

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, 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 Proclamation Tem
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Jimmy Ford	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager
Brian W. Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Adriana Thomasee	Human Resources
David Thomas	Police Chief
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
John Smith	Fleet Maintenance Director

being present; and

Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Wes Suiter	Councilmember, Ward No. 4

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 5:01 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the public comment period.

**PRESENTATION**

Chief David Thomas presented the Lufkin Police Department Annual Report and offered to answer any questions.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 - APPROVED.**
2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 9) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING FROM A DONATION TO THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM ROYOMARTIN – APPROVED.**
3. **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFFORDABLE MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING PROJECT – APPROVED.**
4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**
5. **PURCHASE OF TWO (2) VEHICLES FOR THE LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**

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

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **6. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING TO “COMMERCIAL” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 5210 SOUTH FIRST STREET – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Everett Griffith Jr & Associates, representing Shellco Investment LLC, had requested a zone change from “Local Business” to “Commercial” for 5210 South First Street. City Manager Gee furthered the purpose of the zone change was to allow for future development of an equipment rental business with outdoor sales and leasing. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated the Comprehensive Plan designation for the property was “Corridor Commercial” and Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current existing area uses as well as the current “Corridor Commercial” future land use classification. City Manager Gee furthered the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on First Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Commercial” on property addressed as 5210 South First Street.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:08 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

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

### **7. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM GRANT – APPROVED**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the Police Department was requesting to apply for funding in the amount of \$12,980 from the Office of the Governor, specifically the Criminal Justice Program Grant. City Manager Gee furthered the funds would be used to purchase a Forenscope CSI Pro 2 smartphone. City Manager Gee explained the equipment was a handheld device that would be used for contactless examination of banknotes and detection of fingerprints, body fluids and other liquids that were visible under the high-resolution multispectral camera. City Manager Gee stated as required by the grant, the Fiscal Year 2025 Criminal Justice Grant application must be made available to the City Council for its review and comment. City Manager Gee furthered there must also be an opportunity for public comment and no matching funds were required for the grant.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval of a Resolution authorizing an application for the Fiscal Year 2025 Criminal Justice Program Grant.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:10 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked if the grant would be incorporated into the Police Department Budget. City Manager Gee stated the grant would be for the purchase of the device and not part of the Departmental budget.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

### **8. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A JUVENILE JUSTICE AND TRUANCY PREVENTION GRANT – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Staff was requesting approval of a Resolution authorizing an application for grant funding from the 2025 State of Texas Criminal Justice Planning Funds - Juvenile Justice and Truancy Prevention Grant in an amount up to \$60,000. City Manager Gee furthered the grant would be used to fund the position of a Juvenile Case Manager and other expenses related to

the Juvenile Case Manager and Juvenile Truancy court. City Manager Gee stated the grant required no matching funds; however, an opportunity for public comment must be provided.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval of a Resolution authorizing the application for a Juvenile Justice and Truancy Prevention Grant in an amount up to \$60,000.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:12 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

Councilmember Jimmy Ford moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

**9. APPOINTMENT TO THE DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (DETCOG) BOARD OF DIRECTORS – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated there was one (1) position on the DETCOG Board that needed to be filled and asked for City Council's recommendations.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to appointment Mayor Mark Hicks to the DETCOG Board of Directors. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

**10. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT**

City Manager Kevin Gee updated City Council on the financial status of the City. City Manager Gee offered to answer any questions. There were none.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5: 14 p.m.



  
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Mark Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Kara Andrepoint, City Secretary