

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 17TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.

On the 17th day of September 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
Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Kim Ogden	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
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Christopher Key	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Scott Cameron	Street Department Superintendent
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
Julie Massey	Library Manager
Morgan Williams	Animal Services Manager

being present; and

Robert Shankle	Mayor Pro Tem
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1

being absent when the following business was transacted.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the public comment period at 5:01 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2024 - APPROVED.**

Councilmember Brent Watkins 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

2. **PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN 2024-2025 DRAFT BUDGET, PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND SECOND READING OF AN APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee presented the 2024-2025 proposed budget and highlighted the significant changes, proposed employee pay raises and capital improvement projects. City Manager Gee stated that the budget included a tax rate of \$0.508215 per \$100 of valuation, based on the analysis received from the Angelina County Tax Assessor. City Manager Gee furthered that the proposed tax rate was an increase of \$0.03 or 6.27% and that the ten percent (10%) homestead tax exemption would remain

in effect. City Manager Gee stated that the proposed budget reflected an increase in expenditures of \$1,361,700 (1.48% percent) compared to last year. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance adopting a budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Mayor 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 Jimmy Ford moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Brent Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with five (5) affirmative votes and zero (0) negative votes as follows in the required record vote:

Mayor Mark Hicks	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Robert Shankle	Absent
Councilmember Guessippina Bonner	Absent
Councilmember Brent Watkins	Aye
Councilmember Kim Ogden	Aye
Councilmember Jimmy Ford	Aye
Councilmember Adam Lowther	Aye

3. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS RATIFYING THE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE IN THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AS A RESULT OF THE CITY RECEIVING MORE REVENUES FROM PROPERTY TAXES THAN IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee provided information regarding the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and reviewed tax rate history and the need for the proposed tax rate of \$0.508215. City Manager Gee stated that the Texas Local Government Code required City Council to ratify the tax rate prior to approving the levy.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance for the City of Lufkin, Texas, ratifying the Property Tax Revenue in the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget as a result of the City receiving more revenues from property taxes than in the previous fiscal year.

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

4. **PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND PROVIDING FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee reiterated the proposed tax rate and the need for it in the upcoming fiscal year.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading an Ordinance levying taxes for the use and support of Municipal Government of the City of Lufkin and providing for the debt service fund for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and apportioning each levy for the specific purpose with the required motion language.

Mayor 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 the City Council.

Councilmember Kim Ogden asked that the City be good stewards of the money received.

Councilmember Brent Watkins moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of the tax rate of \$0.508215, which would be effectively a 6.27% increase in the tax rate. Councilmember Adam Lowther seconded the motion.

The motion passed with five (5) affirmative votes and zero (0) negative as follows in the required record vote:

Mayor Mark Hicks	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Robert Shankle	Absent
Councilmember Guessippina Bonner	Absent
Councilmember Brent Watkins	Aye
Councilmember Kim Ogden	Aye
Councilmember Jimmy Ford	Aye
Councilmember Adam Lowther	Aye

5. **PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF LUFKIN RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated that Staff had reviewed the current rate and fee schedule and recommended minor changes as highlighted in the proposed document.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance amending the City of Lufkin Rate and Fee Schedule.

Councilmember Jimmy Ford moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Kim Ogden seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

6. **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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Mark Hicks recessed the Regular Session at 5:14 p.m.

Mayor Mark Hicks reconvened the Regular Session at 5:34 p.m.

No action was taken.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.



ATTEST:


Kara Andrepoint, City Secretary


Mark Hicks, Mayor