



**City of Lorena**  
107-A S. Frontage Road  
Lorena, Texas 76655  
(254) 857-4641 Fax (254) 857-4118

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
**LORENA CITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021– 6:30 P.M.**  
**LORENA CITY HALL**  
**107-A S. FRONTAGE ROAD, LORENA TEXAS**

In accordance with social distancing guidelines, the City Council meeting will not be open to the public. Some council and commission members may attend, while others may call to participate. To help contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, participation by the public may be done remotely in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act or pursuant to the Action issued by the Governor of Texas on March 16, 2020.

THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THE MEETING BY VIDEO CONFERENCING AT THE FOLLOWING LINK <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/151437613> and/or join the conference call at (254) 655-5400; GUEST PIN :2021

Questions and comments on items listed on the agenda may be emailed no later than NOON on the day of the meeting to the City Secretary via email to [mhendrix@lorenatx.gov](mailto:mhendrix@lorenatx.gov)

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Mayor Roper called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Chuck Roper, Mayor Protem Bill Coleman, Jeff Linnstaedter, Emily McKenzie and Tommy Ross and Kelly Yarbrough.

City Staff present were Tom Dickson, Monica Hendrix, Linda Klump, Kevin Neal, Joseph Pace and Peter Rivas.

**2. Citizens questions or comments. None**

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

**a. February 8, 2021**

A motion was made by Tommy Ross and seconded by Emily McKenzie to approve the minutes as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

**4. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2021-0315-01 authorizing execution of an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the City of Lorena's construction and perpetual maintenance of a gateway monument sign.**

EDC Consultant Jason Mundo was present via zoom and gave the council an update

on the gateway monument project. TxDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have given approval of the project plans. The next step is a resolution acknowledging desire to construct the monument and to authorize the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with TxDOT acknowledging responsibility for all costs related to the construction of the gateway monument, maintenance of the site including maintaining associated landscaping and lighting, any applicable utility costs, timely removal of graffiti, and repairs to the gateway monument. Mundo gave a timeline of events for the project.

Jeff Linnstaedter asked what the total cost of the project and was told \$95,000.00, \$70,000.00 for the construction and \$25,000.00 for managing the project. Chuck Roper asked if EDC had approved this and was told yes that the project has been ongoing for two years. Kelly Yarbrough explained that the City Council had approved the money as a part of the EDC budget. Jeff Linnstaedter questioned if 27% of a project cost was typical for construction management. Mundo explained these projects are typically long in duration for project approval (two years) through TxDOT and the Federal Highway Administration and the management fee includes construction, design, coordination and inspection of the project.

Bill Coleman spoke and stated since EDC has kept the council apprised of the project and the city has put their stamp on it, he makes a motion to approve Resolution 2021-0315-01 authorizing execution of an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the City of Lorena's construction and perpetual maintenance of a gateway monument sign. Bill Coleman and Kelly Yarbrough voted in favor to the motion. Jeff Linnstaedter, Emily McKenzie and Tommy Ross voted against the motion. Motion failed.

**5. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2021-0315-01 declaring unopposed candidates in the May 1, 2021 general election, elected to office and canceling the election.**

Monica Hendrix informed council there will be no election due to unopposed candidates. Tommy Ross will be the new Mayor and Shane Phillips will be a new councilmember. There will be a vacancy after the canvassing in May and council will appoint someone to the position.

Bill Coleman motioned to approve the ordinance. Kelly Yarbrough seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**6. Public Works Report**

**a. Winter Storm Update**

Kevin Neal briefed the council on the February winter storm and the damage to the valves on the water tower that was repaired during the storm. Neal also explained there is a large misconception that Lorena has backup generators for water and the only generators the city has are for sewer. Neal is not aware of any sewage backups due to the power outages. Neal explained the cost of a backup generator for one well site would be just under \$450,000.00 plus the cost of engineering. Joseph Pace asked how many times in the past five years the city has needed a backup generator and was told two times and three times in the past 10 years. Neal explained the city was prepared for the cold weather but was not prepared for the power outage and the length of outages. Due to the power outages a boil order was issued. Neal also reported the well #2 motor is bad and he will be getting cost estimates on the repairs and says this will be an insurance claim on TML. Mayor Roper thanked Neal and the utility workers for all their hard work during the storm. Neal acknowledged his guys for working hard and stated they make him look good.

Kevin Neal also wanted to address a Facebook post regarding Affected utilities and the requirement to have backup generators. The City of Lorena is not an Affected utility because we are not in a county with a population of 3.3 million or more nor are we in a county with a population of 550,000 or more adjacent to a county with a population of 3.3 million or more. This matter is being explained for the sake of clarity that the city is not breaking the law by not having the generators.

Emily McKenzie wanted to add on to Mayor Ropers comments of thanking the public works, fire and police departments and all the people who worked so hard during the

storm helping the citizens of Lorena. Kevin Neal thanked the fire and police department and public servants for their help. Jeff Linnstaedter gave his thanks also.

**7. Police Department Activity Report**

**a. Monthly stats**

Tom Dickson gave monthly report for January 2021. There were 300 calls by type, 6 arrest and 129 citations issued. Dickson reported that during the week of the storm there were 137 calls for service. These calls included welfare checks, EMS calls, 27 assist motorist and 5 house fires with one being a complete loss. There was also one police officer that was injured during the storm but he is back at work.

**8. City Manager Report**

**a. Loera Development Update**

Construction in ongoing

**b. PUC Update**

Still in progress and will meet with Spring Valley Water again.

**c. City Policy Manual Update and Purchasing Policy Manual**

About 60% completed

**d. TxDOT Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternative Grants**

No update since his course completion.

**e. Monthly Meetings/ Future Meetings (Appendix "A")**

**9. Executive Session. 7:20 p.m.**

**Executive Session: In accordance with Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071, Consultation with Attorney, and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct regarding:**

**a. Water Utility and Related Matters.**

**10. Reconvene from Executive Session into open session to act as deemed appropriate in City Council's discretion regarding: 9:09 p.m.**

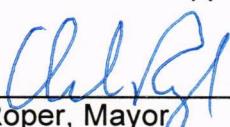
**a. Water Utility and Related Matters.**

**11. Future Agenda Items.**

**12. Adjourn.**

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

  
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Chuck Roper, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

