



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, JUNE 17, 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/866908149>
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, Katrina George, Emily McKenzie, Brad Wetzel and Kelly Yarbrough. Jason Blaneck was present via teleconference.

City Staff present were Monica Hendrix, Kyler Jones, Linda Klump, Kevin Neal and Scott Holt 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. May 20, 2024

MOTION: Emily McKenzie motioned to approve the May 20, 2024 minutes.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blaneck, George and Yarbrough.

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: none

Motioned carried 5-0.

5. Presentaion of thirty-year service award to Monica Hendrix and fifteen-year service award to Kevin Neal.

Mayor Ross presented service awards to Monica Hendrix and Kevin Neal and thanked them for their service to Lorena.

6. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2024-0617-01 providing for a collection fee for delinquent utility bills.

Linda Klump reported that in November 2023 the council approved for staff to contract with a collection agency for delinquent utility bills. MVBA is the company that does collections for our Municipal Court. MVBA charges thirty percent of the total due for their services. By approving this ordinance, the thirty percent fee will be paid by the delinquent customer and not the city for any collections made by MVBA.

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough motioned to approved Ordinance 2024-0617-01.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blaneck, George and Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 5-0.

7. Discusssion and possible action authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with KPA Engineering to bid road improvements for Cindy Lane.

City Manager Kevin Neal explained the city has identified several roadway improvement projects that need immediate attention and the summer months are the ideal time to do road construction. Neal reminded council that in May 2024, the citizens of Lorena voted and passed an election proposition that will allow the city to use sales tax revenue for road maintenance. The project on top of the list is the overdue road improvements to Cindy Lane. The City has asked KPA to provide an opinion of probable cost for the needed improvements. KPA's estimate is \$130,000.00. This estimate includes engineering, bidding, on-site representation, construction, and inspection. Finance Officer Linda Klump has verified that the city can fund this project and then repay ourselves with the funds collected through the sales tax. This method of funding would allow the City to complete the overdue road improvements this summer, when conditions are ideal for this type of work, ahead of the City actually receiving the funds through sales tax. This funding would either loan funds from the general fund capital project fund with repayment when the sales tax funds become available to the City, or by showing a negative balance in the newly created street maintenance fund and offsetting that negative balance when the tax funds become available to the City. Staff is currently waiting to hear back from our auditor for clarification on the preferred accounting method for this funding opportunity.

MOTION: After discussion Emily McKenzie motioned to authorize the City Manger to enter into an agreement with KPA Engineering to bid road improvements for Cindy Lane.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blaneck, George and Yarbrough.

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: none

Motioned carried 5-0.

8. Discussion and possible action casting votes for the Place 5 Director of the McLennan County Rural Transit District Board of Directors.

Mayor Ross informed council each city has 20 votes to split between the nominees. Only 10 of those votes may be cast for the City's own nominee. Since there are 3 nominees, council consensus is to give our nominee 10 votes and split the other 10 votes to the other two nominees.

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motioned to give nominee Jason Blaneck 10 votes, nominee Henry Rolfes 5 votes, and nominee Michael Baker 5 votes.

SECOND: Katrina George

FOR: Blaneck, McKenzie and Yarbrough.

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: none

Motioned carried 5-0.

9. Discussion and possible action to appoint the following applicants to the EDC Board of Directors:

A. Elliot Kelly to open seat 6 term expiring October 2024

B. Lane Wakefield to open seat 7 term expiring October 2025

Mayor Ross spoke and says that after reviewing the resumes, both applicants are definitely qualified for the EDC Board but he has concerns about both men. Ross explained being a part of the EDC Board, you promote Lorena. Ross explained the Interstate-35 is by far our biggest and best asset and Lorena ISD is the second best asset. Ross went on to say that he doesn't care what the men do with the school district, that is not his business. Ross explained when you represent Lorena, you need to be unified and walk out there straight. Ross also stressed that he does not have a vote but does not recommend the men to the board. There was lengthy conversation about the appointments and council members gave their thoughts.

MOTION: Katrina George motioned to not approve these two individuals to the EDC board and continue looking.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

The two candidates spoke and gave their thoughts.

FOR: Blanek, George and McKenzie

ABSTAIN: Yarbrough and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 3 ayes and 2 absentions.

10. Police Department Report.

1. May 2024 Monthly report

Police Chief Scott Holt informed council monthly report is in packet. Holt explained that Jennifer Herrin is responsible for the report and what a great job she does.

11. City Manager Report.

1. Street project update.

Signed last change order for culverts and these are a special egg-shaped culvert with a six week lead time. This is because the ditch is deep.

2. Watermain improvement study by KPA.

Neal explained the recorder for pressure was submerged during the rain event and data was not received. A new recorder will be installed tomorrow for the data needed.

3. Progress of ARPA projects

Neal explained there are two ARPA projects. One is to re-route the water main under the old Raymonds Steakhouse building that will be bid in August. The second one is the well #3 generator that will be bid in September.

4. Annual Animal Control Report

Neal discussed the cost of animal control with the Waco Animal Shelter. Neal says that Lorena does their best to locate owners before taking the dogs to the shelter.

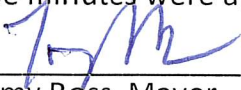
12. Future Agenda Items.

Mayor Ross reminded council of numerous meetings in the next month for budget and tax rate hearings and to be mindful of them.

13. Adjourn

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 15th day of July 2024



Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:



Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

