

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE 15TH DAY OF JULY 2025.**

On the 15th day of July 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	Mayor
Robert Shankle	Mayor Pro Tem
Angela Hobbs-Spencer	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Jimmy Ford	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Brian Bray	Assistant City Manager
Aimee Cloutier	City Secretary
Kristi C. Skillern	City Attorney
Janice Tidwell	Human Resources Manager
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Chris Key	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Tara Hendrix	Tourism & Marketing Director
Albert Duffield	Utilities Director
John Smith	Municipal Services Manager
Jerry McIlroy	IT Director
Julie Massey	Library Manager
Ryan Gulker	Ellen Trout Zoo Director
Morgan Williams	Animal Services Manager

being present; and

Kim Ogden	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
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being absent when the following business was transacted.

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

Mayor Mark Hicks recognized the City of Lufkin Fire Department for assisting with the recovery in Kerrville, Texas after the flooding. Fire Chief Jesse Moody gave an update on the crews that were stationed there and what they had been assisting with. Mayor Hicks thanked them for their service and asked for everyone to keep them and the situation in their thoughts and prayers.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Mayor Mark Hicks opened the public comment period at 5:02 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 17TH, 2025 AND THE SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 23RD, 2025. - APPROVED.**
2. **ACCEPTANCE OF \$30,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR KURTH ANIMAL SERVICES AND APPROVAL ON FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 17 TO THE 2024-2025 OPERATING BUDGET– APPROVED.**
3. **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, SUSPENDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE RATE INCREASE FILING B Y ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY, LLC, AND AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE COALITION OF SIMILARLY SITUATED CITIES – APPROVED.**

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL ON FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR “COMMERCIAL AMUSEMENT INDOORS” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 105 COTTON SQUARE, LUFKIN, TEXAS – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Staff had received a request for a Special Use Permit for “Commercial Amusement (Indoors)” for property located at 105 Cotton Square. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered the applicant proposed to establish a family-friendly arcade, with 28 claw machines that would produce prizes. City Manager Gee stated the request had been unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on First Reading of an Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for “Commercial Amusement Indoors” on property addressed as 105 Cotton Square, Lufkin, Texas.

Mayor Mark Hicks recused himself from the discussion and vote on the item presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Shankle opened the Public Hearing at 5:04 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Pro Tem Shankle closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the City Council.

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

5. PRESENTATION OF REPORT ON DELINQUENT COLLECTION SERVICES BY JAMES GUEST WITH LINEBARGER, GOGGAN, BLAIR & SAMPSON.

Mr. John Thomas, an attorney with Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson presented the report and explained the process and procedures for delinquent collection services. Mr. Thomas updated Council on the tax resale process and who was authorized to sign the resale deeds.

City Attorney Kristi Skillern asked Mr. Thomas to go over the redemption period the required to wait on property sold in a tax sale. Councilmember Angela Hobbs-Spencer asked if the website containing the tax resale properties was allowed to be provided to the public as well as the length of time allowed for someone to be delinquent on property taxes.

6. 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.

7. PROJECT STATUS REPORT

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the Project Status Report was the end of June summaries for various departmental projects.

Councilmember Adam Lowther asked if the packet and reports were available online. Discussion ensued.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.



Mark Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:



Aimee Cloutier, City Secretary