

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 15TH DAY OF APRIL 2025.**

On the 15th day of April 2025, 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:

Mark Hicks	Mayor
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Robert Shankle	Mayor Pro Tem
Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Jimmy Ford	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Brian W. Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
David Thomas	Police Chief
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Christopher Key	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
Tara Hendrix	Tourism & Marketing Director
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
Ryan Gulker	Ellen Trout Zoo Director

being present; and

Kim Ogden	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6

being absent when the following business was transacted.

Mayor Hicks recognized those in attendance with the City of Lufkin's Teen Court.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer by Assistant City Manager, Brian Bray.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Mayor Mark Hicks opened the public comment period at 5:03 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing.

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 1ST, 2025 - APPROVED.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING TO "COMMERCIAL" ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AST 1809 ATKINSON DRIVE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Staff received a request for a change in zoning from "Residential Large" to "Commercial" for property addressed as 1809 Atkinson Drive with the purpose of the zone change being to allow commercial development. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered the Future Land Use Plan classification for Atkinson Drive, which was considered a major thoroughfare, was "Neighborhood Commercial" and "Institutional". City Manager Gee stated the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council Conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading an Ordinance changing the zoning to "Commercial" on property addressed as 1809 Atkinson Drive.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:05 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and moved to comments from the City Council.

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

3. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ABANDONMENT, VACATION, CLOSURE AND SALE OF AN ALLEY NEAR BLEDSOE STREET – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated KTTK Properties, LLC had requested the acquisition of a City alley near Bledsoe Street with no City utilities in the paved alley. City Manager Gee furthered if approved for sale, the alley would be required to be replatted with the adjoining properties. City Manager Gee stated the alley had been determined appropriate for sale and all steps required by Chapter 272 of the Local Government Code were followed. City Manager Gee furthered the alley would be sold for a total price of \$4,350, which included the appraised value (\$3,700), appraisal cost (\$600) and filing fee (\$50). City Manager Gee stated upon payment; the City would issue a deed without warranty to the buyer.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance providing for the abandonment, vacation closure and sale of an alley near Bledsoe Street.

Councilmember Brent Watkins moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

4. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT CLASSIFICATION PLAN – APPROVED.

City Manager Gee stated the proposed Ordinance was necessary under Civil Service Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code, which required Council approval for the Civil Service employee classification plans and authorizing the number of Civil Service employees for each position. City Manager Gee furthered the number and classification of authorized Civil Service positions can only be changed by City Ordinance. City Manager Gee stated the Lufkin Police Department was requesting an increase of a patrol officer position and a reduction of one supervisory position. City Manager Gee explained that with the resignation of a Special Services Unit Corporal, the Department proposed to eliminate that position and replace it with an officer position. City Manager Gee stated this would leave the proper span of control in the overall division. City Manager Gee furthered there was no active promotion list for Corporal candidates therefore the change would not result in any demotions or reduction in officers.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval on First Reading of an Ordinance amending the Lufkin Police Department classification plan.

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

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH ANGELINA COUNTY & CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT – APPROVED.

City Manager Gee stated City Council had approved a Resolution in December of 2024 authorizing a revised cooperative agreement with the Angelina County & Cities Health District. City Manager Gee furthered revisions to the agreement had been made by the County and it was being brought back before Council for approval. City Manager Gee stated none of the revisions made had changed any of the City's requirements, it only made changes to the language of the document.

Councilmember Brent Watkins moved to approve the Resolution at presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

6. OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING – APPROVED.

City Manager Gee stated over the past several years, landmark settlements had been reached with major pharmaceutical companies, distributors and retailers, such as CVS and Walgreens, over their role in the opioid crisis. City Manager Gee furthered the settlement funds were distributed to state and local governments based on factors such as overdose rates and population. City Manager Gee stated the funds

would support treatment, prevention, education, policing, enforcement, and diversionary sentencing programs. City Manager Gee noted the funding included provisions for oversight and reporting to ensure funds were used for the intended purpose. City Manager Gee furthered the City had recently received \$83,897 in funding. City Manager Gee stated in compliance with the established criteria, and after vetting with fund administrators, the recommendation was being made for the funds to be distributed to the Felony Drug Court, City of Lufkin Municipal Court Youth Diversion Plan (Teen Court), Lufkin Police Department-Opioid Abatement & Diversion Initiative, and the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Counsel (ADAC).

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended Council approve the acceptance and distribution of funds received from the Opioid Settlements.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked if there was a breakdown available of the funds each organization would receive. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Jimmy Ford moved to approve the acceptance and distribution of funding as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

7. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A CENTRIFUGE FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – APPROVED.

City Manager Gee stated bids were received on April 3, 2025, for the purchase of new centrifuge equipment for the City of Lufkin Hurricane Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). City Manager Gee furthered the bid package included one (1) centrifuge sludge dewatering unit and a conveyor system with all associated appurtenances. City Manager Gee stated the low bid was received from GEA Mechanical Equipment US in the amount of \$375,000. City Manager Gee noted a completed tabulation of the bids had been included with Council's packet for reference. City Manager Gee furthered Engineering Staff had reviewed the bid and the products and found them to be appropriate for the project. City Manager Gee stated the project had been budgeted with \$660,000 allocated from Fund 380. City Manager Gee explained the contract was for materials only because of a 12-month lead time for delivery of the equipment. City Manager Gee stated the installation of the equipment would be bid separately and presented to Council for approval of the contractor to do the installation.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended Council approve an award of contract to GEA Mechanical Equipment US, Inc. for the centrifuge equipment.

Councilmember Brent Watkins asked about the huge discrepancy between the low and high bidder. Engineering Services Director, Chris Key addressed the question and discussion ensued.

Councilmember Brent Watkins moved to approve the award of contract as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

8. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

City Manager Kevin Gee updated City Council on the financial status of the City. City Manager Gee offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Mayor Hicks recognized and thanked Councilmember Guessippina Bonner for her service to the City Council and the City of Lufkin.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.




Kara Andreponi, City Secretary


Mark Hicks, Mayor