

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 21ST DAY OF MARCH, 2023.**

On the 21st day of March, 2023, 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
Robert Shankle
Guessippina Bonner
Brent Watkins
Wes Suiter
Rocky Thigpen
Trent Burfine
Kevin Gee
Kristi Skillern
Gerald Williamson
Kara Andrepont
Adriana Thomasee
David Thomas
Buddy Cross
Jesse Moody
Jessica Pebsworth
Belinda Melancon
Eddie Aguilar
Scott Rayburn
Calvin Toups
Buddy Timme

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Councilmember, Ward No. 6
City Manager
City Attorney
Assistant City Manager
City Secretary
Human Resources
Police Chief
Assistant Police Chief
Fire Chief
Communications Director
Finance Director
Engineering Services Director
Planning Director
Building Official
Parks and Recreation Director

being present when the following business was transacted.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Mark Hicks opened the meeting for public comment on any posted agenda item at 5:01 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the public comment period.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 7TH, 2023 - APPROVED.**
2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE IN THE MAY 6TH, 2023, CITY OF LUFKIN GENERAL ELECTION AND CANCELING THE ELECTION FOR A COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 5 – APPROVED.**
3. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 6) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR BULLET RESISTANT SHIELD GRANT – APPROVED.**
4. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 7) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING FROM A DONATION FROM LUFKIN COCA-COLA FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD FOR MORRIS FRANK PARK – APPROVED.**
5. **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, SUSPENDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE GAS RELIABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (GRIP) RATE INCREASE BY CENTERPOINT ENERGY FOR FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS – APPROVED.**
6. **DONATION FROM LUFKIN LITTLE LEAGUE TO THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.**

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

7. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “RESIDENTIAL SMALL” ON PROPERTIES ADDRESSED AS 1516 AND 1602 LILAC AVENUE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Michael G. Parker, on behalf of Denman Avenue Baptist Church, had requested a zone change from “Residential Large” to “Residential Small” for 1516 and 1602 Lilac Avenue for the development of a ten (10) lot residential subdivision for Habitat for Humanity. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current existing area uses as well as the current “Low Density Residential” future land use classification. City Manager Gee stated the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Residential Small” on properties addressed as 1516 and 1602 Lilac Avenue.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:02 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the City Council.

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

8. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “LOCAL BUSINESS” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 701 MAXWELL STREET – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Heather Fisher, had requested a zone change from “Residential Medium” to “Local Business” for 701 Maxwell Street for future development. City Manager Gee furthered the property was .34 acres and occupied by a small non-occupied single-family home. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current existing area uses as well as the current “Corridor Commercial” future land use classification and the Planning and Zoning Commission had unanimously recommended the request for approval.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Local Business” on property addressed as 701 Maxwell Street.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:04 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the City Council.

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

9. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “LOCAL BUSINESS” AND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP DESIGNATION TO “CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 702 MAXWELL STREET – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Heather Fisher, has requested a zone change from “Residential Medium” to “Local Business” for 702 Maxwell Street for future development. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated due to the heavily commercial nature of North Medford Drive and Atkinson Drive, multiple commercial and institutional uses existed in the area. City Manager Gee furthered Staff found the

proposed zone change consistent with the current existing area uses and the Planning and Zoning Commission had unanimously recommended the request for approval.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Local Business” and the future land use map designation to “Corridor Commercial” on property addressed as 702 Maxwell Street.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:05 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the City Council.

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

10. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE MORRIS FRANK PARK MASTER PLAN AND PHASE 1 PROJECT SCOPE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated in June of 2022, the City had contracted with Goodwin-Lasiter-Strong to complete a Park Master Plan which included a report, renderings, and cost estimates to improve the recreational opportunities at Morris Frank Park. City Manager Gee highlighted the improvements to be considered. City Manager Gee furthered the project had been included in the planned bond issuance for FY 2024 and the scope would determine what would be done regarding potential funding and would be a modified scope from the original 2019-2020 plan. City Manager Gee introduced Ben Miller with Goodwin-Lasiter-Strong to provide the presentation and to answer any questions.

Councilmember Trent Burfine asked for further explanation regarding the estimated costs. Councilmember Burfine also asked City Manager Gee to explain what funding there was for the project. Councilmember Wes Suiter asked if there were other phases that would come after Phase 1 to explain the estimated 30-40 million cost. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen asked if Phase 1 could consist of rehabilitating some of the existing facilities as opposed to building new. Councilmember Burfine asked if there was a dollar amount cut-off where voters would need to decide on the bond. City Manager Gee and Mr. Miller addressed the questions and discussion ensued.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Morris Frank Park Master Plan and Phase 1 Project Scope. Councilmember Trent Burfine seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

11. 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.

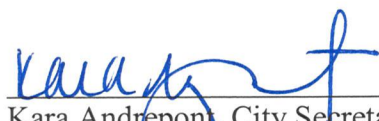
Mayor Hicks wished Councilmember Robert Shankle a Happy Birthday and reminded Councilmembers to complete their cybersecurity training. Mayor Hicks also recognized former City of Lufkin Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Akridge for attending the City Council meeting.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.



ATTEST:


Mark Hicks, Mayor


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary