



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

**NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLIC MEETING**  
**LORENA CITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.**  
**LORENA CITY HALL**  
**107-A S. FRONTAGE ROAD, LORENA TEXAS**

THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THE MEETING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE  
AT THE FOLLOWING LINK <https://meet.goto.com/288136005> 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](mailto:mhendrix@lorenatx.gov)

**MINUTES**

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

Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. City Council members present were  
Mayor Tommy Ross, Jason Blanek, Katrina George, Emily McKenzie, Shane Phillips and  
Kelly Yarbrough.

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance and Kelly Yarbrough led the Texas Pledge.

**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. Recognition of retiring Police Chief Tom Dickson.**

Mayor Ross read a proclamation honoring retiring Police Chief Tom Dickson and declared  
January 31, 2023 as "Police Chief Tom Dickson Day". Mayor Ross also presented Chief  
Dickson with a wooden box for his police badge. Chief Dickson said a few words to the

citizen for coming out and the council thanking them for the opportunity and the confidence they put into him to work in Lorena. Dickson says "like anything else, he hopes he left it a little better than he found it".

**5. Oath of Office for new Police Chief Scott Holt.**

City Secretary Monica Hendrix gave the Oath of Office to new Police Chief Scott Holt.

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

**a. December 19, 2022**

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough

SECOND: Katrina George

FOR: Blanek, George, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

Motion carried.

**7. Committee and Corporation Reports:**

**a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation**

Kelly Yarbrough reported EDC met and there was discussion on the development coming to Lorena and the TIRZ progress. The commissioners have begun discussion on the updates to the EDC strategic plan and plan to invite developers and business owners to participate in these updates.

**b. Lorena Planning and Zoning Commission**

Planning and Zoning did not meet in January.

**8. Presentation of Summary of Cash and Investments and quarterly budget reports ending 12/31/2022.**

Finance Officer Linda Klump presented to reports to the council and explained the fund balances in each account. Klump explained that the interest rates have jumped over 4% generating more interest revenue than we have in the past.

**9. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2023-0123-01 calling the May 6, 2023 General Election to elect one (1) Mayor and two (2) Council Members to serve the full term of two (2) years.**

City Secretary Monica Hendrix informed council of the May 6, 2023 General election and this ordinance is to order the election which is required by law. Hendrix explained the city will contract with the McLennan County Elections office and hold a joint election with the other cities listed that have to hold an election.

MOTION: Shane Phillips

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, George, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

Motion carried.

**10. Discussion and possible action to relieve Bojorquez Law Firm, P.C., of its role as City Attorney for the City of Lorena, Texas, but retain their legal services as outside counsel.**

Mayor Ross explained the reason for this agenda item. Ross feels that the city needs a local attorney with all the things going on in Lorena. Bojorquez Law Firm is located in Austin Texas with our assigned attorney living in Lampasas. Ross stressed that he has no ill will

against Bojorquez Law Firm and Marianne Banks. Ross explained a local attorney would be more plugged into the local politics of the community. A local attorney could be more readily available for meeting with staff and council. Ross had concerns with Bojorquez and the timeliness of some of the projects that were given to them. Ross also explained that Bojorquez will finish up current projects they are working on. Emily McKenzie asked if we would be breaking a contract by changing attorneys and was told no.

**MOTION:** Emily McKenzie moved to relieve Bojorquez Law Firm, P.C., of its role as City Attorney for the City of Lorena, Texas, but retain their legal services as outside counsel.

**SECOND:** Katrina George

**FOR:** Blanek, George, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

**AGAINST:** None

Motion carried.

**11. Discussion and possible action on appointing the Haley & Olsen P.C., as City Attorney for the City of Lorena, Texas.**

Mayor Ross explained Charlie Olsen is the local attorney the city will appoint. Mayor Ross has spoken with the City of McGregor who Mr. Olsen also represents. Ross also explained Herb Bristow is another attorney in the office with local government knowledge. Kevin Neal informed council there is partner in Haley & Olsen, Mike Dixon that represents both the City of Hewitt and Robinson and they will make sure there will be no conflict of interest.

**MOTION:** Jason Blank moved to appoint Haley & Olsen P.C. as the City Attorney for the City of Lorena, Texas.

**SECOND:** Kelly Yarbrough

**FOR:** Blanek, George, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

**AGAINST:** None

Motion carried.

**12. Police Department Activity Report.**

Retiring Chief of Police Tom Dickson called on new Chief Scott Holt. Chief Holt explained the activity report is in the packet and he can answer any questions council may have.

Retiring Chief Dickson wants the transition to go smoothly and feels certain that can happen. Dickson also reported a notice was received from the DPS, there will be an upcoming CJIS audit of the Police Department that happens every three years. Dickson also reported he received word for the MCC Police Academy that the new cadet is doing well and should graduate in June.

Mayor Tommy Ross reminded the council of the retirement party for Chief Dickson that will take place at Jalisco's on Monday January 30<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9pm.

New Police Chief Scott Holt spoke and is looking forward to working in Lorena and giving back to the community he grew up in.

**13. City Manager Report:**

**1. Update on street bond project.**

Everything is going smoothly on the engineering and they are 90% complete and on target to go out for bid in March 2023 and will let the job in April. Neal says the plan is to start on the S. Old Temple bridge first to let the school year end.

**2. Update on Bullhide WWTP**

Neal explained a letter was received from the City of Waco on the treatment changes to the Bullhide Wastewater Treatment plant and the TCEQ has no issues with these changes nor does the City of Lorena.

**3. City Manager's vacation 02-03-12 thru 02-12-23.**

Reminder that he will be out of the office February 3, 2023 thru February 13, 2023 and will return to the office on February 14, 2023.

**14. Future Agenda Items.**

Kelly Yarbrough says a future agenda item will be the appointment of the vacant EDC seat 1 position.

**15. Executive Session: In accordance with Texas Government code, sections 551.074(a)(1), Personnel Matters, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, or duties of:**

**a. City Manager**

Council convened into executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Council reconvened into regular session at 8:00 p.m.

**16. Reconvene into open session and act as deemed appropriate of the City Council's deliberation regarding:**

**a. City Manager**

No action was taken on this item.

**17. Adjourn**

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

  
Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:

  
Monica Hendrix, City Secretary