



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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**  
**LORENA CITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 6:30 P.M.**  
**LORENA CITY HALL**  
**107-A S. FRONTAGE ROAD, LORENA TEXAS**

**MINUTES**

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

Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Mayor Pro tem Kelly Yarbrough, Jason Blanek and Emily McKenzie. Brad Wetzel 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. Recognition of PD Promotions: Lieutenant Peter Rivas and Sergeant Sami Bull.**

Police Chief Scott Holt recognized the promotion of School Resource Office Sami Bull to Sergeant.

**4. 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.*

**5. Minutes:**

- a. August 19, 2024
- b. August 26, 2024
- c. September 3, 2024
- d. September 16, 2024
- e. October 14, 2024

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough motioned to approve the minutes listed.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Jason Blanek, Emily McKenzie and Kelly Yarbrough

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Brad Wetzel

Motion carried 3-0

**6. Discussion and possible action to appoint a candidate to the vacant alderman position for the Lorena City Council.**

Carla Pendergraft was the only citizen to apply for the position. Mrs. Pendergraft spoke and informed council she moved to Lorena in 2012. Pendergraft recently retired from the City of Waco after 34 years of service and is ready to give back to her community.

MOTION: Jason Blanek motioned to appoint Carla Pendergraft to the vacant alderman position.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

FOR: Jason Blanek, Emily McKenzie and Kelly Yarbrough

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Brad Wetzel

Motion carried 3-0.

**7. Oath of office to appointed candidate as alderman for the unexpired term.**

City Secretary Monica Hendrix gave the Oath of Office to newly appointed council member Carla Pendergraft.

**8. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2024-1021-01 approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steerint Committee (ACSC) and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the Company's 2024 Rate Review Mechanism Filing.**

Tammie Bowman with Atmos Energy was present and explained the negotiated settlement agreement and the new rates that were negotiated. The negotiated Residential rate increase was negotiated from \$6.77 to \$5.52 and the Commerical rate increase was negotiated from \$17.42 to \$13.39 per month. Bowman is requesting council to approve the ordinance for the negotiated settlement.

MOTION: Jason Blanek motion to approve Ordinance 2024-1021-01.

SECOND: Carla Pendergraft

FOR: Jason Blanek, Carla Pendergraft, Kelly Yarbrough and Emily McKenzie.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Brad Wetzel

Motion carried 4-0.

**9. Tammie Bowman with Atmos Energy will present the Fueling Our Energy Future report and upcoming neighborhood replacement project.**

Tammie Bowman- Manager of Public Affairs Mid-Tex Division, David Dunn-Operations Supervisor Mid-Tex Division, Tanner Stephens-Field Construction Coordinator and Adam Sulak-Engineer 2 were present to review the Footprint of Atmos Energy. Atmos Energy owns and operates approximately 79,000 miles of natural gas pipelines that serve some the fastest growing and most vibrant communities in the country. Atmos representatives presented the attached PowerPoint with council the process of how natural works and what goes on behind the scene of their operations.

**10. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2024-1021-01 casting votes to elect directors for the McLennan Central Appraisal District for the year 2025.**

Kelly Yarbrough spoke and after reviewing the nominees, she noticed that most nominees are incumbents. Yarbrough feels that new blood should be on the Appraisal District Board of Directors. Yarbrough recommended casting three votes each for Dwain Moss, George Chase and Jim Patton that are not incumbents.

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Jason Blanek, Carla Pendergraft, Kelly Yarbrough and Emily McKenzie.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Brad Wetzel

Motion carried 4-0.

**11. Discussion and possible action on transfer of 90% of the end of year budgetary net income in the General Fund and Utility Fund to respective Capital Project Funds to save for costly capital projects.**

Linda Klump explained the transfers to the council and how the balances in each fund occurred.

Klump explained the balances are revenue above expenditures budgeted.

MOTION: Jason Blank motioned to approve the transfer of 90% of the end of year budgetary net income in the General Fund and Utility Fund.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

FOR: Jason Blanek, Carla Pendergraft, Kelly Yarbrough and Emily McKenzie.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Brad Wetzel

Motion carried 4-0.

**12. Presentation of Summary of Cash and Investments and Budget reports as of September 2024.**

Linda Klump explained that some of the money in investments are being transferred to CD's to earn more interest.

**13. Discussion and possible action on ratifying the cost of repairing the downtown water tower and the well 2 standpipe due to being an un-budgeted emergency purchase paid out of the capital project fund.**

Public Works Director Kyler Jones informed council on October 14<sup>th</sup> the utility department noticed the downtown tower and well #2 standpipe had begun to leak. These repairs are needed to limit water loss and money lost from water leaking onto the ground. During the repairs of these items, the vent on the top of the downtown tower will be replaced. Jones explained without repairs, the city would be out of compliance with TCEQ. The total cost of the repairs is \$20,650.00. There were questions and discussion about what may have caused the leaks.

MOTION: Kelly Yarbrough motioned to expend the \$20,650.00 for the cost to repair the well 2 standpipe and the downtown water tower.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Jason Blanek, Carla Pendergraft, Kelly Yarbrough and Emily McKenzie.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Brad Wetzel

Motion carried 4-0.

**14. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2024-1021-01 authorizing the City Manager to sell and transfer a 2016 Ford Explorer VIN: 1FM5K8AT6GGC36270 from the Lorena Police Department to the Lorena Volunteer Fire Department.**

Chief Scott Holt explained that in 2016, the Lorena Police Department purchased a 2016 Ford Explorer to be used as a police emergency vehicle. With the recent acquisition of a 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe, the Lorena Police Department is in a position to sell the 2016 Explorer. After reviewing the fair market value and necessary steps to sell it in the public market, we believe it is better served staying in the City of Lorena and being utilized by the Lorena Volunteer Fire Department. This would allow the vehicle to stay within the City of Lorena and continue serving the Lorena community.

MOTION: Jason Blank motioned to authorize the transfer of the 2016 Ford Explorer from the Lorena Police Department to the Lorena Volunteer Fire Department.

SECOND: Kelly Yarbrough

FOR: Jason Blanek, Carla Pendergraft, Kelly Yarbrough and Emily McKenzie.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Brad Wetzel

Motion carried 4-0.

**15. Police Department Report.**

**a. September 2024 Monthly report.**

172 Calls and 197 Traffic stops were made in September 2024.

Holt says there are still two vacancies in the Police Department.

**City Manager Report.**

**b. Cindy Lane project update.**

Should be completed by 12/31/2024

**c. Update on ARAP projects.**

8" water line around old Raymond's Steakhouse building is being installed and will replace a 4" and 6" water line. Neal explained that will be water interruptions during the tie in of the line. Also the 500 KW generator project for the Well #3 is ongoing.

**c. Bright Farms update.**

Reverse Osmosis plant inside the plant is working through the discharge permit with the City of Waco. Once the permit is received, a temporary Certificate of Occupancy (CO) will be issued.

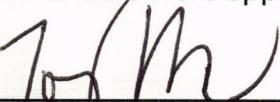
**16. Future Agenda Items.**

Kelly Yarbrough informed November 12, 2024 is the next Economic Development meeting. A planning session to discuss the EDC strategic plan will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

**17. Adjourn**

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

