

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2011**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2011, 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:

Jack Gorden, Jr.	Mayor
Don Langston	Mayor Pro-Tem
Victor Travis	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Robert Shankle	Councilmember, Ward No. 2
Lynn Torres	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Rufus Duncan	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Sarah Murray	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Paul L. Parker	City Manager
Keith Wright	Deputy City Manager
Bruce Green	City Attorney
Renee Thompson	City Secretary
Rodney Ivy	Human Resource Director
Scott Marcotte	Police Chief
Gerald Williamson	Asst. Police Chief
Ted Lovett	Interim Fire Chief
Duane Freeman	Asst. Fire Chief
Belinda Southern	Finance Director
Dorothy Wilson	Planning Director
Steve Floyd	Public Works Director
Steve Poskey	Street Department, Superintendent
Barbara Thompson	Main Street Director
Jim Wehmeier	Economic Development Director
Chuck Walker	Public Utilities Director
Ramon Johnson	Water & Sewer Director
Gorden Henley	Ellen Trout Zoo Director
Robbin Crawford	Senior Accountant

being present, when the following business was transacted:

1. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Andrew Pittman, Lufkin's First Baptist Church.
2. Mayor Jack Gorden welcomed visitors present.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 16, 2011, were approved on a motion by Councilmember Lynn Torres, and seconded by Councilmember Robert Shankle. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

4. **PRESENTATION OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS TO LUFKIN POLICE OFFICERS, LUFKIN FIREFIGHTERS AND CITIZENS WHOSE ACTIONS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE LIFE OF BRADLEY GRAHAM. (HONORABLE JACK GORDEN, MAYOR)**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a presentation of Meritorious Service Medals to Lufkin Police Officers, Lufkin Firefighters and Citizens whose actions were instrumental in saving the life of Bradley Graham. (Honorable Jack Gorden, Mayor)

Mayor Gorden stated that on May 3, 2011, Police and Fire units were dispatched to a motor vehicle crash on Fuller Springs Drive in which a vehicle was overturned in a ditch and fully

engulfed in fire. Mayor Gorden added that the driver of the vehicle, Bradley Graham, was trapped in the vehicle. Mayor Gorden stated that witnesses to the accident Michael and Donna Wallace stopped to assist and alerted a nearby resident. Mayor Gorden explained that the resident, Jose Jaraguchi, used a water hose in an attempt to extinguish the flames. Mayor Gorden stated that off duty Police Officers Jim Porter and Corporal Travis Strickland responded to the call and worked diligently to extract Graham from the vehicle, but one (1) leg was trapped under the dashboard. Mayor Gorden added that the flames were so intense that Graham's flesh was bubbling and that there was the smell of burning flesh in the air. Mayor Gorden stated that Officer Porter, at one (1) point, took the water hose and turned it on Graham and Strickland to reduce the heat that they were experiencing. Mayor Gorden added that off duty officer David Thomas and on duty officers also arrived to assist. Mayor Gorden explained that the Lufkin Fire Department arrived, headed by Captain Tino Villasana, and were able to quickly extinguish the vehicle and those present were able to lift the vehicle and extract Graham. Mayor Gorden stated that Mr. Graham was then airlifted to LSU Hospital in Shreveport. Mayor Gorden concluded that the fact that Graham survived the incident was undoubtedly attributed to the fast action of citizens, off duty officers and on duty police and fire personnel.

Mayor Gorden then presented the Lufkin Police Officers Jim Porter, Travis Strickland and David Thomas, Lufkin Fire Captain Tino Villasana on behalf of Fire Station #6, Shift B medals for Meritorious Service for their life saving efforts. Mayor Gorden noted that citizens Michael and Donna Wallace and Jose Jaraguchi were unable to be present at the meeting and also thanked them for their heroic efforts.

**5. ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO LUFKIN FIREFIGHTERS JEREMIAH BARNARD AND JASON CARPENTER. (HONORABLE JACK GORDEN, MAYOR)**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was to Administer the Oath of Office to Lufkin Firefighters Jeremiah Barnard and Jason Carpenter. (Honorable Jack Gorden, Mayor)

Honorable Mayor Jack Gorden then administered the Oath of Office to City of Lufkin Firefighters Jeremiah Barnard and Jason Carpenter. Mayor Gorden then congratulated Firefighters Barnard and Carpenter and thanked them for their service to the City of Lufkin.

**6. CEREMONY PROMOTING LUFKIN FIREFIGHTERS NATHAN SMITH, LARRY CHRISTENSEN AND BRENT FORREST TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT; KEITH COLE, NATALIE PARRISH AND OZZIE JARMAN TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN AND JESSE MOODY TO THE RANK OF BATTALION CHIEF. (HONORABLE JACK GORDEN, MAYOR)**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a ceremony promoting Lufkin Firefighters Nathan Smith, Larry Christensen and Brent Forrest to the rank of Lieutenant; Keith Cole, Natalie Parrish and Ozzie Jarman to the rank of Captain and Jesse Moody to the rank of Battalion Chief. (Honorable Jack Gorden, Mayor)

Mayor Gorden then asked the Firefighters Larry Christensen and his wife, Brent Forrest and Richard Davis, Nathan Smith (unable to attend), Keith Cole and wife, Natalie Parrish and husband, Ozzie Jarman and wife and Jesse Moody and wife to come to the front of the Council Chambers. Mayor Gorden explained that the wives and friends were going to do the honor of pinning on the badges. Mayor Gorden added that Larry Christensen, Brent Forrest and Nathan Smith were being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant; Keith Cole, Natalie Parrish and Ozzie Jarman were being promoted to the rank of Captain and Jesse Moody was being promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief. Mayor Gorden then congratulated each of them on behalf of the City of Lufkin and the City Council. Mayor Gorden added that the City Council was very proud of the Lufkin Fire Department and the job that each of the firefighters did and their dedication to the City and its citizens.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**7. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, - APPROVED -**

**BY GRANTING A "SPECIAL USE PERMIT" FOR A PARKING LOT WITHIN A "RESIDENTIAL LARGE SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING" ZONING DISTRICT ON CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, BEING 129 AND 133 ZEAGLER AVENUE, LOTS 4 AND 5, BLOCK 6 OF THE ZEAGLER, COCHRAN AND ALBRITTON'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY PLANNER TO MAKE SUCH CHANGES ON THE OFFICIAL MAP AND CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN OF THE 2001 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO "MIXED USE"**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a Public Hearing and Second Reading of an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Lufkin, Texas, by granting a "Special Use Permit" for a parking lot within a "Residential Large Single Family Dwelling" Zoning District on certain tracts or parcels of land within the corporate limits of the City of Lufkin, Texas, being 129 and 133 Zeagler Avenue, Lots 4 and 5, Block 6 of the Zeagler, Cochran and Albritton's Addition to the City of Lufkin and authorizing the City Planner to make such changes on the Official Map and change the designation of the Future Land Use Plan of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan to "Mixed Use"

City Manager Paul Parker stated that this was a request from Pineywoods Community Academy and that they would utilize the area for parking. City Manager Parker added that Mr. Joe Douglas explained at the last City Council Meeting that the area would be primarily used for staff parking to try to eliminate the number of children who would cross the street. City Manager Parker explained that the additional parking was also intended to help the academy grow.

Mayor Gorden opened the Public Hearing at 5:33 p.m. and asked anyone who wished to speak on the item to please step forward. There appearing to be no one who wished to speak, Mayor Gorden closed the Public Hearing at 5:34 p.m.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan moved to approve the Second Reading of the Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Lufkin, Texas, by granting a "Special Use Permit" for a parking lot within a "Residential Large Single Family Dwelling" Zoning District on certain tracts or parcels of land within the corporate limits of the City of Lufkin, Texas, being 129 and 133 Zeagler Avenue, Lots 4 and 5, Block 6 of the Zeagler, Cochran and Albritton's Addition to the City of Lufkin and authorizing the City Planner to make such changes on the Official Map and change the designation of the Future Land Use Plan of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan to "Mixed Use". Councilmember Don Langston seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, - APPROVED - AND EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF SAID CITY SO AS TO INCLUDE SAID HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS, AND GRANTING TO SAID TERRITORY AND TO ALL FUTURE INHABITANTS OF SAID PROPERTY ALL OF THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF OTHER CITIZENS AND BINDING SAID FUTURE INHABITANTS BY ALL OF THE ACTS AND ORDINANCES OF THE SAID CITY**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a Public Hearing and Second Reading of an Ordinance annexing the hereinafter described territory to the City of Lufkin, Texas, and extending the boundaries of said city so as to include said hereinafter described property within the city limits, and granting to said territory and to all future inhabitants of said property all of the rights and privileges of other citizens and binding said future inhabitants by all of the Acts and Ordinances of the said city.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that the Mayor and Council were very familiar with the item since they had gone through the annexation process. City Manager Parker added that the request would allow the residents access to City services.

Mayor Gorden opened the Public Hearing at 5:34 p.m. and asked anyone who wished to speak on the item to please step forward. There appearing to be no one who wished to speak, Mayor Gorden closed the Public Hearing at 5:35 p.m.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember Don Langston moved to approve Second Reading of the Ordinance annexing the hereinafter described territory to the City of Lufkin, Texas, and extending the boundaries of said city so as to include said hereinafter described property within the city limits, and granting to said territory and to all future inhabitants of said property all of the rights and privileges of other citizens and binding said future inhabitants by all of the Acts and Ordinances of the said city. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**9. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, - APPROVED - BY CHANGING THE ZONING DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, DESCRIBED AS 1508 KNIGHT STREET AND BEING APPROXIMATELY .27 ACRES OF LAND OF THE A-40 J.L. QUINALTY SURVEY, TRACT 173, ANGELINA COUNTY, FROM A "HEAVY MANUFACTURING" ZONING DISTRICT TO A "MANUFACTURED DWELLING" ZONING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY PLANNER TO MAKE SUCH CHANGES ON THE OFFICIAL MAP**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a Public Hearing and First Reading of an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Lufkin, Texas, by changing the zoning designation of certain tracts or parcels of land within the corporate limits of the City of Lufkin, Texas, described as 1508 Knight Street and being approximately .27 acres of land of the A-40 J.L. Quinalty Survey, Tract 173, Angelina County, from a "Heavy Manufacturing" Zoning District to a "Manufactured Dwelling" Zoning District and authorizing the City Planner to make such changes on the official map.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that Lisa Smith, owner, was requesting a change of zoning from "Heavy Manufacturing" to a zoning classification of "Manufactured Dwelling" on property located at the west end of Knight Street, which was the south side of Knight Street. City Manager Parker added that the property owner was currently planning to place a mobile home on the lot. City Manager Parker explained that the properties to the north and east were zoned "Manufactured Dwelling", and properties to the west and south were zoned "Heavy Manufacturing". City Manager Parker stated that the subject property was vacant and the areas to the west and south were used for industrial purposes. City Manager Parker added that the properties north and east were residential homes with a mix of valuations and conditions. City Manager Parker explained that the Lufkin Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designated "Manufactured Home" for the area and the land north and east of it. City Manager Parker added that the area west and south was designated "Light Industrial". City Manager Parker stated that both the Planning Staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that the City Council approve the request to change the zoning from "Heavy Manufacturing" to "Manufactured Dwelling" for the property located at 1508 Knight Street.

Mayor Gorden opened the Public Hearing at 5:36 p.m. and asked anyone who wished to speak on the item to please step forward. There appearing to be no one who wished to speak, Mayor Gorden closed the Public Hearing at 5:37 p.m.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was some discussion among the Council, City Manager and Staff regarding the request.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the First Reading of the Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Lufkin, Texas, by changing the zoning designation of certain tracts or parcels of land within the corporate limits of the City of

Lufkin, Texas, described as 1508 Knight Street and being approximately .27 acres of land of the A-40 J.L. Quinalty Survey, Tract 173, Angelina County, from a "Heavy Manufacturing" Zoning District to a "Manufactured Dwelling" Zoning District and authorizing the City Planner to make such changes on the official map. Councilmember Victor Travis seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**10. PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN 2011-2012 DRAFT BUDGET AND CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2011 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was the presentation of the City of Lufkin 2011-2012 Draft Budget and to conduct a Public Hearing concerning the Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2011 and ending September 30, 2012.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that Staff had made copies of the budget available for review. City Manager Parker added that the City Council had gone through the budget in detail at work sessions. City Manager Parker stated that the 2011-2012 Annual Budget was based on maintaining the existing tax rate of 0.5138. City Manager Parker added that there was no change in the Solid Waste rates for the upcoming budget year. City Manager Parker explained that the 2011-2012 Budget did include the third year of the approved four (4) year scheduled rate increase in Water and Sewer rates of six percent (6%) for all classes of customers. City Manager Parker reminded the Council that this was for the bond proceeds when the City purchased the Abitibi water rights and property, and also supported one (1) already issued five million dollar (\$5,000,000) bond issue, and an anticipated second issue that the Council would probably consider in the next year's budget.

City Manager Parker stated that the 2011-2012 Annual Budget was a very good budget, but was a very conservative budget in the revenues and didn't add many programs, but maintained all of the current levels of services. City Manager Parker added that within the budget was a modification to the Texas Municipal Retirement System, reducing the COLA from .7 of the CPI to .5. City Manager Parker stated that also included in the budget was a 1.5% COLA for City employees. City Manager Parker stated that he would answer any questions that the City Council had concerning the budget.

Mayor Gorden opened the Public Hearing at 5:40 p.m. and asked anyone who wished to speak on the item to please step forward. There appearing to be no one who wished to speak, Mayor Gorden closed the Public Hearing at 5:41 p.m.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was some discussion among the Mayor and Council regarding the 2011-2012 Annual Fiscal Budget for the City of Lufkin.

**11. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 TAX RATE**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a discussion on the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Tax Rate.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that each year as the City did its Annual Budget the property tax rate was based on what the State determined was the Effective Tax Rate. City Manager Parker added that the Effective Tax Rate was a tax rate that would generate the same revenue as the tax rate from the previous year. City Manager Parker stated that the tax rate from the previous year was .5138 per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation. City Manager Parker added that the Effective Tax Rate was actually higher, for the first time since he had been the City Manager of the City of Lufkin. City Manager Parker explained that this was because the overall valuation in the City, excluding new growth, dropped during the current year. City Manager Parker added that there had been a drop in the appraised value, so the Effective Tax Rate was actually .5166 as compared to .5138, which was slightly higher than the existing tax rate. City Manager Parker stated that in the City's preliminary budget discussions the City Council asked Staff to prepare the budget not adopting the Effective Tax Rate. City Manager Parker added that even though the City was keeping the tax rate the same, it would in essence be a tax decrease, because the City was not using the same rate that

would generate the same amount of money. City Manager Parker stated that the City was operating with less money than would have been generated with the Effective Tax Rate. City Manager Parker added that those citizens that had no changes in their valuations would see the same taxes and that those that had an increase in valuations would pay more. City Manager Parker stated that it was very commendable that the City Council had directed the City to not adopt the Effective Tax Rate, which would have been a higher rate for everyone.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was discussion among the Council and Mayor concerning the tax rate, valuations, the economy, and that the City of Lufkin was one (1) of the few entities not increasing taxes.

**12. RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCILMEMBER RUFUS DUNCAN TO SERVE AS THE CITY OF LUFKIN REPRESENTATIVE – APPROVED - ON THE ANGELINA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a Resolution appointing Councilmember Rufus Duncan to serve as the City of Lufkin representative on the Angelina County Appraisal District Board.

Councilmember Lynn Torres noted that there was a mistake in the comments section of the Council Meeting Agenda concerning the date of the term for Councilmember Rufus Duncan on the Angelina County Appraisal District Board. Councilmember Torres pointed out that the date should have been that the term would begin on January 1, 2012 and end on December 31, 2012. City Secretary Renee Thompson stated that she would have the date corrected.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to approve the appointment of Councilmember Rufus Duncan to serve as the City of Lufkin representative on the Angelina County Appraisal District Board. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was a report from City Manager Paul Parker.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that he would highlight a few items to the City Council and then answer any questions that the Council had concerning the report. City Manager Parker stated that the City's revenue was fine in most areas, but was down in "Fines and Forfeitures". City Manager Parker added that the overall revenue should have been at approximately eighty-three percent (83%). City Manager Parker stated that the "Sales Tax" revenue was always skewed due to the fact that it had one (1) extra month. City Manager Parker pointed out that the City was approximately three percent (3%) above projections for the year in "Sales Tax". City Manager Parker stated that the last month's "Sales Tax" was negative due somewhat to the fact that during the previous year the City had an audit to its favor in the amount of approximately fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$57,000), and in the current year there was an audit that was negative by approximately seven hundred dollars (\$700). City Manager Parker added that also during the previous year the collections were approximately sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000), and the current year's collections were approximately six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500). City Manager Parker explained that the way that the "Sales Tax" was broken down monthly, the current period "Sales Tax" was actually higher last month. City Manager Parker stated that as he had mentioned to the City Council numerous times, "Sales Tax" could not be looked at over a one (1) month period. City Manager Parker added that it had to be a snapshot of at least three (3) to four (4) months in order to get a pattern. City Manager Parker stated that nobody ever wanted to see the "Sales Tax" be negative, but there were a few rational reasons that it could happen. City Manager Parker added that hopefully the negative "Sales Tax" was just for one (1) month, and not a trend. City Manager Parker stated that the good news was that the trend for the year was that the City was still up by three percent (3%). City Manager Parker stated that as he had previously mentioned, the City was running behind on "Fines and Forfeitures". City Manager Parker added that the City was under the previous projections on expenditures.

City Manager Parker stated that the Water and Sewer Revenue Funds were right on target. City Manager Parker added that this could be a little misleading, because the City had been in a drought and the revenues currently coming in would reflect the drought conditions more. City

Manager Parker stated that also, three (3) cycles of the next year was also billed back in the account. City Manager Parker explained that the City should end the year well above projections in Water and Sewer Residential Revenue Funds. City Manager Parker stated that the City was a little behind in revenues for the Wastewater Commercial and Industrial Revenue Funds. City Manager Parker added that most of that would eventually come in close to projections by the end of the budget cycle. City Manager Parker stated that the remainder of the Funds were very close to projections. City Manager Parker stated that Solid Waste was on target and that he would answer any questions that Council had on the remaining Funds, but that the City was basically right on target with expenditures and revenue in the current budget.

City Manager Parker stated that the Fuller Springs Project was of particular interest to many. City Manager Parker added that Staff did a great job of trying to get the work completed on the area near the school during the summer. City Manager Parker stated that the area should be completed by the time school began. City Manager Parker explained that the entire Fuller Springs Project would not be completed, except for the area near the school to allow for alternate ways in and out of the school. City Manager Parker added that there had been a lot of boots on the ground working with the contractor to make sure that the project was going well. City Manager Parker stated that the other major project that was currently going was the Sayers Street Project. City Manager Parker stated that this project was going along very well. City Manager Parker stated that the bond issue programs that the Council approved one and one half (1½) years earlier included several great projects such as the Sayers Street Project, Fuller Springs Project, baseball and softball improvements, bridges etc. City Manager Parker stated that there were numerous projects in the City Manager Report and that he would answer any questions that the Council had regarding any of the projects.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was some discussion among the Council and City Manager regarding the City of Lufkin's water resources.

#### **14. PRESENTATION BY DIRECTOR GORDEN HENLEY REGARDING THE ELLEN TROUT ZOO**

Ellen Trout Zoo Director Gorden Henley stated that he was there to speak about Ellen Trout Zoo and some of the things that were being done there. Mr. Henley added that he wanted to recognize some of the "Friends of the Zoo" Board Members. Mr. Henley stated that present in the audience were Mary Leah Duran, Dennis Rankin, Jamie Zayler, Ronnie Wilson and Charlotte Henley.

Mr. Henley then began showing video of the Ellen Trout Park and Zoo. Mr. Henley stated that animals at the zoo were owned by several entities. Mr. Henley explained that the City of Lufkin owned some of the animals, as well as private individuals, other zoos, and several governments such as Madagascar and Venezuela. Mr. Henley continued by listing several types of Ellen Trout Zoo's animals that were owned by other entities. Mr. Henley stated that the Zoo had a very successful breeding program with spectacled owls and that the Zoo had sent some of the owls to a zoo in Belize, where they were a native bird.

Mr. Henley stated that the goals of modern zoos were recreation centers for the entire family, conservation, education, research and zip code surveys. Mr. Henley stated that since the Zoo began charging admission it had over four million (4,000,000) visitors. Mr. Henley added that the Zoo had more visitors than most of the other area attractions combined. Mr. Henley explained that using Zip Code Survey figures provided by the Chamber of Commerce for tourism, the Zoo was a two million one hundred sixty-five thousand dollar (\$2,165,000) asset to the area economy of Lufkin. Mr. Henley added that with the multiplier (dollar turning over approximately six (6) times in the City), the figure was a twelve million nine hundred sixty thousand dollar (\$12,960,000) asset to the community. Mr. Henley stated that the City had an excellent Police Department, Fire Department, Street Department, Parks and Recreation Department, etc., but Lufkin was very fortunate that it also had an excellent Zoo, that sat it apart from a lot of other cities.

Mr. Henley stated that conservation efforts and species survival plans were areas that were managed by zoo programs. Mr. Henley stated that the captive propagation programs for highly endangered species were all over the United States and in other countries. Mr. Henley added that Ellen Trout Zoo participated with other zoos in breeding programs to provide

genetic materials for animals into the future. Mr. Henley explained that some of the Species Survival Plans that the Ellen Trout Zoo participated in were the Ruffed Lemurs, Bali Mynahs, Cuban crocodiles, Louisiana Pine Snake Conservation Coalition, East Texas Black Bear Task Force and the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group. Mr. Henley stated that the Louisiana Pine Snake was the rarest snake in the United States and that Ellen Trout Zoo was the first zoo in the country to breed it. Mr. Henley added that in the last two (2) years the Zoo had begun release programs. Mr. Henley explained that Ellen Trout Zoo had been selected as the "Head Start Zoo", and that Staff would bring back some of the snakes until April 2012 for a "Head Start Release", and then a captive release in the summer. Mr. Henley added that they had been working with a zoo in Memphis and New Orleans and approximately fourteen (14) zoos, along with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Department of Defense, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, private land owners, Stephen F. Austin University and Texas A & M.

Mr. Henley then showed video of animals that were in the Species Survival Plan animals, such as the Siamese Crocodile, Clouded Leopard, Malayan Tapir and Jaguar. Mr. Henley explained that through regulatory agencies the Zoo had to contribute to these animals survival in the wild. Mr. Henley added that because the Ellen Trout Zoo had these animals on exhibit the Zoo had to make a financial contribution to conservation organizations in arranged countries to assist in protecting the animals in the wild. Mr. Henley stated that the money that went to these programs came from money that was donated to "Friends of the Zoo" for that purpose.

Mr. Henley stated that the Zoo's Educational Services Programs began in 1977. Mr. Henley added that these included the Zoo Safari Program, Jr. Zookeeper Program, Wildlife on Wheels, On-Site Educational Programs and Partnerships with East Texas Black Bear Task Force and Louisiana Pine Snake Conservation Coalition. Mr. Henley stated that Staff moved into the Educational Building in 2009. Mr. Henley explained that the Education Facility was a one million seven hundred thousand dollar (\$1,700,000) project that "Friends of the Zoo" helped raise the funding for, with admission fees covering the remainder of the cost for construction. Mr. Henley then went on to explain in more depth the educational programs and research projects that were taking place at the Zoo.

Mr. Henley stated that there were over eight hundred fifty (850) animals at the Ellen Trout Zoo. Mr. Henley added that the Zoo employed twenty-three (23) full time and two (2) seasonal employees. Mr. Henley stated that the Zoo had twenty-eight (28) buildings with nearly one (1) mile of perimeter fence. Mr. Henley added that the Zoo had twenty (20) acres of developed land, two (2) trucks, one (1) van, two (2) gators, three (3) electric vehicles, one (1) Kubota and one (1) forklift. Mr. Henley stated that the Zoo was open three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year. Mr. Henley stated that some of the regulatory agencies that the Zoo dealt with were the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Animal Welfare Act, United States Department of Interiors (USDI) for Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Act, Waterfowl Sale Regulations and Injurious Species, Texas Parks and Wildlife for the Zoological Permit to exhibit native Texas animals, Bureau of Biologics for Experimental Drug License and Drug Import License (Antivenin) and the Drug Enforcement Agency for the Controlled Drug License for Veterinary Drugs.

Mr. Henley stated that then explained the different types and amounts of animal food used at the Zoo, such as forty-four (44) tons of hay, 1.3 tons of Nebraska feline diet, 2.3 tons of Flamingo chow, four hundred thirty thousand five hundred crickets, and twenty-three thousand five hundred forty-four apples and lots and lots of mice. Mr. Henley showed video of the Zoo's kitchen.

Mr. Henley explained that the Ellen Trout Zoo had a two (2) pronged approach to hurricane preparedness. Mr. Henley stated that if Lufkin was an evacuation center they offered "Hurricane Specials", such as free admission to the Zoo for people who came from the impacted areas. Mr. Henley explained that this had paid off because people had come to the Zoo during this time and returned with friends and family members at a later date. Mr. Henley added that if the Zoo was impacted the Staff was very busy preparing, cleaning and repairing exhibits and areas in and around the Zoo. Mr. Henley stated that during an event such as a hurricane all of the dangerous animals were locked up, venomous snakes were



bagged, and Staff stayed on the grounds during the storm and after the storm for checking damage, caring and cleaning up after the event.

Mr. Henley stated that the Ellen Trout Zoo maintained a lot of venomous snakes. Mr. Henley stated that a standard for being an accredited zoo was that they maintained antivenin for each snake. Mr. Henley added that the Zoo had to purchase their antivenin from all over the world. Mr. Henley stated that the antivenin was maintained in the veterinary clinic. Mr. Henley explained that the Zoo had a full time veterinarian on staff that did preventive medicine, vaccinations, physicals, hormone monitoring for breeding programs, maintained the animal hospital, x-ray and anesthesia equipment, and a separate necropsy facility for animals that died. Mr. Henley stated that Ellen Trout Zoo was the first zoo to do a cataract removal and lens implant in a bald eagle with the assistance of Dr. Tom Duncan. Mr. Henley added that the zoo did a mastectomy on a jaguar with the assistance of Dr. Rick Martin, an ultrasound on primates with the assistance of Dr. Kay Carter and various CT scans at local hospitals. Mr. Henley stated that a cardiologist had volunteered to serve as a consultant for the future gorilla exhibit.

Mr. Henley stated that all animal care employees had the minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Biological related science and came from all over the United States to work at the Ellen Trout Zoo. Mr. Henley added that they were all highly trained in emergency procedures such as animal escape and venomous snake bites. Mr. Henley stated that Staff also worked with the Police Department during an animal escape and explained the procedures used. Mr. Henley explained that animal care employees were trained in Zoonotic diseases, animal handling procedures, Zoological literature, legislation affecting zoos and animal record keeping.

Mr. Henley stated that the "Friends of Ellen Trout Zoo" began in 1984. Mr. Henley added that the "Friends of the Zoo" had one thousand four hundred (1,400) members and was a fundraising branch that had raised money for the "big cat exhibit", the Zoo entrance, "giraffe/rhino building, "Hippoquarium" and the Administration/Educational Center. Mr. Henley stated that the "Friends of the Zoo" ran the Gift Shop and Concession, sponsored the "Annual Zoo Boo" (which was the largest Halloween event in the eastern part of Texas with over six thousand (6,000) attendees), sponsored "Zoo Brew" and a Members Appreciation Party. Mr. Henley added that the "Friends of Ellen Trout Zoo" were a huge help and support for the Zoo, and that he really appreciated all they did.

Mr. Henley stated that volunteers were used to assist with the "Zoo Safari". Mr. Henley added that the Zoo had some animal care volunteers and that some civic clubs such as the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club and Friends of the Ellen Trout Zoo also provided volunteers. Mr. Henley stated that Community Service Workers performed approximately three thousand (3,000) hours of work at the Zoo each year. Mr. Henley added that Brookshire Brothers sponsored an Annual Zoo Work Day with approximately one hundred employees volunteering approximately four hundred to six hundred (400-600) hours of work at the Zoo in a single day.

Mr. Henley stated that one (1) of the future exhibits planned for the Ellen Trout Zoo was the "Gorilla Exhibit". Mr. Henley stated that there was an undeveloped site just south of the hippos and east of the Education Centre that was where the "Gorilla Exhibit" would hopefully be built. Mr. Henley explained that the Zoo had committed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year for three (3) years to gorilla conservation to the western lowland gorilla in Africa. Mr. Henley furthered that the Species Survival Plan people that managed gorillas had assured them that once the building was built the Zoo would have the gorillas for the exhibit. Mr. Henley stated that this was exciting and that attendance at the Zoo would skyrocket. Mr. Henley explained that there were no gorillas in the East Texas part of the State. Mr. Henley added that Fort Worth, Dallas and Brownsville were the closest areas that had gorilla exhibits. Mr. Henley stated that it might be time for the Ellen Trout Zoo to consider preparing a new Master Plan. Mr. Henley added that the last Master Plan was developed in 1996, and that the Zoo had come to the end of it and that he would be seeking guidance on how to proceed as the Ellen Trout Zoo moved forward.

Mayor Gorden stated that the presentation reminded everyone of what Mr. Henley and the employees, volunteers, civic groups, etc. did at the Ellen Trout Zoo. Mayor Gorden added

that very little could happen without the “Friends of the Ellen Trout Zoo”. Mr. Henley stated that the Ellen Trout Zoo was a community undertaking and that the Lufkin City Council had supported everything that had been done at the Zoo. Mr. Henley stated that he appreciated the Council and the community that came together to make it all happen.

Mayor Gorden asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was some discussion among the Council and Mr. Henley regarding the cost involved in building a “Gorilla Exhibit”. There was additional discussion among the Council, Mayor, City Manager and Mr. Henley regarding the quality of the Ellen Trout Zoo, fundraising and school children’s programs at the Zoo.

15. Mayor Jack Gorden recessed the Regular Session at 6:25 p.m. to enter into Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** In accordance with the Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (2) Consultation with City Attorney on any Regular Session Agenda item requiring confidential, attorney/client advices necessitated by the deliberation or discussion of said items (as needed), and real estate, demolition of buildings, or appointments to boards and personnel may be discussed.

Mayor Jack Gorden reconvened the Regular Session at 6:53 p.m.

16. **APPOINTMENTS TO THE FFAST (FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITY STATEMENT – TEXAS) WORKGROUP – APPROVED - FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE FFAST FORM REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR ROUND 2 HURRICANE IKE FUNDING**

Mayor Jack Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was to appoint members to the Fair Housing Activity Statement Texas (FFAST) Workgroup for the completion of the FFAST form required to apply for Round 2 of the Hurricane Ike Funding.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to appoint Mayor Jack Gorden, Councilmember Robert Shankle, Marta Maldonado, Rev. M. E. Lyons, Jim Watkins, Joe Havard and Kara Atwood to the Fair Housing Activity Statement Texas Workgroup for the completion of the FFAST form required to apply for Round 2 of the Hurricane Ike Funding. Councilmember Don Langston seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

14. **DISCUSSION OF ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST, INCLUDING EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS, CONGRATULATIONS OR CONDOLENCE; INFORMATION REGARDING HOLIDAY SCHEDULES; HONORARY RECOGNITIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHER CITIZENS; REMINDERS ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE CITY OR OTHER ENTITY THAT IS SCHEDULED TO BE ATTENDED BY CITY OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES; AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOLVING IMMINENT THREATS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE CITY**

Mayor Gorden stated that the next item for consideration was the discussion of items of community interest, including expressions of thanks, congratulations or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; honorary recognitions of City officials, employees or other citizens; reminders about upcoming events sponsored by the City or other entity that is scheduled to be attended by City officials or employees; and announcements involving imminent threats to the public health and safety of the City.

City Manager Paul Parker stated that Consolidated Communications, the City of Lufkin Recycling Center and Angelina Beautiful/Clean were sponsoring a phone book recycling drive and that it would go through September 30, 2011 at the Lufkin Recycling Center. City Manager Parker added that there were locations throughout the City where people could drop off their phone books to be recycled. City Manager Parker stated that there were other meetings that were highlighted for the Council and that he would answer any questions about any of them. City Manager Parker stated that on September 2, 2011, the First Friday Luncheon would be the First Friday Small Business of the Year Award Luncheon with the guest speaker being Bonnie Dowdy of Music World, who was the 2010 Small Business of the Year.

Mayor Gorden stated that the Lufkin's Bistro would be held on Saturday, October 1, 2011, in Downtown Lufkin and City Manager Parker stated that tickets were available at the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau at the Chamber of Commerce Building. Councilmember Victor Travis reminded everyone that school would begin on Monday, August 22, 2011, and that everyone should drive carefully.

15. There being no further business for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

  
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Renee Thompson – City Secretary

  
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Jack Gorden, Mayor