



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, MAY 20, 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 VIDEOCONFERENCING
AT THE FOLLOWING LINK <https://meet.goto.com/316483565>
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, Emily McKenzie, Jason Blaneck and Brad Wetzel. Members absent were Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough.

City Staff present were Monica Hendrix, Scott Holt, Kyler Jones, 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.

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. April 15, 2024 Regular Meeting

b. May 13, 2024 Canvas Meeting

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motioned to approve the April 15, 2024 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blaneck, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 3-0

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motioned to approve the May 13, 2024 canvass meeting minutes.

SECOND: Jason Blaneck

FOR: Blaneck, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough
Motion carried 3-0

5. Committee and Corporation Reports:

a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation

Brad Wetzel gave meeting report for Tuesday May 14th and stated that Bruceville Eddy EDC recently implemented an EDC and their members were in attendance. Wetzel said that EDC board member and treasurer Chuck Walker resigned. Billy Borunda will be the new treasurers for the board. Wetzel says the EDC board has two open seats and are actively looking for volunteers. Wetzel stated you do not need to live in the city limits to serve on the board. A citizen can live in the county and serve.

There was also discussion on the TexPool account and making changes to the signatories on the account. The four EDC officers will be added as well as Linda Klump for inquiries only.

The board will also be reviewing the EDC bylaws and bringing any recommended changes to the city council for approval.

6. Presentation of Certificates of Election and oath of office to elected council members.

Jason Blane and Emily McKenzie ran unopposed for city council alderman and were presented their certificate of election. City Secretary Monica Hendrix read the statement of elected officers to Jason Blane and Emily McKenzie. Blane and McKenzie then took the oath of office.

7. Discussion and possible action appointing a Mayor Pro Tempore for a one-year term.

Each year after the election of a General Law city, the council shall appoint a Mayor Pro Tempore for a one-year term.

There was discussion of whether Kelly Yarbrough would still want to serve as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Yarbrough was absent due to the death of her father. Jason Blane recommended appointing Yarbrough as Mayor Pro Tempore and if she chooses not to serve, she can resign and council can appoint someone else. Mayor Ross agreed.

MOTION: Jason Blane

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blane, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 3-0

8. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2024-0520-01 to select an elected official of the city as the city's nominee for service as a member of the governing body of the McLennan County Rural Transit District.

Mayor Ross explained the rural transit system is a service in McLennan County that will come to Lorena to pick up residents for a fee. Mayor Ross informed council that Katrina George served on the board for the past two years. This is a two year term that meets four times a year by zoom. Jason Blane volunteered for the nomination.

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motioned to nominate Jason Blane for a member of the governing body of the McLennan County Rural Transit District on resolution 2024-0520-01.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blane, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 3-0

9. Discussion and possible action accepting the resignation of the current City Planner, Mr. Robert LaCroix, ACPI, effective May 31, 2024, and appointing Mr. George Adams, CNU-a, to the position of City Planner as contracted.

City Manager Kevin Neal informed council that current City Planner Robert LaCroix has submitted his resignation letter and is ready to retire. Mr. George Adams has agreed to work for the City of Lorena as contract labor the same as Mr. LaCroix. Mr. Adams comes highly recommended.

MOTION: Jason Blane motioned to accept the resignation of Robert LaCroix and to appoint George Adams as the new City Planner for the City of Lorena.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blane, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 3-0

10. Discussion and possible action to accept a donation of the post clock in downtown Lorena as City owned property from Linda Graves.

City Manager Kevin Neal informed council the clock is located at E. Center Street and Bordon Street.

In the past year it has been brought to the City Managers attention that repairs were needed in order to keep the clock working properly. Due to the fact that public tax funds cannot be spent on private property, City staff started researching this matter closely and found that there is no record of the clock being donated, so the needed repairs were not completed. According to Mrs. Linda Graves, the clock was donated to the city by the Lorena Chamber of Commerce many years ago. Kevin Neal is requesting the council to accept the donation of the post clock so there will be record of the donation. Once accepted, the city can budget for the repair and maintenance of the clock in the future.

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motioned to accept the donation of the post clock in downtown Lorena as City owned property from Linda Graves.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Wetzel, McKenzie and Blaneck

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough.

Motion carried 3-0

11. Discussion and possible direction on how to provide the most reliable water service for City of Lorenawater customers in the general area encompassing certain customers along S. Old Bruceville Road.

City Manager Kevin Neal explained the issues with the water line to customers along S. Old Bruceville Road.

This water line has washed out three times since 2020. The city is obligated to provide water service to its customers. Kevin Neal explained he spent a lot of time preparing the background report with visuals on the council report that is attached to these minutes. Neal gave four options in the report for council to consider for repairs to the line. There was lengthy discussion on ways to repair the water line and how to proceed.

MOTION: Jason Blaneck motioned to explore options 2 and 3 and their cost estimates.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blaneck, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough.

Motion carried 3-0

12. Discussion and possible action to reappoint the following Board Members to the Lorena TIRZ #1 East Board for the remainder of their 2-year terms that will expire in November 2025:

Seat 2 – Katrina George Seat 4 – Kelly Yarbrough Seat 6 – William Callen

City Manager Kevin Neal explained these reappointments were supposed to be done back in November 2024 but didn't happen due to the TIRZ Consultant being terminated.

MOTION: Emily McKenzie moved to reappoint the following Board Members to the Lorena TIRZ #1 East Board for the remainder of their 2-year terms that will expire in November 2025:

Seat 2 – Katrina George Seat 4 – Kelly Yarbrough Seat 6 – William Callen

FOR: Blaneck, McKenzie and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough.

Motion carried 3-0

13. Discussion and possible action to accept the substandard roadway improvements as required in the substandard roadway improvement agreement between the Roadster Travel Center and the City of Lorena as complete.

City Manager Kevin Neal explained the city entered into an agreement with Roadster Travel Center in December of 2022 for roadway improvements as required by the Lorena Subdivision Ordinance.

After a few attempts in meeting the minimum requirements for roadway improvements by Roadster Travel Center, the City Engineer, John Simcik has made a formal recommendation that the City of Lorena accept the substandard roadway improvements as complete.

MOTION: Jason Blaneck motioned to accept the substandard roadway improvements as required in the substandard roadway improvement agreement between the Roadster Travel Center and the City of Lorena as

complete.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blane, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 3-0

14. Discussion and possible action approving invoice #10452 from Dad's Quick Lube & Automotive Repair for repair of 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe Police vehicle.

Police Chief Scott Holt explained these repairs were done under the pretense of an emergency due to the blown engine in K-9 unit. These repairs were done in April 2024 for a cost of \$10,931.63. The repairs come with a warranty.

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motioned to approve invoice #10452 from Dad's Quick Lube & Automotive Repair for repair of 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe Police vehicle.

SECOND: Jason Blane

Emily McKenzie wanted to point out these repairs seemed high but to replace the K-9 vehicle would be \$90,000.00 or more. Holt also mentioned that when looking at police vehicles, they not only look at mileage, they also look at idle hours. This particular vehicle with idle hours and mileage has close to 500,000 miles.

FOR: Blane, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Katrina George and Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 3-0

15. Police Department Report.

Chief Holt answered questions from the council in the monthly report. Calls for service were down but traffic stops were up. Sergeant Peter Rivas completed basic SWAT training through the Charlie- Mike Enterprises. This training was at no cost to the police department and the other officers will attend the training in the future.

16. City Manager Report.

1. Street project update.

Kevin Neal reported all the rain has delayed the completion of the street project. There are still a couple of culverts that need to be replaced and grading that needs to be done.

2. Report on storm water drainage from recent heavy rains.

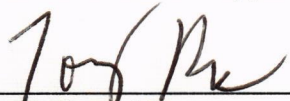
Neal reported with all the rain there was only one isolated incident where sanitary sewer backed up into a home. The homeowner will be installing a check-valve on the sanitary sewer line to prevent future issues. As far as Neal is aware of, there was no stormwater that backed up into homes in Lorena. Neals stated that place that normally flood like McBrayer Park and Hatch Road did flood. Neal says there was significant street damage from all the rain and lots of new potholes.

17. Future Agenda Items.

18. Adjourn

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 17th day of June 2024.


Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:


Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

