



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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
LORENA CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021– 6:30 P.M.
LORENA CITY HALL
107-A S. FRONTAGE ROAD, LORENA TEXAS

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/install/805555917> 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

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Outgoing Mayor Chuck Roper called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Emily McKenzie, Tommy Ross, Kelly Yarbrough and outgoing council member Bill Coleman. Jeff Linnstaedter was absent.

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

2. Administer the oath of office and issue Certificates of Election to elected Council Members.

City Secretary Monica Hendrix presented the Certificates of Election to unopposed candidates Tommy Ross for Mayor and Shane Phillips for council member. Hendrix gave the Statement of Office and Oath of Office to Mayor Tommy Ross and Council member Shane Phillips. Tommy Ross then took control of the meeting.

Mayor Ross spoke and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Ross thanked Chuck Roper and Bill Coleman for all the years they served on the council. Ross also mentioned the upcoming departure of City Manager Joseph Pace and thanked him for all he has done for the city and how much he is appreciated by the city council.

3. Citizens questions or comments.

At this time any person with business before the Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Council. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, and this time is not transferable. Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council is prohibited from discussing, responding, or acting on any comments or items that have not been properly posted on the agenda. This forum is limited to a total of 30 minutes.

No citizens spoke.

4. Discussion and possible action to appoint a candidate to the vacant alderman position for the Lorena City Council.

Mayor Tommy Ross spoke about the six outstanding candidates for the vacant position. Ross would like for the full council to be attendance to make the appointment and since Jeff Linnstaedter is absent tonight, he is asking for this item to be tabled until the next meeting.

Kelly Yarbrough motioned to table until the June meeting.

Emily McKenzie seconded the motion.

FOR: Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

Motion carried.

5. Discussion and possible action appointing a Mayor Pro Tempore for a one-year term.

Mayor Tommy Ross says he has 3 outstanding councilmembers that have reached out to him for the appointment. Those are Emily McKenzie, Shane Phillips and Kelly Yarbrough. Mayor Ross would again like to table this action until a full council is present.

Emily McKenzie motion to table to the June meeting.

Shane Phillips seconded the motion.

FOR: McKenzie, Phillips and Yarbrough.

AGAINST: None

Motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes:

a. April 19, 2021

b. May 3, 2021

Kelly Yarbrough motioned to approve the April 19th and May 3, 2021 minutes.

Emily McKenzie seconded the motion.

FOR: Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

Motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action on a request for closure of E. Center Street on July 3, 2021 for the First Lorena Golf Cart Festival.

Malissa Spivey who owns Key Real Estate and Wisteria in downtown Lorena spoke and is requesting the closure of E. Center Street from Bordon to McBrayer for a Golf Cart Festival to be held on July 3, 2021. Spivey is wanting to have food trucks, vendors and possibly a parade. There was concern about people driving the carts through town because Lorena is not a Master Planned Community nor is it within two miles from a golf course. There was discussion about the laws concerning golf carts and what is legal. Police Tom Dickson spoke and explained the laws and Attorney General's opinion on golf carts. Drivers of golf carts must be licensed by state law. After further discussion, Joseph Pace made the suggestion for Mrs. Spivey to work out a plan/route with Police Chief Tom Dickson for the event.

Kelly Yarbrough motioned to close the street contingent upon Chief Dickson and

Mrs. Spivey working out a plan that is safe for all involved.
Emily McKenzie seconded the motion.
FOR: Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips
AGAINST: None
Motion carried.

8. Discussion and possible action authorizing signatures for the city bank accounts.

Joseph Pace informed council that most of the city bank account have four signatures that include the Mayor, Mayor Protem, City Manager and City Secretary. Kelly Yarbrough motioned to remove Chuck Roper and Bill Coleman and replace with Tommy Ross at this time.

Emily McKenzie seconded the motion.
FOR: Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips
AGAINST: None
Motion carried.

9. Police Department Activity Report

a. April 2021 stats

There were 275 calls in April 2021 and 184 citations issued in April 2021. Chief Tom Dickson informed council of the investigation at the school and how helpful they have been. The specifics of the investigation cannot be discussed at this time but he wanted to show appreciation for the cooperation of the school district and well as the First Baptist Church of Lorena. Chief also reported the department is down one officer due to him leaving for another job. Emily McKenzie asked why he was leaving and was told for more money. Joseph Pace also explained that this officer had stated from the beginning of his tenure at Lorena that he would probably not stay more than two years. Mayor Tommy Ross commended the police department for the handling of the school investigation.

10. City Manager Report

- a. **Loera Development Update:** currently building the wall around the development.
- b. **PUC Update:** Spring Valley water is seeking easements
- c. **City Policy Manual Update and Purchasing Policy Manual:** Still working to complete
- d. **TxDOT Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternative Grants**
Nothing to report
- e. **Monthly Meetings/ Future Meetings (Appendix "A")**
- f. **Newly Elected Officials Training, by HOTCOG on June 17, 2021**
Offering to council members new and old if you want a refresher course.
- g. **City Manager Resignation: Last Day June 9, 2021**
Pace explained this was a perfect deal for him to leave and he could not turn them down. Pace thanked everyone and he will miss everyone as well.

Pace also reminded council of the Lorena Chamber of Commerce Saturday in the Park on June 5th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Kelly Yarbrough and Emily McKenzie both thanked Joseph Pace for all his hard work during his time as City Manager in Lorena.

11. Future Agenda Items.

Appointment of new Alderman and Mayor Protem.

12. Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.074(a)(1), Personnel, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, or duties of:
- Interim City Manager;
 - New City Manager.

Council convened into executive session at 7:10 p.m.

13. Discussion and possible action concerning the selection of an Interim City Manager.

Council reconvened into regular session at 8:04 p.m.

Emily McKenzie motioned to appoint Kevin Neal as the Interim City Manager.

Shane Phillips seconded the motion.

Joseph Pace says that Neal is a good candidate for the job because he has been in all the development meetings during Pace's time with Lorena. Council asked Neal if he would like to take the position and Neal gladly accepted.

FOR: McKenzie, Phillips and Yarbrough

AGAINST: None

Motion carried.

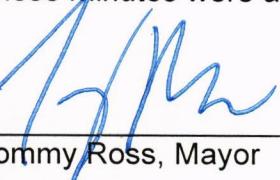
14. Discussion and possible action relative to the matters discussed in executive session concerning New City Manager.

No action at this time.

15. Adjourn.

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 7th day of June 2021.



Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:



Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

