MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF MARCH, 2009

On the 3rd day of March, 2009, 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:

Jack Gorden, Jr.	Mayor
Rose Faine Boyd	Mayor Pro Tem
R. L. Kuykendall	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Lynn Torres	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Don Langston	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Rufus Duncan	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Phil Medford	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Paul L. Parker	City Manager
Keith Wright	Assistant City Manager
Renee Thompson	City Secretary
Bob Flournoy	City Attorney
Larry Brazil	Police Chief
Scott Marcotte	Asst. Police Chief
Doug Wood	Finance Director
Rodney Ivy	Human Resource Director
Steve Poskey	Street Department Superintendent
Chuck Walker	Public Utilities Director
Dale Allred	Inspection Services Director
Jim Wehmeier	Economic Development Director
Gordon Henley	Ellen Trout Zoo Director
Sid Munlin	IT Director

being present, when the following business was transacted:

1. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Mark Wilke, Carpenters Way Baptist Church.

2. Mayor Jack Gorden welcomed visitors present.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2009, were approved as corrected on a motion by Councilmember Lynn Torres, and seconded by Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. **PRESENTATION OF TREE CITY USA CERTIFICATION TO MAYOR JACK GORDEN AND CITY OF LUFKIN COUNCIL BY TODD NIGHTINGALE, TEXAS FOREST SERVICE, DISTRICT FORESTER**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a presentation of Tree City USA Certification to Mayor Jack Gorden and City of Lufkin Council by Todd Nightingale, Texas Forest Service, District Forester.

Texas Forest Service District Forester Todd Nightingale thanked the Council for allowing him to come before them. Mr. Nightingale stated that he had a fun presentation to make to the City Council. Mr. Nightingale explained that he was there to give recognition to the entire community and a nice honor for the City of Lufkin to be name a Tree City USA. Mr. Nightingale stated that Lufkin joined a group of approximately three thousand (3,000) cities in the United States that were recognized as Tree Cities USA. Mr. Nightingale explained that becoming a Tree City USA did take some effort on behalf of the community. Mr. Nightingale then recognized the Tree Board for the City of Lufkin, whose members included Council Members Lynn Torres, R. L. Kuykendall, and Phil Medford. Mr. Nightingale added that the Tree Board also included Joe Pase, John Courtenay, C. Darwin Foster, and Janet Clarke and asked them to stand. Mr. Nightingale stated that the Tree Board worked tirelessly to make sure that there were mechanisms in place to make sure that Lufkin was protecting and enhancing its trees. Mr. Nightingale added that the City had Tree Care Ordinances and that it also required funding to make sure that efforts were put forward in improving trees in the community. Mr. Nightingale stated that one (1) of the more fun events that took place recently in Lufkin was the Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Seedling Give-Away. Mr. Nightingale stated that following Hurricane Ike, this was a much needed activity. Mr. Nightingale explained that thousands (1000s) of seedlings were given away to the community for citizens to plant on their property. Mr. Nightingale stated that at the Arbor Day Celebration participants also celebrated that trees added greatly to the community. Mr. Nightingale then presented the Tree City USA flag to the City of Lufkin, in recognition for meeting the standards to continue to be a Tree City USA.

Mayor Jack Gorden asked if anyone was present in the audience representing Angelina Beautiful Clean. Mayor Gorden then asked Executive Director Tony Moline and Program Manager Amanda Anderson from Angelina Beautiful Clean to come forward to also accept the flag and to be recognized. Mayor Gorden then thanked Mr. Nightingale for the things he did for the Lufkin community, and added that the City of Lufkin had enjoyed the Tree City USA designation for a number of years.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2008/2009 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14), - APPROVED - PROVIDING FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE GENERAL AND COURT SECURITY/TECHNOLOGY FUNDS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPROVE UTILIZATION OF UNUSED 9-1-1 FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a Resolution authorizing an amendment to the 2008/2009 Operating Budget (Budget Amendment No. 14), providing for the supplemental appropriation of funds in the General and Court Security/Technology Funds; and providing an effective date and approve utilization of unused 9-1-1 funds for public safety projects. Mayor Gorden added that it appeared that the Police Department had come up with a great way to use those funds.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that this was money paid in through the 911 program that was unused and was reimbursed to the City of Lufkin. City Manager Parker added that the total amount of the reimbursement was one hundred nineteen thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars ($119,331). City Manager Parker explained that the Police Department, working with the IT Department, determined needs within the Police Department to use the funds in accordance with the original purpose of the funding.

City Manager Parker stated that one (1) recommendation was for use on the radio console in the Communication Center, in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000). City Manager Parker added that Council was probably well aware that there were three (3) existing communication systems, but there were four (4) stations. City Manager Parker explained that the funds would place a console at all four (4) work stations and would come in handy during emergency situations, on busy nights, or whenever there was a problem with one (1) of the other three (3) current stations.

City Manager Parker stated that the network clock sync was simply a manner of syncing the clock to the timed calls coming in to the department. City Manager Parker explained that currently when anyone requested information on response time the IT Department and Police Department had to physically look at tapes and measure points on the tapes for information. City Manager Parker added that this would actually sync the calls to real time data.

City Manager Parker stated that the autosite upgrade was an upgrade to the current ticket writing system. City Manager Parker explained that with the system a driver's license could be swiped and the system would load all of the information directly onto a form. City Manager Parker added that after a citation was written, it could then be downloaded directly into the Municipal Court System. City Manager Parker stated that this would save a tremendous amount of time for the officer and the court system. City Manager Parker stated that the total for the upgrade was forty-four thousand dollars ($44,000).

City Manager Parker stated that the digital recording server storage came to a total of seven thousand dollars ($7,000). City Manager Parker stated that all of the Police Department vehicles had video storage and video recorders. City Manager Parker added that those records had to be kept by the City of Lufkin for a minimum of six (6) months. City Manager Parker explained that the records were kept much longer, if being used as evidence. City Manager Parker stated that this equipment would allow the storage of those videos.

City Manager Parker stated that the final item was the HTE Barcoding System for a total of thirty-four thousand dollars ($34,000). City Manager Parker explained that the system would allow staff to barcode the property in the Property Room at the Police Department. City Manager Parker added that the codes would be put into the City's computer system for easier location of property.

City Manager Parker stated that the total cost of all of the items was one hundred twenty-four thousand dollars ($124,000). City Manager Parker added that one hundred nineteen thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars ($119,331) would come from DETCOG. City Manager Parker stated that the balance of four thousand six hundred sixty-nine dollars ($4,669), if Council approved the Budget Amendment, would come from the Municipal Court/Technology Fund. City Manager Parker explained that this was to help subsidize the autosite upgrade.

Mayor Jack Gorden asked if the autosite upgrade meant that if a citizen received a citation from the "Red Light Cameras", they would go directly to jail. City Manager Parker explained that the autosite upgrade was when a person was stopped by an officer, the officer would be able to swipe that person's driver's license and that person's personal information, (such as name and residence), would be downloaded into the system. City Manager Parker added that the officer would be able to automatically write the citation, give the citizen a paper copy, and then download the information directly into the court system. City Manager Parker stated that Staff recommended approval of Budget Amendment No. 14, and authorization for the Police Department to purchase the requested equipment and upgrades.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd moved to approve the Resolution authorizing an amendment to the 2008/2009 Operating Budget (Budget Amendment No. 14), providing for the supplemental appropriation of funds in the General and Court Security/Technology Funds; and providing an effective date and approve utilization of unused 9-1-1 funds for public safety projects. Councilmember R. L. Kuykendall seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

6. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 3519 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS – APPROVED - AS ADOPTED MAY 15, 2001, NOMINATING AN AREA AS AN ENTERPRISE ZONE PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS ENTERPRISE ZONE ACT (TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 2303) AND REPEALING ANY PRIOR PROVISIONS CONTRARY TO THIS AMENDMENT; PROVIDING FOR INCENTIVES; DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO ACT IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE NOMINATION AND DESIGNATION OF THE AREA DESCRIBED HEREIN AS AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AND REINVESTMENT ZONE (TEXAS TAX CODE, CHAPTER 312); AND FURTHER DESIGNATING A LIAISON TO ACT ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE ENTERPRISE ZONE ACT ONCE DESIGNATED BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was the First Reading of an Ordinance amending Ordinance 3519 of the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas as adopted May 15, 2001, nominating an area as an Enterprise Zone pursuant to the Texas Enterprise Zone Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 2303) and repealing any prior provisions contrary to this Amendment; providing for incentives; designating an authorized representative to act in all matters pertaining to the nomination and designation of the area described herein as an Enterprise Zone and Reinvestment Zone (Texas Tax Code, Chapter 312); and further designating a liaison to act on all matters pertaining to the Enterprise Zone Act once designated by the Texas Department of Economic Development.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that this item made three (3) changes in the current Enterprise Zone Ordinance. City Manager Parker stated that Council had asked Staff to try to develop ideology or methods to further develop Kurth Drive and incentivize development in that area. City Manager Parker added that the amendment would apply the Downtown Main Street Incentives to any property fronting on Kurth Drive. City Manager Parker explained that the primary benefit was for tax abatement for new development on Kurth Drive. City Manager Parker stated that the Ordinance also changed the word "shall", on the old language, to the word "may". City Manager Parker explained that the Council might not want to apply every incentive to every project within the "Enterprise Zone". City Manager Parker stated that the third (3rd) change was it would update the incentives that the Council would adopt for Economic Development, and cleaned up approximately five to six (5-6) existing Ordinances into one (1) clean draft. City Manager Parker stated that Staff would be happy to answer any questions from the Council.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan stated that the Ordinance went a long way toward addressing the issues that the Council had discussed at the last two to three (2-3) budget meetings. Councilmember Duncan stated that if he understood what he was reading correctly, if someone built on Kurth Drive, which was one of the main goals, and that person put in a business such as a restaurant, the City could do a tax abatement, and also refund its portion of the sales tax. Councilmember Duncan added that he did not see anywhere in the document where the City would also waive building permits. City Manager Paul Parker stated that there was a provision in the Ordinance that waived of building permits. Councilmember Duncan asked City Manager Paul Parker which section of the Ordinance it was in.

Economic Development Director Jim Wehmeier stated that the waiver was on page two (2) in the second paragraph under Section 3 b. Councilmember Duncan asked if the waiver of development fees was the same thing as building permit fees. City Manager Parker stated that this was correct. Councilmember Duncan stated that the Ordinance went a long way, and was about as far as a city could go to help redevelop an area.

Mayor Gorden stated that hopefully the Ordinance would do what the City Council intended it to do.
Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd moved to approve the First Reading of the Ordinance amending Ordinance 3519 of the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas as adopted May 15, 2001, nominating an area as an Enterprise Zone pursuant to the Texas Enterprise Zone Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 2303) and repealing any prior provisions contrary to this Amendment; providing for incentives; designating an authorized representative to act in all matters pertaining to the nomination and designation of the area described herein as an Enterprise Zone and Reinvestment Zone (Texas Tax Code, Chapter 312); and further designating a liaison to act on all matters pertaining to the Enterprise Zone Act once designated by the Texas Department of Economic Development. Councilmember R. L. Kuykendall seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

7. **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, - APPROVED - AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE FOR THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STATE HIGHWAYS FOR THE 2009 DOWNTOWN HOEDOWN PARADE AND DOWNTOWN HOEDOWN ON SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas, authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with the State for the temporary closure of State highways for the 2009 Downtown Hoedown Parade and Downtown Hoedown on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that each year the City requested from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), through a Resolution by the City Council, the temporary closure of the streets for the annual Downtown Hoedown and Hoedown Parade. City Manager Parker added that during the Hoedown, First Street would be closed all day, and Frank Avenue would be closed to accommodate the parade.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember R. L. Kuykendall moved to approve the Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas, authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with the State for the temporary closure of State highways for the 2009 Downtown Hoedown Parade and Downtown Hoedown on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

8. Mayor Jack Gorden recessed the Regular Session at 5:21 p.m. to enter into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: In accordance with the Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (2) Consultation with City Attorney on any Regular Session Agenda item requiring confidential, attorney/client advices necessitated by the deliberation or discussion of said items (as needed), and real estate, demolition of buildings, or appointments to boards and personnel may be discussed.

Mayor Jack Gorden reconvened the Regular Session at 6:20 p.m.

9. CONDEMNATION AND DEMOLITION – APPROVED - OF STRUCTURE AT 802 MILLER STREET

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was condemnation and demolition of a structure at 802 Miller Street.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that the house at 802 Miller Street was half way demolished, and then the demolition stopped. City Manager Parker added that Staff recommended that the Council condemn and order the structure demolished at 802 Miller Street.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan moved to approve the condemnation and demolition of the structure at 802 Miller Street. Councilmember R. L. Kuykendall seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

Mayor Gorden stated that the regular portion of the City Council Meeting agenda was concluded. Mayor Gorden added that the Council had scheduled a work session at the end of the regular agenda. Mayor Gorden stated that this was the not the normal course of business for the City Council Meeting, but that the Council felt that this was a good way to exchange some information.

10. DISCUSS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE LUFKIN CONVENTION AND TOURISM BUREAU

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was to discuss committee recommendations concerning the Lufkin Convention and Tourism Bureau.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that there would be no formal action on the item during the Council Meeting, but there would be discussion and direction for the Staff concerning the Lufkin Convention and Tourism Bureau. City Manager Parker stated that included in the

Council packets was a sample Ordinance and information recommended by the Committee of appointed Council Members.

City Manager Parker stated that he wanted to give the Council some history that brought the Council to where they currently were regarding the Lufkin Convention and Tourism Bureau. City Manager Parker added that for several years the City of Lufkin had a Board of Development, which had the responsibility of recommending expenditures of the Hotel/Motel Tax. City Manager Parker stated that in May 2005, the Board of Development was dissolved by the City Council, and the Council then assumed the oversight of the distribution of the Hotel/Motel Tax Funds. City Manager Parker explained that the Council felt like many decisions were made before they had an opportunity to review the expenditures of that fund. City Manager Parker added that this was really a responsibility of the Council, therefore the Council wanted to once again oversee the funds. City Manager Parker stated that in 2006, the City Council appointed a Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee, better known as the HOT Committee. City Manager Parker added that the HOT Committee was organized to primarily study methods and ways to promote tourism and tourism efforts in the Lufkin area. City Manager Parker stated that the HOT Committee made several recommendations, and talked to all of the entities that received money from tourism funding. City Manager Parker added that the HOT Committee also talked to other individuals about how to promote tourism in the area. City Manager Parker stated that the major recommendation that came from the HOT Committee was that all recipients of the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund would receive their money on a percentage basis, instead of a flat fee, and would be paid at the end of a quarter, instead of being paid in advance, as some of the entities were. City Manager Parker stated that at that time the Museum of East Texas was allocated seven percent (7%) of the Hotel/Motel Tax Funds and the Tourism and Convention Bureau was allocated twenty-nine percent (29%). City Manager Parker explained that the Expo Center was allocated 14.3%, but there had previously been a longstanding arrangement that the Expo Center would receive one (1) penny of one seventh (1/7) of the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund, because the City of Lufkin received seven cents (7¢) of every dollar ($1) collected, and was how the Committee arrived at the 14.3%. City Manager Parker stated that the Texas Forestry Museum was allocated five percent (5%), and five percent (5%) was set aside for promotions and events. City Manager Parker added that this money was to be used for any events brought into Lufkin, and promotions for the City and the surrounding Lufkin area. City Manager Parker stated that the balance of the fund, which was 39.7%, was allocated to the Civic Center. City Manager Parker stated that once the recommendations were all adopted, the HOT Committee was dissolved.

City Manager Parker stated that for several years the City Council had been asking questions and had interest in how to promote tourism in the community. City Manager Parker stated that the Council had considered several options, and at the last budget preparation, Mr. Jerry Huffman, representing the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce, made a presentation to the City Council on additional funding and the strategy of setting up an independent committee. City Manager Parker explained that a copy of the request was in the Council packet, and at that time the request was for three hundred seventy-seven thousand dollars ($377,000). City Manager Parker added that the request also asked for a fifteen (15) member board, with nine (9) of the members being appointed by the Chamber, and six (6) being appointed by the City Council. City Manager Parker stated that following that presentation, the City Council appointed a three (3) member committee from the Council, that included Councilmember Don Langston, Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd, and Councilmember Rufus Duncan to look at the Chamber's request, as well as to make recommendations on the best way to promote tourism in the Lufkin area.

City Manager Parker explained to the Council that what they had before them that night was the committee's request, and was before the Council that evening for their consideration and thoughts during the work session. City Manager Parker stated that the Committee had recommended establishing an independent body to govern the Tourism Program. City Manager Parker added that the body was modeled after the cities of Marshall and Nacogdoches, which had a similar arrangement with different memberships and different numbers, but the two (2) cities had a separate entity outside of the City and the Chamber of Commerce that ran and concentrated strictly on tourism for their cities. City Manager Parker stated that the Council Committee's recommendation was for a nine (9) member board, with one (1) position being a member of the City Council, with no term limits, and the other eight

(8) members being appointed by the City Council, with two (2), two (2) year term limits. City Manager Parker explained that after serving four (4) years, the board members would have to rotate off, to allow for new thoughts and ideas within the framework of the committee. City Manager Parker stated that the Council Committee also recommended an increase in allocation to forty-two percent (42%) of the Hotel/Motel Tax, which was based on the present income, and would generate approximately three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars ($325,000) of funding, in lieu of the twenty-nine percent (29%) that the Chamber Tourism presently received. City Manager Parker added that this would be an approximate thirteen percent (13%) increase in that area. City Manager Parker stated that if this Tourism Bureau was created, the mechanism would be that they would hire an Executive Director, and the Executive Director would hire any additional staff. The Tourism Bureau would be required to present an annual budget to the City Council for the Council's review and approval. City Manager Parker explained that there were many other smaller factions within the policy, but that he had basically presented the highlights of the Council's Tourism Committee's recommendation. City Manager Parker added that the Council had the attached Resolution in their packets, and also a professional service agreement for the Council's consideration and thoughts on how the Bureau would operate, should the Council decide to go forth. City Manager Parker pointed out that it would obviously take a little more cleaning up before it would be put to a vote of the Council, but was what the Council Committee had recommended. City Manager Parker stated that this was basically the recommendation, and added that there were member of the committee present that might want to provide additional comments to the overview.

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that he wanted to create a way to enter into the discussion concerning the Lufkin Convention and Tourism Bureau. Mayor Gorden stated that first (1st), he wanted to hear from any of the Council Committee Members that wanted to make a comment. Mayor Gorden added that the Council Committee had been meeting concerning the Bureau for approximately one (1) year. Mayor Gorden stated that after the Council Committee had the chance to comment, he wanted to give other City Council Members the opportunity to comment, and then there would be opportunity for visitors in the audience to speak and make comments. Mayor Gorden stated that one (1) request was that the discussion not be repetitious in nature, and if someone had already made a point, to please let that stand, unless the speaker had a different point of view. Mayor Gorden added that the City Council wanted to hear from anyone who wished to discuss the Tourism Bureau. Mayor Gorden stated that he also wanted to preface the discussion with the statement that he had heard it said that the City just wanted to take the Tourism Bureau over. Mayor Gorden stated that this was not correct, and that the City simply wanted the best tourist and convention promotion vehicle that could be had. Mayor Gorden added that the City simply wanted the Lufkin community promoted the best way it could be, and wanted it to be the best in Texas or the country. Mayor Gorden stated that this was simply a quest to try to make the Tourism Bureau the best it could be. Mayor Gorden then stated that the floor was open to the Council Committee Members.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan stated that the main goal of the Council Committee was that the group believed the organization had to be separate from the City and the Chamber. Councilmember Duncan added that by listening to City Council Members and their concerns over the years, the Council didn't feel that the current way the Bureau was structured focused all of the efforts on bringing people to Lufkin. Councilmember Duncan stated that the funds came from the Hotels, and that the Committee believed that money should be focused toward bringing more people to fill hotels, and for the tourism related to that. Councilmember Duncan stated that the most important thing was the independence. Councilmember Duncan added that the Committee felt that the organization should be independent of both the City and the Chamber, and should strictly focus on bringing people to Lufkin.

Councilmember Don Langston stated that there were two (2) areas of concern that the City Council had. Councilmember Langston added that those concerns had been addressed over the last four (4) years in open session. Councilmember Langston added that the Council strongly felt that they were the fiduciaries of this money, and were responsible to the citizens of Lufkin for the use of the funds. Councilmember Langston added that the Council sought a formal agreement, or some way of understanding how the money was being spent, so the Council could be assured that the funds would get the best bang for the buck. Councilmember Langston stated that the Council though there had been something lacking, and then last fall Jerry Huffman brought a plan to the Council. Councilmember Langston added that was the first (1^{st}) plan that the Council had received in the last four (4) years of the Council requesting better reporting from the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau. Councilmember Langston explained that this plan was a good start. Councilmember Langston stated that what the plan lacked, and what the Council felt was their responsibility to provide to the citizens, was a formal agreement, which was represented in the Council packet, and a professional services contract. Councilmember Langston added that the second (2^{nd}) thing that the Council felt that needed strengthening was fiduciary reporting. Councilmember Langston stated that this would include an audit and other safeguards that the Council had and were responsible for to the citizens, with the taxpayer's funds. Councilmember Langston added that these were provided through other organizations that handled money, and were addressed in the report. Councilmember Langston stated that the major change and the only considerable change from the proposal that the Council looked at last year was the City wanted to take the role of appointing that board, and making sure that board had oversight of a professional person. Councilmember Langston added that the City would not have the oversight, but would certainly be available to assist in getting a professional in that position that would be managed by a board. Councilmember Langston stated that the board would be the peers of those people who would benefit the most from the tax money being put back into tourism. Councilmember Langston added that this would be the hotel industry, the restaurants and retailers, and the people who would benefit from the funds would comprise the majority of that board. Councilmember Langston stated that the only major differences in the proposals were who would appoint the board, and the number of members on the board.

Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd stated that she agreed with both Councilmember Duncan and Councilmember Langston, and that now the Council should hear from the people in the audience.

Mayor Gorden reiterated that no decisions would be made in the meeting, and that it was the beginning of a conversation. Mayor Gorden then asked those wishing to speak to come to the podium and identify themselves for the record. Mayor Gorden added that it was not a formal hearing, and was a workshop and was less formal than a true Public Hearing.

Board Chairman of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce Todd Kassaw approached the podium. Mr. Kassaw stated that he was speaking on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and its one thousand one hundred (1,100) members. Mr. Kassaw stated that he would attempt to make his comments brief, but that he also wanted to respond to some of the comments that the City Council had made. Mr. Kassaw stated that it was his understanding that the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau had been operating under the Chamber since 1976, or for thirty-three (33) years. Mr. Kassaw added that his perception was that the Bureau had done a very good job with what they had. Mr. Kassaw stated that the budget for the Convention and Visitors Bureau had been not insignificant, but was probably lacking in terms of what everyone saw needed to be done in terms of marketing the City of Lufkin and the surrounding community. Mr. Kassaw stated that the Chamber, in conjunction with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, had made several initiatives. Mr. Kassaw explained that "You'll Love Lufkin" was one (1) of them. Mr. Kassaw added that more recently, there was underway some branding and marketing specialists that the Chamber and some people in the room had met with, which would directly benefit tourism, the Visitors Bureau, the Chamber, the City, the Economic Development and a wide array of entities and aspects of what needed to be promoted in the community. Mr. Kassaw stated that this couldn't be done by any one entity, but needed to be done by everyone cooperatively. Mr. Kassaw stated that with a proper budget and a strong public/private partnership, the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau could be all that everyone wanted it to be. Mr. Kassaw added that the Bureau could provide more marketing efforts, more deliverables, and reach the people who were potential visitors, and might become retirees in the Lufkin Community. Mr. Kassaw continued that the Bureau could reach tourists that might be in Lufkin for a weekend visit, or a Saturday afternoon. Mr. Kassaw stated that the marketing plan that was being considered and being researched, was something that would do that and would help that. Mr. Kassaw stated that the plan that had been presented by the Chamber to the City Council, regarding a different form of Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau, was very similar to what the Council had in its proposed Resolution, with a couple of differences. Mr. Kassaw stated that Councilmember Duncan indicated a desire to have independence for the board that would oversee the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Kassaw stated that if the City Council, with all due respect to the Committee that prepared the proposal and probably spent a lot of time putting it together, appointed each and every member of the board, it may not have the independence that Councilmember Duncan was referring to. Mr. Kassaw added that this was just a concern. Mr. Kassaw stated that the Chamber of Commerce could provide, and had provided, was economy of scale, management of that separate entity that had a board that consisted of the public sector, City Council Members or a representative for the City Council, and Chamber Members or Chamber Board Members coming from the private sector, which was a good public/private meshing to oversee the entity being proposed by both groups. Mr. Kassaw stated that it was absolutely essential that the board that might oversee the new Convention and Visitors Bureau, be comprised of both public and private sectors. Mr. Kassaw added that the best use of time and money and people, was to keep the Chamber of Commerce involved in that process and that board. Mr. Kassaw stated that resources that were available through the Chamber of Commerce, in terms of volunteers, people, time, and talent was second to none in the Lufkin community. Mr. Kassaw added that the Chamber of Commerce could provide those people resources that were necessary to do things such as the Neches River Rendezvous. Mr. Kassaw stated that the proposed entity that had board members, appointed by the City Council with a paid professional, could attempt to hold the Neches River Rendezvous, but would not have a base of volunteers from which to draw and make the Neches River Rendezvous happen, and it would be difficult and would propose challenges that maybe had not been considered. Mr. Kassaw stated that he threw that out for consideration because the Chamber could provide those resources and those answers to questions that might arise when the Visitors Bureau wanted or needed to have an event, such as the Neches River Rendezvous. Mr. Kassaw stated that he agreed with Councilmember Langston that the City Council was the steward, or were the stewards, of the tax dollars. Mr. Kassaw pointed out that obviously the tax dollars were owned, and held for the citizens of Lufkin and the community. Mr. Kassaw reiterated that the City Council was the steward of that money. Mr. Kassaw stated that he wanted the City Council to understand that the current Convention and Visitors Bureau budget was twenty-nine percent (29%) of the sales tax dollars, and that the proposed budget was forty-two percent (42%), which was a significant increase. Mr. Kassaw stated that with that significant increase came significantly more marketing and significantly more deliverables. Mr. Kassaw pointed out that those things could not have be done in past years, given the amount of budget that was available. Mr. Kassaw stated that the current budget was less than what it was six (6) years ago. Mr. Kassaw added that while everyone wanted more, and that everyone in the room would agree that more marketing, more contacts and a more beefed up program was needed for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Kassaw added that, however when the budget was going in the other direction, it made it difficult to accomplish some of those things. Mr. Kassaw stated that he wanted to point out that the Chamber of Commerce desired and wanted to be a part of the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Kassaw stated that it was essential for the success of all of the marketing and all of the tourism and contacts, to have the Chamber of Commerce an integral part of the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Kassaw added that whatever plan went forward, it was important that the Chamber of Commerce be a part of it. Mr. Kassaw stated that every day that the Chamber opened its doors it was the front door to the Lufkin community, and was what people saw when they visited Lufkin. Mr. Kassaw added that those people may be tourists and may be coming to Lufkin to see the Zoo. Mr. Kassaw stated that the people may be visitors to Lufkin, with an eye toward retiring in Lufkin. Mr. Kassaw stated that the people might be visiting the City with an eye toward moving their business to Lufkin. Mr. Kassaw stated that there was a variety of reasons why someone would visit Lufkin, Texas. Mr. Kassaw added that the melding of the public/private sector and allowing the Chamber of Commerce to continue to be an integral part of the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau reached and accomplished those goals, by reaching the visitors however they got to Lufkin or for whatever reason they came to Lufkin. Mr. Kassaw added that the Chamber also provided other resources that might not be available. Mr. Kassaw stated that those resources might be more difficult to gather without the participation and joint efforts of the City, the Chamber, and the public/private sectors. Mr. Kassaw stated that as stewards of the tax dollars, the City Council could achieve the goals without the Chamber or anyone. Mr. Kassaw added that the City Council could do it with the Chamber or without the Chamber. Mr. Kassaw reiterated that the Council was the steward of the money. Mr. Kassaw stated that he implored the City Council to allow the Chamber to participate, and allow them to remain an integral part of the

Convention and Visitors Bureau, so they there could be a melding of the public and the private sector.

Mayor Gorden asked Mr. Kassaw to please take back to the Chamber of Commerce Membership and Board, that the Council's desire for the best in the area was no reflection on the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Gorden added that everyone knew that Lufkin had a great Chamber, great Board, and great volunteers that were the envy of the State of Texas. Mayor Gorden stated that he was afraid that the intention of the Council might be misunderstood, and in no way did the Council intend to cast any type of disparity on the Chamber of Commerce, or its Board and membership. Mr. Kassaw replied that he would do that, and thanked the Mayor for his comments.

Councilmember Langston stated that he wanted to add that this was truly not an "us and them" issue, and that the majority of the people sitting in the City Council area, were a part of the one thousand one hundred (1,100) person membership. Councilmember Langston stated that the Council was trying to achieve focus on what the Council found to be a concern, and that part of the Council Meeting that night was to get more information, so the Council could focus even better. Councilmember Langston stated that hopefully any members of the Committee would also be members of the Chamber, and was what the Council certainly set out to do. Councilmember Langston stated that this was a "hand in hand" proposal, and needed to include everyone working together. Councilmember Langston added this was just an organizational methodology to give the Council an ability to receive data on successes and failures, and the ability to account for that information. Councilmember Langston stated that it was the primary mission of the Council and had nothing to do with "us and them". Councilmember Langston added that the City had to have the Chamber involved, as it was part of the success of the community. Mr. Kassaw stated that he appreciated Councilmember Langston's comments, and looked forward to helping to focus toward a better Visitors Bureau.

Victor Patel, with the Holiday Inn, Hampton, Comfort Inn, Quality Inn and a Chamber Board Member approached the podium. Mr. Patel stated that he wanted to thank the City Council for considering the proposal for additional dollars. Mr. Patel added that it was very important, and that the City was heading in the right direction. Mr. Patel stated that the proposal that the Council presented was good, and that he did not want to discourage the Chamber, because he was a part of the Chamber also, and that he agreed that everyone needed to work together, especially in the current economic times. Mr. Patel stated that everyone needed to work together to try to get more people to Lufkin, which was greatly needed, and that the continued dialogue was greatly appreciated. Mr. Patel then thanked the City Council for their time.

Michael Parker approached the podium. Mr. Parker asked how much the two (2) percentages equaled out to in dollars. City Manager Parker stated that he could not give Mr. Michael Parker the actual dollar figure, but that basically the difference between the percentages was approximately one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000). Mr. Michael Parker stated that he dealt with an organization that had Executive Directors and costs and budgets on the state level, and asked if the Executive Director's salary and benefits and staff would come out of the one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000). Councilmember Langston stated that it would, just as it did now, through the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau. City Manager Parker pointed out that he may have overestimated the difference, and that it was closer to sixty-eight thousand dollars ($68,000) or somewhere around seventy-five thousand dollars to one hundred thousand dollars ($75,000 - $100,000). Councilmember Lynn Torres pointed out that the figure was hard to determine, because it was a percentage of the Hotel/Motel Tax, and added that every single entity, on a percentage basis, received more than their budget during the current year. Councilmember Torres added that while the Convention and Tourist Bureau was budgeted one hundred seventy-seven thousand dollars ($177,000) during the current year, they actually took in more than that, as did the Museum, the Forestry Museum, and the Expo Center. Councilmember Torres pointed out that this was because there were more people in Lufkin, and the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund took in more money. Mr. Michael Parker stated that he was unsure if the additional amount would take in the additional cost of staff, the Executive Director, office, expenses, and benefits. Mr. Michael Parker wanted to know if it would make much difference in the amount that the Council planned to increase the budget of the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau, and that he was concerned if there was going to be two (2) separate entities, and if the amount would be enough if the board would be a separate entity and that the City may not be accomplishing more than if the Chamber continued to run the Bureau, with more fiduciary responsibility of where the money went. Councilmember Langston stated that the success of either organization, wherever it was housed, would be dependent on the staff that was hired to run it, and that both required staff and was in the budget for both.

Chamber Board Member Sid Roberts approached the podium. Mr. Roberts stated that he was also on the Board of the Angelina Alliance, and also a physician in Lufkin. Mr. Roberts stated that he had a point of clarification or a question regarding the new structure. Mr. Roberts asked if the percentages to various organizations also be revisited through that board, and how would the City evaluate the overall percentages that was used. Mr. Roberts added that when basing the Bureau on a model of perhaps Longview, Marshall or Nacogdoches, his understanding was that Nacogdoches had seventy-nine percent (79%) of their Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax go toward their Bureau. Mr. Roberts pointed out that this was much higher than Lufkin, and asked how the City Council would evaluation the overall result, and if the percentage needed to go up, and would the board be allowed to revisit the percentage that went to the museums, Expo Center and other organizations. Mr. Roberts explained that the reason he asked, was in the past, the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax process was kind of a black hole, and that other organizations such as the Arts Alliance looked at whether or not they could apply to it at some point, and that there was never any real way to do it.

Mayor Gorden stated that he thought the answer to Mr. Robert's questions was that it was two (2) separate issues. Mayor Gorden added that it was, however a work in progress, and that nobody claimed to have all of the answers. Mayor Gorden stated that those designations to those organizations had been and that he assumed would continue to be a function of the City Council, on an annual basis, as part of the annual budgetary process. Councilmember Langston stated that the organization, that was being discussed that night, only dealt with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the visitors to Lufkin. Councilmember Langston added that the other organizations that benefitted from the Hotel/Motel Tax would actually be, as the Mayor was saying, and that this organization would have no authority in that matter. Councilmember Duncan stated that some of the increase that was being considered could come out of the existing Civic Center's funds, and then the Civic Center would actually be funded more out of the General Fund. Councilmember Langston stated that was exactly what was happening. Councilmember Duncan explained that if anyone wondered where the money was coming from, it was actually coming from the City's General Fund. Councilmember Langston stated that the City was taking less, and putting more into the operation of the Civic Center, out of the General Fund, instead of the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund to make more funds available for a good sound focus on tourism.

Linda Huggins Martin approached the podium. Ms. Martin stated that she was a local realtor in town. Ms. Martin stated that one (1) thing that she noticed that Lufkin hadn't been doing was advertising, and that was the way you let people know what you had. Ms. Martin added that she took Texas Monthly, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Southern Living magazines and one (1) of her favorite things to do was look in the back, and see what Marble Falls had to offer this summer, or Grapevine, or Amarillo, and that Lufkin was not in there. Ms. Martin stated that Lufkin was not ever in there. Ms. Martin stated that she was sure that it had something to do with money, and that she was sure that it was very expensive to advertise in those magazines. Ms. Martin added that she hadn't checked the cost, but was sure that it cost more than the Lufkin Daily. Ms. Martin stated that one (1) of the biggest concerns that she had was that there was really nothing for Lufkin to tell people to come to. Ms. Martin stated that Lufkin had the Forest Festival, the Hushpuppy Olympics, and has a good Convention Center, but Lufkin's downtown needed some help. Ms. Martin added that she was sure the Council had heard it before, but that she had someone that was currently interested in doing something downtown, but it cost a lot of money to revamp those buildings. Ms. Martin stated that she wasn't aware of how many of the Council had actually visited some of the buildings, but most of them were harbors for mice and bats and their droppings. Ms. Martin stated that it was a serious situation in Lufkin's downtown. Ms. Martin added that there needed to be something that would get people to the downtown area. Ms. Martin stated that there were marvelous sidewalks, but there was nobody on them. Ms. Martin stated that downtown needed antique stores, coffee shops, boutiques, and parlors, so that when people came to town for conventions, and the wives got bored, they could go downtown and spend time shopping. Ms. Martin stated that the entire family needed to be focused on. Ms. Martin explained that the downtown was one of the sleepiest things that Lufkin had. Ms. Martin added that she hated to talk about and liken Lufkin to the neighbors to the north, but added that people should go there during the week and walk down their brick streets. Ms. Martin stated that the streets were teeming with people, no matter the time of day, and the people were going to the little shops. Ms. Martin stated that the people were not only going into the shops, but were making purchases there. Ms. Martin stated that if Lufkin was going to advertise something, the downtown of Lufkin was a sleepy money maker, and that she would do anything that she could to help get it on the drawing board. Ms. Martin reiterated that she would love to pick up a Southern Living magazine and see advertising for downtown Lufkin.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan stated that in one (1) of the previous motions, the City Council approved incentives for any of Ms. Martin's customers who wanted to locate in downtown Lufkin, which included rebates of the City's portion of sales tax, rebates for the building permits, and tax abatements. Councilmember Duncan added that he wasn't sure if that was widely understood at the time it was passed, but that the Council passed considerable incentives for both Kurth Drive and downtown.

Mayor Gorden stated that he hoped that everyone agreed that they wanted Lufkin to be the best it could be. Mayor Gorden added that occasionally people were not all comfortable with change. Mayor Gorden stated that whatever form this might take; hopefully it would be for the betterment of the community. Mayor Gorden stated that if you wanted a different result, you don't always do something the same way you have always done it. Mayor Gorden added that ways of the past had served the community pretty well, but it was now time for a rethinking, revamping, and renewal of the commitment to bringing tourists to the Lufkin community and filling the hotels.

Director of the Museum of East Texas J. P. McDonald approached the podium. Ms. McDonald stated that she only had a few comments to make. Ms. McDonald stated that she was proud of the Texas Forestry Museum, the Ellen Trout Zoo, and was certainly proud of the Museum of East Texas. Ms. McDonald added that whatever the Council could do to help them further their cause, would be greatly appreciated. Ms. McDonald asked if the Council would consider doing it before fall, when the Museum brought the "Audubon" to Lufkin.

Mayor Gorden stated that after setting through some of the sessions that the Chamber had recently held on "branding", one (1) of the things that came to mind when people thought about Lufkin was the word "museum".

Councilmember Phil Medford stated that Mr. Kassaw's comments were very much "on point", and were well made and well taken. Councilmember Medford added that he couldn't imagine that whatever was being proposed, once refined, would not involve the Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Medford stated that it was never the intent of the Council to try to create an entity that had nothing to do with the Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Medford added that Mr. Kassaw was correct, and that in the big picture of things, the concept would only work if everyone was involved and committed. Councilmember Medford stated that what led the Council to this point, was the Council looked at the money and felt that if they were going to move forward, upgrade and take it to the next level, that it would probably involve more money. Councilmember Medford stated that was where the City Council was headed. Councilmember Medford explained that at the same time, nobody sitting on the City Council had the experience, education, and wherewithal to know how to run a Convention and Tourist Bureau, and yet be competitive out in today's market. Councilmember Medford stated that the Council's thoughts were simply to get enough money to hire a person that the Council thought should be able, based on their experience, education and maturity, to lead the effort. Councilmember Medford added that he didn't know how important it was to determine "who appoints what" or "how many members there were", but that it would come down to somebody knowing what they were doing, as a professional, that could lead the effort. Councilmember Medford stated that this was where the Council was, and was certainly not an "us versus them" or "we want it, you want it" situation. Councilmember Medford stated that it was how to get from point "A" to point "B", and how it could be taken to the next level and do a better job of getting people to Lufkin. Councilmember Medford stated that the Chamber did a wonderful job, and that the Chamber was the entry or door to Lufkin. Councilmember Medford added that the intent was to get people before they arrived in Lufkin, or entice them to come to Lufkin. Councilmember Medford explained that this was what led the Council to decide that it needed to be taken to the next level. Councilmember Medford added that an integral part of that was to put enough money in to hire the type person who should be able to lead. Councilmember Medford stated that there were no guarantees, but that just like anyone in business that hired people understood, you never know about a person until they come to work. Councilmember Medford stated that an application and resume may look good, but nobody knew until that person came to work. Councilmember Medford stated that the City would be faced with that, but had committed enough funds to have a reasonable expectation of hiring a top professional person to lead the entity. Councilmember Medford added that the endeavor certainly needed to be structured in a manner that the Chamber felt like they had the same involvement that the City Council had to make it a successful effort.

Director of the Texas Forestry Museum Ginger Trotter approached the podium. Ms. Trotter stated that she particularly wanted to thank the three (3) Council Members who spent a lot of time examining the program and the proposal. Ms. Trotter added that it was difficult. Ms. Trotter also thanked Jerry Huffman, and his team at the Chamber, that worked on the original proposal, because as she understood, it was also very strong. Ms. Trotter stated that she had a unique perspective, because she spent several years in the private industry that definitely contributed to the Hotel/Motel Taxes in Lufkin. Ms. Trotter explained that she was now on the opposite end of the spectrum, and now had the opportunity to see things from a different side. Ms. Trotter thanked the Council for putting together the opportunity to help make the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau be as powerful and competitive as it needed to be to face the future markets. Ms. Trotter stated that Lufkin needed the dollars in the community to be able to compete with the communities that she had heard mentioned at that meeting. Ms. Trotter thanked the Council for the foresight to make that happen. Ms. Trotter stated that she was relieved to hear that Lufkin was looking to bring some of the dollars from the General Fund to help get the percentage up to forty-two percent (42%), rather than removing it from the entities that had budget dollars and activities that they were counting on. Ms. Trotter reiterated that she wanted to thank the Council, and that it meant a lot, and that she looked forward to seeing the results of the program in two to three (2-3) years.

Mayor Gorden asked if there was anyone else wanting to speak on the subject. Mayor Gorden then stated that the item needed to be brought to a head, and added that it certainly needed further study. Councilmember Duncan agreed, and that he heard Mr. Kassaw say that the Chamber wanted the City to allow them to participate. Councilmember Duncan stated that he would feel more comfortable, before deciding on a final proposal, if the Council got some input from the Chamber. Mayor Gorden asked the Council Committee to discuss this with a group from the Chamber. Councilmember Langston agreed that this would be a great idea. Mayor Gorden stated that this could be worked out without an official action and added that if it were agreeable with everyone, the discussion would continue, everyone would work on the issues, and the interested parties would get together to move forward. Councilmember Langston stated that time was "a wasting", and that everyone was focused on what needed to be accomplished, and that the quicker that everyone got together and made sure that everyone had "buy in", the better off everyone would be. Mayor Gorden agreed, and stated that while this was at the top of everyone's mind, they should "strike while the iron was hot". Mayor Gorden added that the audience would not have been present if they were not personally interested in the subject, and that the City Council appreciated it. Mayor Gorden added that for it to work, for the community to work, it would take everyone. Mayor Gorden stated that there was no intent to exclude anyone, and that it was just an effort to make it as good as it could be.

11. DISCUSS STATUS OF THE RENOVATION OF THE PINES THEATER

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was to discuss status of the renovation of the Pines Theater.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that a little over a year ago, the City of Lufkin purchased the Pines Theater. City Manager Parker added that one (1) of the keys to downtown Lufkin was the Pines Theater, because it had become very deteriorated and a truck had hit and damaged the marquee. City Manager Parker stated that the appearance of downtown was greatly affected by the large structure. City Manager Parker stated that the City Council saw that the renovation of the Pines Theater as a key to promote the downtown, with the concept of having future events in the theater. City Manager Parker added that the potential usage of the building was discussed, and last year the Council allocated an initial amount of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) to begin the repair of the Pines Theater, with the hope that the City would receive additional funding from some of the local foundations. City Manager Parker explained that an application had not been made to all of the foundations, but the Council thought it was imperative to begin the renovation of the exterior portion of the Pines Theater. City Manager Parker stated that activities were due to "kick-off" during the current week. City Manager Parker explained that the work on the roofing would begin during the current week, and that there was a masonry contractor adding bricks to the structure that had deteriorated over the many years. City Manager Parker stated that someone would begin "refacing" the storefront of the Pines, from the marquee down, in the near future. City Manager Parker stated that the City went out to bid for the marquee "up", and what was referred to as the sign portion. City Manager Parker explained that unfortunately the City did not get a qualified bidder on the project, and the project was back out to bid. City Manager Parker stated that after the structure was power washed and cleaned, there would be a new storefront, a new façade, with the neon reworked on the exterior, and the roof repaired to stop further damage and leaking in the structure. City Manager Parker stated that then some of the initial demolition would begin on the interior. City Manager Parker added that there was a lot of old fly area, and that originally the structure was a theater that had plays and did vaudeville, before it became a movie house. City Manager Parker explained that there was a lot of old fly, property and equipment that were in various stages of disarray that needed to be removed. City Manager stated that this was the extent of the plans that had been brought to the Council at that time. City Manager stated that his understanding was the Council would try to accomplish the project as it could, with the money that was available. City Manager Parker added that the project should probably be referred to a new committee, or a building committee, to determine what the building should actually be used for. City Manager Parker stated that this would determine how the building should actually be renovated. City Manager Parker stated that the committee should go to several theaters that had been restored and look at them and their operations, and see what would be the best suit for the City of Lufkin. City Manager Parker stated that it should be decided if the structure would be used for movies, plays, or musicals. City Manager Parker added that everything was contingent on that decision. City Manager Parker stated that Staff was looking to the City Council for direction, because once the exterior was finished, the City would make applications, and hopefully receive additional funding, from the entities that, in the past, had shown a real interest in the Pines Theater, and the renovation of it. City Manager Parker reiterated that Staff was looking for direction from the Council on how they wanted the City to proceed.

City Manager Parker pointed out that there was not an architect on staff, and that the City had Mark Strong on contract to do the initial work, but the contract had expired. City Manager Parker asked the Council if they wanted to go back into a more long-term arrangement for renovation and that this was a discussion that needed to be brought back to the Council for a final recommendation. City Manager Parker stated that this was where the City currently was on the renovations of the Pines Theater, and that hopefully, in the next few months, people could see the exterior renovated. City Manager Parker added that this included the exterior sidewalk, with light bollards that would possibly prevent vehicles from damaging the marquee in the future. City Manager Parker stated that even though it had only happened one (1) time, the City wanted to preclude it from happening again. City Manager Parker stated that was where Staff stood on the progress of the Pines Theater. City Manager Parker added that his recommendation was to use Building Committee again, if they would agree to take this on. City Manager Parker added that there may be others that had an interest in the Pines Theater. City Manager Parker stated that he would recommend that the group tour the other facilities, or theaters, to get an idea of what would work and what wouldn't work. City Manager Parker stated that the number of Council Members needed to stay below three (3), because of the appearance of any conflict with the Open Meetings Act.

Councilmember Lynn Torres stated that she wanted to express her interest in the Pines Theater and the Committee. Councilmember Torres stated that she wanted to ask when the final request for proposal (RFP) was due for the marquee. City Engineer Chuck Walker stated that the City would go out to bid in the current week for the marquee, and that the City would give two (2) weeks to bid on it.

Councilmember Don Langston stated that Staff had done everything that the Council had asked of them, which was stabilize the building and give it the appearance of revitalization, because that was important. Councilmember Langston stated that all of the Council had labored with what to do, and how to properly outfit the structure for an intended purpose. Councilmember Langston added that he had served on the Building Committee, and wouldn't mind continuing to do so. Councilmember Langston stated that, however if there was someone that would prefer to be on the Committee that hadn't been, it would be fine. Councilmember Langston stated that the next step was certainly to go and visit some other theaters, to see how they were operating and glean some ideas from some successes.

Mayor Gorden stated that the Council had been discussing attracting people to Lufkin, and that regardless of the business that a person was in, or where they worked, new people coming to Lufkin wanted to see Downtown, sooner or later. Mayor Gorden added that it was the only downtown that Lufkin had, and that there had been some nice headway made, but that it was just a start. Mayor Gorden added that it was a work in progress, and regardless of person's view of the final outcome of the Pines Theater, it was sitting right in the middle of downtown, and the Council could just let it fall down on itself or begin doing something about it. Mayor Gorden then commended City Staff for getting started.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan stated that the Council went into the venture, at the beginning, by meeting with some of the different non-profits around Lufkin and gauged their interest in helping the City of Lufkin fund the project. Councilmember Duncan added that the Council took the initial lead and got the outside fixed up, including the roof and the marquee. Councilmember Duncan stated that he would like to see the City fully develop the possibilities of getting the remainder of the project funded, without the use of City funds. Councilmember Duncan added that the City may not get all of it completed, but that certainly the City needed to put a priority to getting the public to help fund the project, once the Committee made a decision on what to do with the structure.

Mayor Gorden stated that this was the initial intent of the City Council, and that the City would show some progress and begin to get serious about doing that on a matching basis or however it could be accomplished. Mayor Gorden stated that he also thought that there were a number of citizens interested in the Pines Theater, and that the City might also try to tap into that resource.

Councilmember Phil Medford stated that he was fortunate enough to be in Washington D. C. the previous week and went to a play at the Ford's Theater. Councilmember Medford stated that while he was sitting there, he was thinking about the Pines Theater.

Mayor Gorden stated that he had been on the Building Committee, and like Councilmember Langston he was open, if someone else desired to serve on it. Councilmember Duncan stated that he wanted to be on the Building Committee. Mayor Gorden added that he wholeheartedly wanted the Committee to go and look at other places that had been renovated. Mayor Gorden added that he wanted the group to visit with the people running those facilities and find out how they were being used, and how it helped their community.

Councilmember Torres stated that her concern was that the facility should be as multi-use as possible. Councilmember Torres added that the facility couldn't just be committed to movies or plays, but had to serve the needs of a number of small venues, in order for it to be successful. Councilmember Torres stated that movies couldn't be shown there all of the time. Mayor Gorden agreed with Councilmember Torres.

12. DISCUSS CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY APPROPRIATION

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was to discuss CDBG Disaster Recovery Appropriation, which had been floating around for some time, but in recent weeks had actually gotten some serious traction and some real money coming about.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that the City Council and Staff had talked about sheltering for the past few years, and the many potentials of sheltering in the City. City Manager

Parker added that the City had an original three hundred thousand dollar ($300,000) allocation, through Senator Hutchinson's office, that had helped for seed money for sheltering. City Manager Parker added that there might be another one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) available, from the same resource. City Manager Parker stated that recently, through the Hurricane Ike Relief, it was determined that Lufkin/Angelina County would receive five million dollars ($5,000,000) for sheltering. City Manager Parker added that there was an additional one million three hundred fourteen thousand dollars ($1,314, 000) for other improvements, but the five million dollars ($5,000,000) was set aside for sheltering. City Manager Parker stated that Judge Suiter has been involved in this, and was currently at a Hurricane Preparedness Conference. City Manager Parker explained that the Judge was very interested in working with the City on the allocation, because it was a Lufkin and Angelina County allocation. City Manager Parker stated that it had not been determined how to divide the money between the County and the City. City Manager Parker added that this was going forward with the premise that most of the sheltering would be done by the City, and the City coordinating with the faith based entities and the Lufkin Independent School District, and there was no way to take any of the entities out. City Manager Parker stated that there was a recent interview that insinuated that this would do away with the faith based entities, and there was no way that this could ever occur with the number of evacuees that the Lufkin had. City Manager Parker reiterated that without the faith based entities and the LISD, there was no way it would work, and additional sheltering would just supplement the sheltering that Lufkin already had. City Manager Parker explained that an additional shelter would also give Lufkin an area to move evacuees to, as shelters began to close down. City Manager Parker added that obviously, the first shelters that needed to be closed was the ones located in Lufkin Independent School District, so that the students could return to school, and the teachers back to educating the young people. City Manager Parker stated that this would allow Lufkin to have a shelter to consolidate the remaining evacuees, so that entities could get back to normal business. City Manager Parker added that in no way was it intended to usurp, or do away with the other shelters. City Manager Parker stated that one (1) article stated that the City of Lufkin would be able to accommodate ten thousand (10,000) people. City Manager Parker explained that this would be a nightmare. City Manager Parker stated that the City was talking about a shelter that would aid the current shelters, and a place to concentrate on special needs, or a shelter that would be able to remain open for a longer period of time, and able to consolidate evacuees, as their numbers dwindled. City Manager Parker stated that assuming the City received the five million dollars ($5,000,000), Staff had talked in general terms about building a new Civic Center/Convention/Sheltering Center, in the price range of approximately fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000). City Manager Parker stated that there were no plans and no numbers for the cost of that facility, and that the Council could actually add a number in that place, but that this had been the general number that had been discussed. City Manager Parker explained that obviously the five million dollars ($5,000,000) would be one-third (1/3) of the money needed. City Manager Parker stated that there was a shelter built near Huntsville, Texas, that was more of a free standing combination of a shelter, EOC Center, and open for public use. City Manager Parker added that the facility was somewhat smaller, and added that Judge Suiter had mentioned looking at building something of that nature, and was another option. City Manager Parker stated that a third (3^{rd}) option was to work with the current Civic Center facility. City Manager Parker stated that Assistant City Manager Keith Wright had a rendering to show the Council, but reminded them that this was only thrown out to begin the dialogue. City Manager Parker added that Staff did not have a recommendation or a solution. City Manager Parker explained that pretty soon the five million dollars ($5,000,000) would be available, and then the Council would need to have an idea where they wanted the money to go. City Manager Parker stated that there was also the potential of a second (2^{nd}) round Ike Funding, and even possibly a third (3^{rd}) round of Ike Funding. City Manager Parker added that the additional dollars that may be available could possibly increase and change the Council's thought process, because if the City was allocated fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000) it would change the City's way of thinking, than it would if the City was allocated five million dollars ($5,000,000). City Manager Parker reiterated that Staff did not have a solution, and did not want to represent the money as total City of Lufkin money, because the funds were for Lufkin and Angelina County at the present time. City Manager Parker then asked Assistant City Manager Keith Wright to explain the concept of what could be done with the current Civic Center facility. City Manager Parker reiterated that the plans could be modified in any way.

Assistant City Manager Keith Wright stated that some time back there was some work done on considering an expansion of the Civic Center. Mr. Wright added that Goodwin-Lasiter had worked on that project, and that Mr. Wright asked Malcom McKinley to give him whatever he had. Mr. Wright explained that the middle section of the plans was the existing Civic Center. Mr. Wright stated that there would be an "L" shape added to the current facility. Mr. Wright showed a diagram to the City Council of the proposed plans. City Manager Parker clarified that the front was where the Angelina Statue was located. Mr. Wright stated that the plans were to create two (2) levels of breakout rooms, and added that the interior walls could actually be folding partitions in the rooms. Mr. Wright stated that there would be one (1) conference/theater seating type area, with a broad glass that was similar to the meeting room at Angelina College that held meetings in it on occasion. Mr. Wright added that a full level kitchen would be added to meet the sheltering requirements. Mr. Wright stated that the current food preparation area would be modified to have showers and commercial type washers and dryers added to meet the needs of the shelter. Mr. Wright added that the shelter capacity would be approximately one thousand to one thousand five hundred (1,000-1,500) people. Mr. Wright stated that this was just one (1) concept, and there were many ways to accomplish the project.

Mayor Gorden stated that one (1) of the things that should have been mentioned, when the group was talking about Tourist and Convention Bureau, was the idea floating around the community about creating a Tourist and Convention Center out on the highway coming into Lufkin. Mayor Gorden stated that theoretically, there was more money to be had, and that the Council should seriously look at relocating the Civic Center and doing something entirely different with the current facility. Councilmember Lynn Torres suggested that the facility could be used for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mayor Gorden agreed. Councilmember Torres added that the facility would also make a good Police Station for the City.

Councilmember Langston stated that of course money was everything in considering the options, and that when the discussion of having a new Convention Center came up, part of it was because of the hurricane and the fact that Lufkin needed more sheltering facilities. Councilmember Langston added that this got some of the Council's minds working along that idea. Councilmember Langston explained that the Council thought that if the State and Federal Government recognized the admirable job the City had done, then perhaps they would assist in creating a better environment for the evacuees. Councilmember Langston added that unfortunately the City did such a good job and didn't toot its horn loud enough, then the City went for two (2) years with virtually no recognition, and even had somewhat of a struggle getting reimbursed for its expenses. Councilmember Langston stated that for him to see five million dollars ($5,000,000) come by the way to the City was exciting, and about one fourth (¼) of what the community deserved for its effort. Councilmember Langston added that he was referring to the entire community, and not just the City of Lufkin. Councilmember Langston stated that if the five million dollars ($5,000,000) was all of the money the City received, then it was a reasonable plan to utilize the money for the current facility that the City had, and try to make that facility more than it currently was. Councilmember Langston explained that otherwise, the option would be to consider what it would truly cost to relocate, and build a new facility, and use the five million dollars ($5,000,000) toward that, and then ask the citizens of Lufkin to pay for the remainder with a bond issue. Councilmember Langston added that he thought that was the only alternative, and that the City would need full citizen "buy in".

Mr. Wright stated that the problem was that he didn't know to tell the Council the timing for the issue of the Ike money. Mr. Wright added that he also didn't know how long the City had to deal with the money that was allocated. Councilmember Langston stated that this was a good comment, because as Mr. Wright mentioned about the possible additional rounds, he suspected that some of it would be brought on by the fact that there would be "so much match", or would be by the ability of a community to utilize the money in a given time frame. Mr. Wright added that the City still had to get the money approved and had to show a failure to function, or show Ike related damages. Mr. Wright explained that the City was looking at a failure to function at the shelters. Mr. Wright stated that what happened after the event was over, and there were long term evacuees that the City was trying to send home, but they had no home to go to, the City knew that the schools had to go back to normal business, and the churches were also trying to return to normal. Mr. Wright stated that there was always a few hundred (100+) people that the City was dealing with and trying get back to a functioning society again. Mr. Wright stated that if the City had a place that the few hundred (100+) evacuees could go, that would give the City an extra two (2) to three (3) weeks to process them, and would be ideal. Mr. Wright added that this was where this would really benefit the City of Lufkin and the community.

Mayor Gorden stated that it was an interesting concept to take the current structure and enhance it to deal with the evacuees, and in the mean time it would give the City more meeting places and more break out rooms. Mayor Gorden stated that the good news was the City was closer than it might think to the second (2^{nd}) round of money coming in. Mayor Gorden stated that as the additional funding came about, it would help the City and the community to define its thoughts.

Mr. Wright stated that the interesting thing on the second (2^{nd}) round of money was the City needed to be involved in how the money was allocated. Mr. Wright added that this was key. Mr. Wright stated that the money would be allocated to the COGs, and how the money was divided up in the COGs, and how the money would be allocated in Lufkin's COG, would be another scenario altogether. Mayor Gorden stated that was also a great point. Mayor Gorden stated that the City had one million two hundred thousand dollars ($1,200,000) and the five million dollars ($5,000,000) only came about because of the squeaky wheel. Mayor Gorden added that the City wouldn't even be discussing this money if the community had not talked it up.

Councilmember Rose Faine Boyd asked if DETCOG said that the City needed to have a plan ready to be able to use the funds. Councilmember Boyd added that there was something said about needing to be "shovel ready". Mayor Gorden stated that he thought that was the EDA Grants. Mr. Wright added that it was stimulus money that wanted a "shovel ready" plan.

Mr. Wright asked the Council to discuss the one million three hundred thousand dollars ($1,300,000). Mr. Wright added that this was not enough money to accomplish large projects, such as the extension of Whitehous,e or any type of other major projects. Mr. Wright stated that some types of things that Staff had identified for the funds, was if the water purchase went forward, there were some electrical needs, in order to turn it over to Oncor. Mr. Wright added that it would take approximately four hundred thousand plus dollars ($400,000+) to do that project. Mr. Wright stated that some other needs were generators for improving the water system. Mayor Gorden stated that this would be a good use for the money, and Councilmember Langston agreed.

City Manager Parker stated that if the City did purchase the Abitibi water, Oncor agreed to take the electrical over, once it was brought to their standards. City Manager Parker added that was with the exception of the wells located in Nacogdoches County, and that Oncor could not serve those wells, but they could meter them and the City could still use them. Mr. Wright stated that Oncor was also giving the City several hundred thousand dollars ($100,000+) of credit and not charging full cost. Mayor Gorden agreed that this sounded like a good plan, and then the rest of the funds could be used to build an access road.

City Manager Parker stated that Staff wanted to get the Council's thought process started, because by not knowing the timing, the five million dollars ($5,000,000) could be allocated and the City could be given a time frame with which to spend it. Mayor Gorden stated that the Council would call an emergency meeting if that happened. Councilmember Torres asked if the City could contact DETCOG to see if the City could be given a time frame that they had to spend the funds. Mr. Wright stated that his concern was that in the applications that were supposed to have come out on the March 1, 2009, website, the City had to submit an application with a project to Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) that would have to be approved, and that met their criteria, by the end of the month of March, 2009. Mr. Wright added that the City needed to find out if that was the case, and confirm what the City would present. Mr. Wright stated that the Council would have to present that the five million dollars ($5,000,000) would be one-third (1/3) of the cost to build a new facility, or present another project, because there may not be much time to make a decision. Mayor Gorden stated that the forty million dollars ($40,000,000) that ORCA sent to the valley was painted with a broad brush. Mr. Wright stated that this was the time line that ORCA was publishing, but the City could talk to them and try to work something out. City Manager Parker stated that the City Staff would definitely look into finding out if that was the definite time line. City Manager Parker stated that if the time line was short, then a Special Council Meeting would be called, or the projects could be brought to the Council at the March 24, 2009, Council Meeting. City Manager Parker reminded the Council that the March 17th Council Meeting had been changed to March 24, 2009. City Manager Parker assured the Council that Staff would get information in time to get ample information to the Council. Mr. Wright added that he would get a copy of the notice to the Council Members, and that he had just received the notice earlier that day. Councilmember Torres stated that someone would have a best guest about the timing of the next funding, and that someone needed to find out who to ask, whether it be DETCOG or whoever. Mr. Wright stated that it would probably be the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

Councilmember Torres added that the Council had additional questions for that group, because it was her understanding that someone was going to ask about funding for supplies for the area. City Manager Parker stated that Councilmember Torres was talking about Chief Colley's budget before the legislature. City Manager Parker explained that there were plans to build a separate distribution center in Lufkin. Mr. Wright added that it would be a Regional Command Center. City Manager Parker pointed out that the only other one (1) the State had was in San Antonio, and that the City had already began talking to the legislators about supporting the idea. City Manager Parker added that on "Lufkin Day" in Austin, the City Staff cornered many State Representatives that were invited to the Reception. City Manager Parker stated that Lufkin would be the only other place, besides San Antonio, that would have a distribution center, and that this was obviously due to the location of Lufkin to the Houston, Gulf, and Beaumont areas. City Manager Parker added that Lufkin was far enough inland to feel safe for distribution, but close enough to get the supplies out in a timely manner. Mr. Wright stated that he was sure the City could get extension on the timing until everything could be worked out on the timing of the other money, but was a process that the City would have to go through.

Councilmember Torres stated that Lufkin was facing a crossroads sooner or later, whether Lufkin would renovate or build new. Councilmember Torres added that there was a point of no return where the City would have to have one (1) plan or another. City Manager Parker stated that his fear was that the City would have the deadline on the five million dollars ($5,000,000) before it had the answer on the Ike Two Funding. City Manager Parker added that it seemed that this was where the City always seemed to find itself. Councilmember Torres stated that if the City did have to live with the current Civic Center, and if renovation was truly the plan, then there were two (2) problems with the current Civic Center. Councilmember Torres stated that some of the people, that wanted to rent the facility, found it to be approaching capacity. Councilmember Torres stated that whenever LISD rented the facility for something like the prom, LISD was gradually approaching critical mass, and the facility was becoming too small. Councilmember Torres stated that the other problem was the current facility was too large for some of the venues that could use the facility, but there was no way to get it smaller than using either side. Councilmember Torres stated that the plan that Mr. Wright showed the Council would solve the smaller issue, but it did nothing to solve the issue of needing more space. Mr. Wright stated that the rendering he showed was just one (1) concept, and that Staff could come up with other ideas. Councilmember Torres stated that she was aware of that. Mr. Wright stated that the lobby size could be decreased and the floor space could be increased. Mr. Wright added that the shape could also be modified. Councilmember Torres stated that there were two (2) issues to consider, and that the renters needing more space were quickly approaching capacity, and that even with some modifications, the Civic Center was still limited in growing events. Councilmember Torres added that the other issue was there needed to be consideration for smaller renters. Councilmember Torres stated that if the current facility was expanded even further out then the parking lot would be compromised. Mr. Wright stated that the current plan would impact the existing parking minimally. Mr. Wright added that the plan did increase the size of the lobby, so the front wall could be moved toward the lobby and pick up some square footage that way. Councilmember Langston stated that it was possible to enlarge the central area and even creating the breakout rooms. Councilmember Langston added that the breakout rooms could be wings off of the central room, with high ceilings, and folding partitions and them operating either all open or partially closed. Councilmember Langston reiterated that it was possible to accommodate a larger open space. Mr. Wright added that he thought both could be accomplished. Councilmember Torres stated that the City didn't want to damage the current base of renters, because the facility still had to operate as a money making enterprise. Mr. Wright stated that another problem that the Civic Center had was if one of the rooms that divided off was rented, then the facility was unable to be rented for the larger events. Mr. Wright explained that the plan that was submitted would also give an option to do both. Councilmember Torres added that the current facility also didn't have an operating kitchen. Mr. Wright stated that the new plan would give the Civic Center a fully operating kitchen.

Councilmember Langston stated that he thought it was a good plan, and that to expound a little on the discussion, if the City was considering replacing the current facility any time in the near future, then the City needed to find some land and have it in their possession. Mayor Gorden stated that Councilmember Langston made a good point. Mayor Gorden asked if the Staff was looking for another committee for the plan. City Manager Parker stated that Staff just wanted the Council to begin thinking about the options, and that Staff could come back rather quickly for direction. Mr. Wright asked if Staff should run the ideas by the Building Committee to discuss, and have them bring the plans to the remainder of the City Council, whenever Staff came upon some hard fast deadlines. City Manager Parker stated that the City would just call a Special Called Council Meeting if a sudden deadline had to be met. City Manager Parker added that if the Council decided to spend the five million dollars ($5,000,000) for expansion, then it could be decided at that time. City Manager Parker stated that there were many changes that could be made to the plans, depending on one's views, but the concept was there and would then be left up to the desire of the Council. Mr. Wright stated that by no means was the plan intended to be final, but was only a conceptual plan. City Manager Parker stated that Staff would plan a Special Called Meeting, if faced with a deadline. Mayor Gorden stated that he could be wrong, but felt that the deadline would not be in the very near future. Councilmember Langston stated that Center had just received money from Katrina and Rita, so it wouldn't be likely that the deadline would come quickly. Mr. Wright stated that they just wanted to see the City's projects, and was why they were probably pushing so hard. City Manager Parker stated that he felt they didn't want a detail of exactly what the City was going to do, as much as maybe wanting to know if the City was going to expand the existing structure or build a new one. Mr. Wright stated that he thought they wanted to see if the project qualified for the money. Mayor Gorden stated that he didn't even believe that they had to know by March 24th, and if someone was telling Mr. Wright that they had to know by that date, the Staff needed to let the Council deal with it. Mr. Wright stated that he would give the Mayor a call if that deadline was pushed, and would give the Mayor a copy of what he had, and they could probably work something out. Councilmember Boyd stated that they had heard in Austin that the projects had to be "shovel ready". Mayor Gorden stated that it was very confusing, because there were so many pots of money floating around. Mayor Gorden stated that "shovel ready" didn't apply to this money.

13. CALENDAR NOTATIONS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND CITY MANAGER

Mayor Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was the calendar notations from the Mayor, Council Members, and City Manager. City Manager Parker stated that one (1) of the items on the calendar was the request from the Library Board. City Manager Parker explained that initially the City had asked for a joint meeting with the Library Board and representatives of the City Council about the Policy and Procedure Manual. City Manager Parker added that the Library Board wanted the City to appoint a couple of people from the Council to work with a couple of people from the Library Board to bring back a recommendation to both the Library Board and the City Council. Mayor Gorden asked who had originally been the representatives to meet with the Library Board. City Manager Parker stated that Councilmember Torres was on the Library Board and the other two Council Members were Councilmember Boyd and Councilmember Medford. Mayor Gorden asked if the Council knew what City Manager Parker was referring to, and added that it was to revamp the agreement between the City and the Kurth Memorial Library Board. Councilmember Torres stated that going in to the meeting the Council needed someone with a sense of the Library's and City's history. Councilmember Langston stated that this meant that Councilmember Torres would be one of the members of the Council to meet with the Library Board. Councilmember Langston added that the Council had worked hard on the Library Policy Manual by trying to tweak it so that it would work for everyone, and added that there were the notes from that work. Councilmember Langston stated that it was now just a matter of presenting the ideas to the Library Board, and that Councilmember Torres had the history, and that he felt that Councilmember Torres and City Attorney Bob Flournoy could handle it, along with the assistance of Councilmember Duncan and Councilmember Medford. Mayor Gorden agreed with Councilmember Langston, and asked for the date of the meeting. City Manager Parker asked for clarification of who the Council wanted to attend the meeting, and that the Library had only asked for two (2) representatives. Mayor Gorden stated that the Council wanted to have three (3) representatives. City Manager Parker agreed with that decision. Mayor Gorden added that City Attorney Flournoy should also be present at the meeting.

City Manager Parker stated that the Council had before them all of the other future events that would be coming up. City Manager Parker stated that there were still seats available for the Texas Forest Country Banquet. Mayor Gorden stated that it was normally a secret, but that the Silver Bucket award was being given to Charlie Wilson at that banquet. City Manager Parker also invited the Council to the Texas City Manager's Meeting, that was being hosted by the City of Lufkin, and would be held on Thursday, May 5, at the Ellen Trout Zoo. City Manager Parker stated that there was a reception at 5:00 p.m., followed by a night tour at the Zoo. City Manager Parker added that anyone that wanted to join the group for dinner was also invited to that event. City Manager Parker stated that the only other thing to point out was that before the Council, on their desks, were the upgrades that the City received from S & P. City Manager Parker added that the City of Lufkin being upgraded to a "AA-" was a good ranking for the stability of the City of Lufkin. City Manager Parker stated that for the long term calendar, there was a retirement reception for Chief Pete Prewitt on March 31, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the Atrium at City Hall. City Manager Parker stated that lastly he wanted to remind the Council that the next Council Meeting had been moved to March 24, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Gorden stated that also, Friday, March 6, 2009, was First Friday Luncheon, and if anyone was interested in attending they needed to notify City Secretary Renee Thompson.

City Manager Parker commented that the Webmaster Bill Cameron was in the hospital, and was probably watching to make sure that everything was handled correctly. City Manager Parker added that everyone wished Mr. Cameron the best.

14. There being no further business for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Jack Gorden

Jack Gorden, Mayor

Renee Thompson

Renee Thompson – City Secretary