



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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
NOTICE OF WORKSHOP AND MEETING PUBLIC MEETING
LORENA CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023 – 5:00 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/270233701> and/or join the conference
call at (254) 655-5400; GUEST PIN :2021
The City Council Meeting will be opened to the public.

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

WORKSHOP 5:00 P.M.

1. Call to order/Roll Call.

Mayor Ross called the workshop to order at 5:05 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Jason Blaneck, Katrina George and Brad Wetzel. Emily McKenzie arrived at 5:42 p.m. Kelly Yarbrough was absent.

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

2. Discussion with city attorney on open meetings act, public information act, etc.

City Attorney Charlie Olson was present and reviewed the open meeting act and public information act laws with council.

3. Presentation and discussion of proposed budget for FY 2023-2024.

Linda Klump presented the proposed budget for FY 2023-2024 and explained the significant changes.

4. Adjourn.

The workshop adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Mayor Ross called the regular meeting to order at 6:53p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Jason Blaneck, Katrina George Emily McKenzie and Brad Wetzel. Kelly Yarbrough 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. May 30, 2023

b. June 19, 2023

MOTION: Katrina George motioned to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Jason Blaneck

FOR: Blaneck, George and Wetzel

AGAINST: none

ABSTAIN: Emily McKenzie

ABSENT: Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 3-1 abstension

5. Committee and Corporation Reports:

a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation

No report

b. Lorena Planning and Zoning Commission

No Meeting

6. Discussion and possible action to vacate Seat 1 of the Lorena EDC Board.

Chris Low was appointed in February and hasn't been attending due to life changes so this seat needs to be vacated.

MOTION: Jason Blaneck

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blaneck, George, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

7. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Lorena EDC representative Brad Wetzel to the open Seat 5 of the Lorena TIRZ #1 East Board.

MOTION: Jason Blaneck motioned to appoint Brad Wetzel to the open seat 5 TIRZ #1 East board.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blaneck, George, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

8. Discussion and possible action on the appointment and re-appointments of Planning and Zoning Commission members for a two-year term.

Monica Hendrix informed council of the expired terms of Don Bagby, Julie Becker, Gary Payne and Allison Vrana. There is also a vacancy for the place Brad Wetzel served. Eric Strelsky applied for this place.

MOTION: Katrina George motioned to re-appoint Don Bagby, Julie Becker, Gary Payne and Allison Vrana for the two-year term and Eric Strelsky for the remaining one-year term.

SECOND: Jason Blaneck

FOR: Blaneck, George, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

9. Discussion and possible action on the appointment to unexpired term of Seat One(1) on McLennan County 9-1-1 Board of Managers.

MOTION: Emily McKenzie motioned to appoint Ryan Holt to the unexpired term of Seat One(1) on McLennan County 9-1-1 Board of Managers.

SECOND: Katrina George

FOR: Blaneck, George, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

*****Note: Mayor Ross reached out to Mr. Strelsky concerning the P&Z appointment and he can no longer commit. Mayor asked how council wanted to handle this and it was decided to have an action item next month to accept his resignation from the commission.**

10. Discussion and possible action on an application requesting the waiver of penalty and interest that has been applied to the property taxes of Oncor Electric Delivery Company.

Ignacio Vazquez with Oncor was present and explained what happen with the payment from Oncor to the County for property taxes. Kevin Neal explained on February 14, 2023 Lorena City staff received notification from the McLennan County Tax Assessor/Collector that a large number of requests have been received by the County to waive penalties and interest that have been applied to delinquent accounts. The primary reason for so many of the requests is due to the recent winter storm that occurred on or about January 31, 2023. This winter storm caused many government facilities including schools to be closed for two if not three days in some cases. These closures included not only the Lorena City Hall, the McLennan County Court House, but the local US Post Offices as well. These closures have had a negative impact on the timing of post marks for the property taxes and caused delays in delivery of the mail.

Oncor Electric Delivery is the only commercial user who has reached out to the City of Lorena asking the governing body to authorize a waiver of penalty and interest on the property tax bill as of the date of this write-up.

MOTION: Katrina George motioned to approve the request to waive the penalty and interest that was applied to the Oncor property tax bill.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blaneck, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: none

ABSTAIN: Kelly Yarbrough arrived during this discussion at 7:14 p.m. and abstained from the vote.

Motion carried 4-1 abstension.

11. Discussion and approval of the changes to the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Cooperatvie agreement effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2028, and participation in the funding for FY 2023-2024.

Monica Hendrix explained the Health District not only handles health issues, they handle resturaunt inspections and septic system permits and inspections.

MOTION: Katrina George motioned to approve the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Cooperatvie agreement effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2028, and participation in the funding for FY 2023-2024.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

FOR: Blaneck, George, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: NONE

Motion carried 5-0.

12. Discussion and possible action authorizing the City Manager or Police Chief to purchase pre-owned police vehicles.

Scott Holt explained the need for vehicles due to the signing of House Bill 1 for the requirement of School Resource Officers on each school campus. Holt explained historically, the Lorena Police Department has purchased new police vehicles through buy board. This process is in compliance with state regulations and approved by council when adopting the budget. Due to recent circumstances, the Police Department is in need of more vehicles than the budget will allow. Because of this, the Chief is currently researching the purchasing of pre-owned police vehicles. The process in which a pre-owned vehicle is purchase is significantly different than that of a new vehicle. If a pre-owned vehicle is purchased, the purchaser must have funds readily available to solidify the sale. This, based on current policy, is not permitted. The Chief is requesting the authority to purchase the vehicle and, once the vehicle is purchased, will bring to Council the particulars of the purchase at the next scheduled Council meeting.

There was discussion about what fiscal year the vehicles would be purchased. Holt explained he is planning to use the funds budgeted for FY2023-2024. Klump explained if the cars were purchased next week, it would be an unbudgeted expenditure.

MOTION: Jason Blaneck motioned to authorize the City Manager or Police Chief to purchase pre-owned police vehicles for an amount not to exceed \$83,000.00.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blaneck, George, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: NONE.

Motion carried 5-0.

13. Police Department Activity Report.

Scott Holt informed council prior to him becoming Chief, Police Chief Tom Dickson applied for a state grant through the govenors office for \$25,000.00 for ballistic shields. The department was awarded the grant. Seven ballistic shields were purchased and will be placed in the schools and SRO vehicles. The department also completed best practice training last week. Holt also reported the new officer is doing well. Kelly Yarbrough commended Chief Holt for keep the citizens informed through social media.

14. Discussion and action on setting dates and times for budget public hearing, tax rate public hearing and adoption date for budget and tax rate.

Mayor Ross spoke and wants council to go ahead and set the dates for the meetings setting the proposed tax rate, budget public hearing and tax rate public hearing. It was stressed that we need a super majority quorum for called meetings. Kevin Neal stressed that you must be seen and heard if you plan to attend via teleconference.

Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 6:30 pm. to set proposed tax rate and budget workshop at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, August 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for 2023-2024 FY Budget and Proposed Tax Rate.

Monday, August 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for Tax Rate public hearing.

Monday, August 28, 2023 following the Tax Rate public hearing will be the adoption of the 2023-24 FY Budget and 2023 Tax Rate.

MOTION: Emily McKenzie motioned to set the dates discussed.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

FOR: Blaneck, George, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

Motion carried 5-0

15. City Manager Report:

1. Movie night in McBrayer Park hosted by Journey Lorena

July 29th 7:00 P.M. till 10:00 P.M.

Neal informed council and citizens watching of event.

2. VBS First Baptist Lorena July 24th – July 28th, 6:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Date for VBS at church

3. Bright Farms site preparation currently underway.

Core and shell permit issued.

4. PUC Interim Chair Kathleen Jackson.

Neal is familiar with Jackson as an employee of the Texas Water Development Board and says she is a good fit for the position.

5. Street project update.

Street rehab is underway and it is a mess. Water lines have been found that were not mapped.

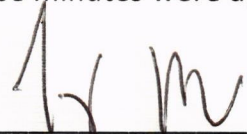
July 24th is the planned date for laying asphalt. Neal says Leopard Lane will have a new turn lane at no cost to the city. So far there have been about \$8000.00 in change orders.

16. Future Agenda Items.

17. Adjourn

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 21st day of August 2023.



Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:



Monica Hendrix-City Secretary