

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 17TH DAY OF MAY, 1988, AT 5:00 P.M.

On the 17th day of May, 1988, the City Commission of the City of Lufkin, Texas, convened in regular meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall with the following members thereof, to wit:

Pitser H. Garrison	Mayor
Percy Simond, Jr.	Commissioner, Ward No. 1
Don Boyd	Commissioner, Ward No. 2
Danny Roper	Commissioner, Ward No. 3
Bob Bowman	Commissioner, Ward No. 4
Jack Gorden	Commissioner, Ward No. 5
Harvey Westerholm	City Manager
Brian Boudreaux	Assistant City Manager
Ron Wesch	Public Works Director
Robert Flournoy	City Attorney
Atha Stokes	City Secretary

being present when the following business was transacted.

1. Meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Charles McIlveene, Minister, First Baptist Church, Lufkin.

2. Mayor Garrison welcomed visitors present.

3. OATH OF OFFICE - ADMINISTERED - DON LANGSTON - ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS

Mayor Garrison administered the oath of office to Don Langston who had been appointed by the Commission at last meeting to serve on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of regular meeting of May 3, 1988, and special meeting of May 9, 1988 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Don Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Jack Gorden. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

5. ORDINANCE - APPROVED - SECOND READING - TAX ABATEMENT/REINVESTMENT ZONE - JERRY AND CAROL MOORE - 112 SOUTH FIRST STREET (ABRAM'S BUILDING)

Mayor Garrison stated that the next item for consideration was Second Reading of an Ordinance for a Tax Abatement/Reinvestment Zone for Jerry and Carol Moore covering property located at 112 South First Street (Abram's Building).

Motion was made by Commissioner Jack Gorden and seconded by Commissioner Danny Roper that Ordinance be approved on Second and Final Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

6. ORDINANCE - APPROVED - FIRST READING - ZONE CHANGE REQUEST - SUZANNE DUNKIN - 1909 SOUTH FIRST ST. - C. SU (PRIVATE CLUB) TO C. SU (DAYCARE)

Mayor Garrison stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance for a zone change request by Suzanne Dunkin covering property located at 1909 South First Street, from Commercial, Special Use (Private Club) to Commercial, Special Use (Daycare).

Mayor Garrison stated that this request had been heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and there had been some concern regarding parking spaces and traffic. The request was approved by a vote of 4 to 3.

In response to question by Mayor Garrison, Mrs. Dunkin stated that she had explained to the Planning and Zoning Commission several times that by reducing the playground area she would have adequate space for additional parking.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny Roper and seconded by Commissioner Jack Gorden that Ordinance be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

7. ORDINANCE - APPROVED - FIRST READING - NOTIFICATION OF ZONE CHANGE REQUEST TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Mayor Garrison stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance requiring written notice to property owners of zone change requests.

In response to question by Mayor Garrison, Commissioner Danny Roper stated that he would like to see residents notified of zone change request heard by the City Commission with or without opposition.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny Roper and seconded by Commissioner Jack Gorden that Ordinance be approved on First Reading as presented.

8. ORDINANCE - APPROVED - FIRST READING - HANDICAPPED PARKING

Mayor Garrison stated that the next item for consideration was First Reading of an Ordinance providing for enforcement of handicapped parking in the City of Lufkin.

Chief Sherman Collins stated that he had received numerous complaints regarding handicapped parking on private property and since the law was not adequate for the Police Department to enforce the parking on private property, he had requested the Ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Bob Bowman that Ordinance be approved on First Reading as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

9. AMENDMENT - APPROVED - ELECTION ORDINANCE

Mayor Garrison stated that the alternate judge of Ward 3, Mrs. Johnnie Norris, would not be able to serve in the Run-off election Saturday, May 21st and this Amendment appointed Sally Hamilton to that position.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny Roper and seconded by Commissioner Don Boyd that Amendment to Election Ordinance be approved as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

10. AGREEMENT - APPROVED - STATE HIGHWAY & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - LOCATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Mayor Garrison stated that the next item for consideration was an agreement with the State Highway and Public Transportation Commission for location of traffic signals within the City.

City Manager Harvey Westerholm stated that this agreement had been prepared to allow the Texas Highway Department to assume responsibility for installation and maintenance of traffic signals on State highways within the City limits.

Public Works Director Ron Wesch stated that there are only four traffic signals within the City that are not on the State system and the City will continue to maintain them. In response to question by

Commissioner Jack Gorden, Mr. Wesch stated that the City will save approximately \$17,000-18,000 per year on traffic signal parts.

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Jack Gorden that Agreement be approved as presented. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

11a. BID - APPROVED - LIFT STATION - SMITH PUMP COMPANY

Mayor Garrison stated the next item for consideration was bids for a lift station to serve the newly annexed Fuller Springs area.

Motion was made by Commissioner Percy Simond and seconded by Commissioner Don Boyd that bid of Smith Pump Company in the amount of \$11,595 be accepted as the best bid. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

11b. BID - APPROVED - FIRE PROTECTION SUITS - FIRE DEPARTMENT - HAZ MATT SAFETY

Mayor Garrison stated that the next item for consideration was bids for fire protection suits for the Fire Department.

Mayor Garrison stated that Purchasing Agent David Cochran recommended the low bid of Haz Mat Safety for the butyl extra suits. Mayor Garrison stated that the cost of the two (2) suits is \$4,154 and that \$4,400 had been budgeted for this item.

Motion was made by Commissioner Percy Simond and seconded by Commissioner Don Boyd that bid of Haz Mat Safety in the amount of \$4,154 be accepted as the lowest and best bid. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

11c. BID - APPROVED - CONTAINERS - SANITATION DEPARTMENT - S&S WELDING

Mayor Garrison stated that the Commission now had for consideration bids for containers to be used in the Sanitation Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny Roper and seconded by Commissioner Percy Simond that bid of S & S Welding in the amount of \$11,528 be accepted as the lowest and best bid. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

12. AMENDMENT - APPROVED - CANVASS OF ELECTION - MAY 23, 1988

Mayor Garrison stated that the Commission now had for consideration an amendment to the agenda setting May 23, 1988 as a Special Meeting date to canvass the results of the Run-off election May 21, 1988.

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boyd and seconded by Bob Bowman that May 23, 1988 be set as a Special Meeting date to canvass the election results of the Run-off Election May 21, 1988. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

13. LUFKIN FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

I. J. Tucker, representing the Lufkin Firefighter's Association, stated that the firemen had some questions concerning the status of the review of the pay raise from last October.

Mayor Garrison stated that the City Commission had stated that they would take a look at the end of six months to see if there were funds available and he is under the impression that the economy has not improved enough for raises at this time. Mayor Garrison stated that he felt like all employees were entitled to a raise.

Mr. Tucker stated that he wanted to make the Commission aware that the City's key rate for insurance had increased by 18% and that the City of Houston's key rate had only increased by 11%. Mr. Tucker stated that, in his opinion, this was due to the lack of manpower and the fact that the City's fire trucks are 18 years or older and an inadequate water supply.

Mayor Garrison stated that the key rate for insurance was very complex and was dependent upon many factors.

Mr. Tucker stated that many of the firefighters were convinced that the City's present hospitalization policy did not have the same coverage as the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan. Mr. Tucker stated that the firefighters were upset with the exclusions in the present policy and also the way the wind-fall profits from the recent tax increase were designated.

Mayor Garrison stated that the \$610,000 left over from the 1/2 of 1 percent sales tax has not been dedicated for anything and has not been touched. Mayor Garrison stated that the new liability policy had been purchased with revenue from the Contingency Fund.

City Manager Westerholm stated that rather than pay the 17% increase in premiums to the insurance company, the City retains the money and pays claims rather than the insurance company.

City Manager Westerholm stated that the present insurance policy was patterned after the one the City had previously, with the same provisions. Mr. Westerholm stated that new handbooks had been distributed recently on the new policy and that questions regarding the policy could be directed to Rosie Jones, Personnel Director.

Mr. Tucker stated that at a previous meeting the Fire Chief had made a presentation to the Commission regarding the manpower shortage in the Fire Department due to the out-of-county ambulance runs. Mayor Garrison stated that this is a very serious problem with the City of Lufkin bearing most of the expense and that the staff was awaiting reply to questions submitted to the cities of Bryan and College Station on their procedures.

14. MINORITY FIREFIGHTERS - ALLEY CLOSINGS - RAILROAD CROSSINGS - RESOLUTION TO PAT FOLEY

Commissioner Percy Simond stated that at this time the Fire Department has one minority on the force and he would like to see some effort on the Chief's part to hire minorities. Civil Service Director Brian Boudreaux stated that entrance examinations would be given for the Fire Department and Police Department in June.

In response to question by Commissioner Simond regarding progress on a report of alley closings in the City, Public Works Director Ron Wesch stated that he is presently working on the report but that it will take some time before it will be completed.

In response to question by Commissioner Simond, City Manager Westerholm stated that it was very difficult to get any results from the railroad on problems at crossings in the City.

Mayor Garrison stated that a Resolution had been prepared for Pat Foley and since Pat is unable to be present at tonight's meeting the presentation will take place at the meeting to canvass the run-off election results.

City Manager Westerholm stated that he would like to express his

appreciation to Mayor Garrison for the many years that they have worked together.

Mayor Garrison stated that as he comes to the close of his tenure on the City Commission he can look back and see a lot of difficult decisions that the Commission has had to make. Mayor Garrison stated that this was especially true when there are groups of people and you have to choose one or the other to decide what is best for the public interest. Mayor Garrison stated that the Commission has to be the guardian of the treasury and the Commission's failure to give pay raises to the Fire Department and Police Department was not due to a lack of appreciation for the fine service they render to the community. Mayor Garrison stated that it was simply because under the circumstances there was not enough money to justify raising salaries of the people who work so diligently. Mayor Garrison stated that he hoped the situation would improve.

Mayor Garrison stated that overall it has been rewarding to work for the city to build a city so important to all the people, and not anyone on the Commission could claim credit for all that has been accomplished. Mayor Garrison stated that the Commission as a group has made some progress over the last years that he is personally very proud of and that he hopes that the Commission can keep this forward movement going with a spirit of goodwill and cooperation.

15. There being no further business for consideration, meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.


Pitser H. Garrison, Mayor

ATTEST:


Atha Stokes, City Secretary