

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.**

On the 17th day of January, 2023, 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
Robert Shankle
Guessippina Bonner
Brent Watkins
Rocky Thigpen
Kevin Gee
Kristi Skillern
Gerald Williamson
Kara Andrepont
Adriana Thomasee
David Thomas
Buddy Cross
Jesse Moody
Ryan Watson
Jessica Pebsworth
Belinda Melancon
Eddie Aguilar
Scott Rayburn
Albert Duffield
Scott Feaster
Bob Samford

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Councilmember, Ward No. 5
City Manager
City Attorney
Assistant City Manager
City Secretary
Human Resources
Police Chief
Assistant Police Chief
Fire Chief
Assistant Fire Chief
Communications Director
Finance Director
Engineering Services Director
Planning Director
Utilities Director
IT Director
Economic Development Director

being present; and

Wes Suiter
Trent Burfine

Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Councilmember, Ward No. 6

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 – Mayor Mark Hicks recognized the promotion of Corporal Bob Scott to the rank of Sergeant and Officer Trey Lenderman to Corporal. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner also recognized and thanked Detective J.B. Smith.

CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 20TH, 2022 - APPROVED.**
2. **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS PROVIDING FOR THE CALLING AND ORDERING OF A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 6TH, 2023, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 5 AND A COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 6, PROVIDING FOR NECESSARY NOTICES AND FIXING THE DATE – APPROVED.**
3. **APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FOR FUNDING TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**
4. **APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TRACTORS FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND WATER PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**

5. APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) DIESEL GENERATORS FOR WATER WELL AND LIFT STATION OPERATIONS – APPROVED.

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “RESIDENTIAL LARGE” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 4621 COLLEGE DRIVE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Michael G. Parker, on behalf of Dillon Renfro, had requested a zone change from “Agricultural” to “Residential Large” for 4621 College Drive. City Manager Gee furthered prior to future development, the property was required to be reclassified to a standard zoning classification. City Manager Gee stated the property was ninety-three (93) acres and was currently non-developed. City Manager Gee furthered the purpose of the zone change was for future development of a single-family residential subdivision. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated Staff found the proposed zone change consistent with the City’s adopted plans and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their regular meeting on January 9th, 2023. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval of the First Reading of an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Lufkin, Texas by changing the zoning to “Residential Large” on property addressed as 4621 College Drive.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:07 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

Councilmember Robert Shankle 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 FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS BY GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A HOTEL ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 3701 SOUTH MEDFORD DRIVE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Kevin Patel, on behalf of Lufkin Hotel II, LLC had requested a Special Use Permit for a “Hotel” within the Garden District Shopping Village. City Manager Gee furthered the applicant intended to construct a Home 2 Suites by Hilton Extended Stay Hotel which would consist of four (4) stories and have ninety-two (92) guest rooms. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated a copy of the proposed civil site plan with architectural elevations had been provided in Council’s packet. City Manager Gee furthered Staff found the request to be consistent with the City’s adopted plans and the surrounding zoning and uses for the area. City Manager Gee stated the request was unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their regular meeting on January 9th, 2023. City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval of the First Reading of an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Lufkin, Texas by granting a Special Use Permit for a hotel on property addressed as 3701 South Medford Drive.

Mayor Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:09 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Mark Hicks recessed the Regular Session at 5:10 p.m.

Mayor Mark Hicks reconvened the Regular Session at 5:22 p.m.

8. APPROVAL OF A TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT FOR JEFFERSON ENERGY, LLC. – APPROVED.

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

9. APPROVAL OF A TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT FOR TEXAS STAR INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING, LLC. – APPROVED.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to approve the agreement as presented. Councilmember Rocky Thigpen seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

10. PRESENTATION OF CITY OF LUFKIN FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Teresa Casanova with the City of Lufkin Finance Department presented the City of Lufkin Quarterly Finance Committee Report.

11. 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 5:25 p.m.



Mark Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kara Andrepont, City Secretary