

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020

On the 20th day of October, 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
Sarah Murray	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Bruce Green	City Manager
Erika Neill	Acting City Attorney
Jason Arnold	Assistant City Manager – Public Works
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager – Admin/Public Safety
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Rodney Ivy	Human Resource Director
David Thomas	Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Kevin Gee	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	Planning Director
Calvin Toups	Building Official
Brant Lee	Convention Services Director
Albert Duffield	Water & Sewer Director
Rick Smith	Fleet Maintenance Director

being present: and

Lynn Torres	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Rocky Thigpen	Councilmember, Ward No. 5

being absent when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer by Gerald Williamson, Assistant City Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Brown opened the meeting for Public Comment on any posted agenda item at 5:01 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 OCTOBER 6TH, 2020 – APPROVED.

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS CHANGING THE ZONING TO “LOCAL BUSINESS” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 719 WEST FRANK AVENUE – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated this was the Second Reading of a requested zone change from “Residential Medium” to “Local Business” for 719 West Frank Avenue. City Manager Green highlighted the location of the property on corresponding maps. City Manager Green stated the request had been unanimously approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 21, 2020. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and approve on Second Reading an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Local Business” on property addressed as 719 West Frank Avenue.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing at 5:03 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak, Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the Council. Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

3. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4776 OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN REQUIRING OCCUPANCY DOCUMENTATION FROM HOTELS/MOTELS IN ESTABLISHING APPLICABLE COMMERCIAL WATER RATES – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated City Council had approved an Ordinance during the meeting of May 5, 2020, modifying the way that hotels and motels were charged for sewer usage. City Manager Green furthered this Ordinance applied the same modifications to water usage. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the First Reading of an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 4776 providing City Staff with the authority to adjust bills for hotels/motels based on occupancy.

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

4. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2020-2021 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING FROM A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000 FROM THE KOCH COMPANIES COMMUNITY FUND (GEORGIA PACIFIC) FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated this was the Second Reading on the first budget amendment of the fiscal year. City Manager Green furthered the Lufkin Fire Department had received grant funding in the amount of \$8,000 from the Koch Companies Community Fund (Georgia Pacific) and the funding would be used to purchase equipment for the Department. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve on Second Reading the Ordinance authorizing Budget Amendment No. 1 appropriating the funding.

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

5. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A COMMUNICATION TOWER ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 506 TRENTON STREET – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated the applicant, Brandt Dozier with Jacobs Telecommunications and Engineering, proposed to construct a one hundred and forty foot (140') AT&T monopole cellular tower with related equipment. City Manager Green explained these matters were regulated by federal law and had been vetted to the degree possible. City Manager Green furthered the proposed tower would be located on an approximately 4,500 square foot leased area with a 45 ft. x 100 ft. fenced compound on a portion of 506 Trenton Street owned by Maddux Resources & Properties, LLC. City Manager Green highlighted the location of the property on corresponding maps and provided information on current zoning of neighboring properties. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider on First Reading an Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for a communications tower to be located on property addressed as 506 Trenton Street.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing at 5:07 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak, Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the Council. Councilmember Robert Shankle asked if the proposed location was part of the Maddux property. Planning Director Scott Rayburn pointed out the location on the corresponding maps and confirmed the location was part of the Maddux property.

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

6. RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF ALLISON, BASS & MAGEE, L.L.P. TO ASSIST THE CITY WITH ITS CENSUS YEAR REVIEW OF WARDS IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL GUIDELINES AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated the U.S. Constitution required all governmental bodies that elected their governing body membership from individual districts or wards to periodically assess their boundaries and the populations within those boundaries. City Manager Green furthered during the census period an evaluation would be made in regards to population to determine if redistricting would be required. City Manager Green stated Angelina County had retained the Austin law firm of Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P. to conduct its assessment and the firm had reached out to the City, offering to handle the City's assessment for a reduced flat rate. City Manager Green explained the initial assessment of existing political boundaries, including the costs of obtaining suitable 2020 Census Data, would be a flat fee of \$10,850. City Manager Green furthered that should the initial assessment indicate the existing political boundaries for the City require redistricting, the firm would do that as well for a second flat fee installment of \$10,850. City Manager Green stated the total flat fee/fixed rate contract would be \$21,700. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve a Resolution approving a professional services agreement with the law firm of Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P/ to assist the City with its census year review of wards in compliance with state and federal guidelines and authorizing the City Manager to execute said agreement.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked that any findings during the assessment be brought before the Council and the community for feedback and input prior to any changes being made. Councilmember Mark Hicks seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

7. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2020-2021 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING FOR THE CENSUS REVIEW – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated this budget amendment simply appropriated the funding for the cost of services to complete the 2020 census review for the City of Lufkin. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the First Reading of an Ordinance authorizing Budget Amendment No. 2 appropriating the funding for the 2020 census year review.

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

8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A HOMELAND SECURITY PREPAREDNESS GRANT THROUGH THE DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (DETCOG) IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$70,000 – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated during the March 3, 2020 City Council meeting, City Council approved the Lufkin Police Department to apply for a grant from the Office of the Governor State Homeland Security Program, through DETCOG in an amount up to \$70,000. City Manager Green furthered the funding would be used to purchase night vision binocular/monocular optics for search and rescue operations as well as the location and apprehension of suspects. City Manager Green stated no matching funds from the City of Lufkin were required. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application for a Homeland Security Preparedness Grant through the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) in an amount up to \$70,000.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

9. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF ERIKA L. NEILL AS CITY ATTORNEY – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated Staff was requesting the “acting” designation be removed and Erika Neill be named City Attorney for the City of Lufkin. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval of a Resolution appointing Erika L. Neill as City Attorney.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner recommended that a search be performed for any future management positions. City Manager Green clarified that national searches had been performed for the two most recent director positions but Staff would better communicate this in the future. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

10. RESOLUTION ANNOUNCING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ANGELINA ARTS ALLIANCE TO EXPLORE EFFORTS TO DESIGNATE DOWNTOWN LUFKIN AS A STATE CERTIFIED CULTURAL DISTRICT – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated the City and Angelina Arts Alliance had begun discussions about expanding the arts throughout Lufkin and perhaps harnessing the arts to spur economic development in the central part of the City which was the historic downtown area. City Manager Green furthered over the last year, Angelina Arts had met with individual members of the Lufkin City Council to discuss a possible cultural district in Lufkin and to receive feedback. City Manager Green explained cultural districts were special zones that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization. City Manager Green stated Angelina Arts had secured a generous grant of \$33,000 from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation that would help it and the City continue working with consultant Social Impact Architects (SIA) to explore whether Lufkin was a good candidate for becoming a State Certified Cultural District. City Manager Green furthered the partnership was set to begin a one-year planning initiative to ascertain readiness and ability to achieve a State Designated Cultural District for downtown Lufkin. City Manager Green stated the initial planning period was the first step of what would likely be a three-to-five-year process. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve a Resolution announcing a partnership with the Angelina Arts Alliance to explore efforts to designate Downtown Lufkin as a State Certified Cultural District.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked if there would ever be a movement out of the downtown area. City Manager Green responded and discussion ensued.

11. RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCILMEMBER LYNN TORRES AS THE CITY OF LUFKIN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ANGELINA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated Staff recommended City Council approve the Resolution authorizing Councilmember Lynn Torres as the City representative to the Angelina County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

12. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF TEXAS FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STATE HIGHWAYS FOR THE TEXAS STATE FOREST FESTIVAL IN DOWNTOWN LUFKIN – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated the Texas State Forest Festival had been moved to Downtown Lufkin in order to comply with social distancing and health safety regulations resulting from the impact of COVID-19. City Manager Green furthered this would result in the need to close downtown streets to accommodate the event. City Manager Green stated the Resolution authorized the City to enter into an agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the temporary closure of downtown streets on November 13, 2020. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the Resolution authorizing the above to accommodate the Texas State Forest Festival.

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

13. ANGELINA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT 2021 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated each year the Board of Directors approved the proposed budget for the Angelina County Appraisal District. City Manager Green furthered the approved budget for Fiscal Year 2021 was \$1,873,324 which was a 4.6% increase from the 2020 budget of \$1,791,291. City Manager Green highlighted the reasons for the increase. City Manager Green explained all jurisdictions served by the District were required to contribute to the annual budget and the allocations were determined by the amount of tax levy. City Manager Green stated the City of Lufkin's contribution for the 2021 Fiscal Year was estimated to be \$225,923, which would be paid quarterly.

City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval of the Angelina County Appraisal District 2021 Fiscal Year budget.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the budget as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

14. PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) 2021 FORD EXPLORER POLICE VEHICLES AND ONE (1) 2021 FORD ESCAPE FOR THE LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.

City Manager Green stated the purchase of four (4) new Ford Explorers for the Police Department were included in the 2020-2021 Amortization Fund. City Manager Green furthered pricing had been secured through the bid process from Lufkin Ford in the amount of \$151,836. City Manager Green stated the new Explorers would be manufactured in a manner that would allow Staff to handle the upfitting in house which would result in considerable cost savings compared to recent years. City Manager Green furthered the purchase of a mid-size sedan for the Lufkin Police Department Criminal Investigations Division was included in this year’s Amortization Fund. City Manager Green stated pricing had been secured from Lufkin Ford for a 2021 Ford Escape in the amount of \$23,588. City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the purchase of four (4) 2021 Ford Explorer police vehicles and one (1) 2021 Ford Escape for the Lufkin Police Department.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the purchase as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

15. PRESENTATION OF CITY OF LUFKIN FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

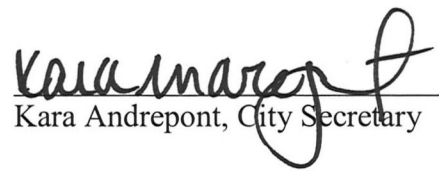
Finance Director Belinda Melancon updated City Council on the City of Lufkin Quarterly Finance Committee Report.

There being no further business, Mayor Bob Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.




Bob F. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary