



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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
LORENA CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 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/717874189>
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

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call.**
- 2. 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.

- 4. Approval of Minutes:**

a. December 18, 2023

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motioned to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Jason Blanek, Brad Wetzel and Kelly Yarbrough.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 3-0.

- 5. Committee and Corporation Reports:**

a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation

EDC Chairman Kelly Yarbrough reported EDC met on January 8th and discussed moving forward and also discussed dates for a joint workshop with the City Council on March 12th or 18th.

b. Lorena Planning and Zoning Commission

No meeting.

6. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2024-0122-01 calling the May 4, 2024 General Election to elect one (1) person for each position to serve the full term of two (2) years for three (3) City Council Members.

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motion to approve Ordinance 2024-0122-01 calling the May 4, 2024 General Election.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Jason Blanek, Brad Wetzel and Kelly Yarbrough.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 3-0.

7. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2024-0122-02 of the City of Lorena, Texas ordering and setting an election in the city on a combined municipal sales tax ballot proposition to reduce the rate of the sales and use tax for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises from 1/2 of one percent to 1/8 of one percent, and for the adoption of a local sales and use tax in the City of Lorena at the rate of 3/8 of one percent to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

City Attorney Charlie Olson recommended the language for this and also recommended having the two orders separate. Mayor Ross explained if passed, one third of the sales tax would go to EDC and the rest would go to the street and maintenance fund for four years. If the city chooses to extend the re-allocation of funds, another election would be required in four years. Brad Wetzel questioned if the ordinance need to state the four year expiration and was told no that it is covered in the tax law statute which is listed in the ordinance.

Mayor Ross stressed this does not impose any additional taxes on the citizens, it does not affect property tax, it reallocates the funds for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

MOTION: Jason Blanek motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-0122-02.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Jason Blanek and Brad Wetzel .

AGAINST: Kelly Yarbrough

ABSENT: Katrina George and Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 2-1.

8. Presentation of Summary of Cash and Investments and quarterly budget reports ending 12/31/2023.

Linda Klump reviewed the reports with council and explained changes. Also stated that annual audit will be presented next month.

9. Police Department Report.

- a. Monthly activity report
- b. 2023 Annual report
- c. Solar Eclipse Planning

Chief Scott Holt was present for any questions on the reports. Holt pointed out the Calls for Service will be reported differently next month and will not include traffic stops.

Holt presented the 2023 year end report which list stats for Calls, traffic stops, incidents, arrest, vehicle crashes and accomplishments.

Holt also discussed the planning with other community and county officials of the possible impact on the area leading up to and the day of the Solar Eclipse on April 8th.

10. City Manager Report.

a. Street Project Update.

Kevin Neal reported all the streets are now paved. Neal says the additional dates for completion will need to be added to the contract in order for ATMOS and AT&T to complete the intersection of Williams and Houston Street. This will allow the contractor to remain inline with the contract completion dates. Neal says as of today the project has remained on budget.

b. Report on major water leaks.

Neal gave praise to the utility department and thank them for the handling of two large water leaks this past month. One was on Christmas Eve and one was two weeks ago when a contractor hit a ten inch water main and the city lost 182,000 gallons of water in a matter of minutes. During the outage the city was able to install an extra valve to help with any future interruptions.

c. City Managers training January 25th & 26th.

Neal will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday attending training in Austin.

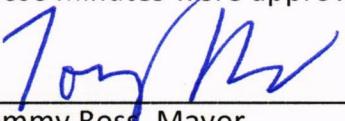
11. Future Agenda Items.

Neal asked about joint workshop with EDC and Council.

12. Adjourn

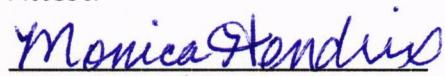
Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 26th day of February 2024.



Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:



Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

