

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF SEPT., 1975, AT 7:00 P. M.

On the 3rd day of September, 1975, the City Commission of the City of Lufkin, Texas, convened in special meeting in the Council Room at City Hall with the following members thereof, to-wit:

Pitser H. Garrison	Mayor
R. A. Brookshire	Commissioner, Ward No. 1
Pat Foley	Commissioner, Ward No. 2
Joe E. Rich	Commissioner, Ward No. 3
E. C. Wareing	Commissioner, Ward No. 4
W. O. Ricks, Jr.	Commissioner at Large, Place A
E. G. Pittman	Commissioner at Large, Place B
Harvey Westerholm	City Manager
Roger G. Johnson	City Secretary

being present, and

Robert L. Flournoy	City Attorney
--------------------	---------------

being absent, constituting a quorum, when the following business was transacted:

1. Meeting opened with prayer by Harvey Westerholm, City Manager.
2. 1975-76 City Budget Workshop

Mayor Garrison stated that the City Manager, with the assistance of the Finance Director, had submitted a new budget incorporating information as requested by members of Commission during last regular meeting and this workshop had been called for consideration of same.

Comm. E. C. Wareing expressed his opinion that the City Manager had made a good effort incorporating information at request of this Commission. Comm. W. O. Ricks, Jr., stated that he was in agreement with Comm. Wareing, but had several questions regarding budget as proposed.

Comm. W. O. Ricks, Jr., inquired as to the reaction of this Commission regarding request from Angelina County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Decoration Committee which desired the City pledge \$10,000 over a three-year period toward the purchase of Christmas decorations. Comm. Ricks expressed his concern that this was a considerable amount of money and Comm. Wareing was in agreement with Comm. Ricks inasmuch as more essential items should be considered in the budget.

Comm. Wareing stated that he was of the opinion that inasmuch as the City paid for electricity for the Christmas lights and assisted in the installation of same, no additional contributions were essential.

It was discussed by the City Manager that the electric bill for these decorations would be approximately \$450 and Comm. Ricks was in agreement with Comm. Wareing that payment of these utilities in conjunction with the installation of the decorations by employees would be adequate.

Comm. Ricks made motion that the City Commission defer further consideration of this request by the Chamber of Commerce and not include same in proposed budget until it became absolutely essential for the City to reconsider request. Motion was seconded by Comm. E. G. Pittman and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

Comm. Ricks expressed his concern as to the additional request for funds by the Angelina County-City Health Unit for \$1,400 in the new City budget. City Manager Westerholm stated that the City was presently contributing \$1,000 a month and this amount would involve a 14 percent increase by all contributing agencies.

Comm. Ricks expressed his concern that the City Street Department should purchase a new motor grader and City Manager Westerholm stated that he had recommended the City make this purchase from funds in the Revenue Sharing Budget for approximately \$35,000. City Manager Westerholm stated that this item would be included in the new budget under Revenue Sharing.

Comm. E. G. Pittman inquired as to the City's participation in the landfill operation. City Manager Westerholm referred to the amount budgeted for the ensuing year and indicated that this amount did not reflect any increases.

Comm. Pat Foley asked City Manager Westerholm to explain proposed salary increase for new budget year and the following recommendation was discussed:

HOURLY

\$2.10 hour to \$2.89 hour (5.5% increase)

\$2.90 hour to \$7.47 hour (5% increase)

All in excess (4% increase)

MONTHLY

\$363 mo. to \$500 mo. (5.5% increase)

\$501 mo. to \$1,300 mo. (5% increase)

All in excess (4% increase)

City Manager Westerholm stated that in most cases the hourly pay would correspond with the monthly pay and he and the City Attorney were the only employees to be affected by the four percent increase.

Comm. R. A. Brookshire inquired about employees living in city-owned houses and expressed his concern that separate utility meters should be maintained by the employee and paid separately by same. City Manager Westerholm explained that certain employees of the City did occupy city-owned houses, but these employees occupied these houses as a condition of their employment, to be near their work and maintain the adjacent property. City Manager Westerholm further stated that these employees' salaries had been adjusted downward in this regard and the City had not had to pay Social Security or Retirement on the downward adjustment. City Manager Westerholm stated that these employees had not been able to develop as much Social Security coverage or retirement benefits. City Manager Westerholm stated that a fair rental charge could be calculated and salaries adjusted accordingly if members of Commission desired. City Manager Westerholm recommended that the current policy be continued and was in the best interest of the City.

Comm. E. C. Wareing expressed his personal opinion that the present policy, as recommended by the City Manager, was a good opportunity for the City and in the City's best interest. Comm. R. A. Brookshire stated that he was only concerned with City employees not paying their own utilities and was of the opinion that the City did not have control of the utilities unless same were paid by the employee.

Comm. W. O. Ricks, Jr., inquired as to the dwelling status of City employee Don Hanabas and City Manager Westerholm stated that Mr. Hanabas was living in a city-owned house at the old sewer plant facility and his salary had been adjusted downward as a result. Comm. Ricks was concerned that the City should not pay utilities for this employee.

Comm. E. C. Wareing made motion that the present policy being conducted by the City to furnish city-owned houses and utilities as a condition of employment be continued for another year and included in the present proposed city budget. Motion was seconded by Comm. Joe E. Rich who stated he was of the opinion that this procedure was justifiable, fair and equitable inasmuch as survey of past utility bills of these employees were not excessive.

Prior to vote on motion, considerable discussion developed and the following vote was recorded:

Voting Aye: Mayor Garrison, Comms. Pat Foley, Joe E. Rich, E. C. Wareing and E. G. Pittman

Voting Nay: Comms. R. A. Brookshire and W. O. Ricks, Jr.

Mayor Garrison declared motion approved by majority vote of five to two.

Comm. Pat Foley asked City Manager Westerholm to review employees of the City administrative department and clarify certain part-time positions. City Manager Westerholm stated that a number of these part-time positions were occupied by school crossing guards and one individual was a clerk-typist.

Comm. E. G. Pittman inquired about VOE students from Lufkin High School. City Manager Westerholm stated that this program had been previously utilized by the City, but same had not been included in this year's proposed budget inasmuch as it was not economically sound, calling for the continued guidance of supervisory personnel.

Comm. R. A. Brookshire inquired regarding \$5,000 removed from the Parks budget which had been originally proposed to replace air-conditioning in the downtown center. City Manager Westerholm stated that this money had been removed from the budget with the opinion that the existing air-conditioning system may last an additional year. Comm. R. A. Brookshire also inquired as to the necessity of staffing the downtown recreation building during the school year. City Manager Westerholm stated that programs were carried throughout the year on a paid basis for all age groups.

Comm. E. G. Pittman inquired as to the amount of individuals that used the downtown building in a one-year period. Max Griffin, Recreation & Parks Director who was present, stated that approximately 2,500 individuals used this facility on an annual basis paying for classes within the facility.

Comm. W. O. Ricks, Jr., expressed his concern that the proposed city budget did not include adequate information indicating disbursements of Recreation & Parks funds. City Manager Westerholm stated that all expenses of this department were paid by check and records were kept regarding same. Comm. Ricks expressed his concern that the Finance Director should indicate these disbursements within the proposed budget. Comm. Wareing stated that these disbursements were omitted from the budget at a previous request of the City Commission to be maintained separately and same had not been included in the proposed city budget.

Comm. R. A. Brookshire stated that he was of the opinion Comm. Ricks desired present City budget in the Recreation & Parks Department indicate amount of funds received and the amount of funds disbursed.

Comm. Ricks expressed his disapproval of amount of car allowance provided the Recreation & Parks Director and stated that he was of the opinion this amount was excessive as compared with the type of vehicle being used. Comm. Wareing stated that he was of the opinion this Commission could only regulate the amount to be provided for an individual in this regard and no control should be subjected by this Commission regarding the type vehicle used.

Comm. E. C. Wareing made motion that proposed tentative budget be approved to include all information as previously discussed and submitted for public hearing on September 23 at 5:00 p.m. by altering regular scheduled meeting for September 16 to this date. Motion was seconded by Comm. Joe E. Rich and the following vote was recorded:

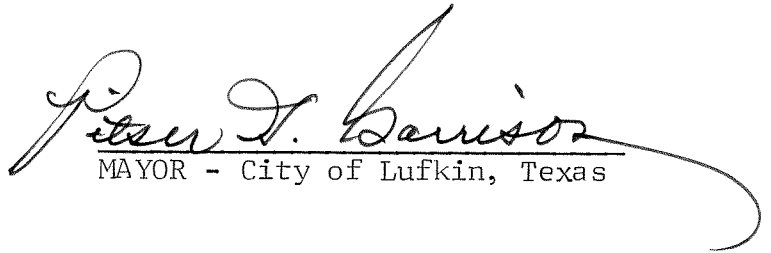
Voting Aye: Mayor Garrison, Comms. Pat Foley, Joe E. Rich, E. C. Wareing and E. G. Pittman

Voting Nay: Comms. R. A. Brookshire and W. O. Ricks, Jr.

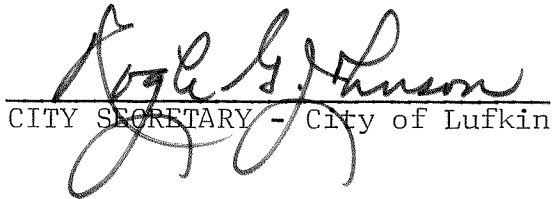
Mayor Garrison declared motion approved by majority vote of five to two.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business for consideration, meeting adjourned
at 7:50 p.m.


MAYOR - City of Lufkin, Texas

ATTEST:


CITY SECRETARY - City of Lufkin