

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY  
OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON 24TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1982, AT 5:00 P.M.

On the 24th day of August, 1982, 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
Percy A. Simond, Jr.	Commissioner, Ward No. 1
Don E. Boyd	Commissioner, Ward No. 2
Bob McCurry	Commissioner, Ward No. 3
Pat Foley	Commissioner, Ward No. 4
Richard Thompson	Commissioner, Ward No. 5
E.C. Wareing	Commissioner, Ward No. 6
Harvey Westerholm	City Manager
Ann Griffin	City Secretary
Libby Sims	Assistant City Secretary

being present, and

Robert L. Flournoy	City Attorney
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being absent, when the following business was transacted.

1. Budget Workshop - Proposed City Budget - Fiscal Year 1982-83

Mayor Garrison stated that this special meeting had been called for further discussion of the budget for 1982-83 fiscal year. Mayor Garrison further stated that the budget had tentatively been approved with the exception of the Police Department Budget.

Mayor Garrison stated that in reviewing proposed budget for the Police Department there had been some discussion of additional personnel.

Commissioner Bob McCurry stated that he would be willing to add three (3) additional men to the police force, but would not object to the addition of five (5) as requested by Police Chief Latham.

Commissioner Percy Simond stated that he would like to see the additional five (5) partolmen added to the budget.

Commissioner Pat Foley stated that in comparison to other cities, Lufkin is average in the ratio of patrolmen to citizens, and he would be in favor of the addition of three (3) officers.

Commissioner Don Boyd stated that Lufkin was in need of more manpower on the streets due to the poor ecomony in the City. Commissioner Boyd further stated that calls to the Lufkin Police Department are increasing daily, and the Chief is aware of how many additional men are needed. Commissioner Boyd stated he would be in favor of five (5) additional men.

In response to a question by Commissioner Pat Foley, Police Chief Leonard Latham stated that his request was based on the fact that he would like to have one (1) additional car on the streets 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which would necessitate 4.6 men, but three (3) additional men would be helpful. Police Chief Latham further stated that at present, the Police Department is at full strength with 44 sworn officers and six (6) civilian personnel.

Commissioner Pat Foley stated that he was not opposed to the addition of five (5) men, but the contingency fund was not built into the budget at present.

Mayor Garrison stated that he had not heard any complaints about the effectiveness of the police department, and with the burden already placed on the citizens of the city, he felt it was not the time to add additional personnel to the budget.

Police Chief Leonard Latham stated that there was a 13½% increase in crime over the first seven (7) months of last year, and he felt crime was going to increase because of the poor economy.

Commissioner Don Boyd stated that the city was constantly adding areas through annexations that must receive police protection, and if a citizen's poll was taken, they would be willing to pay .50¢ more for better police protection.

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Percy Simond that the Police Department be granted five (5) additional men, and the budget for same be approved. The following vote was recorded: Aye: Commissioners Simond, Boyd, McCurry, Thompson. Nay: Mayor Garrison, Commissioners Wareing, Foley. Mayor Garrison declared the motion approved by a vote of four (4) to three (3) with the budget tentatively approved subject to revision.

Mayor Garrison stated that he wanted to provide periodic raises to employees already working for the city and to guarantee that the money is available. Mayor Garrison further stated that if the economy deteriorates in the next year as much as it has previously, money will not be available for raises, and he is in favor of keeping personnel in the smallest sensible amount to provide the raises.

Mayor Garrison stated that City Manager Westerholm had recommended an increase in garbage collection rates by 16% which would provide \$149,000.00 additional revenue. Mayor Garrison further stated this amount would not be adequate to cover the \$211,000.00 deficit.

Commissioner Pat Foley stated that the increase was needed because of capital items that would have to be purchased in the Sanitation Department, and he wondered if it were possible to provide for a special fund to make these purchases.

Commissioner E.C. Wareing stated that to create a capital purchase fund for several departments, money would be set aside and would result in 20 different funds, each building interest.

Commissioner Percy Simond stated that the City should provide garbage pick-up once a week in order to save money. Commissioner Simond further stated that due to the humid weather in the summer, pick-up could be twice a week in the summer, and once a week in the fall and winter to lower expenses.

Mayor Garrison stated that he would like to have an expert analyze the garbage pick-up system and provide suggestions to reduce costs.

Commissioner Richard Thompson stated that Lufkin has the lowest rates for garbage pick-up and is one (1) of five (5) cities that furnish trash bags.

Motion was made by Commissioner Richard Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Percy Simond that Sanitation rates be increased by 20% rounded down to the nearest nickel resulting in the following schedule of rates.

Residential	\$4.00
Commercial	5.50 plus 1.40 per cubic yard over 4 cubic yards
Roll-Off Container	1.80 per cubic yard
Packer Container	2.70 per cubic yard

The following vote was recorded: Aye: Mayor Garrison, Commissioners Simond, Boyd, McCurry, Thompson, Wareing. Nay: Commissioner Foley.

Mayor Garrison stated that the Water and Sewer Budget has to provide revenue to pay all operating costs plus 1-3/4 times the amount of outstanding bonds to satisfy the bond indenture provisions.

City Manager Harvey Westerholm stated that the water and sewer budget would need to yield an additional \$461,000.00 to provide the needed coverage.

Mayor Garrison stated that because of increased usage of water, the City of Lufkin is faced with construction of a new water plant and the City actually subsidizes industries that use a high volume of water. Mayor Garrison stated that he felt the citizens of Lufkin would rather have a small increase now than a large increase in the future for construction of the new facility.

In answer to a question by Commissioner E.C. Wareing, City Manager Harvey Westerholm stated that with a rate adjustment at the present time only a small amount would be available to set aside for a sinking fund to construct the new facility.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pat Foley and seconded by Commissioner Bob McCurry that; water rates be increased 36% base increase and 6% schedule rate increase; that Commercial sewer be increased 10% base increase and 20% schedule rate increase; that Residential sewer be increased 10% base increase and maximum bill schedule rate increases from 6,000 to 8,000 gallons. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

In regard to the Revenue Sharing Budget, City Manager Harvey Westerholm stated that notification had been received that the amount of revenue sharing would be \$471,842.00 for the fiscal year 82-83 rather than \$500,000.00 as previously represented.

In response to a question by Commissioner Pat Foley, City Manager Harvey Westerholm stated that with the approval of the rate increases, \$410,971.00 would be available for salary adjustments and contingency fund. City Manager Westerholm stated that at present there were 308 employees.

Commissioner Pat Foley stated that funds were used last year for the water study, and he would like to have additional water studies made with funds being derived from the contingency fund.

City Manager Harvey Westerholm stated that Rev. Stephen Bancroft, was present in regard to a request for funds to aid the Palmer Drug Abuse Program of Lufkin.

Rev. Bancroft stated that he was pleased to see the amount of concern expressed by the City Commission in regard to the life style of its citizens. Rev. Bancroft further stated that people who move to Lufkin are amazed at the low cost of living in the area and, therefore, they do not mind paying higher prices for more services. Rev. Bancroft stated that drugs

are the greatest problem in the county today, and because of the economy, funds from the private sector are difficult to obtain. Rev. Bancroft stated the Palmer Drug Abuse Program was asking for help from the public sector, and the County had pledged \$5,000.00 from revenue sharing to help with the program. Rev. Bancroft stated that the Palmer Drug Abuse Program had been accepted by the United Way for funding, and he was asking the city to pledge \$10,000.00 to the program. Rev. Bancroft stated that in the beginning the program was designed to obtain money from the private sector but a decision was made to place emphasis on providing professional services rather than the professionals doing fund raising activities.

Commissioner Pat Foley stated that he had reservations about using City money to fund the Palmer Drug Abuse Program.

Commissioner Percy Simond stated that the drug problem is one of the most critical problems in the City, and he believed the City should support the program.

Motion was made by Commissioner Percy Simond and seconded by Commissioner E.C. Wareing that \$7,500.00 be designated for the Palmer Drug Abuse Program. The following vote was recorded: Aye: Mayor Garrison, Commissioners Simond, Boyd, McCurry, Thompson, Wareing. Nay: Commissioner Foley.


Commissioner Pat Foley stated that the Homestead Exemption for persons over 65 should be increased for the coming year.


Motion was made by Commissioner Pat Foley and seconded by Commissioner Richard Thompson that homestead exemption be increased an additional \$10,000.00 for a total of \$20,000.00 exemption for the fiscal year 82-83. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

2. There being no further business for consideration, meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST:



  
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Ed Wareing, Mayor Pro Tem

  
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Ann Griffin, City Secretary