MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF JUNE, 1969, AT 7:30 P. M.

On the 3rd day of June, 1969, the City Commission of the City of Lufkin, Texas, convened in regular meeting in the regular meeting place of said City with the following members thereof, to-wit:

Earl Nisbet	Mayor
Carl Liese	Commissioner, Ward No. 1
Dayle V. Smith	Commissioner, Ward No. 2
Byron McNeil	Commissioner, Ward No. 3
Edgar C. Wareing	Commissioner, Ward No. 4
W. O. Ricks, Jr.	Commissioner at Large, Place A
David Walker	Acting City Manager - City Attorney
Lynn Durham	City Secretary

being present, and

Basil E. Atkinson, Jr., M.D.	Commissioner at Large, Place B

being absent, constituting a quorum, when the following business was transacted:

1. Meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Bob Overton, Assistant Pastor of First Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas. Mayor thanked Rev. Overton for his participation.

2. Mayor welcomed a number of visitors who were present in connection with items on the Agenda or as observers.

3. CL made motion that minutes of meeting of May 20, 1969, be approved as written. WOR seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

4. DW introduced Mr. J. W. Carroll of Honeywell, Inc., Shreveport, Louisiana, and asked that he explain the details of proposed annual maintenance contract covering air-conditioning equipment in City Hall and Police Station building.

   Mr. Carroll went into detail on work that would be done by his company in keeping the above equipment in first class condition. WOR wanted to know the number of thermostats, etc., in the building. Mr. Carroll stated that these items were listed as a part of the contract.

   CL desired to know provisions for renewal from year to year and if there was a termination clause. Mr. Carroll stated that the contract could be renewed from year to year and that same could be terminated after 30 days prior notice by either party and that the total cost for such contract on an annual basis was $804.00.

   ECW stated that in his opinion the contract was in order since local people were not available to handle such maintenance and repair inspections. CL made motion that Mayor be authorized to enter into a 12 months maintenance contract with Honeywell, Inc. with the provision that the cost of such contract could be paid in semi-annual payments of $402.00. ECW seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

5. Mayor opened and read the following bids on crawler type tractor for which the City recently advertised for handling land fill operation at the garbage dump.

Tri-City Tractor, Beaumont, Texas	$ 30,500.00
Less trade-in of old Catapillar Tractor	12,400.00
NET	$18,100.00

Browning-Ferris Machinery Co., Houston, Texas		$ 31,030.00
Less Trade-in of old Catapillar Tractor		10,000.00
NET		$ 21,030.00
Mustang Tractor & Equipment Co., Houston, Texas		$ 30,887.00
Less Trade-in of old Catapillar Tractor		6,000.00
NET		$ 24,887.00

DW recommended that a committee be appointed to study the bids and make recommendation as soon as possible since the land fill operation had to be started by July 1, 1969. Mayor appointed CL, Chairman , WOR and BMcN as a committee to study and make recommendation for purchase of this tractor.

6. DW read Ordinance covering zone change from R-1 District to D District covering all of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, Block 9, South End Addition to the City of Lufkin, Texas, which said Addition is sometimes referred to and called Warner-Agee-Hawkins-Kerr Addition; also the W. 41 feet designated as Park (Stadium) Street adjacent to Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, Block 9; application by Joe Frank Leediker.

   Mayor inquired if any persons present to object to the change and there were none. WOR made motion that Ordinance covering this zone change be passed on first reading. CL seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

7. Don Anderson, Zoo Keeper, who is leaving the employment of the City June 15, 1969, was present and gave a brief talk on the Ellen Trout Zoo and what it means to the City of Lufkin and surrounding area. He gave attendance figures since the Zoo was opened and stated that during this present year he estimated 175,000 people would visit the Zoo. He stated he was accepting a similar position of Zoo Director at West Palm Beach, Florida and extended an invitation to the City Commission and others to visit him when in that area. He stated he understood his replacement would be Tim Jones and wife, Jerry Jones, from Houston's Herman Park Zoo who would be an asset to our Community and a good director for the Ellen Trout Zoo. Mayor wished Don the best of luck and was concurred in by other members of the City Commission in his new assignment.

8. DW stated he had prepared an Ordinance which was officially approved at last meeting calling the sales tax election and wanted confirmation of the judges and place of holding election.

   The City Commission concurred in DW's request.

9. DW brought up the question of permits for carnivals, etc., for use of City property which was occassioned by the fact that the grounds at Teener Park were left in a bad condition by the last carnival who used the property.

   This created considerle discussion and BMcN made motion that no more permits of this nature be granted for use of City property by carnivals, etc., without first receiving City Commission approval and that set of regulations be adopted for use of such City property. ECW seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

   In connection with the above motion, CL thought that one of the regulations should contain provisions for forfeiting of deposits if agreement entered into for use of such grounds was not carried out.

10. DW stated that the Property Maintenance and Police Departments had made a study of the red light at Wilson and KeltysStreets and recommended same be removed and 4-Way stop signs be installed. DW stated he concurred in recommendation.

    CL made motion that the recommendation by the Property Maintenance and Police Departments be followed and that this red light be removed and replaced by 4-Way stop signs. BMcN seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

11. DW called attention to proposed signal lights at Loop 287 and F.M. 58 and Loop 287 and Hwy. 59 South. He stated he would he would like to invite Mr. W. L. Stockton of the State Highway Department to be present at next meeting to brief the City Commission on these caution lights or get him to furnish additional information.

12. DW stated it was time to begin thinking about appointing members of the Tax Board of Equalization for coming year and desired to know if the City Commission wanted the Tax Assessor-Collector to recommend members for this board or if the City Commission desired to handle. Mayor stated would discuss with City Commission members and this item would be on the Agenda for next meeting.

13. DW called attention to operations at switchboard during the last month and stated had several employees, including one man, handling the switchboard due to sickness of the regular switchboard operator. He stated a young lady had been employed temporarily to fill in on this job and that the matter was now under control.

14. DW stated that Airport Avenue, Duren Street, Pierce Street and Russell Street had been recently retopped with asphalt sand type paving. DW stated total amount of footage was 4079 feet and would like for the City Commission members to check on these streets and this type paving and would like permission to continue such paving on other streets as necessary materials were available to handle. The City Commission was in accord with DW's recommendation to continue this type paving and CL stated that heavy trucks should be kept off such streets where possible. DW stated was using signs stating trucks prohibited which he thought would alleviate condition.

Glynn Rogers, visitor present, asked consideration be given to topping Hoskins Street in the resurfacing program. DW stated this street would be given consideration.

Three ladies from 900 block of Glenn Street, whom the Mayor recognized earlier, requested consideration be given to drainage problem on their street. DW stated was familiar with problem and study was being given to possible solution.

15. DW gave breakdown on ambulance services and stated

a. 1100 to 1200 calls were made annually by the ambulance fleet of City of Lufkin;

b. City collects only 66% for such calls;

c. Calls were almost evenly divided between City and County;

d. The cost for this ambulance service was in excess of $60,000.00.per year, and

e. City's income was some $28,000.00 per year, leaving a net loss of $32,000.00.

DW suggested that if County desired to approach this matter on a basis as it did previously with the City, it would be approximately $16,000.00 per year cost to the City and County each for such operations. DW further stated that the Study Committee which recently reported on these operations stated that if the ambulance service was subsidized, the cost would be approximately $42,056.00 per year. EN stated he would contact County Judge and schedule a meeting with body and City Commission to discuss participation in the cost for ambulance service.

16. ECW stated that Committee appointed to study bids on purchase of additional ambulance, composed of BEA, Chairman, himself and DVS had met with Fire Chief and Fire Marshall and recommended the purchase of a 1969 Chevrolet Carry-All (used) Ambulance from Whitley-Holsemback, Cushing, Texas, for $5,272.00 since it had one or two extra items over and above units in other bid and would be in best interest of City. However, since this transaction had fallen through due to unit being sold, did not think any further delays should be allowed due to the welfare of the people being involved.

EN said he had prepared statement he would like to read regarding the ambulance service which is quoted below:

"I feel that one of the most urgent problems facing us at this time is to devise a plan whereby we can furnish ample ambulance services for the people of our City and County.

When the City first assumed this responsibility we were not in good shape, equipment wise. The situation has steadily deterioated since that time and in my opinion, we are to the point now where something must be done, and immediately.

We now have a '64 Chevrolet, a '64 Buick and a '67 Ford. We are spending considerable money on the upkeep of these out-moded ambulances, none of which are really dependable. The '64 Chevrolet, I am told is the best of the three, and this vehicle has a rebuilt motor. The Buick was out of service for three days recently because of bad brakes. Any ambulance we operate should be safe for the driver as well as the patient being transported. I doubt if we are now meeting these standards. I am concerned too, as to the equipment now being carried in our ambulances. We should designate exactly the proper type of equipment to be standard in all vehicles and then designate someone to be responsible in seeing that this equipment is in all ambulances at all times, without fail.

Our ambulance drivers are doing an excellent job, especially when you consider the equipment they have to operate with. They are to be commended. They have been operating our ambulances long enough now to know what type of equipment they need and when they ask for certain equipment, it should be provided.

A letter from Elwyn Gipson, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, attached to a condensed and final report to Ottis Lock, Chairman of the Main Committee on an ambulance study, said this:

> "Due to the condition of Lufkin's Ambulance fleet, it is my opinion that an extreme emergency exists."

I certainly concur with this statement. This final report offered three possible solutions to the ambulance problem in Lufkin and Angelina County.

(1) Leave the operation on it's present basis, purchase badly needed new equipment and negotiate a financial joint arrangement with the county.

(2) Move the operation out of the fire department and create a new department within the City structure.

(3) Contract the ambulance service to a franchised private operator and provide an annual subsidy.

After studying carefully all reports submitted by our excellent ambulance committee I personally have come to the conclusion that the first mentioned of these three possible solutions is the one which we should follow, that being the plan whereby we continue to operate as we are now doing, buy badly needed equipment, and meet with the county commissioners and see what we can work out jointly on finances.

The County is now paying $400.00 per month toward financing our ambulance program and this is what they were asked for in the beginning. They have cooperated in an excellent way in the past and I feel that, in setting their next budget, they will be willing to "up" their share of this expense.

I propose that we purchase two new ambulances immediately and then include a third new ambulance in next year's budget. I personally can't see where we can get by with less if we are to serve the people of our City and County with proper ambulance service.

In some cases an ambulance can be the difference between life and death. We can't afford to take chances.

And while we are on the subject, I am asking that David draw up an appropriate resolution commending all who served on our ambulance committee, and that this be read and adopted at our next stated meeting."

ECW made motion that two new ambulances be purchased in the amount of $11,310.00 as soon as possible. BMcN seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

ECW stated that the above figures were taken from the bid of Gordon K. Allen Company, Dallas, Texas.

17. DW presented Estimate #5 from Thomas and Thompson Construction, Co. Inc. covering work on Fire Stations 4 and 5 in the amount of $16,303.50 which was approved by Jerry Hill, Architect, and L. E. Bass, Building Inspector.

    DW stated that work on these stations was now approximately 2/3 completed and recommended that this estimate be authorized for payment. CL made motion that this Estimate #5 be authorized for payment. ECW seconded the motion and a unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

18. DW stated that W. L. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of the Street and Garbage Department had now been made Superintendent of these departments and that Ralph Bargainer who has had a number of years of long and faithful service as Superintendent of these departments was going to retire the first of the year due to health reasons but that Mr. Bargainer would be acting as Inspector on all street work and Consultant on other projects and would be under supervision of City Manager.

19. DVS inquired if any complaints had been received on condition of water service to Mr. and Mrs. John Shoffner. DW stated he had and was trying to determine the trouble that these citizens were experiencing.

20. BMcN suggested that the Mayor call a meeting to go over City Manager applications at an early date in order that interviews might be started. Mayor stated that he would furnish each City Commissioner a copy of all applications received and was setting a meeting for next Tuesday night at 7:00 P.M. to discuss these applications.

21.. There being no further business for consideration, meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Earl Nisbet
Mayor - City of Lufkin, Texas

ATTEST:

Lynn Robbins
City Secretary - City of Lufkin, Texas