

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.

On the 7th day of November, 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
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager
Brian Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Adriana Thomasee	Human Resources
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Ryan Watson	Assistant Fire Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Eddie Aguilar	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	Planning Director
Tara Hendrix	Tourism & Marketing Director
Scott Feaster	IT Director

being present when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Cedric Jackson of Divine Touch Ministries.

Mayor Hicks recognized those in attendance with Leadership Lufkin as well as the Boy Scouts of America. Mayor Hicks also recognized the passing of Lufkin resident Dr. Dallas Pierre.

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 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 17TH, 2023 - APPROVED.**
2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1) APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDING FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT- APPROVED.**
3. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2) APPROPRIATING FUNDING FROM DONATIONS FOR TE CITY OF LUFKIN TEEN COURT PROGRAM – APPROVED.**
4. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 3) APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDING FROM THE DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (DETCOG) FOR THE POSITION OF JUVENILE CASE MANAGER – APPROVED.**
5. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CLASSIFICATION PLAN FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT - APPROVED.**

6. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN EXECUTE AN EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON – APPROVED.**
7. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A STATE OF TEXAS, FISCAL YEAR 2024 STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING FUNDS – JUVENILE JUSTICE AND TRUANCY PREVENTION GRANT THROUGH THE DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (DETCOG) TO FUND THE JUVENILE CASE MANAGER POSITION – APPROVED.**
8. **APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A FORKLIFT WITH A BALE CLAMP FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

9. **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 PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 2906 ATKINSON DRIVE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Lufkin Land Company LLC, had requested a zone change from “Local Business” to a “Commercial” zoning classification for 2906 Atkinson Drive. City Manager Gee furthered Herty Church of Christ previously occupied the property and the purpose of the zone change was to convert the structure into a self-service storage facility. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated the Comprehensive Plan Designation for the subject property was “Corridor Commercial” and Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current area zoning, the future land use designation and current existing are uses. City Manager Gee furthered the request had been 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 “Commercial” on property addressed as 2906 Atkinson.

Mayor Mark 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 City Council.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked if the property was landlocked. Councilmember Brent Watkins asked for clarification regarding the one neighbor that was opposed to the zone change. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen asked if work had begun on the property. City Manager Kevin Gee addressed all questions and discussion ensued.

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

10. **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 PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 310 EAST DENMAN AVENUE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Ashley Tidwell Properties LLC, had requested a zone change from “Local Business” to “Commercial” for property located at 310 East Denman Avenue. City Manager Gee furthered the property was currently occupied by an existing commercial building with the purpose of the zone change to allow for increased marketability and additions in allowable uses. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated the Comprehensive Plan designation for the property was “Neighborhood Commercial” and Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current area zoning and existing future land use designation. City Manager Gee furthered the request had been 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 “Commercial” on property addressed as 310 East Denman Avenue.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:09 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from 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.

11. 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 PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 1311 EAST DENMAN AVENUE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, William Ashley Tidwell, had requested a zone change from “Local Business” to “Commercial” for 1311 East Denman Avenue. City Manager Gee furthered the property was one (1) acre and occupied by an abandoned parking lot. City Manager Gee stated the purpose of the zone change was to allow for increased marketability and additions in allowable uses. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered the Comprehensive Plan designation for the property was “Neighborhood Commercial” and Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current area zoning and existing future land use designation. City Manager Gee stated the request had been 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 “Commercial” on property addressed as 1311 East Denman Avenue.

Mayor Mark 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 City Council.

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

12. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, BY AMENDING THE BUILDING HEIGHT REGULATIONS WITHIN THE “LOCAL BUSINESS” ZONING DISTRICT – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Staff had recommended amending the height regulations within the zoning ordinance. City Manager Gee furthered the current zoning ordinance limits building height within the “Local Business District” to a maximum of forty-two feet (42’). City Manager Gee stated Staff believed the height should be amended to a maximum of seventy feet (70’) in height which would match the height limitations within both the “Central Business” and the “Commercial” zoning districts. City Manager Gee furthered the current maximum height of forty-two feet (42’) limited the ability for development of multi-story structures within the “Local Business” zoning district. City Manager Gee stated the amendment had been unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval on First Reading of an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of City of Lufkin, Texas by amending building height regulations in the “Local Business” zoning district.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:13 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

Councilmember Adam Lowther asked if multi-family uses required a special use permit within the area zoned as local business. Discussion ensued.

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

Mayor Mark Hicks recognized and thanked those in attendance with Lufkin Creative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Mark Hicks recessed the Regular Session at 5:16 p.m.

Mayor Mark Hicks reconvened the Regular Session at 5:53 p.m.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5: 53 p.m.



Mark Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary