

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 16th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025.

On the 16th day of September 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
Robert Shankle	Mayor Pro Tem
Angela Hobbs-Spencer	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Jimmy Ford	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Kristi C. Skillern	City Attorney
Brian Bray	Assistant City Manager
Aimee Cloutier	City Secretary
Janice Tidwell	Human Resources Manager
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Chris Key	Engineering Services Director
Scott Cameron	Street Department Superintendent
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
Tara Hendrix	Tourism & Marketing Director
Jerry Mcilroy	IT Director
Julie Massey	Library Manager
being present; and	
Kim Ogden	Councilmember, Ward No. 4

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 public comment period at 5:02 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the public comment period.

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. **PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN 2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET, PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND SECOND READING OF AN APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 – APPROVED.**

City Manager Gee stated Staff was presenting to Council the 2025-2026 Annual Budget for the City of Lufkin. The proposed budget included a tax rate of \$0.528215 per \$100 valuation, based on analysis received from the Angelina County Tax Assessor-Collector. If the proposed tax rate was adopted, the average homestead owner would pay approximately \$77.14 more annually compared to the current tax rate. The proposed budget reflected a decrease in operational expenditures of 1.66% compared to last year’s budget.

City Manager Gee provided City Council with a list of significant changes, a list of projects, and a summary of the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Funds. Some of the items included in the proposed budget were an increase in pay and benefits for employees, new positions in multiple departments, equipment replacements, enhanced citizen engagement, and infrastructure maintenance. The Fund Summary provided showed the estimated revenue and expenditure for the different operating funds.

Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on First Reading of an appropriations Ordinance adopting a budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:04 p.m. There being no Public Comments; the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Proposed Budget and Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was recorded:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| • Councilmember Jimmy Ford | Yes |
| • Councilmember Robert Shankle | Yes |
| • Councilmember Angela Hobbs-Spencer | Yes |
| • Councilmember Brent Watkins | Yes |
| • Councilmember Adam Lowther | No |

2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, RATIFYING THE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE IN THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AS A RESULT OF THE CITY RECEIVING MORE REVENUES FROM PROPERTY TAXES THAN IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR – APPROVED.**

City Manager Gee stated Truth in Taxation required proposal and adoption of a budget for ratification of the revenue increase from property taxes as set forth in Local Government Code 102.007(c). At the proposed budget tax rate, the City budget would raise more General Fund revenue than the previous budget by \$715,388.

Staff recommended City Council consider approval on First Reading of an Ordinance ratifying the property tax revenue for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Brent Watkins seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a vote of 4 – 1 with Councilmember Adam Lowther voting against the Ordinance.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ON THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND PROVIDING FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE – APPROVED.**

City Manager Gee stated each year as a part of the budget process, the Tax Assessor-Collector calculated the no-new-revenue tax rate in accordance with Texas Tax Code Chapter 26.04. The no-new-revenue tax rate was intended to enable the public to evaluate the relationship between taxes for the prior year and the current year, based on a tax rate that would produce the same amount of tax revenue if applied to the same properties taxed in both years. The no-new-revenue tax rate was determined to be \$0.477730. City Manager Gee noted the proposed tax rate of \$0.528215 was higher than the current tax rate and would raise more total property tax revenue than last year by \$715,388, which was a 4.92% increase.

City Manager Gee stated the vote on the Ordinance setting the tax rate must be a record vote and a motion to adopt the ordinance setting a tax rate that exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate must be made in the following form:

I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.528215, which is effectively a 3.94 percent increase in the tax rate.

Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance with the specified motion setting the tax levy for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:08 p.m. There being no Public Comments; the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilmember Angela Hobbs-Spencer moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.528215, which was effectively a 3.94 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion, and the following roll call vote was recorded:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| • Councilmember Jimmy Ford | Yes |
| • Councilmember Robert Shankle | Yes |
| • Councilmember Angela Hobbs-Spencer | Yes |
| • Councilmember Brent Watkins | Yes |
| • Councilmember Adam Lowther | No |

4. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORTS

City Manager Kevin Gee updated the City Council on the city's financial status. City Manager Gee offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Mayor Hicks wished City of Lufkin Human Resources Manager Janice Tidwell a Happy Birthday and wished City Planner Scott Rayburn best wishes for his retirement from the City of Lufkin.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.



Mark Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:



Aimee Cloutier, City Secretary