

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 15th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

On the 15th day of November, 2022, 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:

Mark Hicks	Mayor
Robert Shankle	Mayor Pro Tem
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Wes Suiter	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Rocky Thigpen	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Trent Burfine	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Adriana Thomasee	Human Resources
David Thomas	Police Chief
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Ryan Watson	Assistant Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Eddie Aguilar	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	Planning Director
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
Scott Feaster	IT Director
Gordon Henley	Ellen Trout Zoo Director

being present when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer by Assistant City Manager Gerald Williamson.

Mayor Mark Hicks recognized those in attendance with Leadership Lufkin.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Mark Hicks opened the meeting for public comment on any posted agenda item at 5:02 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the public comment period.

CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1ST, 2022 - APPROVED.**
2. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 4) PROVIDING FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE GENERAL FUND, CONVENTION SERVICES FUND, SPECIAL RECREATION FUND, ELLEN TROUT ZOO BUILDING FUND, TOURISM AND MARKETING FUND, WATER & WASTEWATER FUND AND THE EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION AND REPLACEMENT FUND – APPROVED.**
3. **LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL FORFEITURE BUDGET – APPROVED.**

Councilmember Wes Suiter moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded

BUSINESS AGENDA

4. **PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “LIGHT MANUFACTURING” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 3720 ATKINSON DRIVE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant had requested a zone change from “Agricultural” to “Light Manufacturing” for 3720 Atkinson Drive. City Manager Gee furthered the purpose of the zone change to was to allow for the construction and sale of storage buildings. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission during the meeting of October 24th, 2022. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider for approval the Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Light Manufacturing” on property addressed as 3720 Atkinson Drive.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:03 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City council.

Councilmember Trent Burfine had a question regarding an area being zoned agricultural. City Manager Gee addressed the question.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Brent Watkins seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

5. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS BY GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A BOARDING AND LODGING HOUSE ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 411 MANTOOTH AVENUE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Judge Bob Inselmann with Women’s Sober House of Lufkin, Inc. had requested a Special Use Permit for a Boarding and Lodging House on property addressed as 411 Mantooth Avenue. City Manager Gee furthered the intention was to operate the Men’s Sober House of Lufkin in the same fashion as the Women’s Sober House located at 501 Mantooth Avenue. City Manager Gee stated the community-based approach to addiction treatment provides an independent, supportive, and sober living environment where the property is operated as a type of Oxford House with a residential manager on site. City Manager Gee furthered the Special Use Permit for the Women’s Sober House was approved in 2018 and there had been no issues with the facility or its residents. City Manager Gee explained facilities such as these were a benefit to a community and had certain statutory protections from restrictive municipal regulation. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated the structure on the subject property was an existing older home that was to be remodeled to accommodate nine (9) occupants and an administrator in four (4) bedrooms with a total of five (5) parking stalls and landscaping for the Boarding and Lodging House use being required for the site. City Manager Gee furthered the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission during the meeting of October 24th, 2022. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for the Men’s Sober Living house located at 411 Mantooth Avenue.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:06 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the City council.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO METAL RECYCLERS AND SECONDHAND RESELLERS REGARDING CATALYTIC CONVERTERS IN THE CITY OF LUFKIN – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the National Insurance Crime Bureau had reported that the claims of catalytic converter thefts rose nationwide from a little over 3,000 in 2019 to over 14,000 in 2020. City Manager Gee furthered in 2021 the Lufkin Police Department investigated 80 incidents where catalytic converters were stolen and in 2022 they had investigated 62 thefts including one where 27 were stolen from a fleet of delivery vehicles. City Manager Gee explained along with the inconvenience and cost to citizens, catalytic converter thefts were sometimes associated with violent crimes including aggravated assaults and robberies. City Manager Gee stated catalytic converter investigations were limited to only the metal recycling entity and didn’t allow for the prosecution of the person in possession unless they were caught in the act of cutting it off of a vehicle. City Manager Gee furthered it was the desire of the Police Department to outlaw the possession of severed catalytic converters

without the appropriate documentation and requiring documentation for all sells of catalytic converters. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on First Reading of an Ordinance relating to metal recyclers and secondhand resellers regarding catalytic converters.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:08 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

Councilmember Trent Burfine asked how many catalytic converters were actually recycled in Lufkin? Police Chief David Thomas addressed the question.

Councilmember Wes Suiter moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

7. CONTRACT AWARD FOR WATER PLANT 1, 2 & 3 CHLORINATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 5) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the City received and opened sealed bids on November 1, 2022, for the Water Plant 1, 2 & 3 Chlorination System Improvements. City Manager Gee furthered the base bid for the project consisted of updating and replacing chlorine disinfection equipment components at all three existing water plant sites and also converting the disinfection system at water plant 1 from a pressure system to a vacuum system. City Manager Gee stated one sealed bid had been received from Moody Bros., Inc. with a total bas bid amount of \$145,000.00. City Manager Gee furthered the total budgeted amount for the project was \$160,000.00 and a bid tabulation showing the breakdown had been enclosed for Council's review. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the award of the base bid to the low bidder, Moody Bros, Inc., for a total construction contract amount of \$145,000.00 and approve the First Reading of an Ordinance authorizing Budget Amendment No. 5 appropriating the funding for the same.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the award of contract and First Reading of the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

8. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS NAMING THE HIPPOPOTAMUS EXHIBIT AT THE ELLEN TROUT ZOO – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the board of directors of Friends of the Ellen Trout Zoo had requested that the hippopotamus exhibit at the Ellen Trout Zoo be dedicated the Barbara Trout Corbett Hippoquarium in memory of her. City Manager Gee furthered Barbara Trout Corbett was the granddaughter of Walter Trout, the founder of the Ellen Trout Zoo and great granddaughter of Ellen Trout, the namesake of the Ellen Trout Zoo. City Manager Gee stated she cut the ribbon officially opening the Ellen Trout Zoo on June 17, 1967, when her grandfather presented the keys of the Zoo to Earl Nisbet, Mayor of Lufkin. City Manager Gee furthered she had also selected the first pair of hippopotamuses, at Disney's Animal Kingdom, to occupy our newly constructed Hippoquarium, the first in the south between Florida and California. City Manager Gee stated Ms. Corbett served on the board of directors of Friends of Ellen Trout Zoo, including a term as president as well as being a member of several other civic and charitable organizations. City Manager Gee furthered Ms. Corbett had passed away last July after a long bout with cancer. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve a Resolution naming the Hippopotamus Exhibit at Ellen Trout Zoo in memory of Barbara Trout Corbett.

Councilmember Rocky Thigpen moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

9. CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE WHITEHOUSE ELEVATED STORAGE TANK REHAB PROJECT – APPROVED.

City Manager Gee stated the City had received bids on November 1, 2022, for the Whitehouse elevated storage tank rehab project. City Manager Gee furthered the bas bid for the project consisted of sandblasting and repainting the interior and exterior surfaces of the elevated tank, replacing the interior access ladder, replacing the vent screen, repairing the cathodic protection system, and other associated

appurtenances. City Manager Gee stated the project also included an additive alternative bid to install a new cathodic protection system and to complete patch / pit repairs to the steel tank. City Manager Gee furthered fourteen (14) sealed bids had been received with the low bidder being TanksCo., Inc. with a total base bid amount of \$627,975.00 and a total additive alternate bid of \$38,832.00. City Manager Gee explained the total budgeted amount for the project was \$685,000.00 and a bid tabulation showing the breakdown of each bid had been enclosed for Council's review. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the award of the base bid and the additive alternate bid to the low bidder, TanksCo, Inc. for a total construction contract amount of \$666,807.

Councilmember Trent Burfine asked if this was the tower that housed the fire department and if they would be displaced during the rehabilitation. City Manager Gee addressed the question.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the contract award as presented. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

10. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

City Manager Kevin Gee updated City Council on the financial status of the City. City Manager Gee offered to answer any questions. There were none.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.




Mark Hicks, Mayor


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary