

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2024.**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 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
Kim Ogden	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
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
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Christopher Key	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
Gordan Henley	Ellen Trout Zoo Director
Morgan Williams	Animal Services Manager

being present; and

Jimmy Ford	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
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being absent when the following business was transacted.

**INVOCATION** – The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Mike Parker.

**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 MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2024 - APPROVED.**
- 2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023 – 2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 18) APPROPRIATING FUNDING FROM GEORGIA PACIFIC FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT - APPROVED.**
- 3. **RESOLUTION CANCELLING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 – APPROVED.**

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Adam Lowther 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 “COMMERCIAL” ON NINE (9) PROPERTIES LOCATED NEAR THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF ATKINSON DRIVE AND NORTH MEDFORD DRIVE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Jennifer Lynn Radke, representing James Edward Radke, and the James Edward Radke Living Trust, along with Rebecca Anne Radke were requesting a zoning change for nine (9) properties comprising 8.8 acres located near the northeast corner of Atkinson Drive and North Medford Drive. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered the tracts were currently occupied by multiple small single-family homes and a cellular tower. City Manager Gee stated the purpose of the zone change was to change the overall properties into a singular "Commercial" zoning classification allowing for increased marketability and future commercial development. City Manager Gee furthered the Comprehensive Plan designation for the property was "Flex Office Warehouse", and the subject property fell within the Transportation and Warehouse District (F) Planning Focus Area. City Manager Gee stated Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current existing area uses as well as the current "Flex Office Warehouse" future land use classification. City Manager Gee furthered 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 for nine (9) properties located near the northeast corner of Atkinson Drive and North Medford Drive to a single "Commercial" zoning classification.

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 Adam Lowther asked if a recommendation could be made for the requirement of either an eight-foot (8') or seven-foot (7') fence where the property adjoined residential areas prior to development. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Brent Watkins moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle 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 HEIGHT INCREASE ON AN EXISTING COMMUNICATION TOWER LOCATED AT 1205 MYRNA STREET – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Gary Howard with Crown Castle Incorporated was requesting approval of an increase in height for the existing tower located at 1205 Myrna Street. City Manager Gee furthered the tower location had been approved by Special Use Permit (Ordinance No. 3320) in May of 1998 with an approved height of one hundred fifty feet (150'). City Manager Gee stated the applicant was requesting that the approved height be increased from one hundred fifty feet (150') to one hundred sixty-one feet (161'). City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered the subject property was designated on the Future Land Use Map as "Commercial" and fell under the Business 59 Corridor / Timberland Drive (I) Focus Area. City Manager Gee stated the Special Use Permit allowing for an increase in tower height to 161 feet was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Manager Kevin Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit allowing for an increase in tower height to one hundred sixty-one feet (161') for an existing Communication Tower located at 1205 Myrna Street.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:10 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 asked if all the notification requirements for the construction of a cell tower had to be met with the increase in height. Discussion ensued.

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

6. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ABANDONMENT, VACATION, AND CLOSURE OF POWELL STREET AND ASSOCIATED RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN THE JL QUINALTY SURVEY – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Engineering Services received a request from Paul R. Stringer, II to acquire a portion of the right-of-way associated with Powell Street adjacent to their existing business, Lufkin BBQ. City Manager Gee furthered the stated intent was to construct a new restaurant and other retail spaces. City Manager Gee stated the applicant owned the property on both sides of Powell Street and development utilizing both properties were hindered by the street right-of-way. City Manager Gee furthered Staff had reviewed the request and found closure of the street to provide a public benefit by increasing traffic safety, decreasing city maintenance cost, and fostering economic development. City Manager Gee explained the Powell Street right-of-way was comprised of fee simple ownership, prescriptive easement, and recorded easement right of way with the request for purchase pertaining to the fee simple portion to the south, containing 0.165 acres. City Manager Gee stated there were existing utilities within the right-of-way and a condition of the sale of the south portion was for a replat to be completed, providing easements for existing utilities. City Manager Gee furthered the property had been determined appropriate for sale and all steps required by Chapter 272 of the Local Government Code had been followed. City Manager Gee stated the total cost of \$13,250 included the appraised value of the land, the appraisal, and filing fee. City Manager Gee noted upon approval by Council and payment, the City would issue a deed without warranty.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance providing for the abandonment, vacation, and closure of Powell Street and associated right of way, and sale of a portion of right-of-way within the JL Quinalty Survey.

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

7. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AND ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF LUFKIN CHARTER – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated thirteen (13) amendments to the City of Lufkin Charter were approved by voters during the May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Election. City Manager Gee furthered the Ordinance was the formal adoption of the amendments to the Charter and once adopted the amended Charter would be sent to the Texas Secretary of State for recording. City Manager Gee stated the amended Charter would become effective upon approval of the Ordinance adopting the same.


City Manager Kevin Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval on First Reading of an Ordinance declaring and adopting amendments to the City of Lufkin Charter.

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

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner welcomed everyone to attend the Juneteenth Celebration on June 15<sup>th</sup> in Brandon Park. Councilmember Brent Watkins thanked all the City employees for their efforts during the weather events over recent days.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.



  
Mark Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kara Andrepoint, City Secretary