

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.**

On the 1st day of August, 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	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
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager
Brian Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Adriana Thomasee	Human Resources
David Thomas	Police Chief
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Ryan Watson	Assistant Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Eddie Aguilar	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	Planning Director
Scott Feaster	IT 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 Gordon Henley for his 47 years of service with the City of Lufkin as the Director of the Ellen Trout Zoo. Mayor Hicks also recognized those in attendance with the Lufkin Youth Football League.

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 12TH, 2023 AND THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 18TH, 2023 - APPROVED.**
2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14) APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAFETY PROGRAM- APPROVED.**
3. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 15) APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM THE KOCH FOUNDATION AND THE CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAFETY PROGRAM- APPROVED.**
4. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022 - 02023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 16) APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FROM LOCKHEED MARTIN- APPROVED.**
5. **RESOLUTION CANCELLING THE OCTOBER 3RD, 2023 AND JANUARY 2ND, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS – APPROVED.**

6. **ESTABLISH SEPTEMBER 5TH AND SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2023, AS CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS, ESTABLISH A TAX RATE AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2023 – 2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN – 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. **BURN BAN FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN FOR SIXTY (60) DAYS OR UNTIL LIFTED BY CITY COUNCIL – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the City of Lufkin was recommending a burn ban for a period of sixty (60) days to be enacted by Council that could be repealed at a future date if conditions improved.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the burn ban implementation for the City of Lufkin for sixty (60) days or until drought conditions improve to warrant the lifting of the same.

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

8. **PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS BY GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A COMMERCIAL AMUSEMENT (INDOORS) “EVENT VENUE” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 921 ELLIS AVENUE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Vanity Thomas, on behalf of Ed Saenz with Designfab Inc., had requested a Special Use Permit for Commercial Amusement (Indoors) “Event Venue” within a retail strip center on the corner of Ellis Avenue and South Bynum Street. City Manager Gee furthered the approximately 1,100 square foot lease area was currently occupied by Grey Star Photography Studio and the applicant intended to incorporate her photography studio into the proposed Grey Star Event Studio. City Manager Gee stated a letter of intent had been provided stating the event studio would offer bookings for such things as birthday parties, wedding showers, and graduation parties along with other uses listed within the letter. City Manager Gee furthered the maximum occupancy, as determined by the Building Official, would be forty-nine (49) in order to meet building code. City Manager Gee stated the proposed event studio would not allow bring your own beverage (BYOB). City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated Staff found the proposed special use permit consistent with the current existing area uses as well as the current “Institutional” future land use classification. City Manager Gee furthered the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission during the July 24, 2023 meeting.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider on First Reading an Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for Commercial Amusement (Event Venue) on property addressed as 921 Ellis Avenue.

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

9. **PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “COMMERCIAL” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 3002 AND 3006 NORTH JOHN REDDITT DRIVE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Stream House Leveling Inc., had requested a zone change from “Residential Medium” to “Commercial” for 3002 and 3006 North John Redditt Drive. City Manager Gee furthered the two (2) properties were currently occupied by a small metal building and

the purpose of the zone change was to allow for a house leveling business. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current existing area uses as well as the current "Transportation and Warehouse" future land use classification. City Manager Gee furthered the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission during the July 24, 2023 meeting.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on First Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to "Commercial" on property located at 3002 & 3006 North John Reddit Drive.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:07 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. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FISCAL YEAR 2023 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the Lufkin Police Department was requesting to apply for funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, specifically the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). City Manager Gee furthered the Lufkin Police Department and the Angelina County Sheriff's Department were jointly eligible for Fiscal Year 2023 JAG funding in the amount of \$19,423. City Manager Gee stated the funds were to be distributed between the two agencies to be used for law enforcement related needs such as equipment, technology and training. City Manager Gee furthered the grant required the Fiscal Year 2023 JAG application be made available to the City Council for its review and comment. City Manager Gee stated a Public Hearing must also be held to allow for public comment and a Resolution approved granting authorization to apply for the funding.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and approve a Resolution authorizing the Lufkin Police Department to apply for a U.S. Department of Justice Fiscal Year 2023 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$19,423.

Mayor Mark 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 the City Council.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Mark Hicks recessed the Regular Session at 5:09 p.m.

Mayor Mark Hicks reconvened the Regular Session at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.



ATTEST:


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary



Mark Hicks, Mayor