MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

On the 15th day of February, 2022 the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall with the following members, thereof to wit:

Mark Hicks	Mayor
Robert Shankle	Mayor Pro Tem
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Lynn Torres	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Wes Suiter	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Rocky Thigpen	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Trent Burfine	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	Interim City Manager
Erika Neill	City Attorney
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager
Adriana Thomasee	Human Resources
David Thomas	Police Chief
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Ryan Watson	Assistant Fire Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Eddie Aguilar	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	Planning Director
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
Aaron Ramsey	Animal Control Director

being present; and

Kara Andrepont	City Secretary

being absent when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer by Assistant City Manager, Gerald Williamson.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Mark Hicks opened the meeting for public comment on any posted agenda item at 5:03 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the public comment period.

Mayor Mark Hicks recognized those in attendance from Ms. Wilson's class at Angelina College as well as members of Leadership Lufkin.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1ST, 2022– APPROVED.**

2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2021-2022 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 10) APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR A DONATION TO THE CITY OF LUFKIN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**

3. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2021-2022 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 11) APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT COTTON SQUARE, DOWNTOWN LUFKIN (COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE THRASH BUILDING) – APPROVED.**

4. **CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $15,000 FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN ANIMAL SERVICES VETTING FUND AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2021-2022 OPERATING**

BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

BUSINESS AGENDA

5. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ABANDONMENT, VACATION, CLOSURE AND SALE OF A NON-IMPROVED ALLEY NEAR EAST KERR AVENUE WITHIN THE ALDERMAN ADDITION – APPROVED.**

Mayor Mark Hicks stated he was the individual/entity interested in purchasing the property and would be recusing himself from any discussion or vote on the item. Interim City Manager Kevin Gee stated Engineering Services received a request for the purchase of a portion of a non-improved surplus alley from the adjacent landowner. Interim City Manager Gee furthered the approximate 12-foot by 140-foot alley fronted East Kerr Avenue near the intersection with First Street. Interim City Manager Gee stated the property had been determined appropriate for sale and all steps required by Chapter 272 of the Local Government Code had been followed. Interim City Manager Gee furthered the price for the property would be $1880.00 which included the appraised value, the appraisal cost and the filing fee. Interim City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider on First Reading an Ordinance providing for the abandonment, vacation, closure and sale of a non-improved alley near East Kerr Avenue within the Alderman Addition.

Councilmember Trent Burfine asked what the physical address was for the property and if the purchase would be for the entire alley or only a section. Interim City Manager Gee provided the address and stated the purchase was for only a portion of the alley. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked for clarification as to when the purchase of a portion of an alley was allowed. Interim City Manager Gee addressed the question and stated he would be willing to discuss the issue with Councilmember Guessippina Bonner at her convenience.

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

6. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A REQUEST TO CANCEL AN EXISTING TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON ENTERPRISE ENERGY, LLC. - APPROVED.**

Interim City Manager Kevin Gee stated on March 2nd, 2021, City Council had approved a tax abatement agreement with Jefferson Enterprise Energy. Interim City Manager Gee furthered the agreement was specific to the property known as the former Aspen Power Plant and included a minimum $150 million-dollar capital investment. Interim City Manager Gee stated since then, Jefferson realized they needed more acreage and had relocated the planned facility to the old Louisiana Pacific sawmill site. Interim City Manager Gee concluded Staff was requesting City Council cancel the current Jefferson Enterprise Energy, LLC tax abatement agreement dated March 2nd, 2021.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to approve the request as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

7. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A NEW TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON ENTERPRISE ENERGY, LLC., CONDITIONAL ON JEFFERSON ENTERPRISE ENERGY, LLC'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMINATION OF THE PRIOR AGREEMENT – APPROVED.**

Interim City Manager Kevin Gee stated with Jefferson Enterprise Energy, LLC moving to a new location and expanding they had asked for a new tax abatement agreement and increased their capital investment to $250 million dollars from the original $150 million dollars. Interim City Manager Gee furthered the project was estimated to create over 100 new full-time jobs and approximately 200 jobs during construction. Interim City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval of a new ad valorem Tax Abatement Agreement with Jefferson Enterprise Energy, LLC.

Councilmember Trent Burfine asked if the new agreement included both the Aspen Power site as well as the old Louisiana Pacific location. Interim City Manager Gee stated the agreement would only be for the old Louisiana Pacific location.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the new agreement as presented. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

8. APPOINTMENT TO THE 4B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD – APPROVED.

Interim City Manager Kevin Gee stated Councilmember Lynn Torres had submitted her resignation from the 4B Economic Development Board. Interim City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider an appointment to the 4B Economic Development Board to fill the vacated position of Lynn Torres.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to appoint Councilmember Rocky Thigpen to the 4B Economic Development Board. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

9. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Interim City Manager Kevin Gee offered to answer any questions. There were none.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Mark Hicks recessed the Regular Session at 5:13 p.m.

Mayor Mark Hicks reconvened the Regular Session at 5:40

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

THE CITY OF LUFKIN TEXAS

Mark Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kara Andrepont, City Secretary