



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, MARCH 18, 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/205159101>

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.

Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Jason Blanek, Katrina George, Emily McKenzie and Brad Wetzel. Kelly Yarbrough was present via teleconference.

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

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. February 26, 2024

MOTION: Katrina George motioned to approve the February 26, 2024 council minutes.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, George, Wetzel and Yarbough

AGAINST: none

ABSTAIN: Emily McKenzie

ABSENT: none

Motion carried.

5. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2024-0318-01 cancelling the May 4, 2024 General election for the three alderman at large.

Mayor Ross explained the incumbents are running unopposed to this will cancel that portion of the election.

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motioned to approve the ordinance and cancel the election for the three alderman at large.

SECOND: Katrina George

Monica Hendrix explained these names will still be on the ballot but will show Uncontested Candidates Declared Elected.

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie, Wetzel and Yarbough

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: none

Motion carried.

6. Discussion and possible action authorizing the election contract with McLennan County Election Administration for the May 4, 2024 special election.

Mayor Ross explained this is an election to move 75% of the EDC sales tax to the street and maintenance fund. Ross explained this election will be a joint election with Lorena ISD and other local cities and schools within McLennan County holding elections.

MOTION: Emily McKenzie motioned to authorize the election contract with McLennan County Election Administration for the May 4, 2024 special election.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie, Wetzel and Yarbough.

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: none

Motion carried.

7. Police Department Report.

1. Feb 2024 Monthly report

Chief Holt informed council the February report is in the council packet and he will be happy to answer any questions council may have.

Mayor Ross asked Holt if the PD was ready for April 8th, total eclipse day. Chief Holt explained he has attended several meetings with the county on preparedness for the anticipated influx of people coming to the area for the event. There is information on the city website and Facebook page with recommendations for preparedness for citizens to review. Holt says 70 plus emails were sent out to business owners in and around Lorena as well.

Holt also informed council a new School Resource Officer, Michael Drummond was hired to replace outgoing SRO Hannah Perry.

8. City Manager Report.

1. Street Project Update.

City Manager Kevin Neal reported the drainage at Williams and N. Houston needs to be completed. Very close to finishing up, all utilities have been moved and completion of punch list is ongoing. Neal says he is hoping this project will be completed by next council meeting.

2. Year 2 of PCED training complete.

Neal attended year to of training in the Woodlands. Has one year left and can sit for PCED certification next year after completion of that course.

3. Session 2 of William "King" Cole training (April 4th & 5th).

Neal will be attending training in San Antonio next month. Plans to leave on April 3rd but will be back in town on Friday evening before the Eclipse weekend.

4. City administrative offices will be closed April 8, 2024.

City Offices will be closed on Eclipse day as we follow the Lorena ISD schedule for closures. Neal also reported that County office are closing on this day as well.

9. Future Agenda Items.

10. Adjourn

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 15th day of April 2024.

Tommy Ross
Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:

Monica Hendrix
Monica Hendrix-City Secretary

