

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 19TH DAY OF MARCH 2024.**

On the 19th day of March, 2024, 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
Jimmy Ford	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Brian W. Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Adriana Thomasee	Human Resources
David Thomas	Police Chief
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Christopher Key	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Scott Cameron	Street Department Superintendent
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
John Smith	Fleet Services Manager
Bob Samford	Economic Development Director

being present when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer by Councilmember Jimmy Ford.

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 5TH, 2024 - APPROVED.**
- 2. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER WARD NO. 4 ELECTED TO OFFICE AND CANCELLING THE MAY 4TH, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE SAME – APPROVED.**
- 3. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023 – 2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 10) APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE KURTH MEMORIAL ANIMAL SHELTER – APPROVED.**
- 4. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT CLASSIFICATION PLAN - APPROVED.**
- 5. PURCHASE OF PATROL VEHICLES FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT – 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Mark Hicks recessed the Regular Session at 5:03 p.m.

Mayor Mark Hicks reconvened the Regular Session at 6:21 p.m.

BUSINESS AGENDA

6. LUFKIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AIRPORT HANGER PROJECT AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the Lufkin Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) proposed to construct an airport hanger at the Angelina County Airport which would be used by visiting executives in Lufkin on business. City Manager Gee furthered the hangar would be branded with the City of Lufkin and LEDC logos and would be located in a highly visible area to travelers arriving and departing from the airport. City Manager Gee stated this would be an institutional investment with a life expectancy of fifty (50) plus years, and a proposed budget for the project of \$750,000. City Manager Gee furthered the project was unanimously recommended for approval by the 4B/LEDC Board during the March 12th meeting.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval of the LEDC Airport Hangar Project and First Reading of an Ordinance authorizing Budget Amendment No. 12 appropriating the funding.

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

7. EXTENSION OF COMMERCE CENTER DRIVE IN THE LUFKIN BUSINESS PARK AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the Lufkin Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) proposed to extend Commerce Center Drive located within the Lufkin Business Park in order to provide road frontage for potential businesses. City Manager Gee furthered the project would consist of completion of the concrete street that was left unfinished when the Business Park was initially constructed. City Manager Gee stated the proposed budget for the project was \$1,200,000 and the project was unanimously recommended for approval by the 4B/LEDC Board during the March 12th meeting.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval of the street extension within the Lufkin Business Park and First Reading of an Ordinance authorizing Budget Amendment No. 13 appropriating the funding.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the street extension and Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

8. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE LUFKIN FORWARD DOWNTOWN PROJECT – APPROVED.

City Manager Gee stated Langston Construction, Inc. was selected for Construction Manager-At-Risk (CMAR) services in August 2023 for the Lufkin Forward Downtown Improvements Project. City Manager Gee furthered Staff and Langston Construction had worked with the designer and contractors to develop a scope in line with the project budget. City Manager Gee stated on February 20, 2024 Langston Construction, Inc. submitted Staff a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,331,793. City Manager Gee furthered the project included development of an event/plaza space, pedestrian walk-ability improvements, landscaping, and lighting, and a rendering of the proposed improvements and detailed information on the GMP was included in the packet. City Manager Gee stated the update to Cotton Square Park was not included in the contract, but was included in the overall budget.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council award a contract to Langston Construction, Inc. for the completion of Lufkin Forward Downtown Project.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked if Cotton Square had been included in the original vision or if it had been added. City Manager Gee stated it was included in the original plan. Mayor Hicks clarified creating the plaza between Lufkin Avenue and Shepherd Avenue would be temporary closures for downtown functions created by using removable bollards. City Manager Gee stated the project would eliminate the areas with handrails and steps and create approximately eleven-foot (11') wide sidewalks that met the American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

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

9. 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 6:30 p.m.



ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Mark Hicks, Mayor, written over a horizontal line.

Mark Hicks, Mayor

A blue ink signature of Kara Andrepoint, City Secretary, written over a horizontal line.

Kara Andrepoint, City Secretary