

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2019

On the 17th day of September, 2019 the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall with the following members, thereof to wit:

Bob F. Brown	Mayor
Mark Hicks	Mayor Pro Tem
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Robert Shankle	Councilmember, Ward No. 2
Lynn Torres	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Rocky Thigpen	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Sarah Murray	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Keith Wright	City Manager
Bruce Green	City Attorney
Jason Arnold	Assistant to the City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Gerald Williamson	Public Safety Director
David Thomas	Police Chief
Duane Freeman	Interim Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Kevin Gee	Engineering Services Director
Michael Flinn	Parks and Recreation Director
Kent Havard	Solid Waste Director
Aaron Ramsey	Animal Control Director
Bob Samford	Economic Development Director

being present when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION - The meeting was opened with prayer by Reverend M.E. Lyons, Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Brown opened the meeting for Public Comments on any posted Agenda item at 5:03 p.m. There being none; Mayor Brown closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 – APPROVED

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND PROVIDING FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 – 20 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE – APPROVED

City Manager Wright stated that this was the Second Reading of the Ordinance levying property taxes for the City. City Manager Wright furthered that the current year's tax rate was \$0.531135 and the effective tax rate calculated for Fiscal Year 2020 was \$0.511697. City Manager Wright stated that the current tax rate being proposed would raise more property taxes than last year's original budget by \$495,216 (5.10%), and of that amount \$168,047 was tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. City Manager Wright furthered that the \$0.531135 was part of the current tax rate and was included in the 2019-2020 Annual Budget and Staff recommended City Council adopt the current tax rate as proposed.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing at 5:04 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Lynn Torres made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.531135 per \$100, which is effectively a 5.10 percent increase in the tax rate and moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Sarah Murray seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

3. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CLASSIFICATION PLAN FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT - APPROVED

City Manager Wright stated that the proposed Ordinance was necessary under Civil Service Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code, which required the City Council approve a Fire Civil Service employee classification plan and authorize the number of Civil Service employees for each position. City Manager Wright furthered that the number and classification of authorized Civil Service positions could only be changed by City Ordinance. City Manager Wright stated that it was necessary to amend the Classification Plan due to reorganization in the Fire Department which resulted in the change of the number of firefighters and battalion chiefs within the Department.

City Manager Wright concluded that Staff recommended City Council approve an Ordinance adopting a Classification Plan for the Lufkin Fire Department.

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

4. RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FIRE/EMS CHARITY CARE POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR THE PROVISION OF THE SAME IN THE CITY OF LUFKIN - APPROVED

City Manager Wright stated that there were numerous calls to the City of Lufkin Fire/EMS each month for ambulance services from citizens who have neither insurance nor any other means of payment for such services. City Manager Wright furthered that the City was only able to collect approximately 30-35% of those charges. City Manager Wright stated that the State of Texas currently ran a program that provided reimbursement for Charity Care Services through the Ambulance Services Supplemental Payment program/Medicaid 1115 Waiver if a patient met charity care guidelines. City Manager Wright furthered that for access to this program the City must adopt and implement a Charity Care Policy and guidelines. City Manager Wright stated that adoption of the Resolution and Policy would allow the City Fire/EMS to apply for reimbursement of some of the costs that the City now completely covers. City Manager Wright furthered that adoption of the Resolution and Policy would not change any current practice in the fire department, nor would it result in any additional costs to the City.

City Manager Wright concluded that Staff recommended City Council approve a Resolution adopting a Fire/EMS Charity Care Policy and guidelines for the provision of the same in the City of Lufkin.

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

5. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FROM THE DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (DETRAC) TO THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2018-2019 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 27) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING - APPROVED

City Manager Wright stated that the Lufkin Fire Department recently received a distribution of funding from the Deep East Texas Regional Advisory Council (DETRAC) in the amount

of \$565. City Manager Wright furthered that the funding would be utilized to reimburse costs for EMS Equipment.

City Manager Wright concluded that Staff recommended City Council accept grant funding in the amount of \$565 from DETRAC and approve First Reading of an Ordinance authorizing Budget Amendment No. 27 appropriating the funding.

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

6. ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION TO THE KURTH MEMORIAL ANIMAL SHELTER AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2018-2019 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 28) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED

City Manager Wright stated that Animal Control recently received a donation in the amount of \$2,211 from Molly James. City Manager Wright furthered that Mrs. James conducted the “Night Howls” fundraiser at the Lufkin Animal Shelter on August 17, 2019. City Manager Wright stated that Mrs. James was a tireless supporter of the Animal Shelter and continued to organize successful fundraisers for the Shelter. City Manager Wright furthered that Mrs. James had worked with the Animal Shelter for many years and had done a great job for them. City Manager stated that the funding would be appropriated to the Shelter’s fund for veterinarian services to treat homeless animals with injuries or medical conditions, so that they may be rehomed or adopted.

City Manager Wright concluded that Staff recommended City Council approve on First Reading an Ordinance authorizing an Amendment to the 2018 – 2019 Operating Budget (Budget Amendment No. 28) appropriating the funding.

City Manager Wright acknowledged and expressed the City’s appreciation for Mrs. James for her efforts in helping the Kurth Memorial Animal Shelter.

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

7. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

City Manager Wright reviewed the Financial Status Report and General Fund Revenues. City Manager Wright offered to answer any questions. There were none.

There being no further business, Mayor Bob Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.



ATTEST:


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary


Bob F. Brown, Mayor