

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2011**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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:

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
Keith Wright	Deputy City Manager
Bruce Green	City Attorney
Renee Thompson	City Secretary
Rodney Ivy	Human Resource Director
Gerald Williamson	Asst. Police Chief
Ted Lovett	Interim Fire Chief
Belinda Southern	Finance Director
Steve Floyd	Public Works Director
Steve Poskey	Street Department, Superintendent
Mike Akridge	Parks & Leisure Services Director
Barbara Thompson	Main Street Director
Dale Allred	Inspection Services Director
Chuck Walker	Public Utilities Director
Robbin Crawford	Senior Accountant

being present, and

Jack Gorden, Jr.	Mayor
Paul L. Parker	City Manager

being absent, when the following business was transacted:

1. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor James Taylor, Missionary Baptist.
2. Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston welcomed visitors present. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston then recognized Karli Richardson and Anna Franks who were Drug Free Allstars, along with their sponsor from the Coalition, Janet Taylor, and welcomed them to the Council Meeting.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2011, were approved on a motion by Councilmember Lynn Torres, and seconded by Councilmember Robert Shankle. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**4. SECOND READING OF AN APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2011 – APPROVED - AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was the Second Reading of an Appropriations Ordinance adopting a Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2011 and ending September 30, 2012.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that this was the Second Reading of the Budget Ordinance. Deputy City Manager Wright added that items four (4) through seven (7) were all actually related to the budget process. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that this was the Appropriations Ordinance for the 2011-2012 Budget. Deputy City Manager Wright explained that he would go over the key items in the budget. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the first item was the adoption of the current tax rate of 0.5138 cents per one hundred dollar (\$100) valuation. Deputy City Manager Wright added that there was included in the budget a 1.5% cost of living (COLA) increase for City employees. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that there was also an item that would reduce COLA benefits for Texas Municipal Retirement System retirees through the City of Lufkin from seventy percent (70%) to fifty percent (50%) of the Consumer Price Index. Deputy City Manager Wright added that there was no increase in Solid Waste Rates and an increase of six percent (6%) for Water and Sewer Rates, which related back to the Abitibi purchase. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff recommended approval.

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Lynn Torres noted that taxes were being reduced under the effective tax rate and then moved to approve the Second Reading of the Appropriations Ordinance adopting a Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2011 and ending September 30, 2012. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**5. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN - APPROVED - AND PROVIDING FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was the Second Reading of an Ordinance levying taxes for the use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Lufkin and providing for the Debt Service Fund for the fiscal year 2012 and apportioning each levy for the specific purpose.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that the effective tax rate was 0.516611. Deputy City Manager Wright pointed out that this was the first time since he had been with the City of Lufkin that the City's tax rate was less than the effective tax rate. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the current tax rate was 0.5138, and was what Staff was recommending that the Council adopt. Deputy City Manager Wright added that in order to collect the same amount of taxes in the coming year, the City would have to adopt the effective tax rate. Deputy City Manager Wright explained that since the City was going to stay with the current tax rate, the City would be collecting less, based on the current valuation. Deputy City Manager Wright explained that the tax rate broke down into basically two (2) components, which were \$0.3338 for Operation and Maintenance and \$0.18 for Debt Service. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff recommended that the City Council approve the adoption of the current tax rate.

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan moved to approve the Second Reading of the Ordinance levying taxes for the use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Lufkin and providing for the Debt Service Fund for the fiscal year 2012 and apportioning each levy for the specific purpose. Councilmember Victor Travis seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**6. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 51.111 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS; - APPROVED - MAKING CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE SEWER RATES; REPEALING ALL**

**ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was the Second Reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 51.111 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lufkin, Texas; making certain changes in the Sewer Rates; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; and providing an effective date.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that approximately three (3) to four (4) years earlier the City of Lufkin made a terrific purchase of the Abitibi water rights on the Angelina River and Kurth Lake. Deputy City Manager Wright added that the City purchased thirteen (13) water wells, which set the City in a good position to provide water to the citizens for many years to come. Deputy City Manager Wright explained that by doing so the City had to go into bonded indebtedness, and to cover the indebtedness the City did a Rate Study through Freese and Nichols, Inc. that established a proposed twenty-five percent (25%) rate increase over three (3) years. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that in order to minimize the impact of the rate increase the City Council decided to take approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000) out of the Fund Balance of the Water and Sewer Fund Reserve to offset some of the expense and to spread the increases out over a four (4) year period. Deputy City Manager Wright added that this was the third year of the four (4) year increase. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff recommended that the City Council approve the Ordinance increasing the Sewer Rate by six percent (6%) for the third phase of the proposed four (4) year rate increase schedule.

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to approve the Second Reading of the Ordinance amending Chapter 51.111 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lufkin, Texas; making certain changes in the Sewer Rates; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; and providing an effective date. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**7. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 52.15, (A), (1), (2), (3), (B), (1), (2), (3), (C), (1), (2), (3), (D), (1), (2), AND (E) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS; - APPROVED - MAKING A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, IRRIGATION; INDUSTRIAL AND WHOLESALE WATER RATES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was the Second Reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 52.15, (A), (1), (2), (3), (B), (1), (2), (3), (C), (1), (2), (3), (D), (1), (2), and (E) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lufkin, Texas; making a change in the Residential, Commercial, Irrigation; Industrial and Wholesale Water Rates; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; and providing an effective date.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that the item was for the Ordinance increasing the Water Rate by six percent (6%) for the third phase of the proposed four (4) year rate increase schedule, and that Staff recommended approval.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Second Reading of the Ordinance amending Chapter 52.15, (A), (1), (2), (3), (B), (1), (2), (3), (C), (1), (2), (3), (D), (1), (2), and (E) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lufkin, Texas; making a change in the Residential, Commercial, Irrigation; Industrial and Wholesale Water Rates; repealing all Ordinances in conflict therewith; and providing an effective date. Councilmember Victor Travis seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**8. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR INCREASED PRIOR AND CURRENT SERVICE ANNUITIES UNDER THE ACT GOVERNING THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM - APPROVED - FOR RETIREES AND BENEFICIARIES OF DECEASED RETIREES OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN,**

**REPEALING CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was the Second Reading of an Ordinance providing for increased prior and current service annuities under the Act governing the Texas Municipal Retirement System for retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees of the City of Lufkin, repealing conflicting provisions; and providing an effective date.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that the City of Lufkin was struggling with its budget and budget process, as was most cities, counties and states in the United States. Deputy City Manager Wright added that the Texas Municipal Retirement System did an Actuarial Study that indicated some shortfalls in the matches that cities had to provide for their programs for their employee retirement system. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that an eight (8) year step process was developed that would take the City to approximately 19.13% of the match to City employees. Deputy City Manager Wright added that this came to approximately a five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) increase to the City budget. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff had been trying to come up with ways to reduce the impact to the citizens and the City's budget process, and also to minimize impact to retirees and future retirees for the City of Lufkin. Deputy City Manager Wright explained that one (1) of the ideas that Staff considered was a reduction in the cost of living (COLA) increase to be paid to the retirees. Deputy City Manager Wright added that the reduction would be from seventy percent (70%) of the consumer price index to fifty percent (50%) of the consumer price index. Deputy City Manager Wright explained that the contribution rate would then decrease from 19.13% to 16.7%, which would result in approximately five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in reduction to the City each year, if adopted. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff recommended that the Second Reading be approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston then asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan moved to approve the Second Reading of the Ordinance providing for increased prior and current service annuities under the Act governing the Texas Municipal Retirement System for retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees of the City of Lufkin, repealing conflicting provisions; and providing an effective date. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**9. RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS - APPROVED - ELECTING TO BE EXEMPT FOR THE PLAN YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 FROM THE HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was a Resolution for the City of Lufkin, Texas electing to be exempt for the plan year beginning October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that each year Staff brought this Resolution to the City Council. Deputy City Manager Wright added that the Resolution was for exemptions to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Deputy City Manager Wright explained that since the City of Lufkin was a "self insured" funding source the Resolution protected the system and strengthened the plan from many pre-existing conditions elective surgeries, etc. that people could elect to do under the Act. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the City of Lufkin was allowed to request the exemption and that Staff recommended that the Resolution be approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston pointed out that the City of Lufkin budgeted approximately three million dollars (\$3,000,000) toward health insurance cost and coverage for its employees, and that hopefully the City could continue to provide the good quality health insurance in the

future. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston then asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Victor Travis moved to approve the Resolution for the City of Lufkin, Texas electing to be exempt for the plan year beginning October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**10. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – APPROVED - BETWEEN THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND THE LUFKIN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was a Professional Services Contract between the City of Lufkin and the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that a revised Professional Services Contract between the City of Lufkin and the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau (LCVB) was being considered for Council approval. Deputy City Manager Wright added that the proposed changes to the contract were being shown in red in the attachment in the Council Packet. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that when the LCVB was established the City Council's intent was that the organization be completely separate from the City. Deputy City Manager Wright added that however, efforts to utilize the Chamber of Commerce accounting, health insurance, retirement and other programs was not successful, therefore the LCVB had to be incorporated into the City. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the LCVB Staff virtually became City of Lufkin employees for financial purposes at that time. Deputy City Manager Wright added that the LCVB was really a hybrid City Department. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that on September 12, 2011, the LCVB Board unanimously recommended modifying the contract to reflect the current reality of the LCVB operations. Deputy City Manager Wright added that because the LCVB Staff was so closely related to the City operations, the Staff would now report to and take daily direction from the City of Lufkin City Manager Paul Parker. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the LCVB Board would continue to administer programs and determine funding opportunities for tourism and recreational events. Deputy City Manager Wright added that since the creation of the LCVB, the Board had put on several fantastic events that had brought people into Lufkin and that Staff wanted to commend the Board for their job and what they were doing. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that on October 1, 2011, there would be the Second Annual Lufkin Bistro, and invited anyone who would like to attend. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff recommended approval to the modification of the Professional Services Contract with the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston pointed out that Councilmember Robert Shankle served on the LCVB Board and that his service was appreciated. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston then asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the Professional Services Contract between the City of Lufkin and the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau. Councilmember Lynn Torres seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**11. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS – APPROVED - FOR THE LUFKIN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU BOARD**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was the appointment of Officers for the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau Board.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that whenever the City Council approved and established the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau Board the Resolution stated that the officers of the Board, which included a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, would be appointed by the City Council. Deputy City Manager Keith Wright added that the LCVB Board had recommended that the City Council adopt the following slate of officers:

- President – Pierre Cromartie

- Vice President – Kevin Jones
- Treasurer – Daniel Huerta
- Secretary – Greg Shrader

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that Staff recommended approval of the slate of officers as proposed by the LCVB Board.

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Victor Travis moved to appoint Pierre Cromartie as President, Kevin Jones as Vice-President, Daniel Huerta as Treasurer and Greg Shrader as Secretary of the Lufkin Convention and Visitors Bureau. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**12. RESOLUTION APPROVING A MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND THE STATE OF TEXAS – APPROVED - FOR THE MAINTENANCE, CONTROL AND REGULATION OF CERTAIN STATE HIGHWAYS AND/OR PORTIONS OF STATE HIGHWAYS IN THE CITY OF LUFKIN AND PROVIDING FOR THE EXECUTION OF SAID AGREEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was a Resolution approving a Municipal Maintenance Agreement between the City of Lufkin and the State of Texas for the maintenance, control and regulation of certain State highways and/or portions of State highways in the City of Lufkin and providing for the execution of said agreement; and declaring an emergency.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that the Council had in their packets a letter from Dennis Cooley, which explained that TxDOT had a Municipal Maintenance Agreement with each incorporated city. Deputy City Manager Wright explained that this was done so that TxDOT would have the authority to construct, reconstruct, maintain, control, supervise and regulate the designated highways within the city limits. Deputy City Manager Wright added that basically this allowed TxDOT to do the maintenance that was required on the highway surfaces, which the cities could not afford to do. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the City of Lufkin did maintenance agreements periodically and they were normally done initially right after a census. Deputy City Manager Wright added that there were a couple of changes and an amendment to the Agreement, and explained where the changes were in the document. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff recommended approval of the Resolution.

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston stated that he often wondered if citizens realized how many State roads in Lufkin, that people assumed that were under the City's control and responsibility, were the responsibility of TxDOT. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Rufus Duncan moved to approve the Resolution approving a Municipal Maintenance Agreement between the City of Lufkin and the State of Texas for the maintenance, control and regulation of certain State highways and/or portions of State highways in the City of Lufkin and providing for the execution of said agreement; and declaring an emergency. Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

**13. AWARD OF BID FOR THE KIT MCCONNICO TRUNK MAIN REPLACEMENT (PROJECT K) TO DUPLICHAIR CONTRACTORS – APPROVED - IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$513,667), AND AN ALTERNATE BID IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$83,200) FOR A TOTAL BID OF FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$596,867).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was the award of bid for the Kit McConnico Trunk Main Replacement (Project K) to Duplichain Contractor in the amount of five hundred thirteen thousand six hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$513,667), and an alternate bid in the amount of eighty-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$83,200) for a total bid of five hundred ninety-six thousand eight hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$596,867).

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that the bid was the second part of a previous bid that was awarded on August 2, 2011, in the amount of one hundred forty-two thousand dollars (\$142,000) for cured in place line improvements. Deputy City Manager Wright added that this was a three thousand eight hundred feet (3,800') segment of eighteen inch (18") and twenty-one inch (21") sewer line that would be replaced with twenty-four inch (24") sewer line with sixteen (16) manholes. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that it was a very large trunk main for the City and had manholes that were very difficult to replace once the gas had deteriorated the concrete. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff was requesting to use a different type of manhole called polycrete. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the original budget for the project was nine hundred eighteen thousand seven hundred thirty dollars (\$918,730). Deputy City Manager Wright added that the previous bid of one hundred forty-two thousand dollars (\$142,000) left a balance of seven hundred seventy-six thousand seven hundred thirty dollars (\$776,730). Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the combined bid for the project, with the alternate bid, was five hundred ninety-six thousand eight hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$596,867) with a remaining budget of one hundred seventy-nine thousand eight hundred sixty-three dollars (\$179,863). Deputy City Manager Wright stated that Staff recommended that the City Council award the base bid and the alternate bid in the amount of five hundred ninety-six thousand eight hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$596,867).

Mayor Pro-Tem Langston asked for questions or comments from the Council. There was none.

Councilmember Lynn Torres moved to award a bid for the Kit McConnico Trunk Main Replacement (Project K) to Duplichain Contractor in the amount of five hundred thirteen thousand six hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$513,667), and an alternate bid in the amount of eighty-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$83,200) for a total bid of five hundred ninety-six thousand eight hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$596,867). Councilmember Robert Shankle seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

#### **14. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was a report from Deputy City Manager Keith Wright.

Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that the General Fund was at ninety-nine percent (99%) of the Ad Val Orem Tax collection, and that the Sales and Use Taxes were at eighty-four percent (84%) but Staff expected this to be two to three percent (2%-3%) above projections. Deputy City Manager Wright added that one hundred percent (100%) of the Franchise Tax had been collected. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the Water and Wastewater Fund was at ninety-two percent (92%) of projections on residential, eighty-seven percent (87%) of projections on the commercial, eighty-nine percent (89%) of projections on industrial and ninety-one percent (91%) of projections on wholesale. Deputy City Manager Wright explained that the billing and collection was actually behind and that the estimate for residential was actually ninety-nine percent (99%), commercials was actually ninety-three percent (93%), industrial was ninety-three percent (93%) and wholesale was one hundred one percent (101%). Deputy City Manager Wright stated that the Solid Waste Fund was at eighty-seven percent (87%) on residential collection, eighty-eight percent (88%) on commercial collection and ninety percent (90%) on other Solid Waste Revenues. Deputy City Manager Wright added that he would answer any questions that the City Council had regarding any projects. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston stated that the City of Lufkin operated with a very good contingency, which was one (1) of the reasons that the City was blessed with very good bond rates. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston added that the City maintained a Fund Balance of twenty-five percent (25%) of the Annual Budget and that this fund was above that amount. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston then commended the City of Lufkin Staff for stretching the funds. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston then asked for questions or comments from the Council.

Councilmember Victor Travis asked how the Sayers Street Project was coming along. Deputy City Manager Keith Wright stated that approximately fifty percent (50%) of the asphalt had been laid, and fifty percent (50%) of the curb and gutter had been done. Deputy City Manager Wright added that all of the water, sewer and storm sewer were complete and that work on the second half of the street had been started. Deputy City Manager Wright commented that the progress was going well on the project and that they were well within the time allotment. Deputy City Manager Wright stated that thus far there had been very few complaints from the citizens in that area and that the progress was going well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that it was always exciting to hear when other cities and other branches of government complimented the City of Lufkin Staff. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston added that there were two (2) letters complimenting the Lufkin Police Department. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston read a letter from the Angelina County District Attorney's Office to Police Chief Scott Marcotte from District Attorney Clyde Herrington complimenting several Police Officers regarding the investigation of an intoxication manslaughter case. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston then read a letter from the Nacogdoches Police Department to Police Chief Scott Marcotte regarding Police Detective J. B. Smith and the excellent Legal Update Training that Detective Smith provided to the Nacogdoches Police Department. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston added that Lufkin was very fortunate to have a very professional Police Department and very professional Fire Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston then recognized Al Ross who was present at the meeting representing the Leadership Lufkin Class.

#### **15. PRESENTATION BY MIKE AKRIDGE REGARDING THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item was a presentation by Mike Akridge regarding the Parks and Recreation Department.

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Akridge stated that he wanted to thank the City Staff and the City Council for the opportunity to make a presentation regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Akridge added that at first he wondered what to talk about, and then after going through the many facets of the department he realized that it would be difficult to keep the presentation from being too long.

Mr. Akridge stated that the Parks and Recreation Department had three (3) full time and three (3) part time employees in the Office Staff. Mr. Akridge added that there were nineteen (19) full time and eight (8) part time employees in the Maintenance Staff. Mr. Akridge stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was a very important part of the Department, and was comprised of Roy Reyes, Cathy Todd, Richard Joseph, Lela Simmons, Vickey Booker and Deanna Ramsey. Mr. Akridge added that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was instrumental in getting the Master Plan approved in 2009. Mr. Akridge stated that the Board met quarterly and gave recommendations to the Staff and City Council for park improvements and projects.

Mr. Akridge stated that there were sixteen (16) parks in the City of Lufkin. Mr. Akridge added that those parks were Chambers Park, Kit McConnico Park, Kiwanis Park, Morris Frank Park, Jones Park, Mantooth Park, Winston Park, Gamble Park, Grace Dunne Richardson Park, Brandon Park, Ellen Trout Park, Herty Park, Four Seasons Park, Lufkin Land Park, Ward Street Park and Bronaugh Park. Mr. Akridge added that the parks made up a total of six hundred seventy (670) acres of land to keep clean, mowed and maintained. Mr. Akridge then showed pictures of the parks located in Lufkin. Mr. Akridge stated that the largest park in Lufkin was Kit McConnico Park, which had two hundred eighty-nine (289) acres. Mr. Akridge added that the next largest park was Ellen Trout Park and Zoo, which had one hundred twenty-six (126) acres and that the smallest park was Gamble Park, which had .3 acres of land.

Mr. Akridge stated that the Parks and Recreation facilities included two (2) Community Centers, one (1) pool, sixteen (16) parks, seven (7) adult softball fields, six (6) youth softball fields, one (1) football field, six (6) baseball fields, thirteen (13) tennis courts, seven (7)



basketball courts, seven (7) volleyball courts, twenty-two (22) soccer fields, three (3) Spray Play Pads, twenty-one (21) pavilions, two (2) gazebos, six (6) trails, seventeen (17) playground areas and one (1) disc golf course. Mr. Akridge explained where the facilities were located and who made up the diverse groups that used the facilities.

Mr. Akridge then went through several of the individuals parks in Lufkin, along with the various features located in them. Mr. Akridge explained that Winston Park offered facilities that were handicapped accessible. Mr. Akridge also gave statistics regarding the number of reservations that were made in each park during the year 2010. Mr. Akridge stated that the Chambers Park was reserved more than any other park in Lufkin during 2010 with five hundred two (502) reservations being made for the park. Mr. Akridge added that the reservations for additional parks and facilities were as follows: Chambers Park Community Center- two hundred eleven (211), Brandon Park Community Center- two hundred eighty (280), Kiwanis Park- three hundred forty-six (346), Grace Dunne Richardson Park- two hundred forty-two (242), Jones Park- eighty-eight (88), Winston Park- thirty-one (31) and Herty Park- eight (8) reservations. Mr. Akridge explained that there were some parks in Lufkin that were not available for reservations because there were no restrooms in them or there was very little parking at the current time.

Mr. Akridge stated that there were two (2) parks that had community centers in them and that those facilities were available for reservations. Mr. Akridge added that the Chambers Community Center and the Brand Community Center were both indoor facilities and were booked regularly for events such as birthday parties, family reunions, wedding showers, wedding receptions, etc. Mr. Akridge stated that during 2010 the two (2) facilities brought in eleven thousand six hundred fifty-two dollars (\$11,652) in revenue. Mr. Akridge added that thus far in 2011 the two facilities had received twenty-one thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$21,250) in revenue. Mr. Akridge explained that the City Council had recently decided to increase the rates for the facilities and that both of them stayed heavily booked.

Mr. Akridge explained that the parks in Lufkin were a reflection on the City itself. Mr. Akridge added that the maintenance of the parks in Lufkin consisted of applying pesticides, cleaning parks, ballfield maintenance, swimming pool maintenance, delivery and set up of a stage, welding, set ups for special events and mowing. Mr. Akridge stated that the park maintenance was made up of two (2) mowing crews with four (4) employees in each crew. Mr. Akridge added that there were six hundred fifty (650) acres of parks and medians in Lufkin that were mowed by these crews. Mr. Akridge stated that the department utilized nine (9) zero turn mowers, two (2) tractors, thirteen (13) trucks, one (1) dump truck, one (1) backhoe and four (4) utility carts. Mr. Akridge then showed pictures of the stage that was available through the Parks and Recreation Department, along with pictures of crepe myrtles that were planted throughout the City and ball fields that were maintained by the department.

Mr. Akridge explained that some of the areas mowed by the mowing crews were the Library, Civic Center, City Hall/Bronaugh Park, the Business Park entrance, the "Old" Fire Station on Ellis Street, the Gaslight median, the underpass on Frank Street, the median at Lufkin Avenue and Frank Street, the median at First Street and Abney and the ball fields. Mr. Akridge added that in addition to those areas previously mentioned, the mowing crew mowed and maintained areas at Highway 69 North and Loop 287, Highway 59 South and Loop 287, Highway 59 North and Loop 287, Highway 94 and Loop 287, Angelina Street and Feagin Street Right-of-Way, which totaled approximately nine (9) miles and six hundred fifty (650) acres of parks.

Mr. Akridge stated that on December 23, 2009 a tornado touched down at Kit McConnico Park. Mr. Akridge showed pictures of the devastation, along with pictures of the newly restored park. Mr. Akridge explained the improvements made to Kit McConnico Park approximately one (1) year later.

Mr. Akridge stated that some of the projects that had taken place in Lufkin Parks were the new pavilion and restroom remodeling at Ellen Trout Park, and the new baseball field and parking lot located at Morris Frank Park. Mr. Akridge also explained that the funding for the pavilion at Ellen Trout Park was provided by the Z & 00 Lions Club Train Fund and donations from the Ellen Trout Zoo. Mr. Akridge stated that many new improvements were

also made at the girls' softball fields at Morris Frank Park, including restroom renovation and lighting on some of the fields. Mr. Akridge noted that the Girl's Softball Association (LGA) folded and the Parks and Recreation Department took over the league. Mr. Akridge explained that the LGA still had approximately fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) remaining in their account and donated it to the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Akridge furthered that the funds were used to purchase an irrigation system and sign for the area.

Mr. Akridge stated that since Kit McConnico Park was built there was a need for shade over the bleacher area. Mr. Akridge added that underbrush was also removed in certain areas at Kit McConnico Park to allow people to use the area and provide much needed shade. Mr. Akridge stated that the Angelina Rotary Club also donated money for picnic tables and benches that were put in the under brushed area for usage by park patrons. Mr. Akridge stated that another improvement made to Kit McConnico Park was the addition of a soccer area parking lot. Mr. Akridge explained that with the improvements that had recently taken place at Kit McConnico Park he would put the park up beside almost any park in Texas.

Mr. Akridge then pointed out the City of Lufkin Activity Guide that was located on the desk in front of each City Council Member. Mr. Akridge explained that the guide was made up of information from the Parks and Recreation Department, the Kurth Memorial Library, the Ellen Trout Zoo and Main Street. Mr. Akridge stated that seven thousand (7,000) Activity Guides were sent out to the local schools quarterly throughout the year.

Mr. Akridge stated that the recreation programs and classes at the Parks and Recreation Department were made up of gymnastics, babynastics, cheerleading, jazz, hip hop, drill, ballet, tap, jazz, Kung Fu, Tai Chi, dulcimer folk music, Tae Kwon Do, Zumba, dance aerobics and senior line dancing. Mr. Akridge explained that teachers taught on a contract basis and that the department was always looking for and interested in new classes and teachers to add to its programs. Mr. Akridge added that the classes took place at the Downtown Recreation Center, Chambers Community Center and Brandon Community Center. Mr. Akridge stated that currently enrollment was as follows: gymnastics – ninety (90), cheerleading- fifteen (15), dance- twenty (20), Tae Kwon Do- thirty-five (35), Zumba- seventeen (17) and line dancing- twelve (12).

Mr. Akridge stated that Youth Basketball currently had thirty (30) teams enrolled with two hundred fifty (250) players taking part. Mr. Akridge added that the Parks and Recreation Department had to utilize school and church gyms to be able to offer the sport. Mr. Akridge stated that Youth Softball had thirty-two (32) teams with four hundred (400) players participating.

Mr. Akridge stated that Youth Softball Tournaments were events that were really growing in the area. Mr. Akridge added that Lufkin had hosted ten (10) tournaments to date, totaling two hundred two (202) teams and approximately two thousand three hundred (2,300) players. Mr. Akridge stated that this was the figures to date, but that there were still two (2) or three (3) tournaments still on the calendar. Mr. Akridge explained that in 2010, Lufkin had the ASA State 12 and Under "B" Tournament with thirty-one (31) teams that utilized six hundred seventy-five (675) hotel rooms. Mr. Akridge added that the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department was to continue to host those types of tournaments. Mr. Akridge stated that he would be going to El Paso in the near future to bid on tournaments and that Lufkin had an opportunity to get the tournaments to be played in Lufkin.

Mr. Akridge stated that adult Sports consisted of basketball and softball. Mr. Akridge added that the basketball league had sixteen (16) teams with one hundred sixty (160) players taking part in the league. Mr. Akridge explained that there was only one (1) league per year and that the league took place in the winter. Mr. Akridge furthered that lack of gymnasium space was a key factor in Lufkin only having one (1) league. Mr. Akridge added that the Master Plan showed that the Parks and Recreation Department needed a recreation center with a gym and a swimming pool in Lufkin. Mr. Akridge stated that the numbers would more than likely double or triple with the addition of a gymnasium, and that the fees were currently higher in Lufkin than they were in other cities, due to the rental cost of a gymnasium.

Mr. Akridge stated that adult softball was the “bread and butter” for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Akridge added that adult softball averaged seventy (70) teams with approximately one thousand (1,000) players taking part. Mr. Akridge stated that Lufkin had in total four (4) leagues per year with four thousand (4,000) players participating. Mr. Akridge then explained to the Council how some of the softball players had been cheating. Mr. Akridge showed pictures of a softball bat compression tester. Mr. Akridge stated that each and every bat used in the Lufkin softball leagues had to have a stamp on their bat that showed they were legal.

Mr. Akridge stated that the Lufkin Parks and Recreation Department hosted several “Special Events” each year including the “Annual Easter Egg Hunt” held at Kit McConnico Park, “Kid Katch” held at the Fourth of July Festival at Ellen Trout Park, the “Annual Fourth of July Festival” held at Ellen Trout Park, “Punt, Pass and Kick” and “Pitch, Hit and Run”. Mr. Akridge stated that one (1) of the participants in the “Punt, Pass and Kick” moved forward in the competition during the previous year and had the opportunity to attend a Dallas Cowboy football game. Mr. Akridge explained that the “Fourth of July Festival” was a huge event that the Parks and Recreation Department hosted, along with Mike Love and Associates and K-FOX Radio. Mr. Akridge stated that the fireworks display got better each year, and that it was great to see the teamwork that took place during the event. Mr. Akridge added that the City of Lufkin’s Police Department, Street Department, Fire Department and Parks and Recreation Department displayed a great team effort during the event.

Mr. Akridge stated that this concluded his presentation and that he would be happy to answer any questions that the City Council had regarding the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that Mike Akridge was a “home grown” boy from Lufkin, and that the City of Lufkin was very fortunate to have Mr. Akridge step in and take over the Parks and Recreation Department for the City. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston added that Mr. Akridge had a lot of passion for his department, and that the City of Lufkin was lucky to have him.

16. Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that there was no need for an Executive Session that evening.

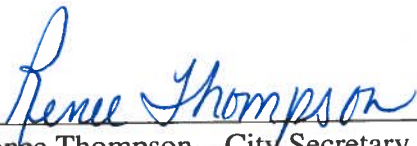
17. **DISCUSSION OF ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST, INCLUDING EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS, CONGRATULATIONS OR CONDOLENCE; INFORMATION REGARDING HOLIDAY SCHEDULES; HONORARY RECOGNITIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHER CITIZENS; REMINDERS ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE CITY OR OTHER ENTITY THAT IS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

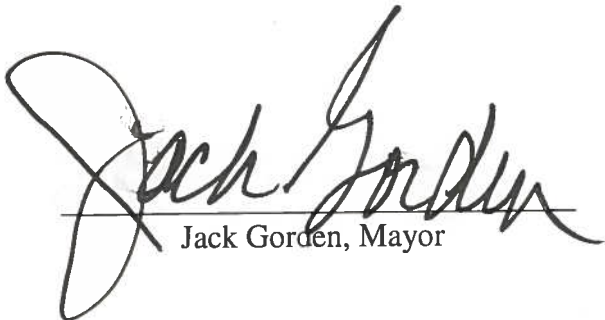
Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the next item for consideration was the discussion of items of community interest, including expressions of thanks, congratulations or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; honorary recognitions of City officials, employees or other citizens; reminders 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Langston stated that the Forest Festival would begin on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> and continue through Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston added that there would be a Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on Monday, September 26, 2011 at the Lufkin City Hall Room 102 at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston stated that there would be a meeting of the Firemen’s Pension Board on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lufkin City Hall Room 102. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston reminded everyone that the Lufkin Bistro would be on Saturday, October 1, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in Downtown Lufkin and that it was a very “must go to” event that had been very successful in the past. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston reminded everyone that would be attending the 2011 Annual Texas Municipal League Conference that it would be held October 11-14, 2011 in Houston, Texas. Mayor

Pro-Tem Langston stated that "Entertainment in the Park" would be held at 12:00 noon every Friday in October 2011. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston added that on October 7<sup>th</sup>- Bryan Harkness (Texas Country) would be entertaining, October 14<sup>th</sup>- Narrow Road (Southern Gospel) would be there, October 21<sup>st</sup>- GMC (Favorites from the 60s and 70s) would entertain and October 28<sup>th</sup>- Glenn Lenderman (Country) would be in the Park. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston stated that the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Festival would be held on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lufkin Pitser Garrison Civic Center. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston invited everyone to attend and learn about the many cultures that made the Lufkin community a great place to live, work and play. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston added that there would be entertainment, food, arts and crafts at the Heritage Festival. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston stated that the "Downtown Trick or Treat" would be held on Monday, October 31, 2011 at 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Downtown Lufkin. Mayor Pro-Tem Langston added that this would be a safe place to bring children to "trick or treat".

18. There being no further business for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

  
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Renee Thompson – City Secretary

  
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Jack Gorden, Mayor