

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 28TH DAY OF JUNE, 2022**

On the 28TH day of June, 2022 the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas convened in a Special Called Meeting (Annual Budget Retreat) at Kurth Lake Lodge, Lufkin, Texas at 8:30 a.m.

Mark Hicks	Mayor
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Robert Shankle	Councilmember, Ward No. 2
Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Wes Suiter	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Rocky Thigpen	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Trent Burfine	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Erika Neill	City Attorney
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Teresa Casanova	Senior Accountant
Scott Feaster	IT Director
Aaron Ramsey	Animal Control Director
Tara Hendrix	Director of Tourism & Marketing

being present when the following business was transacted.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Hicks opened the meeting for Public Comment on any posted agenda item at 8:32 a.m. There being no one who wished to speak, Mayor Hicks closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

1. BURN BAN FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN FOR SIXTY (60) DAYS OR UNTIL LIFTED BY CITY COUNCIL - APPROVED

City Manager Kevin Gee stated that due to drought conditions, Fire Chief Jesse Moody recommended the implementation of a burn ban for sixty (60) days. Councilmember Robert Shankle questioned whether this would affect the July 4th fireworks celebration. City Manager Gee stated the show would be held and the Fire Department would monitor the area closely during and after the fireworks.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the burn ban as recommended. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT - APPROVED

City Manager Gee detailed the issues with refurbishing the existing armory into a training facility for public safety. City Manager Gee furthered that this was a project originally included in the Capital Improvement Program; however, the bids were far above the budgeted amount. City Manager Gee stated that should the City be awarded this funding; it would provide an opportunity for the construction of a training center for both fire and law enforcement personnel and hopefully would be utilized by the entire region. Discussion ensued regarding funding match, the probability of receiving the grant and the inclusion of affirmative action during the bidding process.

Councilmember Trent Burfine moved to approve the Resolution authorizing the application. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING MARKETING & TOURISM PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN

City Manager Gee detailed the background and vision for the marketing of the City of Lufkin. Marketing & Tourism Director Tara Hendrix present information regarding the strategic marketing plan. Director Hendrix showed a power point presentation highlighting the steps and tools

proposed to draw people to the City and the new branding and logo for Lufkin. Discussion ensued regarding the plan and proposed events. No action was taken.

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR ANIMAL SERVICES.

Director of Animal Services Aaron Ramsey presented the proposed Ordinance regarding Animal Services. Director Ramsey stated that the focus of the shelter had shifted over time from trapping and euthanizing animals to proactive treatment and adoption. Director Ramsey stated the public wanted to the shelter to be more centered on saving animals and the reduction of strays. Director Ramsey also stated that the fee schedule for services had not been updated in twenty (20) years and did not accurately reflect the cost of services provided. After presentation of the proposed ordinance, discussion ensued regarding some of the provisions of the ordinance; required spay and neuter of animals; mandatory microchipping and breeding permits. The keeping fowl, mainly chickens, was also discussed in length. Additionally, Director Ramsey explained the issues with current contracts with other entities and the steps proposed to rectify the issues of costs with the City providing this service. Council provided direction regarding the Ordinance and asked that there be an avenue for public input as well. No action was taken.

5. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS.

City Manager Gee presented the original slate of projects previously approved along with proposed changes to the same. Discussion ensued regarding the plans for Morris Frank Park, sidewalk installation throughout the City and the timeline of projects.

Councilmember Rocky Thigpen moved to approve the revised list of projects as presented. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

6. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2021-2022 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 17) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING IN VARIOUS FUNDS (MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT) - APPROVED

City Manager Gee highlighted significant portions of the mid-year Budget Amendment. City Manager Gee stated that this Budget Amendment simply realigned expenditures and revenues to complete the current fiscal year.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Ordinance authorizing Budget Amendment No. 17. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

7. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2022-2023 CITY OF LUFKIN ANNUAL BUDGET.

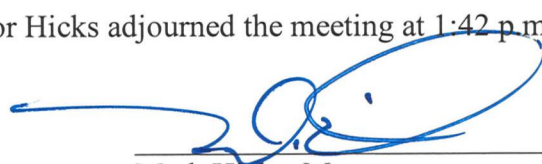
City Manager Gee presented detailed information regarding the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year budget. Discussion ensued regarding the need to raise employee pay, especially laborers, to provide adequate wages to not only be competitive with other employers; but to provide ample pay to the City employees. Further discussion regarding the tax rate and increases to water, sewer and garbage rates was conducted. The consensus was to move forward with the proposed budget and research additional incentives for employees. No action was taken.

There being no further business, Mayor Hicks adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.



ATTEST:


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary


Mark Hicks, Mayor