

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 24TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1987, AT 12:00 NOON

On the 24th day of August, 1987, the City Commission of the City of Lufkin, Texas, convened in special meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall with the following members thereof, to-wit:

Pitser H. Garrison	Mayor
Percy Simond, Jr.	Commissioner, Ward No. 1
Don Boyd	Commissioner, Ward No. 2
Danny Roper	Commissioner, Ward No. 3
Pat Foley	Commissioner, Ward No. 4
Jack Gorden, Jr.	Commissioner, Ward No. 5
Louis Bronaugh	Commissioner, Ward No. 6
Harvey Westerholm	City Manager
Bob Flournoy	City Attorney
Atha Stokes	City Secretary

being present when the following business was transacted:

1. Meeting called to order by Mayor Garrison.

Mayor Garrison stated that when this meeting of the City Commission was called it was done in the expectation that preliminary investigations of charges of misfeasance that had come to the attention of the City might be investigated to some extent where the Commission might get some picture of what was involved. Mayor Garrison stated that the Commission now has a preliminary report that was delivered to City Commission members Sunday afternoon. Mayor Garrison stated that the Commission would retire to Executive Session to discuss the status of the report and possibly the significance of any improprieties that may have been committed, if in fact they were.

Mayor Garrison stated that the City Commission would now adjourn at 12:23 P.M. and retire to Executive Session.

Mayor Garrison reconvened meeting at 1:37 P.M. and stated that the Commission is not completely satisfied that they have gone quite as far in some of these incidents as perhaps they need to go. Mayor Garrison stated that most of the improprieties, or misdeeds, that have been brought to the Commission's attention do not appear to be of any major significance to the City of Lufkin. Mayor Garrison stated that some things appear to have been done in violation of the general policies of the Fire Department garage and of the City staff, but there a few items that have more seriousness than that. Mayor Garrison stated that whether they are of major significance or not, the Board still needs to make that determination. Mayor Garrison stated that after reviewing the information, the City Commission felt that it was important to develop some more information in respect to a few of the items and also have the Chief of Police and his staff together with the City Attorney to develop all the information that is pertinent to the whole picture and report back to the Commission at the next meeting. Mayor Garrison stated that it is hoped that when the investigation has been fully completed that the Chief of Police and City Attorney will evaluate the gravity of offenses, if there are such, and give the Commission information about exactly what courses of action are open to the Commission if they decide to take further action in connection with any of it. Mayor Garrison stated that the Commission is looking forward to completing this investigation and reaching a conclusion as soon as possible.

Mayor Garrison stated that it is not a simple thing to trace out every facet of information that has been gathered in the course of the

investigation and it takes time and a lot of names have been used that have to be pursued. Mayor Garrison stated that most of the accusations appear to be of minor significance - some of them may be more serious and the Commission hopes to determine that at the next meeting.

Mayor Garrison stated that he would conclude by saying that the City Attorney and Chief of Police and his staff will pursue these various facets with vigor to the point that they can come back to the Commission with evaluations and perhaps recommendations at the next meeting of the City Commission.

Mayor Garrison stated that this is as much as he felt he was at liberty to say. Mayor Garrison stated that he did not want to keep the press or the public in the dark, and the City is not trying to keep this investigation "veiled" or "under wraps", but just do not want to use any names or incidents that might unfairly reflect on somebody, and that might be the case if the Commission doesn't have the facts before them at the time that they make disclosures. Mayor Garrison stated that hopefully by the next meeting of the Commission they will be able to bring the members to a point to where they can make a decision and at that time they would release such information that would be appropriate from their standpoint as well as under the law involved.


In response to question by George Slaughter, Lufkin Daily News, Mayor Garrison stated that City Manager Westerholm was still involved in the investigation, and in view of the potential offenses that may be involved, the Chief of Police and the City Attorney would be the ones best able to evaluate the situation for the Commission. Mayor Garrison stated that the City Manager would still be involved and so would the whole City staff.

In response to question by Shelly Seale of KTRE, Mayor Garrison stated that he wouldn't say that this is a criminal investigation - it's an investigation to see if its the kind of offenses that charges might be filed on. Mayor Garrison stated that the Commission was trying to determine whether or not it would be justified or whether it would be indicated. Mayor Garrison stated that it appears that a great majority of the offenses do not justify any such course of action, but there may be a few that have a little more gravity to them that might justify some type of complaint to be filed through the courts.

In response to question by Shelly Seale, Mayor Garrison stated that at this time the City was using the City Attorney and the Police Department to investigate and was not at the point of calling in the District Attorney or the Texas Ranger. Mayor Garrison stated that if the Commission decides that charges would be appropriate, it very well would be that the next step would be to the District Attorney, and if proceedings of that nature indicate it, to get his evaluation as well as the City's. Mayor Garrison stated that the City Commission would make the first decisions and then if they think they need to talk to the District Attorney, they probably will.

3. There being no further business for consideration, meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

ATTEST:



Atha Stokes
Atha Stokes - City Secretary

Pitser H. Garrison
Pitser H. Garrison - Mayor