



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, FEBRUARY 27, 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 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 6:33 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Mayor Protem Kelly Yarbrough, Jason Blanek, Emily McKenzie and Shane Phillips. Katrina George was absent.

City Staff present were Monica Hendrix, Scott Holt, 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 and no comments were received.

4. Presentation of 2022 Fiscal Year Audit

Katie King with JRBT- Jaynes, Reitmeier, Boyd and Therrell PC presented the 2022 fiscal year audit to the council. The notable items that went into the 2022 activity were the Debt Issuance of \$4.9 million Combination Tax and Revenue Bonds that was recorded in

the Capital Projects fund, and the Implementation of GASB 87, Leases that requires presenting right-of-use assets and liabilities on financial statements and there was no impact on the net position of the city.

JRBT's results of the audit:

- Unmodified Opinion
- In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position as of September 30, 2022, and the changes in financial position and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

King reported the Internal Controls and Compliance were reviewed and no material weaknesses were noted. JRBT also performed procedure on compliance with Public Funds Investment Act and state competitive bidding requirements and no material instances of noncompliance were noted.

5. Discussion and possible action on 2022 Racial Profile report.

Police Chief Scott Holt presented the 2022 Racial Profile report to council that was reviewed and approved by retired Police Chief Tom Dickson. There was no racial bias indicated based on the data analysis.

MOTION: Shane Phillips moved to approve the 2022 Racial Profile report presented.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blanek, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George

Motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes:

a. January 23, 2023

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough moved to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George

Motion carried.

7. Committee and Corporation Reports:

a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation

Kelly Yarbrough reported that TxDOT has signed the Gateway Monument agreement and EDC can finally move forward with that project. The commissioners also made a recommendation for appointment of the vacant board member position, moving funds to a higher interest account, and discussed researching the blue sign program participation on I-35, researching high speed internet for the area and updating their strategic plan.

b. Lorena Planning and Zoning Commission

No meeting.

8. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Chris Low to the open seat 1 on the Lorena EDC Board.

Vice Chairman of EDC Brad Wetzel reported that Chris Low had previously applied for a place on the board. EDC commissioners and City Councilman Jason Blanek reached out to him again to see if he would be interested and he said yes. The other previous applicants

were also reached out to and two said no to the request and the other two did not respond to the request.

MOTION: Jason Blanek moved to approve Chris Low to the EDC Board.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blanek, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George

Motion carried.

9. Discussion and possible action on re-appointment of Mayor Tommy Ross as Lorena TIRZ #1 East Chairman for calendar year 2023.

Tommy Ross spoke and says he will be willing to serve another term on the TIRZ board.

MOTION: Shane Phillips moved to re-appointment of Mayor Tommy Ross as Lorena TIRZ #1 East Chairman for calendar year 2023.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blanek, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George

Motion carried.

10. Discussion and possible action on an application requesting the waiver of penalty and interest that has been applied to the property taxes of Mrs. Sara Coats who resides at 810 Springdale Lane.

Sara Coats spoke and explained she attempted to mail her property taxes on 1/31/2023 at the Hewitt post office. Coats stated when she walked into the post office there was no one at the counter so she dropped the payment in the outgoing box. Coats explained this was during the ice storm we had that week. A couple of weeks later she received a delinquency notice from McLennan County Tax office. When she contacted the tax office, she was told the envelope was not post marked for the 1/31/2023 and that she would need to go to each taxing entity and request a waiver for their penalty fees.

MOTION: Emily McKenzie moved to waive the penalty and interest fee of \$99.07 for Sara Coats property tax.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

FOR: Blanek, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George

Motion carried.

11. Discussion and possible action to create a policy establishing a date for posting the agenda prior to a council meeting, and the date in which council packets are delivered to the council members.

Kevin Neal explained the purpose of the agenda item is to see what council would like to do in regards to receiving the agenda before council meetings. Currently the council is receiving the packets on Friday afternoons before the meeting. Neal also wanted to know if council would like to see the complete packet on the website. Neal informed council that the law states the agenda must be posted minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting. There was discussion on the benefits of getting the packet earlier for review since weekends are hectic for council. Consensus of the council was to have it on Thursdays.

After further discussion it was decided the cut-off date for agenda request will remain at 5:00 on Wednesday before the meeting and the agenda will be posted by noon on Thursday before the meeting. Council also discussed the information in the packet being on the website and it was decided to put the packet on the website.

MOTION: Shane Phillips moved to have the cut-off for the agenda by citizens and staff on the Wednesday before the meeting with the agenda and packet information be posted/published by Thursday at noon.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George

Motion carried.

12. Police Department Activity Report.

There were 335 Calls by Type, 7 arrest violations with 6 total arrest and 362 citations issued in January 2023.

Chief Scott Holt says the new cadet is doing well in his training at the MCC police academy. Holt says everything is in good working order at this time.

13. City Manager Report:

a. Update of Street Bond Project

Neal says the project will let in April and will be posted to the website and official newspaper and CivCast for advertising the bid package.

b. Year 1 of PCED/CDI training 03-06-2023 – 03-10-2023.

Neal will attend required Professional Community Economic Development training as a part of his contract. The training will be held in the Woodlands at the Loan Star College.

14. Future Agenda Items.

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: Council convened into executive session at 7:21 p.m.

- a. City Manager**
- b. Police Chief**

16. Reconvene into open session and act as deemed appropriate of the City Council's deliberation regarding: Council reconvened into regular session at 7:42 p.m.

- a. City Manager**

No action taken

- b. Police Chief**

MOTION: Jason Blanek moved that the City Council ratify the language of the employment agreement negotiated between the City Manager and the Chief of Police as authorized in accordance with City Ordinance 2010-115-01.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

FOR: Blanek, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George

Motion carried.

17. Adjourn

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 20th day of March 2023.

Tommy Ross

Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:

Monica Hendrix

Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

