

**MINUTES OF EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF LUFKIN, TEXAS, HELD ON THE
24TH DAY OF MAY, 1996 AT 11:00 A. M.**

On the 24th day of May, 1996 the City Council of the City of Lufkin, Texas, convened in an Emergency Meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall with the following members thereof, to wit:

Louis A. Bronaugh
Don Boyd
Percy Simond
Betty Jones
Jack Gorden, Jr.
Tucker Weems
C. G. Maclin
Darryl Mayfield
M. D. Scarborough
Keith Wright
Nellie Matthews

Mayor
Mayor pro tem
Councilmember, Ward No. 1
Councilmember, Ward No. 3
Councilmember, Ward No. 5
Councilmember, Ward No. 6
City Manager
Asst. City Manager/Finance
Water & Sewer Supervisor
Environmental Compliance Mgr.
Administrative Secretary

being present, and

Bob Bowman
Atha Stokes

Councilmember, Ward No. 4
City Secretary

being absent when the following business was transacted.

(Minutes of this meeting were prepared by the City Secretary.)

1. Meeting was opened by Mayor Louis Bronaugh.

2. **WATER CONSERVATION DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN -
ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE - CHAMPION
WATER WELL NO. 14 - PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW 16" LINE**

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the meeting had been called in an attempt to gather information for the Councilmembers, and to increase their knowledge and ask questions of the City Manager.

City Manager Maclin stated that he would like to bring Council up to date as to why the City is in a water shortage right now, to review Ordinance No. 52.03 (Water Conservation Drought Contingency Plan), and to provide statistical information to help better understand the impact of all the factors that have helped create the water shortage. City Manager Maclin stated that he would also like to tell Council what the prognosis is and when the City will get out of the shortage, and to talk about same preliminary plans to how the City can avoid a situation like this from reoccurring.

City Manager Maclin stated that in the information before Council is a spread sheet that lists the total water pumped from the wells the past month, the total water pumped to the distribution (out to the citizens for usage), and the elevation of the ground storage tanks and the two biggest elevated storage tanks showing the drop they have had in terms of how many feet of water was in reserve in that tank and where we are today. City Manager Maclin stated that the only difference between the chart on the screen and the one that is on the table before Councilmembers is that the one on the screen includes yesterday. City Manager Maclin stated that the green line is a comparison of water consumption in May of 1995, from the 13th to the 23rd, the City was using anywhere from 5 1/2 to 7 million gallons per day. City Manager Maclin stated that during that time the City's usage went from 9.7 to 9.8 million gallons per day as a peak in terms of utilization. City Manager Maclin stated that there is a big difference in the City's water usage a year ago in May. This

is due to two factors: (1) drought, and (2) some increase in industrial users, specifically, Pilgrim's Pride and their recent expansion has significantly increased the water they use. They used to use approximately one million gallons per day and now they are up to 1.7 million gallons per day. City Manager Maclin stated that their drawing down in the day time is a demand of almost 2.2 million gallons. City Manager Maclin stated that when you take into account that there is almost one million gallons of new consumption by industry, there is a water shortage that is making people water their yards like they do in late July or August, then compound that with two City wells being down. City Manager Maclin stated that in the past if two wells had been down and there wasn't a drought and without Pilgrim's increase, there would have been concern but the City would not have been hurting. City Manager Maclin stated that the real bottom line problem for this week has been, we could only pump 9 million gallons a day with the six wells that are still in service, but we have been pumping out to the citizens somewhere around 9.6 or 9.7 million gallons per day. City Manager Maclin stated that obviously we are not replacing everything that we are pumping out, therefore, our storage capacity in ground tanks and elevated tanks is decreasing and we are not keeping up. City Manager Maclin stated that the first well that was down is Well No. 11, which was a scheduled maintenance, and it started last December. City Manager Maclin stated that there were some unexpected problems in the well and it started taking longer, and when they were repairing one of the problems a well stem was dropped and it fell 1,300 feet to the bottom of the well. City Manager Maclin stated that what should have been completed two or three months ago, they are still working on. In the meantime, Well No. 3, which has traditionally been a 1,200 gallon per minute producer, all of a sudden drops to 500 gallons per minute last Thursday. City Manager Maclin stated that another well company was called for Well No. 3, and they came in and determined that our pumping bowls had some defects, the impellers had deteriorated, and the impellers are what pump the water up, so that is why it could pump 500 instead of 1,200. City Manager Maclin stated that Alsay is working on Well No. 11 around the clock, and the best case scenario is for them to be through late Saturday or Sunday, and then a bacteria test will have to be performed to confirm that the water is safe, which takes 24 hours to complete. City Manager Maclin stated that by Monday Well No. 11 could be back on line.

City Manager Maclin stated that the company working on Well No. 3 has searched all over the United States for the pumping bowls and impellers, and they have found the pumping bowls. They expect to have all the materials necessary to fix Well No. 3 by Wednesday or Thursday of next week. City Manager Maclin stated that under good conditions, without any other surprises, both of the wells will be back on line next week. But in the meantime, there is still the problem of only being able to pump 9 million gallons a day with the six remaining wells and having more than that going out. City Manager Maclin stated that late Wednesday afternoon staff implemented Ordinance 52.03 (Water Conservation Contingency Plan) and requested on a voluntary basis, citizens alternate their outdoor watering to the odd/even format.

Keith Wright stated that the City has wells that pump to 4 million gallons of ground storage at the water plant, and right now the City can pump 9 million gallons per day. Mr. Wright stated that the City has four elevated tanks, which is about 4 million gallons of storage in the distribution system which we can pump from the water plant out of the ground storage tanks to fill the elevated tanks. Mr. Wright stated that they can pump out of the water plant about 12 1/2 million gallons right now. The demand has been in excess of 9 MGD. The root of the problem is that the ground storage tanks cannot be filled up as fast as the demand is out in the system. Mr. Wright stated that this morning they started out with 4' less water than they did yesterday in the elevated tanks as far as levels. Mr. Wright stated that they are losing ground right now and cannot keep up with the water demand. Mr. Wright stated that staff has called all of the industries and requested them to cut back. Pilgrim's Pride has cut back from 1,400 gallons per minute to 1,000 gallons per minute, which is basically back to their old level they were pumping at previously. Mr. Wright stated that if the demand drops off over the weekend, the storage tanks

should be full.

Mr. Wright explained charts showing the elevated tanks and the water levels.

Mr. Wright stated that fire protection becomes a major concern when we don't have the storage capacity to meet the needs of the citizens.

City Manager Maclin stated that if the staff could, through voluntary measures get industry and citizens to drop the level back below 9 MGD, we could keep up. Once the two wells are back on line, then the plant could pump 12 1/2 MGD and citizens can use as much as they want to and that won't be a problem.

City Manager Maclin stated that the City met the criteria of having three consecutive days at 9.6 MGD to trigger the Ordinance.

Councilmember Simond stated that it was hard for him to understand why the City would wait until December to begin working on the well when there is the potential for some of these things to happen. Councilmember Simond asked if there was any kind of penalty for the incompetency of the people who dropped the bowl down the well. City Manager Maclin stated that he would have to go back to the Contract and see what it says about a penalty clause. City Manager Maclin stated that this is not a typical situation but rather an unusual situation. City Manager Maclin stated that December is the ideal time of the year to schedule this type of repair when the water consumption is the lowest. City Manager Maclin stated that this whole situation is a variety of problems upon problems that no one could have anticipated would have happened. City Manager Maclin stated that the contractor should have been through repairing the well back in February or March.

Councilmember Simond stated that his point is that the contractor is putting the tax-paying citizen in danger. Councilmember Simond stated that this situation is inexcusable. In response to statement by Councilmember Simond, City Manager Maclin stated that the repairs could not been done earlier because the money was not available. Councilmember Simond stated that one thing he did not like is always making excuses. Councilmember Simond stated that he had received two telephone calls regarding the water situation. City Manager Maclin stated that staff was not here today to give excuses, but, to the best of their ability to bring Council up to date and have thorough and complete knowledge of the situation and in a moment make a proposal as to how we can prevent this from happening again in the near future, and have a permanent solution for the distant future.

Mr. Wright stated that staff has been doing some planning. Mr. Wright stated that with the bond issue a new well was installed, and the City can pump more water in its' history than it's ever been able to do before. Mr. Wright stated that staff was preparing for the growth of the City.

City Manager Maclin stated that this is an emergency situation that would have been extremely hard to anticipate under normal circumstances.

City Manager Maclin stated that in the Council packet is a topographical map. City Manager Maclin stated that staff had a meeting this morning with some of the engineers from Champion. City Manager Maclin stated that on the map the City has a well (Lufkin No. 12) on the left hand side of the page, and then up from that is a well (Champion No. 14), and then a high line (dotted in red), and Lufkin well No. 9. City Manager Maclin stated that what staff thinks they can do to better prepare should another emergency of this nature arise, and that is to establish a contingency utilization plan with Champions to use their well no. 14 if we have similar circumstances come up. City Manager Maclin stated that what staff proposes to do is where the dotted red line is, to install a water line from their well No. 14 down to where the red line quits. The City has a 16" wellfield line there that we could tie into and then from there it takes it over to the plant eight miles to the water treatment plant at Ellen Trout. City Manager Maclin stated that staff talked to

Champion this morning about this possibility, and they will be taking all the information provided by the City back to their managers and the people in decision-making positions. This information will be provided to Mr. Glover, the Plant Manager, on Tuesday. City Manager Maclin stated that staff is proposing a contract agreement with Champion to use their Well No. 14 as a back up, and if the City got into another situation such as this, the line could be opened up and turned up with 1.5 millions gallons per day. City Manager Maclin stated that this is the short term solution the City could do this summer, if Council chose to allow staff to spend the money, it would be approximately \$150,000 to lay a 16" line from Champion No. 14 all the way down to the City's 16" line. City Manager Maclin stated that because there is a high line there, if the City can get permission from TU Electric to use that easement it will be quick to lay that line, and could take four weeks to complete. City Manager Maclin stated that it would take Council's authorization to prepare plans and specifications and go to bid as quickly as possible, and bring it back to Council for the first meeting in July or a called meeting in June. City Manager Maclin stated that the Utility Contingency Fund could be used to pay for it. City Manager Maclin stated that this wouldn't just be a one time expenditure just for the purposes of having an emergency line. City Manager Maclin stated that what staff would request in next year's budget (1996-'97) is to go just north of Champions No. 14 about 2,000 feet on the hill and drill another well so the City would have a permanent addition which would enable the City the ability to produce 14 MGD instead of 12 1/2. City Manager Maclin stated that the estimated cost for a new well is \$550,000. City Manager Maclin stated that the best part is that we get to use the \$150,000 16" line so the expense is already applied towards putting in the new well, and that with 2,000 more feet of 16" line, the City is fully up to speed.

In response to question by Councilmember Boyd, City Manager Maclin stated that the City has eight wells.

In response to question by Councilmember Gorden, City Manager Maclin stated that the decision to place the well at this location is based on two things (1) it is a statistically given fact that the further north you get in the Carizo-Wilcox Aquifer the better the water gets, the further south you go the more hydrogen sulfites problems you will have and the water is not as pure coming out of the ground. City Manager Maclin stated that the second reason for this location is because of the close lines together, you can see that there is a hill there, and because it is on a hill and not in a river bottom, this seems the logical ideal location for the next well.

In response to question by Councilmember Gorden, City Manager Maclin stated that representatives from Champion felt like the ability for the City to use their Well No. 14 on a contingency basis would not be a problem. City Manager Maclin stated that staff asked if they would be willing to sell the well or lease the well and they felt like that was not as likely, but felt very accommodating about the City using the well on a contingency basis.

In response to question by Councilmember Jones, City Manager Maclin stated that according to Layne-Texas who pulled out the pump bowl there was a failure in the material itself, in other words, it was defective metal and there was no way to have anticipated it.

Councilmember Gorden stated that, in his opinion, staff and plant workers should have known about the possibility of the City getting into this situation. In response to question by Councilmember Gorden, City Manager Maclin stated that the plant went to 24 hours a day when they began to see the levels dropping. Councilmember Gorden stated that when the City has not had any rain for a long time and every average person on the street knew the City was going into a drought, the staff ran the water system and should have several weeks ago made some plans to avoid this situation. City Manager Maclin stated that staff tries to find the balance between cost-efficiency and meeting the needs, and have historically not turned the flood gates open on overtime unless it was an emergency. City Manager Maclin stated that staff felt like this was an emergency.

(There was a statement made by M. D. Scarborough that was not audible on the tape.)

Mayor Bronaugh stated that, in his opinion, staff should have been on the contractor sooner for taking such a long time to finish the work on the well.

Mayor Bronaugh stated that the City of Lufkin is not the only city that is experiencing a drought.

Councilmember Weems stated that the report presented to Council is two days behind.

Councilmember Gorden stated that the increase in Pilgrim's Pride usage is only a fraction of the increase that caused the problem.

Mr. Wright stated that since the City has implemented the Drought Contingency Plan, Pilgrim's Pride has received permission from the FDA to reduce the amount of water used to process their poultry.

Councilmember Gorden suggested that staff obtain spare parts that would be critical if a well breaks down again.

Mayor Bronaugh stated that citizens could help with this problem by not using their automatic sprinkler watering system during this time.

In response to question by Mayor Bronaugh, City Manager Maclin stated that the figures used in Ordinance 52.03 to trigger the Drought Contingency Plan would change as the growth of the City changes, and as the City's capacity increases.

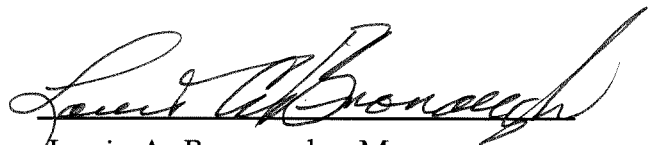
Motion was made by Councilmember Tucker Weems and seconded by Councilmember Jack Gorden, Jr. to accept staff's recommendation to provide a contingency emergency plan utilizing Champion Well No. 14, and to pursue plans and specifications for the installation of a new 16" waterline for an approximate cost of \$150,000. A unanimous affirmative vote was recorded.

In response to question by Councilmember Weems, City Manager Maclin stated that the City has purchased the rights to take water out of Rayburn, and it would cost approximately \$25 million to lay a 48" line from the City to Hanks Creek and put a treatment plant in for treating. City Manager Maclin stated that the City does have, and has been paying for since 1967, the authority and the right to withdraw 39 million gallons a day out of Rayburn.

Mayor Bronaugh stated that past members of the City Commission made some wise provisions for water through the Rayburn water purchase years ago.

In response to question by Mayor Bronaugh, City Manager Maclin stated that the figures from the Carizo-Wilcox Aquifer is part of the monthly report provided by Dennis Wankan.

3. There being no further business for consideration, meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.


Louis A. Bronaugh - Mayor

ATTEST:



Atha Stokes - City Secretary