

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020**

On the 1st day of September, 2020 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
Guessippina Bonner	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
Bruce Green	Interim City Manager
Erika Neill	Acting City Attorney
Jason Arnold	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Gerald Williamson	Public Safety Director
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Kevin Gee	Engineering Services Director
Michael Flinn	Parks and Recreation Director
Brant Lee	Convention Services Director
Albert Duffield	Water & Sewer Director
Kent Havard	Solid Waste Director

being present when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – Pastor W.R. Ricks, First Missionary Baptist Church.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Brown opened the meeting for Public Comment on any posted agenda item at 5:02 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak, Mayor Brown closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AUGUST 15, 2020 AND THE SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AUGUST 20, 2020–APPROVED.

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

2. PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN 2020-2021 DRAFT BUDGET, PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager Green stated Staff was pleased to present to City Council the 2020-2021 Annual Fiscal Budget for the City of Lufkin which included the current tax rate of \$0.531135. Interim City Manager Green highlighted the significant changes for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider on First Reading an Ordinance adopting a budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing at 5:05 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak, Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the Council. There were none.

Councilmember Mark Hicks moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

3. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDER ON FIRST READING AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND PROVIDING FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE– APPROVED

Interim City Manager Green stated each year as part of the budget process, the Tax Assessor Collector calculated the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, which was previously referred to as the Effective Rate, in accordance with Texas Tax Code Chapter 26.04. Interim City Manager Green furthered the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate enabled 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 taxes if applied to the same properties taxed in both years. Interim City Manager Green stated the current year’s tax rate was \$0.531135 and the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate calculated for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was \$0.516624. Interim City Manager Green furthered the current tax rate would raise more total property taxes than last year’s original budget by \$368,193, which was 3.69%, and of that amount \$117,173 was tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the Ordinance levying taxes for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing at 5:08 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the Council. There were none.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.531135, which was effectively a 2.81 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded:

- Councilmember Guessippina Bonner Aye
- Councilmember Robert Shankle Aye
- Councilmember Lynn Torres Aye
- Councilmember Mark Hicks Aye
- Councilmember Rocky Thigpen Aye
- Councilmember Sarah Murray Aye

4. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, IRRIGATION, INDUSTRIAL AND WHOLESALE WATER RATES IN THE CITY OF LUFKIN – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager Green stated a Water and Wastewater Rate Study for the City of Lufkin was completed by Freese and Nichols in 2019. Interim City Manager Green furthered, based on the analysis, an increase in water and sewer rates of two percent (2%) for the next three years was recommended. Interim City Manager Green stated this would be the second two percent (2%) increase. Interim City Manager Green highlighted the estimated increase in customer bills by usage.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve on First Reading an Ordinance adjusting residential, commercial, irrigation, industrial and wholesale water rates in the City of Lufkin.

Councilmember Mark Hicks moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

5. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING SEWER RATES IN THE CITY OF LUFKIN – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager Green stated the proposed Ordinance was required in order to adjust sewer rates within the City of Lufkin.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve on First Reading an Ordinance adjusting sewer rates in the City of Lufkin. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

6. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ABANDONMENT AND TRANSFER OF AN UNDEVELOPED ALLEY NEAR ELSIE STREET – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager highlighted the location of the property on the corresponding map. Interim City Manager Green stated the City had been approached by the Salvation Army of Lufkin regarding a formal transfer of an undeveloped alley on property that had long been used by the Salvation Army. Interim City Manager Green furthered that upon review, City Staff was recommending that the City abandon the undeveloped alley, which was not needed for public use, and transfer it to the Salvation Army of Lufkin, which was the abutting property owner. Interim City Manager Green explained the Section of the Texas Local Government Code that allowed for the transaction. Interim City Manager Green stated that Staff proposed the transfer of the alley should be by deed to the Salvation Army of Lufkin providing that the City of Lufkin granted the property for as long as the property should be used exclusively for providing shelter and services to the homeless of the City of Lufkin.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council consider on First Reading an Ordinance providing for the abandonment and transfer of undeveloped alley near Elsie Street.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Mayor Brown thanked City Staff for being prepared for what could have happened regarding the landfall of Hurricane Laura the previous week. Mayor Brown thanked and acknowledged Pastor W.R. Ricks for his opening prayer and wished Councilmember Guessippina Bonner a Happy Birthday.

There being no further business, Mayor Bob Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.



ATTEST:


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary


Bob F. Brown, Mayor