2003 International Existing Building Code
- 2003 International Fire Code

Mr. Chapman stated that included in the Council packet is a letter from the Chairman of the Construction Board of Appeals, Mr. Wayne Stolz, and a letter from the City Fire Marshall, Mr. Duane Freeman that supports this recommendation.

Mr. Chapman stated that he would address each of these codes individually and answer any questions Council may have.

In response to question by Mayor Bronaugh, Mr. Chapman stated that the Code of Ordinances, which are the City's Ordinances, is where we adopt the Code. Mr. Chapman stated that the International Building Code deals with all aspects of new construction from the permitting process through the completion of the building and Certificate of Occupancy. Mr. Chapman stated that the International Plumbing Code has been around as an International Code for approximately six or seven years, and is adopted by the State of Texas and is the Code the City uses to inspect by or construct by. Mr. Chapman stated that the International Fuel Gas Code runs concurrent with the Plumbing Code and deals with natural gas installations inside commercial buildings. Mr. Chapman stated that the International Mechanical Code deals with H/VAC (air conditioning, flue stacks, air infiltration, air exhaust, etc.). Mr. Chapman stated that the International Fire Code deals specifically with certain buildings or certain types of facilities or functions which occur in a particular building or facility. Mr. Chapman stated that the International Electrical Code runs concurrent with the other Codes and is a NFPA document, which the Council has already adopted. Mr. Chapman stated that the International Residential Code has been previously adopted by Council and approved by the State of Texas. Mr. Chapman stated that one and two family dwellings and townhouses must be built according to the International Residential Code.

Mr. Chapman stated that the Standard Plumbing Code, up to this point in time, requires all commercial facilities to have two bathrooms. Mr. Chapman stated that this Council agreed that anything less than 460SF you could put in one bathroom. Mr. Chapman stated that with the new Standard Plumbing Code you can go up to 1500 SF or 15 employees before two bathrooms are required.

Mr. Chapman stated that the Construction Board of Appeals has made some amendments to the Code and modified the requirement of sprinkling an auditorium of 300 occupants, by changing it to 600 occupants. In response to question by Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Chapman stated that the exits required for the occupants allowed in a building would be based on square footage.

In response to question by Mayor Bronaugh, Mr. Chapman stated that the City can amend any of these Codes the way we want to and the only Code we cannot amend is the International Residential Code by State law. Mr. Chapman stated that the City can amend the Code to be more restrictive, but could not amend it to be less restrictive.

Motion was made by Councilmember Don Langston and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that Ordinance adopting the International Building Code be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**6. ORDINANCE – APPROVED – FIRST READING – ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance for the adoption of the International Plumbing Code.

Motion was made by Councilmember Don Langston and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that Ordinance adopting the International Plumbing Code be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**7. ORDINANCE – APPROVED – FIRST READING – ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance for the adoption of the International Mechanical Code.

Motion was made by Councilmember Don Langston and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that Ordinance adopting the International Mechanical Code be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**8. ORDINANCE – APPROVED – FIRST READING – ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance for the adoption of the International Fuel Gas Code.

Motion was made by Councilmember Don Langston and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that Ordinance adopting the International Fuel Gas Code be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**9. ORDINANCE – APPROVED – FIRST READING – ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance adopting the International Existing Building Code.

In response to question by Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Chapman stated that there were no significant changes in this Code.

Motion was made by Councilmember Don Langston and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that Ordinance adopting the International Existing Building Code be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**10. ORDINANCE – TABLED – FIRST READING – ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance adopting the International Property Maintenance Code.

City Manager Maclin stated that Council had a letter before them from Kenneth Williams, the Director of Public Works, requesting that this item be tabled at this time.

In response to question by Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Williams stated that this applies to commercial, residential and public property. Mr. Williams stated that it covers everything in maintenance such as the length of grass in a yard to the condition of a house or apartment buildings.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dennis Robertson and seconded by Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd that Ordinance adopting the International Property

maintenance Code be tabled and brought back for consideration at a later date. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**11. ORDINANCE – APPROVED – FIRST READING – INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance adopting the International Fire Code.

In response to question by Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Chapman stated that these are basically US Codes and it is taking three Codes that were previously written and combining them and massaging them and conferring and agreeing on some things and writing a Code that everyone could agree to and live with. Mr. Chapman stated that this makes the Code that we build with in Lufkin the same Code that a contractor would build with in Longview or College Station or Arkansas or anywhere in the United States.

Councilmember Langston stated that this Code does go a long way in making the process simpler for the designer because it does go into more detail in a lot of areas that have been big question marks in the past and subject to interpretation. Councilmember Langston stated that obviously any Code is subject to interpretation and as long as that Code has a method for the builders, architects and engineers in town to come forward to this Council and offer any suggestions that it may have and as long as they have a voice he thinks it is a good Code. Councilmember Langston stated that it is a “living document”, and certainly we would not find an opportunity in the future to ever republish what we’ve used in the past. Councilmember Langston stated that he would fully support the City moving forward in adopting these Codes. Councilmember Langston stated that he would like to ask that we may explore as a City some opportunity for Mr. Chapman or some of the other staff to present the new Codes to those who are interested in hearing the City’s interpretation of what has changed.

In response to question by Councilmember Gorden, Mr. Chapman stated that staff has had meetings with builders, but not architects and engineers. Mr. Chapman stated that the International Code Congress puts on seminars on a regular basis for each of these Codes. Mr. Chapman stated that members of his staff have already attended some of the seminars on the new Codes. Mr. Chapman stated that architects and engineers have already been working on these Codes. Mr. Chapman stated that most of the architects in Lufkin have not only been exposed to the International Code but also they’ve had the design with the Uniform Code. Mr. Chapman stated that he agreed with Mr. Langston that a seminar with interested builders would be in order and he would be happy to arrange that.

In response to question by Councilmember Gorden, Mr. Chapman stated that he is recommending a 60-day grace period effective January 1. Mr. Chapman stated that if you want to design a building and apply for a permit under the Standard Building Code, you are more than welcome to do that and they will inspect to that. Mr. Chapman stated that after the 60-day grace period, the International Code is the Code in which you would have to design, permit and construct your building by.

Mr. Chapman stated that in response to Mr. Gorden’s second question, these Codes are all copyrighted material and we cannot publish any part of these Codes. Mr. Chapman stated that he had heard that because cities have adopted this as their law they have the right to publish it on their web site, but there is a lawsuit pending on this at this time.

In response to question by Councilmember Gorden, Mr. Chapman stated that the price for these books range in price up to \$55 and they will provide the books to contractors at the City’s cost.

Motion was made by Councilmember Don Langston and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that Ordinance adopting the International Fire Code be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**12. ORDINANCE – APPROVED – AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 3439 – BUILDING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 3439 to adopt a Building Permit Fee Schedule.

City Manager Maclin stated that with the adoption of the new International Code, the Code itself does not have a fee schedule, and the City would need to adopt a fee schedule to compliment the Codes that Council has just approved on First Reading. Mr. Maclin stated that the fee schedule that staff is proposing is our current fee schedule and basically there are no significant changes with the exception that under our current Standard Building Code we have a penalty that if you start a job without a permit or are identified as having a project without a permit, and then obtain your permit, it's a double fee as a penalty for failure to come in and get your permit prior to starting your job. Mr. Maclin stated that under the International Code it's stated that it is a triple fee.

In response to question by Councilmember Langston, Mr. Chapman stated that the Standard Building Code has a fee schedule in it, which the City has adopted. Mr. Chapman stated that the new International Code does not have a fee schedule so it is up to the local governing authority, so we have to adopt this fee schedule as a separate item. Mr. Chapman stated that in talking with Mr. Flournoy he felt like the way to do it was to put this fee schedule as an addendum to our Ordinance where we have established building permit fees. Mr. Chapman stated that the fee schedule is exactly the same as we currently have on building permits; the only change is the tripling of fees if you are caught doing work without a permit. Mr. Chapman stated that larger projects are not a problem – it's the smaller remodeling projects which sometimes require specialty permits (plumbing, HVAC, etc.).

Motion was made by Councilmember Don Langston and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 3439 to adopt a Building Permit Fee Schedule be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**13. TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT – APPROVED – EXPANSION OF EXISTING BUSINESS – 2017 SPENCE STREET – PRECISE INDUSTRIES**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was a request of Precise Industries for approval of a Tax Abatement Agreement for an expansion of an existing business located at 2017 Spence Street.

City Manager Maclin stated that included in the Council packet is a memorandum of explanation from Mr. Abraham that itemizes this request, which qualifies under the City's Policy B for revitalization. Mr. Maclin stated that there is also a map showing the location, and a letter requesting the Abatement from the President of Precise Industries, Mrs. Neva Brown. Mr. Maclin stated that staff has reviewed this request and it does meet the criteria for the City's Policy B. Mr. Maclin stated that staff would recommend Council's consideration for approval.

Bill Wellborn, Executive Director of the Economic Development Partnership, stated that he would encourage Council's consideration of this request. Mr. Wellborn stated that Precise has been in business for the past 13 years in Lufkin and they are a defense sub-contractor and have done work for Bell Helicopter, Boeing, and the Department of Defense. Mr. Wellborn stated that the products manufactured by Precise include

ground handling equipment for the Bell Ranger Helicopter, canopy parts for the F-18 Hornet, and parts for the new V-22 rafter fighter aircraft, all done here in Lufkin, USA.

Mr. Wellborn stated that Mrs. Neva Brown is the President of Precise Industries and she has been working on a new contract for the past year which has just recently been awarded. Mr. Wellborn stated that this contract is for the assembly of wheels and tire assemblies for the Hum – V and light to medium tactical vehicles for the U. S. Army. Mr. Wellborn stated that this contract will be for a period of five years with another five year option. Mr. Wellborn stated that this new multi-million dollar contract will require additional manufacturing space, equipment and personnel at Mrs. Brown's existing plant on North Spence Street.

Mr. Wellborn stated that it is with a great deal of pride that he brings this project to Council this evening, which will add 3,000 SF of additional manufacturing space and employ an additional six personnel at a wage rate of between \$10 and \$15 per hour. Mr. Wellborn stated that the project is located in the Enterprise Zone and the Federal HUD Zone, an area of which this City Council has targeted for redevelopment in years past. Mr. Wellborn stated that it is for these reasons that the Economic Development Partnership endorses this project and encourages Council's thoughtful consideration. Mr. Wellborn stated that Mrs. Brown wanted him to mention that without the help of Congressman Jim Turner and his staff, Jerry Huffman, this project would not have gotten off the ground.

Councilmember Robertson stated that this is a great opportunity to help an existing business in town.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lynn Torres and seconded by Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd that Tax Abatement Agreement for an expansion of an existing business located at 2017 Spence Street and requested by Precise Industries be approved as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

#### **14. UPDATE AND REVISIONS – APPROVED – PITSER GARRISON CIVIC CENTER POLICY AND RULES**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was an update and revisions to the Pitser Garrison Civic Center policy and rules.

City Manager Maclin stated that a couple of weeks ago staff provided Council with a proposed policy update for review and as a result of recent changes with the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission, the City is required to make some changes in our policies and interpretation of rules relating to alcohol at the Civic Center. Mr. Maclin stated that included in the Council packet is a letter stating this from the Director of the Civic Center, Mrs. Thompson, followed by a policy. Mr. Maclin stated that basically this policy reflects those things which were obtained through the interpretation by the TABC, and most of these are things the City has been doing to some extent in the past or reflect these recent interpretations and directives from the TABC for implementation. Mr. Maclin stated that the only thing that is a little different that he would bring to Council's attention is on the second page under item "D", where it states that "alcohol will not be allowed at any event honoring a minor". Mr. Maclin stated that this would involve birthday parties, graduation parties and events where the person being honored is under the legal drinking age. Mr. Maclin stated that we have had problems with this issue in the past where adults were consuming alcohol and teenagers were present. Mr. Maclin stated that it makes it very difficult and challenging for the security on duty to insure proper compliance with the law and with the Ordinance. Mr. Maclin stated that with this policy, by implementing this rule, staff can minimize those problems and the difficulty in enforcement. Mr. Maclin stated that not all events honoring a minor have problems. Mr. Maclin stated that the ones that do have created an issue where staff feels that this is an appropriate stance for the City to take in light of the City's leadership that we have had in supporting Red Ribbon Week and

being a drug free employer, and think that our Civic Center should do what it can to minimize alcohol consumption by minors particularly on public property. Mr. Maclin stated that with that in mind, staff is recommending the Council's consideration for approval of this policy so staff will have something that has received Council review and approval for enforcement.

Mr. Maclin stated that Mrs. Thompson was present if Council had any questions, and that Sgt. Walker was also present. Mr. Maclin stated that Sgt. Walker specifically has worked a lot of the parties and events at the Civic Center over the last two or three years.

In response to question by Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Maclin stated that there have been events honoring minors where the parents were selective about who was invited and then there were other parties where anybody who wanted to attend was allowed to come and those were the situations where there was less parental control applied to the event that create the greatest potential for problems and liability and risk to the City of Lufkin.

In response to question by Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Maclin stated that the security guards are hired in advance and paid by the sponsor of the event to be there.

In response to question by Councilmember Langston, Mrs. Thompson stated that Jeff Taylor is now the TABC representative in Angelina County and before that it was William Conley. Mrs. Thompson stated that there was some difference in the interpretation of the law by these two gentlemen and one of the differences was alcohol as it is being brought into the Civic Center. Mrs. Thompson stated that in the case of weddings, Mr. Conley allowed the family to provide all the alcohol for the wedding and would set it up themselves. Mrs. Thompson stated that Mr. Taylor disagrees. Mrs. Thompson stated that Mr. Taylor's interpretation of the law is that it must be "BYOB". Mrs. Thompson stated that Mr. Taylor told her that there have been some changes at the State level and they are trying to crack down because dry counties were having more problems than wet counties.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that the update and revisions to the Pitser Garrison Civic Center policy and rules be approved as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

#### **15. BID - APPROVED - KIT McCONNICO FORCE MAIN - J & D CONSTRUCTION**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was the award of bid for the Kit McConnico force main.

City Manager Maclin stated that included in the Council packet is the bid tabulation for this project which was included in the CIP and City budget. Mr. Maclin stated that the staff recommendation is to award the low bid of J & D Construction in the amount of \$809,781.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lynn Torres and seconded by Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd that the bid of J & D Construction in the amount of \$809,781 for the force main at Kit McConnico Park be approved as submitted. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

#### **16a. BID - APPROVED - HELMETS - FIRE DEPARTMENT - PAUL CONWAY SHIELDS**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was helmets for the Fire Department.



City Manager Maclin stated that item 16 has four elements to it and all four of these elements are a result of a grant the Fire Department applied for through the Texas Department of Health. Mr. Maclin stated that this grant provides 90% funding and a 10% match on the part of the City.

Mr. Maclin stated that the staff recommendation is the low bid of Paul Conway Shields in the amount of \$16,404.

In response to question by Councilmember Robertson, Fire Chief Pete Prewitt stated that the new helmets meet or exceed all the NFPA safety specs and the Department feels that they are better than the current helmets. Chief Prewitt stated that these helmets are a different style and are lighter and safer.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dennis Robertson and seconded by Councilmember Lynn Torres that the bid of Paul Conway Shields in the amount of \$16,404 for helmets to be used in the Fire Department be approved as submitted. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**16b. BID – APPROVED – FIRE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING – NAFCO/WILSON FIRE – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was bids for fire protective clothing for the Fire Department.

City Manager Maclin stated that the staff recommendation is to award the bid of Nafco/Wilson Fire in the amount of \$62,535.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Robertson that the bid of NAFCO/Wilson Fire in the amount of \$62,535 for fire protective clothing for the Fire Department be approved as submitted. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**16c. BID – APPROVED – SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUSES – MES/FOUR ALARM – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was bids for self contained breathing apparatuses in the Fire Department.

City Manager Maclin stated that the staff recommendation is the low bid of MES/Four Alarm in the amount of \$143,191.

Mr. Maclin stated that he would add, for the benefit of Chief Prewitt's budget, that he did not know that he would receive this grant when the budget was in process so he didn't budget the 10% match and may have to come back at a later date and ask for a budget amendment.

Motion was made by Councilmember and seconded by Councilmember that the bid of MES/Four Alarm in the amount of \$143,191 for self contained breathing apparatuses in the Fire Department be approved as submitted. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**16d. BID – APPROVED – AMBULANCE REMOUNT – HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the next item for consideration was bids for an ambulance remount.

City Manager Maclin stated that the staff recommendation is the low bid of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$51,000.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dennis Robertson and seconded by Councilmember Lynn Torres that the bid of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$51,000 for an ambulance remount be approved as submitted. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

17. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Bronaugh recessed Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. to enter into Executive Session. The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:36 p. m. and Mayor Bronaugh stated that the Council had discussed Attorney/Clients matters.

18. **CALENDAR NOTATIONS FROM MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS AND CITY MANAGER**

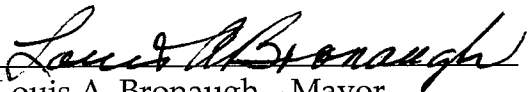
City Manager Maclin stated that the DETCOG Christmas meeting would be held on Thursday in Jasper at the St. Michael's Catholic Church.

City Manager Maclin stated that City Hall would be closed on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, for Christmas and gave the alternate dates for garbage pickup.

City Manager Maclin stated that effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, based on the recent announcement of the idling of the Abitibi mill, the City administration intends to implement a hiring freeze much the same as we did last year as a precautionary measure. Mr. Maclin stated that staff feels like it would be appropriate for a period of time until we see how the economy is impacted by the idling of the mill to likewise implement another hiring freeze. Mr. Maclin stated that staff will also be meeting with Department Heads to discuss areas of freezing line items within a budget where we can to contain costs.

In response to question by Councilmember Torres, Mayor Bronaugh stated that some Centennial Commemorative coins had been found during housecleaning by the staff and he was sharing them with Councilmembers.

19. There being no further business for consideration, meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

  
Louis A. Bronaugh – Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Atha Martin – City Secretary