MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 20th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1966, 7:30 P.M.

On the 20th day of December, 1966, the City Commission of the City of Lufkin, Texas, convened in regular meeting in the regular meeting place of said City, with the following members thereof, to-wit:

Jim Waters	Mayor
Dayle V. Smith	Commissioner, Ward No. 2
Byron McNeil	Commissioner, Ward No. 3
Earl Nisbet	Commissioner, Ward No. 4
Gene H. Nerren	Commissioner at Large, Place A
Basil E. Atkinson, Jr., M.D.	Commissioner at Large, Place B
Reagan Parker	City Manager
Lynn Durham	City Secretary
David Walker	City Attorney

being present, and

William F. Prince	Commissioner, Ward No. 1

being absent, constituting a quorum, when the following business was transacted:

1. Meeting opened with silent prayer on behalf of Commissioner Wm. F. Prince and concluded by Rev. Stewart Clendenin, Pastor of the First Methodist Church, Lufkin, who left immediately after being thanked by Mayor Waters for his participation.

2. Commissioner Gene H. Nerren made motion that minutes of regular meeting of December 6, 1966, be approved as written. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron McNeil and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

   Commissioner Byron McNeil made motion that minutes of special meeting of December 14, 1966, be approved as written. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Earl Nisbet and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

3. City Attorney read caption of ordinance for second reading changing zone from R-3 District to LB District and Special Use covering Lot 52' x 130', located West of North Raguet between California Boulevard and Weiner (adjoining property of Top Burger location), by Mrs. H. T. Bowers.

   Mayor Waters inquired if any person present desired to protest the zone change and there were no protests.

   Commissioner Earl Nisbet made motion that ordinance be passed on second reading. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron McNeil and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

4. Mr. Ray Terrell of Bernard Johnson Engineers, Inc., Houston, appeared before the City Commission and introduced Mr. Gordon Neff and Mr. Sam Dixon, also members of this firm, and Mr. Dixon proceeded to give information on structural plans for the proposed City Hall and Police Station should the City Commission desire to add a second floor.

   Mr. Dixon stated that additional concrete structural beams, etc., for a second floor was estimated to be $39,764.00. This matter was given further discussion and several suggestions were offered on the proposed floor plan of the City Hall and Police Station as submitted to the City Commission by Mr. Terrell at previous meeting. Notes on these suggestions were taken by the Consulting Engineers' representatives.

Commissioner Byron McNeil made motion that further thought of constructing a second floor to the proposed City Hall and Police Station be dispensed with and proceed with work of one floor for the City Hall and Police Station. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gene H. Nerren and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

5. Mr. Sam Dixon requested a letter or copy of minutes giving the Consulting Engineers authority to proceed with working plans He stated that it would be approximately 2-1/2 months before the project could be presented to the City Commission with bid specifications.

Commissioner Earl Nisbet made motion that Bernard Johnson Engineers, Inc., be instructed to proceed with actual working plans of the City Hall and Police Station. Commissioner Byron McNeil seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

6. The question of soil borings was discussed to determine foundation conditions of City Hall and Police Station location and City Engineer suggested that prices be obtained from concerns in Tyler and in Houston.

Mr. Ray Terrell stated that he wanted it understood that the soil boring expense was a separate item from their work in connection with the design phase and such expense was generally absorbed by the City.

City Manager and City Engineer were instructed to handle.

7. The question of removing the old Log Cabin Building from present proposed location of the City Hall and Police Station was discussed briefly.

Mayor Waters stated that the Salvation Army, who is using the building for storage purposes, had been informed previously that the City could procure the building by giving 30 days notice to vacate.

Commissioner Byron McNeil made motion that City Manager be instructed to write the Salvation Army a letter asking them to vacate the Log Cabin Building by February 1, 1967; also that City Manager be authorized to advertise for bids on this old Log Cabin Building to be opened in first meeting of the City Commission in February. Commissioner Earl Nisbet seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

8. City Manager was instructed by the City Commission to have the present Parking Meter Building, used for repairing meters and counting parking meter receipts, moved to City Warehouse property on Birch Street.

9. The question of an inspector to handle the construction work for sewer improvements under the new contract just let with Mercer Company was discussed and it was the decision of the City Commission that the Inspector should be furnished by Bernard Johnson Engineers, Inc.

A motion to this effect was made by Commissioner Gene H. Nerren. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron McNeil and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

10. A number of firemen were present and Mr. Billy Stephens, acting as spokesman, desired to know information the City Manager had procured in connection with their request to

increase Firemen pay so that starting rate would be $345.00 monthly and at the end of a two year period the base rate would be $385.00 monthly, which is the same as for Policemen.

City Manager stated City Secretary had worked out information on this proposed increase as compared with the increase approved by the City Commission in meeting of November 22, 1966, and the increase he recommended before present budget was approved.

The additional cost to grant the proposed increase requested by Firemen mentioned above, retroactive to October 1, 1966, would be in excess of approved budget of $6,500.00; and if same had been figured from the start of the budget year of October 1, 1966, the additional cost would have been in excess of approved budget of $14,000.00--the difference due to not being able to hire a full complement of Firemen as set out in approved budget.

City Attorney gave information on rates paid to Firemen and Policemen in several comparable size cities in the State and it was noted in each instance that the Policemen were paid more per month than the Firemen.

Billy Stephens stated the Firemen definitely desired the increase requested at last meeting covering a base rate of $385.00 after the two year period, with a starting rate of $345.00, due to the increased amount of work placed upon the Fire Department when the City assumed responsibility for ambulance service.

Commissioner Gene H. Nerren stated that in order to meet such a request it would be necessary to procure additional revenue and cited three instances from which such revenue could be procured and asked the City Manager if he had a recommendation to make.

The City Manager stated that revenue could be increased as follows:

(a) Raise valuations on real property from 25% to 35% across the board which he estimated would produce an additional $150,878.00.

(b) Increase water rates 10¢ per 1,000, starting with usage above the present minimum charge which would remain the same, which would increase revenue approximately $130,000.00 per year.

(c) Increase sewer rate from $1.00 to $2.00 which would increase revenue an additional $90,000.00

Mayor Waters stated he would have to vote against such increase due to having promised the people prior to last bond election that it would not be necessary to make such increase.

Commissioner Dayle V. Smith stated he would vote against such increase at this time due to not having sufficient time or information to warrant voting for these proposed increases.

Commissioner Gene H. Nerren made motion that the tax valuation from 25% to 35% be passed effective January 1, 1967. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron McNeil. However, this brought on considerable discussion and Commissioner Gene H. Nerren withdrew his motion until all items mentioned by City Manager could be handled together.

Commissioner Gene H. Nerren then made motion that three separate ordinances be prepared by City Attorney covering increase in tax valuations, water rates and sewer rates and that these be brought before a special meeting set for Tuesday, December 27, 1966. Commissioner Byron McNeil seconded the motion and the following vote ensued:

Voting Aye:
- Mayor Jim Waters
- Commissioner Byron McNeil
- Commissioner Earl Nisbet
- Commissioner Gene H. Nerren
- Commissioner Basil E. Atkinson, Jr., M.D.

Voting Nay:
- Commissioner Dayle V. Smith

Mayor Waters declared motion carried by majority vote.

Commissioner Gene H. Nerren made motion that City Commission also consider at this special meeting the firemens request for increase in salary after a two year period of $385.00 with starting rate of $345.00. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron McNeil.

Before vote was taken on the motion, Billy Stephens, representing the firemen, presented petition signed by the voters in the City of Lufkin which he stated numbered more than 1,000 requesting the City to call an Election to increase the Firemen pay to $450.00 per month minimum. He stated he had no other alternative since the Firemen had voted to take such action.

City Attorney was instructed to check the petition as to number of signatures, etc. City Attorney stated that Election would have to be called within 90 days if it met necessary legal requirements.

Commissioner Gene H. Nerren made motion that the special meeting set for December 27, 1966, be rescinded and that no action be taken on Firemen's request until January 3, 1967, at which time this matter and revenue increases could be considered. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron McNeil and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

City Attorney was instructed to proceed with ordinances as requested previously on increase in taxes, water and sewer for study at later meeting.

11. Discussion was had concerning the population figure shown on the Lufkin city limit signs. Commissioner Earl Nisbet made motion that figures on these signs be changed to indicate the correct population and that City Manager be instructed to handle this matter. Commissioner Byron McNeil seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

12. City Manager presented invoices covering electrical service for the past month, as well as gasoline purchased, both being in excess of the amounts he could approve without City Commission action.

Commissioner Basil E. Atkinson, Jr., M.D., mademotion that these invoices be approved for payment and that the City Manager be given authority to also pay such invoices for electricity and gasoline purchases in the future without bringing to the attention of the City Commision. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron McNeil and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

13. City Manager presented invoice from Bernard Johnson Engineers, Inc., in the amount of $1,299.47 covering engineering services in connection with sewer improvements and recommended approval for payment.

Commissioner Gene H. Nerren made motion to this effect. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Earl Nisbet and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

14. City Manager read letter addressed to the City Commission signed by D. C. McPherson, C. B. Herrington and Grady Campbell, who represent a committee who screens applicants for the position of Volunteer Firemen, recommending that Paul Raymond Dailey, who has been acting as a Volunteer Fireman for 60 days on a trail basis, be appointed permanently.

Commissioner Earl Nisbet made motion that Mr. Dailey be appointed as recommended by the above named committee. Commissioner Byron McNeil seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

15. City Manager read letter from Mr. H. W. McCurley, President of Gulfline Constructors, Inc., attaching a copy of letter from Layne Texas Company requesting an extension of time on Water Improvements Schedule II and III due to electrical equipment suppliers not being able to ship equipment as originally promised.

Mr. Ray Terrell of Bernard Johnson Engineers, Inc., who was present, stated that he concurred with this request.

Commissioner Earl Nisbet made motion that this extension in time on Water Improvements Schedule II and III be granted. Commissioner Byron McNeil seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

16. City Manager stated he had received information from local distributor that it would be 6 weeks to 2 months before delivery could be made on the Station Wagon Ambulance recently ordered.

After some discussion, Commissioner Earl Nisbet made motion that order covering this Station Wagon be cancelled and City Manager be authorized to readvertise for bids with delivery date to be given. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Byron McNeil and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

17. Open items were gone over and in connection with straightening of Ellis Avenue where it intersects with North Raguet, Commissioner Dayle V. Smith made motion that Bernard Johnson Engineers, Inc., be authorized to proceed with the plans on straightening this intersection with 4 left turn lanes as recommended by Bernard Johnson Engineers, Inc. Commissioner Byron McNeil seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

18. City Attorney read ordinance for second reading covering amendment to present traffic ordinance prohibiting parking on Timberland Drive between Vinson Street and South First Street and allowing left turns in certain areas.

Commissioner Gene H. Nerren made motion that ordinance be passed on second reading. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Earl Nisbet and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

19. City Attorney presented draft of ordinance covering trailer houses for study by City Commission members with action to be taken at a later meeting.

20. City Attorney read letter from Mr. Jim Cornelius with regard to City's portion of paving cost of approximately $9,600.00 covering Tanglewood West Subdivision and desired to know if City would be able to pay their portion of this paving cost when same was due.

Discussion brought out the fact that the City could pay this cost out of Bond money when presented with invoice that it was due after same had been approved and recommended by the City Engineer and the City Planning and Zoning Commission.

Commissioner Gene H. Nerren made motion that City pay for its portion of paving cost as set out above. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Earl Nisbet and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

21. Mayor Waters called attention to a request for a Resolution or letter from the City Commission stating it had no objection to Mr. Pat Scoggins and Associates constructing low-cost housing units in City of Lufkin with government loan.

No action was taken since several of the Commissioners desired to have more information from Mr. Scoggins and the Mayor will so advise Mr. Scoggins.

22. There being no further business for consideration, meeting was adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

Jim Waters
Mayor - City of Lufkin, Texas

ATTEST:

Lynn D. Davis
City Secretary - City of Lufkin, Texas