



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

**NOTICE OF CALLED MEETING
LORENA CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.
(RE-SCHEDULED FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2022)
LORENA CITY HALL
107-A S. FRONTAGE ROAD, LORENA TEXAS**

THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THE MEETING BY VIDEOCONFERENCING AT THE FOLLOWING LINK <https://meet.goto.com/742063421> and/or join the conference call at (254) 655-5400; GUEST PIN :2021

The City Council Meeting will be opened to the public. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, social distancing will be recommended.

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 Monica Hendrix via email to mhendrix@lorenatx.gov

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Mayor Protem Kelly Yarbrough, Katrina George, Jeff Linnstaedter, Emily McKenzie and Shane Phillips.

City Staff present were Tom Dickson, Monica Hendrix, Kevin Neal, Dr. Robert Peevey and Peter Rivas. Linda Klump called-in to the meeting via conference call.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Tommy Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Mayor Tommy Ross inquired if there were any questions or comments sent to the City Secretary Monica Hendrix and was told no. No visitors spoke.

4. Presentation of 2021 Fiscal Year Audit.

Katie King, CPA, CFE with Jaynes, Reitmeier, Boyd & Therrell, P.C. presented the 2021 Fiscal Year Audit to the council. Financial Observations on the government-wide net position shows an upward trend to just over 6.3 million. (See the attached power point). King says the overall audit was clean and no material weaknesses were noted on the internal controls and compliances. There were no material instances of noncompliance noted.

5. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2022-0224-01 amending the building permit fee schedules.

Mike Olson, Waco/Austin Area Manager with Bureau Veritas (BV) was present to explain the building permit fee schedule and answer questions. Olson explained the city is changing the fee schedule to cover the fees for inspections by Bureau Veritas. Olson also explained these fees are a pass through to the contractors. Some cities charge an additional fee for administrative fees. Shane Phillips asked what instigated the increase and Olson explained that BV was hit with ransom wear back in November 2021. Once BV was able to come back online, Olson went to the cities he represents and discovered the city had not updated our fee schedule to cover the BV expenses. Olson explained that in 2019 BV amended the fees charged to cities based on HB 852 which prohibits certain value-based building permits and inspection fees. Phillips then asked what the city spends annually on permits and inspections and Mayor Tommy Ross explained. The city received \$9171.35 and paid \$7860.76 to BV. In 2020 the city received \$12952.59 and paid \$7928.47. Mayor Ross explained the reason the city made money is due to the fact the Public Works Director Kevin Neal was inspecting back flow devices, fences, roofs, flatwork, and accessory buildings. Had BV inspected these things, the charge from them was more than the actual cost of the permit fee. Mayor Ross explained that now that Kevin Neal is the City Manager, he can no longer go out and do these inspections. Phillips asked about the contract with BV and was told we are not changing the contract with BV. We are only amending the ordinance that regulates the fees the city charges for the permits and inspections. Kelly Yarbrough asked where the fees are increasing? Olson explained that BV did not go up on their fees, the city never charged enough to cover the fees. Emily McKenzie asked if we are adopting the 15% and Olson explained it is in the proposed ordinance but does not have to be. Olson explained that other cities charge 5%, 10% and 12% for administration fees.

MOTION: After lengthy discussion a motion was made by Emily McKenzie to adopt Ordinance 2022-0224-01 amending the building permit fee schedule.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

FOR: George, Linnstaedter, Yarbrough and McKenzie.

AGAINST: Phillips

Motion carried.

6. Discussion and possible action on 2021 Racial Profile report.

Chief Tom Dickson and administrative assistant Dr. Robert Peevey presented the report and explained how the numbers were calculated in the report. An analysis of the traffic stops made by the Lorena Police Officers shows no racial bias is indicated.

MOTION: Shane Phillips motioned to accept the 2021 Racial Profile report.

SECOND: Katrina George

FOR: George, Linnstaedter, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips.

AGAINST: None

Motion carried.

7. Approval of Minutes:

a. January 17, 2022

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough motioned to approve the January 17, 2022 minutes.