



**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, APRIL 17, 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 VIDEOCONFERENCING  
AT THE FOLLOWING LINK <https://meet.goto.com/381991685> 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 6:30 p.m. City Council members present were  
Mayor Tommy Ross, Jason Blaneck, Katrina George, Shane Phillips and Kelly Yarbrough was  
present via teleconference. Emily McKenzie 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.

**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.*

There were no comments.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

**a. March 20, 2023**

MOTION: Shane Phillips

SECOND: Katrina George

FOR: Blane, George, Yarbrough and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 4-0

**5. Committee and Corporation Reports:**

**a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation**

EDC Member Brad Wetzel reported the EDC will allocate no more than \$2000 for a cost study for fire flow line for the Old Middle School property. This will help to figure cost to upgrade that line for future development of the property. EDC also approved for Consultant Jason Mundo to attend the Retail Live event in Austin in August. Brad Wetzel will also attending the event with Mundo as backup to promote available development properties in Lorena. Gateway Monument bids will be opened on May 5, 2023 at Lorena City Hall.

**b. Lorena Planning and Zoning Commission**

No Meeting. They will meet in May.

**6. Recognition of the promotion of SRO Peter Rivas to the rank of Sergeant.**

Police Chief Scott Holt spoke and stated that Officer Peter Rivas has worked for the Lorena Police Department for 12 years serving in many roles. Rivas is currently the Lorena ISD School Resource Officer. Holt is promoting Rivas to the rank of Sergeant and with this promotion will become the Lorena ISD School Resource Officer Supervisor.

Elaine with State Representative Charles "Doc" Anderson's Office presented a Texas Flag that was flown over the state capital to Rivas in honor of his promotion. Chief Holt presented a certificate of promotion to Rivas and congratulated him on his promotion. Rivas's wife Melissa pinned the new Sergeant badge on Rivas. Peter Rivas spoke and thanked the everyone for showing up tonight. Rivas says it has been a long 12 years and he greatly appreciates the recognition that through hard work and dedication proves. Rivas also thank Chief Holt for the promotion and for believing in him enough to give him this opportunity and he will continue to strive to do his best.

**7. Discussion and possible action on the upated Investment Policy.**

Finance Officer Linda Klump informed council of the minor changes to the investment policy. Klump says this is a requirement of the Public Funds Investment Act that the city is to look at the policy each year to stay in compliance. There are no major changes to the policy.

MOTION: Katrina George

SECOND: Jason Blane

FOR: Blane, George, Yarbrough and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 4-0

**8. Discussion and possible action on the proposed Purchasing Policy.**

City Manager Kevin Neal explained that himself and Linda Klump have been working on this policy and it is based on laws and regulations for Type A General Law cities as well as insurance and bonding requirements for the individual employees and City Manager.

MOTION: Shane Phillips

SECOND: Jason Blane

FOR: BlaneK, George, Yarbrough and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 4-0

**9. Discussion and possible action on an updated COVID Policy.**

Kevin Neal explained as the Federal Government will end Covid emergency declaration and funding on May 11, 2023. Staff recommends accounting for Covid illness as "sick time" for the infected employee just as illnesses such as flu are handled – i.e. no longer recording as "regular time-COVID" as the Federal Government has concluded any reporting/funding associated with the pandemic. This policy will line out what to do if employees are out with covid.

MOTION: Shane Phillips motioned to adopt the updated policy.

SECOND: Jason BlaneK

FOR: BlaneK, George, Yarbrough and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 4-0

**10. Presentation of March 31, 2023 Summary of Cash and Investment Report and Budget Report.**

Linda Klump explained in the Summary of Cash report the interest rates are rising for investments. Klump reviewed the Budget Report and says we are half way through the year and you want to see we are tracking at 50 percent. Klump explained that some funds are over 50 percent because dues were paid in full at the beginning of the year.

**11. Discussion and possible action on adding an additional checking account for the city.**

Klump explained the City of Lorena has a depository contract with Extraco Banks and has a great working relationship with that bank. Extraco holds the City's operating checking account, payroll account, forfeiture account, Lorena EDC's checking account, Lorena EDC's money market account (investment), and the City's money market account and certificates of deposit (investments). The City also has funds available with TexPool and TexStar (local government investment pools) that allow the City to transfer funds to our operating account for payroll and payable needs as necessary. During Public Funds Investment training has recommended maintaining a checking account with an additional financial institution to ensure accessibility to funds to continue operations if a depository institution encounters operational issues. While staff has no concerns with Extraco Banks, staff did contact some local institutions regarding holding funds, below the FDIC insurance limit, in a checking account as a "backup" banking relationship if needed. First National Bank of Central Texas offered a checking account with no monthly fee and interest on the balance (based on the amount held) with the understanding that there are no planned transactions to the account. Staff recommends opening a backup checking account with First National Bank of Central Texas.

MOTION: Jason BlaneK motion to open additional checking account as recommended.

SECOND: Katrina George

FOR: BlaneK, George, Yarbrough and Phillips

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 4-0



## **12. Police Department Activity Report.**

Scott Holt says report is in packet. There were 202 Calls by Type, 5 arrest, and 228 Citations issued in March 2023. Katrina George asked if the school incidents are reported in these numbers and was told yes.

## **13. City Manager Report:**

### **1. Roadster Travel Center update.**

Neal reported he reached out to Mubin and things are moving slower than anticipated but they are still planning to build. He paused on giving a definite date but says they are coming.

### **2. Street bond public bid opening.**

Bids were opened today and the engineer is tabulating the bids and will recommend who is low bid. There were only two companies that bid, TTG from Gatesville and Conserperion from McGregor.

### **3. New staff member in our Public Works Department.**

Randy Landrum is the new employee in the Public Works department.

### **4. Phase 2 Rosenthal Estates under review**

Currently under review with the planning department for approval.

### **5. Phase 2 Arches Subdivision under review**

Currently under review with the planning department for approval. We also received Phase 1 letter of approval from the engineers that has been turned over to Loera and his Attorney for review. A maintenance bond will be issued with this letter of approval.

## **14. Future Agenda Items.**

TCEQ compliance for lead and copper.

## **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. Permit Clerk**

Council convened into executive session at 7:09 p.m.

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

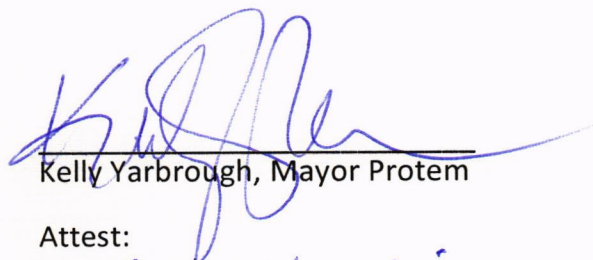
### **a. Permit Clerk**

Council reconvened into executive session at 7:19 p.m.

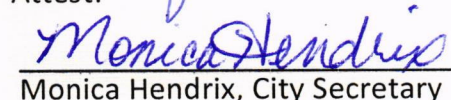
## **17. Adjourn**

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.

  
Kelly Yarbrough, Mayor Protem

Attest:

  
Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

