

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 19TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.

On the 19th day of December, 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
Wes Suiter	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Rocky Thigpen	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager
Brian W. Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
David Thomas	Police Chief
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
John Smith	Fleet Maintenance Director
Lorraine Simoneau	Library Director
Morgan Williams	Animal Services Manager

being present; and

Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6

being absent 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.

PRESENTATION – Kurth Memorial Library Foundation Board of Trustees Vice President April Sebastia presented the Kurth Memorial Library 2023 Annual Report and offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Mark Hicks recognized Lufkin Coca-Cola and thanked them for their support and donation.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 5TH, 2023 - APPROVED.**
2. **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM LUFKIN COCA-COLA FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD FOR MORRIS FRANK PARK AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023–2024 OPERATING BUDGET, (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 6) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING - APPROVED.**
3. **APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A 2023 PETERBILT CHASSIS WITH A JET MACHINE FOR THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT– APPROVED.**

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “RESIDENTIAL LARGE” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 600 SOUTH BYNUM–APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, James Alan Pittman, had requested a zone change from “Neighborhood Retail” to “Residential Large” for 600 South Bynum Street. City Manager Gee furthered the home faced Johnson Avenue and the purpose of the zone change would be to help retain the residential nature of the existing single-family home by allowing for changes in building setbacks along South Bynum Street. City Manager Gee stated the change in building setbacks would allow for a six-foot (6’) fence to be placed along South Bynum Street affectively making this the side yard of the home. 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 area zoning and the existing future land use designation. City Manager Gee furthered the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended the request for approval.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval of the Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Residential Large” on property addressed as 600 South Bynum.

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 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.

5. RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CALLING AND ORDERING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 3RD, 2024 FOR A COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 5 – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated due to his candidacy for Angelina County Commissioner Councilmember Rocky Thigpen needed to be replaced for Ward No. 5. City Manager Gee furthered the replacement would be to fill the unexpired term of the seat with Councilmember Thigpen continuing to serve until his position had been filled. City Manager Gee stated Staff had been working diligently to consider and vet all options for conducting the election within the parameters of the Election Code and the Secretary of State’s Office. City Manager Gee furthered the election calendar was included with Council’s packet along with the Resolution calling for the election to be held.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve a Resolution providing for the calling and ordering of a Special Election to be held February 3rd, 2024 for Councilmember, Ward No. 5.

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

6. APPOINTMENTS TO CITY OF LUFKIN BOARDS – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated a summary of Board vacancies along with applications had been provided for Council’s consideration.

Councilmember Wes Suiter moved to approve Jeff Taylor to the Civil Service Commission. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve Mike Hineman and Howard Griffin, Sr. for re-appointment to the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals with the third position remaining vacant until other applications were received. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Rocky Thigpen moved to approve Mark Hicks, Phil Medford, Jeff Todd and Andra Self for re-appointment to the 4B Economic Development Board. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Rocky Thigpen moved to approve Jim Don Smith for appointment and Mickey Hadnot for re-appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the re-appointment of Keisha Williams and Joseph Ceasar and the appointment of Angela Spencer to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Wes Suiter moved to appoint Councilmember Robert Shankle, Councilmember Brent Watkins and Councilmember Guessippina Bonner to the Tree Board. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the re-appointment of David Smith and Wilkins Lopez to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

7. 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.

8. KURTH MEMORIAL ANIMAL SHELTER 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the Kurth Memorial Animal Shelter 2023 Annual Report had been included in Council's packet and offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Mayor Mark Hicks recognized City Manager Kevin Gee's family in attendance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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



ATTEST:



Mark Hicks, Mayor

Kara Andrepoint, City Secretary