

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF JULY, 2023.

On the 18th day of July, 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	Mayor
Robert Shankle	Mayor Pro Tem
Guessippina Bonner	Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Rocky Thigpen	Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Adam Lowther	Councilmember, Ward No. 6
Kevin Gee	City Manager
Kristi Skillern	City Attorney
Gerald Williamson	Assistant City Manager
Kara Andrepont	City Secretary
Adriana Thomasee	Human Resources
David Thomas	Police Chief
Buddy Cross	Assistant Police Chief
Ryan Watson	Assistant Fire Chief
Jessica Pebsworth	Communications Director
Belinda Melancon	Finance Director
Eddie Aguilar	Engineering Services Director
Scott Rayburn	Planning Director
Calvin Toups	Building Official
Buddy Timme	Parks and Recreation Director
Brant Lee	Convention Services Director
Scott Feaster	IT Director

being present; and

Brent Watkins	Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Wes Suiter	Councilmember, Ward No. 4

when the following business was transacted.

INVOCATION – The meeting was opened with prayer 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.

Mayor Mark Hicks introduced the new Assistant City Manager for the City of Lufkin, Brian Bray.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 20TH, 2023 - APPROVED.**
2. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022 – 2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING FOR THE MORRIS FRANK PARK IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE I) – APPROVED.**
3. **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022 – 2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING IN VARIOUS FUNDS (MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT) – APPROVED.**
4. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR THE LUFKIN POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAFETY PROGRAM AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING - APPROVED.**

5. GRANT FUNDING FOR THE LUFKIN FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM THE KOCH FOUNDATION AND CENTERPOINT ENERGY AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 15) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.

6. GRANT FUNDING FOR THE ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FROM LOCKHEED MARTIN AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2022 - 02023 OPERATING BUDGET (BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 16) APPROPRIATING THE FUNDING – APPROVED.

Councilmember Guessippina Bonner 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

7. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS BY CHANGING THE ZONING TO “LOCAL BUSINESS” ON PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 1404 WEST FRANK AVENUE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated Dr. Mark Roberts had requested a zone change from “Neighborhood Retail” to “Local Business” for 1404 West Frank Avenue. City Manager Gee highlighted the location of the property and surrounding uses. City Manager Gee furthered the purpose of the zone change was to allow future development and enlargement of the existing building currently limited by the “Neighborhood Retail” classification. City Manager Gee explained the “Neighborhood Retail” classification limited the square footage of uses to 3,000 square feet and also had limits on hours of operation.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and consider approval of the Second Reading of an Ordinance changing the zoning to “Local Business” on property addressed as 1404 West Frank Avenue.

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

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

8. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2023 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the City was currently under the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC). City Manager Gee furthered on September 1, 2023, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) would adopt the 2023 NEC as the electrical code for the State of Texas and establish it as the minimum standard for all electrical work in Texas covered by the Act. City Manager Gee stated in order to be in compliance with the TDLR requirements, the City needed to adopt the 2023 NEC with the Ordinance taking effect on September 1, 2023.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council conduct a Public Hearing and approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance adopting the 2023 National Electrical Code.

Mayor Mark Hicks opened the Public Hearing at 5:06 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak; Mayor Hicks closed the Public Hearing and requested comments from the City Council.

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

9. AWARD OF BID TO TIMBERLINE CONSTRUCTORS, INC., FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE LUFKIN BUSINESS PARK STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – APPROVED.

City Manager Kevin Gee stated the northeast quadrant of the Lufkin Business Park was comprised of approximately fifty-five (55) acres that were marketable and undeveloped. City Manager Gee furthered there was no frontage and the property had a main creek drainage that must be crossed to access the property. City Manager Gee stated in order to develop frontage and access to the property Staff had looked at extending the storm drain crossing where the new road would be by building a road bed. City Manager Gee furthered Staff had put the project out to contractors for bids and there were two (2) bids received. The low bidder was Timberline Constructors Inc., with a base bid amount of \$317,034.59. City Manager Gee furthered a bid tabulation had been provided within City Council's packet. City Manager Gee stated the funding for the project was available in the Economic Development budget.

City Manager Gee concluded Staff recommended City Council award a bid to Timberline Constructors, Inc., in the amount of \$317,034.59 for improvements to the Lufkin Business Park.

Councilmember Robert Shankle moved to approve the award of bid as presented. Councilmember Guessippina Bonner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote to approve was recorded.

10. 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.

Mayor Hicks recognized those in attendance with the Lufkin Police Department and wished Councilmember Rocky Thigpen a happy birthday.

There being no further business, Mayor Mark Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.



ATTEST:


Kara Andrepont, City Secretary


Mark Hicks, Mayor