



**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, DECEMBER 16, 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/319145533>

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](mailto: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, Brad Wetzel and Carla Pendergraft. Mayor Protem Kelly Yarbrough was present via teleconference. Emily McKenzie arrived at 6:40 p.m.

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. Minutes:**

**a. November 18, 2024**

MOTION: Carla Pendergraft motioned to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Jason Blanek, Carla Pendergraft, Kelly Yarbrough and Brad Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 4-0.

**5. Commission and Corporation Reports:**

**a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation**

Chairman Kelly Yarbrough reported the meeting. The members had a couple of meetings and elected new officer. Kelly Yarbrough is Chairman, Brad Wetzel is Vice Chairman, Hob Howell is Secretary and Billy Borunda is Treasurer. Member Kyle Miller resigned so there is a vacancy on the board. The bylaws have been edited to allow the EDC to work with the city on the accounting and checking accounts. There was also a strategic planning workshop last week with plans to continue the strategic planning in January 2025.

**b. Lorena Planning and Zoning Commission**

No Meeting/no quorum.

**6. Discussion and possible action to accept the Bright Farms public infrastructure improvements as complete.**

City Manager Kevin Neal reported our City Engineer John Simcik with KPA Engineers has completed a final walkthrough of Bright Farms on November 21, 2024 and all punchlist items have since been completed. KPA is recommending acceptance of the public infrastructure associated with the referenced project by the City of Lorena and commencement of the 1-year warranty period.

MOTION: Jason Blanek motioned to accept the Bright Farms public infrastructure improvements as complete.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Jason Blanek, Carla Pendergraft, Kelly Yarbrough and Brad Wetzel.

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Emily McKenzie

Motion carried 4-0.

**7. Discussion and possible action to cast votes for the 2025/2026 TCAP Board of Directors.**

**There was discussion on who to vote for. Mayor Ross made suggestions on who to vote for and Jason Blanek suggested voting for candidates from South Texas too.**

MOTION: Brad Wetzel moved to vote for Aimee Ferguson, Henry Arredondo, Clifford Howard, Jo Ella Wagner, Carey Neal Jr., Clayton Fulton, Mark Poland, and Gilbert Reyna Jr.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

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

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 5-0.

**8. Discussion and possible action approving the 2025 Employee Holiday schedule.**

City Manager Kevin Neal reported this is the same holiday schedule as last year.

MOTION: Carla Pendergraft moved to approve the 2025 Employee Holiday schedule.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

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

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 5-0.

**9. Discussion and possible action changing the meeting dates for regular City Council meetings that fall on 2025 Federal Holidays recognized by the city.**

There was discussion on what day to hold the meetings and council consensus was to hold the meetings the Tuesday following the holidays.

MOTION: Emily McKenzie moved to hold the regular city council meetings for January and February 2025 on January 21<sup>st</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

SECOND: Carla Pendergraft

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

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 5-0.

**10. Presentation and discussion on overnight tractor trailer parking at the Roadster Travel Center.**

City Manager Kevin Neal presented the attached on tractor trailer parking at the Roadster Travel Center. Topics in the presentation were the Lorena Zoning ordinance as it relates to parking as well as other ordinances addressing tractor trailer parking on private property within in the city limits.

**11. Police Department Report.**

**a. November 2024 Monthly report**

Calls for service 183

Traffic stops 158

Total arrests 10

Mayor Ross reported he received a letter from the Baylor University Department of Public Safety acknowledging Chief Holt for his excellent operational support to the collective security efforts implemented during the 2024 Baylor University football season.

Chief Holt explained that there have been calls from people stranded at the Roadster for missing the bus when the busses stop at Roadster. Holt says the PD will provide a ride to these passengers to a nearby hotel and take them home if they live nearby. Holt stressed there have been no calls related to the overnight parking of tractor trailer trucks.

**12. City Manager Report.**

**a. Trash will run on Thursday, December 26, 2024, due to the Christmas holiday and Thursday, January 2, 2025, due to the New Year's Day holiday.**

Reminder that trash service will be delayed due to holidays.

**b. ARPA generator has arrived now waiting on ATS.**

The generator has arrived and we are now waiting on the automatic transfer switch.

**c. Certificate of appreciation plaque presented by Texas Health Benefits Pool for 10 years of participation with the pool.**

The city was presented with an award for 10 years of participation with the pool and plaque was presented to the Mayor.

**d. City Manager's upcoming vacation December 26, 2024 through January 3, 2025.**

Neal informed council he will be out of the office on vacation for a couple of weeks.

**13. Future Agenda Items.**

City Secretary Monica Hendrix reminded council of the Planning and Zoning meeting January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and City Council meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss two conditional use permits for future development. Hendrix also reminded council there are still two vacant positions on Planning and Zoning and one vacant position on the Economic Development Corporation.

**14. Adjourn**

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2025.

  
Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:  
  
Monica Hendrix-City Secretary

