

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 19th DAY OF AUGUST, 2014.**

On the 19th day of August 2014, 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:

Bob F. Brown
Lynn Torres
Victor Travis
Robert Shankle
Rocky Thigpen
Sarah Murray
Paul L. Parker
Keith Wright
Bruce Green
Kara Atwood
Belinda Southern
Gerald Williamson
David Thomas
Ted Lovett
Duane Freeman
Rodney Ivy
Steve Floyd
Steve Poskey
Belinda Southern
Dorothy Wilson
Mike Akridge
Dale Allred
Brant Lee
Drew Squyres
Sid Munlin
Barbara Thompson
Thad Chambers
Aaron Ramsey
Gorden Henley
Tara Watkins

Mayor
Mayor Pro-Tem
Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Councilmember, Ward No. 2
Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Councilmember, Ward No. 6
City Manager
Deputy City Manager
City Attorney
City Secretary
Finance Director
Police Chief
Assistant Police Chief
Fire Chief
Assistant Fire Chief
Human Resources Director
Public Works Director
Street Department Director
Finance Director
Planning & Zoning Director
Parks & Recreation Director
Inspection Services Director
Convention Center Director
Utility Collections Director
IT Director
Main Street Director
Economic Development Director
Animal Control Director
Ellen Trout Zoo
LCVB Director

being present; and

Don Langston

Councilmember, Ward No. 4

being absent when the following business was transacted.

1. The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Kevin Roy of Denman Avenue Baptist Church.
2. Mayor Bob Brown welcomed visitors present.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Special Called Meeting held July 31, 2014, and the Regular Council Meeting held August 5, 2014 were approved on a motion by Councilmember Lynn Torres and seconded by Councilmember Sarah Murray. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded to approve the minutes as presented.

4. **PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN “LIFE, WELL RUN” VIDEO.**

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that this was a video produced in conjunction with the International City Manager Association’s (ICMA) efforts to promote the role of City Manager’s in City government. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff had decided to include not only the role of administration, but the roles that all City employees play in keep the City of Lufkin running. The video presentation was shown by Information Technology Director Sid Munlin and Randy Cadwell. Mayor Brown commended Staff for their work on this project.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ANIMAL CONTROL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE PER SECTION 823.005 OF THE TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE – APPROVED.

Mayor Brown stated Item No. 5 was to consider on First Reading an Ordinance establishing an Animal Control Shelter Advisory Committee per Section 823.005 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

City Manager Parker stated this was the second reading of this item and Staff recommended approval.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Second Reading of the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 TAX RATE (0.5238) – APPROVED

Mayor Brown stated the next item was to conduct a discussion and consider approval of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 tax rate.

City Manager Parker stated the City of Lufkin's current tax rate was 0.5038 per one hundred dollar (\$100) of valuation and was divided into two (2) portions; 0.3338 for maintenance and operations (M&O) and 0.1700 for debts service or interest and sinking (I&S). City Manager Parker furthered that stated that the M&O portion of the tax rate is where the majority of funding comes from for the General Fund. City Manager Parker continued that the proposed tax rate that he recommended for approval increased the tax rate to 0.5238, a two cent (.02) increase to the current rate. City Manager Parker furthered that in addition to this increase, he recommended that one cent (.01) be shifted from the I&S portion of the rate to the M&O portion to better allow for the funding of proposed salary increases for public safety positions (Fire Department and Police Department) within the City of Lufkin. City Manager Parker continued that this would comprise a total of a three cent (.03) increase to the M&O side of the tax funding and this would generate an additional five hundred forty-one thousand dollars (\$541,000). City Manager Parker stated that the recommended salary increase for public safety positions would cost approximately six hundred twenty-five thousand four hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$625,467) per year, which is less than the estimated revenue from the proposed tax increase. City Manager Parker stated the additional funding would be taken from the General Fund. City Manager Parker stated that the proposed salary adjustment for public safety personnel included a four percent (4%) for ranked positions with the Fire Department and Police Department; and a seven percent (7%) increase for firefighter and police officer positions. City Manager Parker concluded that the tax rate recommended for adoption was 0.5238, which is two cents (.02) above the existing rate and shifts one cent (.01) from the I&S portion to the M&O portion of the rate.

Councilmember Lynn Torres stated she was concerned about misinformation being distributed by a local organization and she wished the record to show that the perception being disseminated that the Lufkin Police and Fire Departments had not had a raise in seven (7) years was false information. Councilmember Torres continued that both departments had received a raise each year in addition to their step pay increase. Councilmember Torres continued that she felt the public needed to know correct information. Mayor Brown concurred with the clarification that there was indeed misinformation being distributed. Councilmember Robert Shankle stated that since he had been on City Council, taxes had been lowered each year. Councilmember Shankle stated that taxes would have to be raised in order to fund these increases.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the tax rate of 0.5238 as recommended. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN 2014-2015 DRAFT BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2014 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.

Mayor Brown stated the next item was the presentation of the City of Lufkin 2014-2015 Budget along with holding a Public Hearing regarding the same.

City Manager Parker stated that in 2010 the City of Lufkin's tax rate was 0.5338 and in 2011 it was 0.5138. City Manager Parker furthered that the proposed tax rate of 0.5238 was halfway between these two rates. City Manager Parker stated that this tax rate was still lower than rates in the past. City Manager Parker then highlighted the funds summary sheet provided to City Council. City Manager Parker stated that if the proposed budget was approved, the 2014-2015 fiscal year would end with a negative balance in the amount of six hundred fifty-three thousand three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$653,325); however, this year would end positively due to unspent funds. City Manager Parker stated that City Council had reviewed this budget a number of times. City Manager Parker continued that this year's budget did not include any rate increase for water, sewer or solid waste rates. City Manager Parker reviewed the significant changes of this year's budget. City Manager Parker stated that this year's budget included a 2.5% COLA increase for all City employees other than Public Safety employees (Police and Fire). City Manager Parker furthered that a four percent (4%) increase was included for ranked Public Safety positions and a seven percent (7%) increase was included for police officers and fire fighter classifications. City Manager Parker stated that he would be glad to answer any questions City Council might have regarding the presented budget.

Mayor Brown opened the public hearing at 5:25 p.m. and asked anyone who wished to speak to please step forward. Dr. Neal Naranjo, Naranjo Museum of Natural History requested to receive funding for the Museum in a one-time amount of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) from Hotel Motel Tax funds. Dr. Naranjo stated this would be used to fund the installation of a journey to the center of the earth feature in the museum. Dr. Naranjo highlighted the visitor statistics and stated they felt that the museum helped to bring visitors to Lufkin. Councilmember Torres asked if this was a one-time donation. Dr. Naranjo stated that he hoped it would be, but the project cost may be more than estimated. Mayor Brown thanked Dr. Naranjo for his time.

Mr. Cody Sewell, President of the Lufkin Firefighters Association, stated he wished to speak on two issues within the Lufkin Fire Department; salary and manpower. Mr. Sewell presented information regarding the issues he stated. Mr. Sewell then asked for clarification on the raises that had been given since 2007. Councilmember Lynn Torres gave statistics of the raises given over those years and that some of those increases were based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Cost of Living percentages. Councilmember Torres stated that these increases did not include funds that were infused into the Firemen's Pension Fund over the years to make it healthy. Councilmember Torres stated this also did not include step pay raises given each year. Discussion ensued between Mr. Sewell and Councilmember Torres to clarify the increases and amounts given throughout the years. Councilmember Torres furthered that currently a local neighborhood association was disseminating information that Lufkin Fire Department had not received any increase in seven (7) years, and she wished the record to show that this information was incorrect. Mr. Sewell stated he was unaware of what information was being distributed and did not know enough to discuss the pension fund. Councilmember Torres reiterated that she had issue with the misinformation being distributed. Councilmember Torres stated that any survey could be found to support a person's position, and the survey being used by Mr. Sewell was not comparing to communities that were similar to Lufkin. Further discussion was held regarding why Lufkin Fire Department positions were not being filled, and it was due to more than pay. Councilmember Lynn Torres stated that the issues of the Lufkin Fire Department staffing could not be addressed at once; however, the proposed increase was a step in the right direction. Mr. Sewell concurred that there were other issues and the Association hoped to help address them. Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Sewell for his input. There being no one else who wished to speak, Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

City Manager Parker added that the Hotel Motel Fund breakdown had been provided and Mr. Naranjo's request would comprise approximately five percent (5%) of the estimated budget for this fund should the City Council wish to include it. City Manager Parker continued that the total salary adjustment for Public Safety employees was six hundred twenty-five thousand four hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$625,467) per year, and the tax rate increase would raise five hundred forty-one thousand dollars (\$541,000), and the difference would be taken from the

General Fund Budget. Councilmember Victor Travis asked if the transfer of the one cent (.01) would have any effect on the issuance of bonds. City Manager Parker stated it would limit the City's ability to issue new debt for approximately five (5) years should the current static appraisal growth continue. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen stated that he wished to address some of the issues with the Police and Fire Department. Councilmember Thigpen continued that he felt the consensus of the City Council was one of concern for the Departments. Councilmember Thigpen furthered that those Departments answered hard calls; however, other Departments such as Water and Sewer deserved an increase as well. Councilmember Thigpen also expressed concern in regard to the incident of a police officer being assaulted at the Convention Center and stated he felt that issue needed to be addressed. Councilmember Thigpen concluded that the City Council understood the needs of both Departments and he asked that they be patient as Council addressed the issues and needs. Councilmember Robert Shankle stated he concurred with Councilmember Thigpen and addressed the manpower issue for the Fire Department. Councilmember Shankle stated that there was only so much that could be done currently, but City Council was doing what they could. Councilmember Sarah Murray stated that she stood behind both Departments and City Council would work with them to address the problems. Mayor Brown stated that the problem had to be addressed with action and City Council was working to correct that. Mayor Brown stated that he asked for allegiance and patience during that time and reiterated City Council's concern. Mayor Brown concluded that all City Departments need to function as one City.

8. **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Parker stated that in light of the in depth discussion of financials and projects during the budget portion of the meeting; he would not give a detailed report, but would be glad to answer any question City Council might have regarding any of the monthly reports.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Brown stated there was no need to recess into Executive Session.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM (LYNN TORRES) – APPROVED**

Mayor Brown stated that Item No. 10 was the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem.

City Manager Parker stated this appointment was at the discretion of City Council.

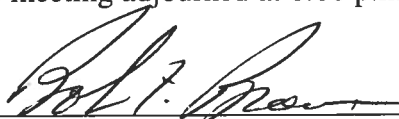
Councilmember Victor Travis moved to appoint Councilmember Lynn Torres as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

11. **DISCUSSION OF ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST, INCLUDING EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS, CONGRATULATIONS OR CONDOLENCE; INFORMATION REGARDING HOLIDAY SCHEDULES; HONORARY RECOGNITIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHER CITIZENS; REMINDERS ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE CITY OR OTHER ENTITY THAT IS SCHEDULED TO BE ATTENDED BY CITY OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES; AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOLVING IMMINENT THREATS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE CITY.**

City Manager Paul Parker stated that the calendar of upcoming events had been distributed and he would be glad to answer any questions regarding the same.

Councilmember Rocky Thigpen stated he wished that commend the City of Lufkin Water and Sewer Department for their efforts in repairing a water leak on Little Hollow.

12. There being no further business for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Bob F. Brown, Mayor

Kara Atwood
Kara Atwood, City Secretary

SEAL