

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF JUNE 2024.

On the 18th day of June 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 Pro Tem
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Kim Ogden	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Jimmy Ford	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Brian W. Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
David Thomas	Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Ryan Watson	Assistant Fire Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Christopher Key	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
Tara Hendrix	Tourism & Marketing Director
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
John Smith	Fleet Services Manager
Scott Feaster	IT Director
Kent Havard	Solid Waste Director
Bob Samford	Economic Development Director

being present; and

Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
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being absent when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Michael Parker.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Mark Hicks opened the meeting for public comment on any posted agenda item at 5:02 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the public comment period.

PRESENTATIONS – Mayor Mark Hicks presented Firefighter Brett Due, Firefighter Desmond Garcia, Firefighter Chad McMurray, Driver Josh Morris, and Captain Jesse Pickett with their promotional certificates for the City of Lufkin Fire Department.

Mayor Mark Hicks acknowledged the recipients of the Tino Villasana Lufkin Fire Department Scholarships for 2024:

- John David Rawls, son of Lieutenant John Rawls
- Kennedi Stone, son of Captain Scott Stone
- Ainsley Stuck, daughter of Captain Jason Stuck
- Aidan Ehrlich, son of Captain Brad Ehrlich
- Joshua Wafer, son of Battalion Chief Bill Wafer

Mayor Mark Hicks recognized and congratulated Police Chief David Thomas on his recent competition in the Texas Police Games where he received a gold medal in the Patrol Rifle competition.

Mayor Mark Hicks introduced Becky Cota and members of Lufkin Creative who gave a short presentation regarding the group’s campaign to promote milestone anniversaries of local arts organizations.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 4TH, 2024 - APPROVED.
2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ADVANCED FUNDING AGREEMENT (AFA) WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) FOR A TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE (TASA) PROJECT - APPROVED.
3. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN FOR REQUIRED PUBLICATIONS AND NOTICES – APPROVED.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

BUSINESS AGENDA

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “COMMERCIAL” ON PROPERTIES ADDRESSED AS 1500 ATKINSON DRIVE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Mark Croft, on behalf of Elm Texas Properties, LLC, was requesting a zone change from “Neighborhood Retail” to “Commercial” for 1500 Atkinson Drive. City Manager Gee furthered the subject property was occupied by an automobile repair service which had been approved for a Special Use Permit in 2017 with the condition of no outside work. City Manager Gee stated the purpose of the zone change was to allow for automobile sales at the location. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered the Comprehensive Plan designation for the property was “Neighborhood Commercial”. City Manager Gee stated Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the current existing area uses as well as the current “Neighborhood 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 amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Lufkin, Texas by changing the zoning to “Commercial” on properties addressed as 1500 Atkinson Drive.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:18 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the City Council.

City Manager Kevin Gee explained there had been an error in the numbering of the properties on the summary and a corrected sheet had been placed on the dais for Council review.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Brent Watkins seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

5. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, CHANGING THE ZONING TO “RESIDENTIAL LARGE” ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 300 LESLIE LANE; CHANGING THE ZONING TO “COMMERCIAL” AND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP DESIGNATION TO “CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 2407 AND 2411 EAST DENMAN AVENUE AND A PORTION OF 404 LESLIE LANE – POSTPONED.

Mayor Mark Hicks requested a motion to postpone the item due to the absence of a “super majority” vote of at least $\frac{3}{4}$, or six (6) out of seven (7) City Council members as required per Chapter 211.006 of the Local Government Code.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to postpone the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Kim Ogden seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to postpone was recorded.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A FISCAL YEAR 2024 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BULLETPROOF VEST PROGRAM GRANT – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the Lufkin Police Department was requesting to submit an application for grant funding in the amount of \$34,137.48 through the U.S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Program. City Manager Gee furthered the funding would be used to purchase approximately twenty-six (26) new and replacement bulletproof vests for City of Lufkin Police officers. City Manager Gee noted the grant required a fifty percent (50%) match in the amount of \$17,068.74 which was available in the Patrol Uniforms account, as well as an opportunity for public comment.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and approve a Resolution authorizing an application for the Fiscal Year 2024 Justice Bulletproof Vest Program Grant.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:21p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the 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.

7. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AND ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF LUFKIN CHARTER – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated thirteen (13) amendments to the City of Lufkin Charter were approved by voters during the May 4th, 2024, Election. City Manager Gee furthered the Ordinance was the formal adoption of the amendments to the Charter and once adopted the amended Charter would be sent to the Texas Secretary of State for recording. City Manager Gee stated the amended Charter would become effective upon approval of the Ordinance adopting the same.

City Manager Kevin Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance declaring and adopting amendments to the City of Lufkin Charter.

Councilmember Kim Ogden moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

REPORTS

8. 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Robert Shankle congratulated Officer Wilcox with the Lufkin Police Department on his third (3rd) place win in the power-lifting competition. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner invited those in attendance to the Juneteenth event being held at the Pines Theater on the evening of June 19th, 2024.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.




Mark Hicks, Mayor


Kara Andrepoint, City Secretary