

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 6TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

On the 6th day of February, 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 Proclamation Tem
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Wes Suiter	Councilmember, Ward No. 4
Jimmy Ford	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Brian W. Bray	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Adriana Thomasee	Human Resources
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Jesse Moody	Fire Chief
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Scott Rayburn	City Planner
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
John Smith	Fleet Maintenance Director

being present when the following business was transacted.

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

Mayor Mark Hicks recognized those in attendance with Leadership Lufkin and wished Assistant City Manager Gerald Williamson, Assistant City Manager Brian W. Bray and Councilmember Jimmy Ford a Happy Birthday.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Mark Hicks opened the meeting for public comment on any posted agenda item at 5:01 p.m. Mr. Joe Gibson and Mr. Robert Warren spoke in reference to Item No. 2 on the agenda regarding establishing speed limits on Farm to Market Road 324 (Southwood Drive). There being no one else who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the public comment period.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 17TH, 2024 - APPROVED.**
- 2. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS ON FARM TO MARKET ROAD 324 (SOUTHWOOD DRIVE) – APPROVED.**
- 3. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 7) APPROPRIATING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT– APPROVED.**
- 4. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8) APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR AN ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN UPDATES FOR REGIONAL DETENTION PONDS NO. 1, 4, 7 AND 8; ELLEN TROUT MEMORIAL LAKE AND JONES LAKE – APPROVED.**
- 5. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE IN THE FEBRUARY 3RD, 2024 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR A COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 5; CANCELLING THE ELECTION AND DECLARING THE UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE ELECTED TO OFFICE – APPROVED.**
- 6. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CALLING AND ORDERING OF THE MAY 4TH, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A MAYOR, WARD NO. 2 COUNCILMEMBER AND WARD NO. 4**

COUNCILMEMBER AND FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF LUFKIN CHARTER – APPROVED.

7. **DONATION TO THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM ROYOMARTIN AND APPROVAL ON FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 9) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.**
8. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**
9. **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR TEXAS HIGHWAY PATROL PARKING AREA – APPROVED.**
10. **2023-2024 LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT FORFEITURE BUDGET – APPROVED.**
11. **PURCHASE OF 2024 FORD F550 CAB AND CHASSIS WITH A SKIRTED FLATBED FOR THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**
12. **PURCHASE OF A 2024 FORD EXPLORER POLICE INTERCEPTOR PATROL VEHICLE FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT – APPROVED.**

Mayor Mark Hicks stated an issue was discovered on Item No. 2 of the Consent Agenda. Mayor Hicks furthered there was a typo in the information from TxDOT regarding the distance of the speed zone change. Mayor Hicks stated the correct distance of the fifty-five (55) mile per hour (mph) speed zone was 2.685 miles and not 5.685 miles. Mayor Hicks furthered the motion needed to be made with the correction regarding Ordinance No. 5039. Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda with the correction as stated regarding Ordinance No. 5039. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

BUSINESS AGENDA

13. **OATH OF OFFICE TO INCOMING COUNCILMEMBER OF WARD NO. 5.**

Jon Anderson issued the oath of office to incoming Ward No. 5 Councilmember Jimmy Ford.

14. **PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING FROM “RESIDENTIAL SMALL” AND “RESIDENTIAL LARGE” TO “RESIDENTIAL SMALL” ON PROPERTIES ADDRESSED AS 2506 AND 2510 JIMMIE STREET AND 2409 MINNIE LOU STREET – APPROVED**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Robert Dylan Pitts, had requested a zone change from “Residential Small” and “Residential Large” to a single “Residential Small” zoning district for 2506 and 2510 Jimmie Street as well as 2409 Minnie Lou Street. City Manager Gee furthered the purpose of the zone change was to allow for an increased number of developable lots. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee stated 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 Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Residential Small” for 2506 and 2510 Jimmie Street, and 2409 Minnie Lou Street.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:11 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 Adam Lowther seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

15. **PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR “COMMERCIAL AMUSEMENT (INDOORS) – EVENT VENUE” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 1200 SOUTH FIRST STREET – APPROVED.**

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Tamanda Hardin Jennings, had requested a Special Use Permit for a Commercial Amusement (Indoors) “Event Venue”. City Manager Gee furthered the proposed “Event Venue” would be part of the existing commercial building, which currently includes a hair salon and retail sales. City Manager Gee stated the maximum occupancy for the 1,200 square foot area would be fifty (50) and the proposed event studio would not allow bring your own beverage (BYOB). City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered Staff found the proposed Special Use Permit consistent with the current existing area uses as well as the current “Neighborhood Commercial” future land use classification. City Manager Gee stated 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 Second Reading of an Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for” Commercial Amusement (Indoors) Event Venue” for property addressed as 1200 South First Street.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:13 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

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

16. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING FROM “COMMERCIAL” TO “MANUFACTURED HOMES DISTRICT” AND A FUTURE LAND USE MAP CHANGE TO “MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 2512 ATKINSON DRIVE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Michael G. Parker, on behalf of Williams MHP, LLC, had requested a zone change from a “Commercial” zoning classification to a “Manufactured Homes Park” zoning district for 2512 Atkinson Drive. City Manager Gee furthered the developer intended to combine the Williams Mobile Home Park property with the 9.91-acre subject property. City Manager Gee stated the expanded park would be required to meet all applicable manufactured home park design standards, including street, utility, fire protection and drainage criteria. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered Staff found the proposed zone change as well as the proposed future land use map change to “Medium Density Residential” consistent with area uses in adopted plans. City Manager Gee stated the request was recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission by a six (6) to one (1) vote.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning from “Commercial” to “Manufactured Homes District” and a Future Land Use map change to “Medium Density Residential” on property addressed as 2512 Atkinson Drive.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:16 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

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

17. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING FROM “RESIDENTIAL LARGE” TO “COMMERCIAL” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 500 LARGENT STREET – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the applicant, Physical Holdings, LLC, had requested a zone change to “Commercial” for 500 Largent Street. City Manager Gee furthered the purpose of the zone change was to allow for development of medical offices. 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 current existing area uses as well as the current “Institutional” 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 Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Commercial” on property addressed as 500 Largent Street.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:17 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from City Council.

Councilmember Adam Lowther moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

18. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated in order to ensure that the City of Lufkin Fee structure was current and updated in a timely and efficient manner; Staff had compiled a comprehensive Fee Schedule. City Manager Gee furthered the schedule included the majority of fees that generate revenue for the General Fund. City Manager Gee stated water, sewer and solid waste rates were not included as those were adopted by Ordinance when necessary during the annual budget process. City Manager Gee furthered the Ordinance and fee schedule would become effective once it had been published in accordance with the City Charter.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance establishing a Rate and Fee Schedule for the City of Lufkin.

Mayor Mark 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 City Council.

Councilmember Wes Suiter moved to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

19. APPOINTMENTS TO CITY OF LUFKIN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated positions vacated by former Councilmember Rocky Thigpen on several City of Lufkin Boards and Committees were needing to be filled.

Councilmember Wes Suiter moved to appoint Councilmember Adam Lowther to serve on the City Council Construction Committee as well as the City Council Health Insurance Committee. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner moved to appoint Councilmember Brent Watkins to the Hotel Tax Funding (HOT) Board. Councilmember Wes Suiter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Councilmember Wes Suiter moved to appoint Councilmember Robert Shankle to the Deep East Texas Rural Transportation Planning Organization. Councilmember Jimmy Ford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

Mayor Mark Hicks stated the vacancy on the DETCOG Board of Directors would remain until someone could be appointed during a future City Council Meeting

Mayor Mark Hicks welcomed new Councilmember Jimmy Ford and his family.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5: 23 p.m.

A blue ink signature of Mark Hicks is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the end.

Mark Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Andrepont, City Secretary