

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2025.**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025, 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  
Guessippina Bonner  
Brent Watkins  
Kim Ogden  
Jimmy Ford  
Kevin Gee  
Brian W. Bray  
Kara Andrepont  
David Thomas  
Buddy Cross  
Jesse Moody  
Belinda Melancon  
Christopher Key  
Scott Rayburn  
Buddy Timme  
Tara Hendrix  
Albert Duffield  
John Smith  
Julie Massey  
Bob Samford

Mayor  
Councilmember, Ward No. 1  
Councilmember, Ward No. 3  
Councilmember, Ward No. 4  
Councilmember, Ward No. 5  
City Manager  
Assistant City Manager  
City Secretary  
Police Chief  
Assistant Police Chief  
Fire Chief  
Finance Director  
Engineering Services Director  
City Planner  
Parks and Recreation Director  
Tourism & Marketing Director  
Utilities Director  
Municipal Services Manager  
Library Manager  
Economic Development Director

being present; and

Robert Shankle  
Adam Lowther

Mayor Pro Tem  
Councilmember, Ward No. 6

being absent when the following business was transacted.

**INVOCATION** – The meeting was opened with prayer by Assistant City Manager Brian Bray.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Mayor Mark Hicks opened the public comment period at 5:01 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing.

**PRESENTATION**

**LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTION CEREMONY**

Police Chief David Thomas recognized the promotion of Corporal Dalton Estes to the rank of Sergeant, Detective Carter Willmon to the rank of Corporal, and the assignment of Officer Roger Ordaz to the Investigations Division as a Detective. Police Chief Thomas presented them with their new badges which were pinned by family members of the officers.

**LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

Police Chief David Thomas presented the Lufkin Police Department Annual Report for 2024 and offered to answer questions. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner thanked Chief Thomas and commended him for always taking care of the citizens.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 - APPROVED.**
2. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE GENERAL ELECTION OF MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025 – APPROVED.**

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT AND APPROVAL ON FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2024-2025 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 10) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.**

4. **2025 LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT FORFEITURE BUDGET – APPROVED.**

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

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

5. **FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT CLASSIFICATION PLAN – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the proposed Ordinance was necessary under Civil Service Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government code, which required City Council to approve a Fire and Police Civil Service employee classification plan and authorize the number of Civil Service employees for each position. City Manager Gee explained the number and classification of authorized Civil Service positions could only be changed by City Ordinance. City Manager Gee furthered the Ordinance would amend the Classification Plan for the Fire Department by reducing the number of Battalion Chiefs by one (1) and increasing the number of Captains by one (1).

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve First Reading of an Ordinance amending the Lufkin Fire Department Classification Plan.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner asked if there would be an effect on the community or a reduction in response or availability of fire crews. City Manager Gee stated there would not be any effect on the operations of the Fire Department.

Councilmember Brent Watkins moved to approve First Reading of the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

6. **AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR GASLIGHT BOULEVARD AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2024 – 2025 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 11) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Staff received sealed bids on February 11<sup>th</sup>, for the reconstruction of Gaslight Boulevard. City Manager Gee furthered the scope of the bid included the reconstruction of approximately 3,000 feet of concrete street with an allowance for street lighting, and an additive alternate bid to provide 3,000 feet of sidewalk. City Manager Gee stated the low bid had been received from Langston Construction in the amount of \$4,266,485.76 with the recommended total bid amount being \$4,503,775.76 which included a street light allowance and additive alternate bid for sidewalks. City Manager Gee furthered a bid tabulation was included in the Council's packet for reference. City Manager Gee stated the construction budget was \$4 million and an award of bid to Langston Construction for the total amount bid, using supplemental funds from the Water/Wastewater Depreciation Fund 3890 was recommended.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the contract award to Langston Construction in the amount of \$4,503,775.76 and First Reading of an Ordinance authorizing Budget Amendment No. 11 appropriating the supplemental funding.

Councilmember Jimmy Ford asked when construction could be expected to begin. Councilmember Kim Ogden asked if there was an estimated time frame for completion of the project. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Kim Ogden moved to approve the award of contract and First Reading of Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

7. **AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR REPAIR OF WATER WELLS NO. 7 AND NO. 25 – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated sealed bids were received in January for the repair of Wells No. 7 and No. 25, which included the cleaning of well casings and screens, pump replacement, replacement of well suction pipes, motor drive shafts, and things to bring each well back to operational status. City Manager Gee furthered an alternate bid had been included to replace instead of rebuilding the pump for Well No. 25. City Manager Gee stated Weisinger Incorporated was the low bidder with a total bid of \$480,217 which included the base bid and alternate bid. City Manager Gee furthered the complete bid tabulation had been included in Council's packet for review. City Manager Gee stated funding for the project had been allocated in the 2025 CIP Budget.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council award the contract to Weisinger Incorporated in the amount of \$480,217 for the completion of the project as recommended.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the award of contract as presented. Councilmember Kim Ogden seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

#### **8. FINANCIAL POLICY REGARDING THE RECEIVING OF GRANTS, DONATIONS AND/OR CONTRIBUTIONS – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the City received numerous grants, contributions and donations throughout each fiscal year with many being of small value and designated for a specific use or activity. City Manager Gee furthered typically they did not require a match and were not operations related. City Manager Gee explained the policy was being established to allow departments to access the funds without delay for approval of an appropriations ordinance. City Manager Gee stated the policy would allow for grants, contributions, or donations of \$5,000 or less to be placed in an internal service fund which would be restricted to the receipt and expenditure of the contributions. City Manager Gee furthered grants, contributions, or donations greater than \$5,000 would be appropriated by budget amendment ordinance.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council approve the grant, donation, and/or contribution acceptance policy.

Councilmember Jimmy Ford asked if the dollar amount needed to be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Jimmy Ford moved to approve the Policy with the amendment that the amount be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

#### **9. 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.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Mark Hicks recessed the Regular Session at 5:19 p.m.

Mayor Mark Hicks reconvened the Regular Session at 5:46 p.m.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.



  
Mark Hicks, Mayor

  
Kara Andrepont, City Secretary