

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 15TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020**

On the 15th day of September, 2020 the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall with the following members, thereof to wit:

Bob F. Brown
Mark Hicks
Robert Shankle
Lynn Torres
Rocky Thigpen
Sarah Murray
Bruce Green
Erika Neill
Jason Arnold
Kara Andrepont
Gerald Williamson
David Thomas
Jesse Moody
Belinda Melancon
Kevin Gee
Brant Lee
Albert Duffield
Jarod Murphy
Kent Havard

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember, Ward No. 2
Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Interim City Manager
Acting City Attorney
Assistant City Manager
City Secretary
Public Safety Director
Police Chief
Fire Chief
Finance Director
Engineering Services Director
Convention Services Director
Water & Sewer Director
Assistant Director Water & Sewer
Solid Waste Director

being present; and

Guessippina Bonner

Councilmember, Ward No. 1

being absent when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Wayne Haglund.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Brown opened the meeting for Public Comment on any posted agenda item at 5:02 p.m. Mr. Wayne Haglund came forward to request that the City reconsider the decision to eliminate curbside recycling services. There being no one else who wished to speak, Mayor Brown closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – APPROVED.

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2021 BUDGET AND SECOND READING OF AN APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager Green stated Staff was pleased to present to City Council the 2020-2021 Annual Fiscal Budget for the City of Lufkin which included the current tax rate of \$0.531135.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and approve on Second Reading an Ordinance adopting a budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing at 5:07 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak, Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the Council.

Councilmember Mark Hicks spoke concerning the budget issue regarding the elimination of curbside recycling. Councilmember Hicks proposed the possibility of creating drop point locations at the local schools for recyclable items. Interim City Manager Bruce Green stated the City had spoken with a company concerning a possible franchise agreement for the collection of recyclable items as an option to citizens. Interim City Manager Green furthered this service would be available and paid for by the citizens that chose to have the service. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen stated he would be open to any suggestions for the continuation of curbside recycling but that this was the best decision for the City at the present time. Ms. Chasity Boatman spoke and asked why the City had not tried to increase education regarding recycling prior to the elimination of the service. Interim City Manager Green explained the issues the City had struggled with concerning the recycling program and the attempts made to continue the program prior to eliminating the program. Councilmember Sarah Murray stated there were actually very few items put into the recycling containers that the City was able to use to recover some of the cost associated with the program.

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

3. **PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDER ON SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND PROVIDING FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE– APPROVED**

Interim City Manager Green stated each year as part of the budget process, the Tax Assessor Collector calculated the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, which was previously referred to as the Effective Rate, in accordance with Texas Tax Code Chapter 26.04. Interim City Manager Green furthered the current year’s tax rate was \$0.531135 and the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate calculated for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was \$0.516624. Interim City Manager Green furthered the current tax rate would raise more total property taxes than last year’s original budget by \$368,193, which was 3.69%, and of that amount \$117,173 was tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the Ordinance levying taxes for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing at 5:23 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the Council. There were none.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.531135, which was effectively a 2.81 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Councilmember Robert Shankle | Aye |
| • Councilmember Lynn Torres | Aye |
| • Councilmember Mark Hicks | Aye |
| • Councilmember Rocky Thigpen | Aye |
| • Councilmember Sarah Murray | Aye |
| • Mayor Bob Brown | Aye |

4. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, IRRIGATION, INDUSTRIAL AND WHOLESALE WATER RATES IN THE CITY OF LUFKIN – APPROVED.**

Interim City Manager Green stated a Water and Wastewater Rate Study for the City of Lufkin was completed by Freese and Nichols in 2019. Interim City Manager Green furthered, based on the analysis, an increase in water and sewer rates of two percent (2%) for the next three years was recommended. Interim City Manager Green stated this would be the second two percent (2%) increase. Interim City Manager Green highlighted the estimated increase in customer bills by usage.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve on Second Reading an Ordinance adjusting residential, commercial, irrigation, industrial and wholesale water rates in the City of Lufkin.

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

5. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING SEWER RATES IN THE CITY OF LUFKIN – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager Green stated the proposed Ordinance was required in order to adjust sewer rates within the City of Lufkin.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve on Second Reading an Ordinance adjusting sewer rates in the City of Lufkin.

Councilmember Mark Hicks moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

6. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ABANDONMENT AND TRANSFER OF AN UNDEVELOPED ALLEY NEAR ELSIE STREET – POSTPONED.

Interim City Manager Green stated the City had received a request from the Salvation Army of Lufkin requesting the matter be indefinitely postponed to give their legal office time to review the long-term effect of the proposed transaction.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council indefinitely postpone the Second Reading of an Ordinance providing for the abandonment and transfer of undeveloped alley near Elsie Street.

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

7. RESOLUTION AMENDING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL (TEX POOL) – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager Green stated the proposed amendment to the Texas Local Government Investment Pool (TexPool) simply delineated the Interim City Manager Bruce Green, Acting Deputy City Manager Gerald Williamson, Assistant City Manager Jason Arnold, Finance Director Belinda Melancon and Senior Accountant Teresa Casanova as authorized representatives on the City of Lufkin TexPool account.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve a Resolution amending the list of authorized representatives in the TexPool account as stated.

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

8. RESOLUTION AMENDING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TEXSTAR SHORT TERM ASSET RESERVE FUND (TEXSTAR) – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager Green stated the Resolution updated the authorized representatives to the City of Lufkin TexStar account exactly as stated in the previous item.

Interim City Manager Green concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the Resolution amending the list of authorized representative to the TexStar account.

Councilmember Rocky Thigpen moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

9. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Interim City Manager Green reviewed the Financial Status Report and offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Mayor Brown stated Councilmember Guessippina Bonner had fallen and dislocated her shoulder and was missed at the Council meeting. Mayor Brown wished Interim City Manager Bruce Green had a birthday on September 14th and wished him a happy birthday.

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





Bob F. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Andrepont, City Secretary