

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2025.**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025, 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
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Robert Shankle	Mayor Pro Tem
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
Brian W. Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Ryan Watson	Assistant Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Christopher Key	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
Julie Massey	Library Manager
Ryan Gulker	Ellen Trout Zoo Director

being present when the following business was transacted.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Mayor Mark Hicks opened the public comment period at 5:02 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 - APPROVED.**
2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE GENERAL ELECTION OF MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025 – APPROVED.**
3. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT CLASSIFICATION PLAN – APPROVED.**
4. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2024-2025 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 10) APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT– APPROVED.**
5. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2024-2025 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 11) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING FOR THE GASLIGHT BOULEVARD PROJECT – APPROVED.**
6. **RESOLUTION SELECTING A GRANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN GRANT – 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**

7. **PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the Lufkin Police Department had received numerous complaints from citizens regarding the discharge of firearms in neighborhoods. City Manager Gee explained that the City was dedicated to protecting the Second Amendment rights of its citizens but also prioritized the health and safety of the residents. City Manager Gee furthered the Ordinance was focused strictly on the discharge of weapons and provided the Lufkin Police Department with a more specific Ordinance for enforcement around private property. City Manager Gee stated the Ordinance would also aid in protecting the public while allowing reasonable exceptions, including protection of oneself and others and on tracts of land greater than 10 acres.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve on First Reading an Ordinance prohibiting the unlawful discharge of weapons within the City limits.

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 Jimmy Ford asked if there were any concessions made regarding property that had been previously annexed. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the First Reading of the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Adam Lowther seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

**8. RESOLUTIONS AND POLICIES PERTAINING TO THE FINANCIAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE TXCDBG GRANT AGREEMENT NO. CDV23-0464 – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the City had received a Texas Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$575,000 for the Forest Park Sewer Line Improvements Project. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the project on corresponding maps. City Manager Gee furthered the project included the replacement of approximately 3,300 linear feet of 6-foot gravity sewer line. City Manager Gee stated the program required the City to approve a set of policies and resolutions pertaining to financial and civil rights requirements of the Texas Department of Agriculture. City Manager Gee furthered the policies addressed issues including citizen participation and grievance procedures, fair housing, Section 504 regulations for disabled persons, limited English proficiency, and others. City Manager Gee stated the resolutions and policies were required for the receipt of grant funding and City had approved the execution of similar documents on previous grant projects.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the required Resolutions and polices related to the TxCDBG Grant.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked if the grant required any contribution from the City. Discussion ensued.

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

**9. TAX RESALE AUCTION BID FOR PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 805 AND 807 CARROL AVENUE (LOT NO. 4&5, BLOCK 12, SUSSEX DOWN, CITY OF LUFKIN, ANGELINA COUNTY) – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the City had received a request from their tax attorney, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for the approval of sale of two (2) parcels of land located at 805 and 807 Carrol Avenue. City Manager Gee furthered the sale was to Delphina Morales Barron and a bid had been received in March of 2025 in the amount of \$1,920.00. City Manager Gee stated although the bid was below the delinquent taxes owed, acceptance of the bid would enable the property to be returned to the tax rolls.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the tax resale bid for property addressed as 805 and 807 Carrol Avenue.

Mayor Hicks asked where the property was located and the size of the lots. Councilmember Brent Watkins asked what the taxes were that were owed on the property. Councilmember Guessippina

Bonner asked if the resale were not approved by Council what would happen. Mayor Hicks asked if the City owned the property. Discussion ensued.

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

#### **10. APPOINTMENTS TO CITY OF LUFKIN BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated a packet had been provided to Council that showed the various boards and their vacancies. City Manager Gee furthered Staff requested City Council make nominations for appointments to the various boards. City Secretary Kara Andrepont presented each of the boards and the applications for each.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the re-appointment of Dr. Lindsay Syler, Brian Bray, Morgan Williams and Leslie Montes to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the re-appointment of Pat Nicholson to the Civil Service Commission. Councilmember Brent Watkins seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Kim Ogden moved to approve the appointment of David Golden and the re-appointment of Brannon Ferrara and Andrew Moore to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the re-appointment of Rocky Thigpen, Stephen Greak and Robert Shankle to the 4-B Economic Development Board. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Kim Ogden moved to approve the re-appointment of Becky Cota and the appointment of Jessica Knight, Chris Johnson and Charles Chapman to the Hotel Tax Fund (HOT) Board. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the re-appointment of Kimberly Jackson and Jurlene Sparks and the appointment of Jeffrey Rogers to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Councilmember Kim Ogden seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Jimmy Ford moved to approve the re-appointment of Nathan Gann and the appointment of Donna Green to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

#### **11. 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.

Mayor Hicks wished Councilmember Robert Shankle and City Attorney Kristi Skillern a Happy Birthday.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.



  
Kara Andrepont, City Secretary

  
Mark Hicks, Mayor