

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 19TH DAY OF APRIL 2016.**

On the 19th day of April, 2016 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:

Bob F. Brown	Mayor
Mark Hicks	Mayor Pro Tem
Victor Travis	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Robert Shankle	Councilmember, Ward No. 2
Lynn Torres	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Rocky Thigpen	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Sarah Murray	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Keith Wright	City Manager
Steve Floyd	Assistant City Manager
Bruce Green	City Attorney
Kara Atwood	City Secretary
Rodney Ivy	Human Resource Director
Gerald Williamson	Police Chief
Ted Lovett	Fire Chief
Belinda Southern	Finance Director
Dorothy Wilson	Planning Director
Steve Poskey	Street Department Director
Mike Akridge	Parks & Recreation Director
Barbara Thompson	Main Street Director
Jason Arnold	Water & Sewer Director
Dale Allred	Inspection Services Director
Chuck Walker	Public Works Director
Kent Havard	Solid Waste Director
Tara Watkins	Lufkin Convention & Visitors Bureau

being present when the following business was transacted.

1. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Roger Fancher of Bald Hill Baptist Church.
2. Mayor Bob F. Brown welcomed visitors present and introduced students in attendance from Angelina College. In addition, Mayor Brown thanked Mayor Pro Tem Mark Hicks for presiding over the previous City Council meeting.
3. **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD
APRIL 5TH, 2016 - APPROVED**

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to approve the minutes of the meetings as presented. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

NEW BUSINESS

4. **RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS SUSPENDING THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PROPOSED APPLICATION BY CENTERPOINT
ENERGY TO INCREASE RATES UNDER THE GAS RELIABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (GRIP) FOR FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS;
AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN THE COALITION KNOWN AS THE
ALLIANCE OF CENTERPOINT MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE- APPROVED**

City Manager Keith Wright stated that the City was a member of the Alliance of CenterPoint Municipalities or (ACM). City Manager Wright furthered that the ACM group was organized by a number of municipalities served by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation, Beaumont / East Texas Division and had been represented by the law firm of Herrera & Boyle, PLLC to assist in the review of the application to change rates submitted by CenterPoint to the Texas Railroad Commission. City Manager Wright stated that under Section 104.301 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act (GURA), a gas utility was allowed to request an increase in its rates to recover a return on investments it made between rate cases. City Manager Wright furthered that the section is commonly referred to as the "GRIP" statute otherwise known as the "Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program". City Manager Wright stated that under a recent decision by the Supreme Court of Texas, the Court concluded that a filing made under the GRIP statute permitted gas utilities the opportunity to recover return on capital expenditures, such as the cost of replacing lines incurred during the interim period between rate cases. City Manager Wright furthered that the Court concluded, the GRIP statute provided for a ministerial review of the utility's filings to ensure compliance with the GRIP statute and the Railroad Commission's rules that also allowed the Commission's authority to preclude cities from intervening and obtaining a hearing before the Railroad Commission. City Manager Wright expounded that a hearing could not be held in protest of the rate changes as had been done in previous cases. City Manager Wright stated that in 2014 through its "GRIP" tariff, CenterPoint increased its customer charge for residential customers from \$16.00 to \$17.20, which was an increase of about 7.5%. City Manager Wright furthered that in 2015 through its "GRIP" tariff, CenterPoint increased the customer charge for residential customers from \$17.20 to \$19.59, which totaled an increase of about 13.9%. City Manager Wright stated that with its application filed on March 31, 2016, CenterPoint proposed to increase its customer charge for residential customers by an additional \$1.71, which represented an increase of about 8.7% over the current customer charge. City Manager Wright furthered that in total, since 2014, CenterPoint had increased its customer charge for residential customers by over 33% and explained that CenterPoint had also increased the customer charge for its commercial and industrial customers in a similar fashion. City Manager Wright stated that in order for the City to exercise due diligence, it was necessary to suspend CenterPoint's proposed effective date of May 30, 2016 for forty-five (45) days, so that the City could evaluate whether the data and calculations in CenterPoint's rate application were correctly done. City Manager Wright concluded that Staff recommended that City Council approve a Resolution suspending CenterPoint's proposed effective date for forty-five (45) days thus assuming a proposed effective date of May 30, 2016, CenterPoint's proposed effective date suspended until July 14, 2016.

Mayor Brown opened the floor to questions. Councilmember Lynn Torres requested the details of the City's action plan over the course of the forty-five (45) day suspension. City Manager Wright stated that the City would review the calculations made by CenterPoint in order to verify the accuracy.

Councilmember Mark Hicks moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

5. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – APPROVED

City Manager Wright stated that included in the Council Packet was a request for proposals created by Planning & Zoning Director, Dorothy Wilson in order to solicit proposals for a new Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Lufkin. City Manager Wright furthered that the request for proposals would be sent to local engineering firms known to have experience in Planning such as the firms listed on professional planner websites, as well as state planning firms that listed services with the region's Council of Governments. City Manager Wright stated that the announcement would also be listed on the National and State Planner's websites for the American Planning Association. City Manager Wright furthered that the City of Lufkin had not updated the Comprehensive Plan since 2001. City Manager Wright stated that the current plan was outdated. City Manager Wright explained that many of the recommendations had been

applied over the past fourteen (14) years and that in addition numerous things had changed since that time which included the population, infrastructure, technology, roadway patterns and the economy. City Manager Wright furthered that the new Comprehensive Master Plan would guide the decision making of the City in the future in areas of planning, development, traffic, neighborhoods and economic development. City Manager Wright stated that the plan would include a variety of ways to enhance the landscape of Lufkin, while promoting efficiency in transportation and public health along with successful retail and industrial development. City Manager Wright furthered that ideally the plan would create a new vision for Lufkin that was designed by our community for our citizens and guests. City Manager Wright expounded that the successful proposal would formulate a public policy to foster community growth that was based on the culture, aspirations and desires of the citizens and business owners in the City of Lufkin, Texas, by discovering the needs and aspirations of the people who lived, worked and played in the Lufkin, Texas. City Manager Wright stated that the ideal plan could provide a set of goals that capitalized on the community's assets and give people a stake in the planned growth. City Manager Wright furthered that community participation in the plan would be an important component and that the Request for Proposals was recommended for approval because the document was the crucial first step in reaching out for services to obtain an appropriate vision and plan for the City of Lufkin. City Manager Wright concluded that Staff recommended City Council approve the Requests for Proposals for a Comprehensive Plan as presented.

Councilmember Robert Shankle questioned how many members would be included in the Steering Committee.

City Manager Wright stated that the details of the dynamics of the Steering Committee would be determined by City Council.

Councilmember Shankle expressed approval towards the progress of a new Master Plan for the City.

Mayor Bob F. Brown commended management for the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to approve the Proposal as presented. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

6. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- A. Financial Status Report.
- B. CIP Status Report
- C. Project Status Report

City Manager Wright reviewed funds and highlighted revenues included in the report. City Manager Wright offered to answer any questions about the report. There were none.

Director of Finance, Belinda Southern gave a report on the Finance Committee and investments.

Mayor Bob F. Brown thanked Finance Director Southern for her efforts.

Councilmember Torres made a request to reconsider the Downtown Plaza Project and suggested naming the project after Reverend Bettie Kennedy.

City Manager Wright detailed an opportune time to discuss the proposal in greater detail.

Councilmember Robert Shankle asked for clarification on the funding of the Downtown Plaza Project.

7. ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST FORM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILMEMBERS AND STAFF

City Manager Wright highlighted upcoming events and meetings.

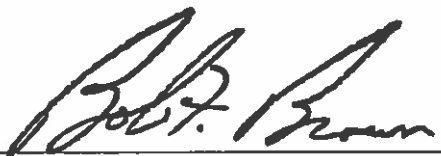
Mayor Brown introduced the remaining students in attendance from Angelina College and thanked them for attending the City Council meeting. Mayor Brown recognized the month of April as Fair Housing month.

Councilmember Robert Shankle thanked Barbara Thompson, Main Street Director and the City workers involved in the Downtown Hoedown. Councilmember Robert Shankle made a statement about updating the City Charter.

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Hicks congratulated Barbara Thompson, Main Street Director on the success of the Downtown Hoedown and further congratulated Councilmember Lynn Torres on her appointment to DETCOG.

8. There being no more business to address the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.




Bob F. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kara Atwood, City Secretary