



**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 17, 2025 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/963677189>

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 council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Jason Blanek, Emily McKenzie and Carla Pendergraft. Kelly Yarbrough was present via teleconference. Brad Wetzel arrived at 6:35 p.m.

City Staff present were Monica Hendrix, 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.*

Malisa Spivey spoke and thanked the council for having the interpreters for the deaf at the city council meeting. Spivey feels it is really important for the deaf people in the community. Spivey voiced her concerns about the February 18, 2025 city council minutes and the misspelled names Pendergraft and Drogén that were in the minutes. Spivey also voiced her concerns about Emily McKenzie's rationale not being properly documented in the minutes concerning the Texan Store CUP vote. Spivey also feels the opposers who spoke during the public hearing comments and views were undetailed in the minutes. Spivey would like to see the minutes amended to add their specific concerns. Spivey also questioned if the executive session (Item 10) coming up on the agenda is for purchasing, leasing or valuing the property, and if council would be making a decision when reconvening to open session.

Pat Kultgen spoke and wants to go back to the previous meeting and says the council voted against their own ordinances and ordinances are law. Kultgen plans to file a complaint tomorrow because council violated their own laws and that sets you up for litigation. Kultgen also questioned a person on the P&Z Commission that lives outside the city limits. Kultgen says the city needs to check on this to be in line with the ordinances. Kultgen also thanked the council for what they do and knows it's a hard thing.

Sara Oliver spoke and stated her comments were basically for the T.V. audience and the people of Lorena. Oliver says Lorena is never going to change until the administration and city hall changes. Oliver says that for over thirty years every business that has tried to come to Lorena has been harassed, their request refused and frankly openly lied to repeatedly and everything has been done to stop businesses. Oliver used Cuppie Cakes as an example when they tried to come to Lorena years ago. Oliver also questioned how long the city knew about the Texan coming to Lorena and feels it was way before November 2024. Oliver also spoke about garage enclosures and why they aren't allowed. Oliver wants to see Lorena grow conservatively and a truck stop is not a beginning.

Gary Cox and spoke about the December 2024 meeting and the surprise of finding out about the Texan Store coming to Lorena. Cox questioned how long the city knew about the Texan and if the council was surprised as well. Cox also spoke about the difficulties of getting permits in Lorena and that he has had to hire and a lawyer twice. Cox also spoke about Cuppie Cakes and the difficulties they had when attempting to come to Lorena years ago. Cox also spoke about the small turnout at the election last year. Cox spoke of the financial issues in Lorena and running business off and the solution is 3 truck stops? Cox suspects it will cost the city money.

James Hays spoke and wants to commend the council for the job they do, saying it's not always easy to make the best decisions for the entire community. Hays says there are major hurdles to go with expanding the water treatment plant and keeping city services up. Hays feels the Texan Store will be a good business coming to Lorena. Hays also said the soul of Lorena will not be lost forever because of the travel center and feels Lorena will flourish. Hays also felt there would always be a gas station where the Texan is going because of its location. Hays also voiced his concern about the possible litigation being threatened by the citizens opposing the Texan and the cost to the city for lawyer fees. Hays thanked the council again for everything they do.

Lindsey Montemayor spoke and expressed her sincere appreciation to the hardworking members of the city council and stated their dedication does not go unnoticed. Montemayor also stated that the decisions council makes are not always easy and recognizes the time, effort and thoughtfulness put into every choice for the betterment of the city especially since it is a volunteer position. Your willingness to service without compensation speaks volumes to your commitment to our community. Montemayor also wanted to thank the Lorena Police Department, and city employees who work tirelessly to make Lorena a wonderful place to live and raise our families.

Bruce Bowman spoke and wanted to say the same as Montemayor. Bowman stated that he was against the Texan but we lost. Bowman appreciates the council and everything they have done, right or wrong, he still appreciates them. Bowman says Lorena is a great place to live and he's been around here for a long time and wants to see the bickering go away. "Let's be an old Lorena, let's all be friends".

#### **4. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. February 18, 2025**

Mayor Ross reminded the council that the minutes are recorded and if anyone ever wants to listen to them they are all archived.

**MOTION:** Jason Blanek moved to approve the minutes with spelling corrections.

**SECOND:** Carla Pendergraft

Emily McKenzie spoke and feels the meeting was long and arduous and the minutes were "pretty darn good" based on the lengthy discussions during the meeting. McKenzie agrees that the best thing to do is listen to the recording.

**FOR:** Blanek, Pendergraft, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Wetzel.

**AGAINST:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**Motion carried 5-0**

**5. Discussion and possible action authorizing the election contract with McLennan County Election Administration for the May 3, 2025 general election.**

Monica Hendrix informed council this the same contract year after year and council needs to authorize the Mayor to sign it.

**MOTION:** Brad Wetzel moved to authorize the election contract.

**SECOND:** Jason Blanek

**FOR:** Blanek, Pendergraft, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Wetzel.

**AGAINST:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**6. Discussion and possible action authorizing the donation of five (5) Watchguard 4RE in-car camera systems and five (5) Stalker SDR 2X Radars to the Lorena Police Department.**

Lieutenant Peter Rivas informed council these are the same camera's the PD uses and the PD was awarded the donation from the Department of Public Safety Surplus Program. These will be used as backup for when the current cameras break or new vehicles are purchased.

**MOTION:** Carla Pendergraft moved to authorize the donation.

**SECOND:** Jason Blanek

**FOR:** Blanek, Pendergraft, Yarbrough, McKenzie and Wetzel.

**AGAINST:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**7. Police Department Report.**

Rivas stated the report is in the packet and will answer any questions. Blanek stated it looks like a pretty calm month.

**8. City Manager Report.**

**a. Senate Bill 1194 and House Bill 2626 creating Central Texas Water Alliance.**

City Manager Kevin Neal pointed out the information in the packet is for information only for the proposed bills.

**b. Phase I of Rosenthal Estates 3 houses complete and 11 under construction.**

**c. Grading permit issued for phase II of Rosenthal Estates on February 28th.**

**d. Baby Elizah Davis was born on February 24th at 8:43 A.M. weighing 6lbs, 15.5 oz, and measuring 18.5 inches long.**

Neal reported Court Clerk Kaylee Davis is doing well and spending quality time at home before returning to work.

**9. Future Agenda items.**

Jason Blanek asked again about the Rural Transit coming to a council meeting and Neal says he hasn't heard back from them and will follow-up again.

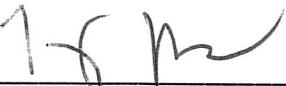
**10. Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code, Deliberations about Real Property: (1) To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.**  
Council convened into executive session at 7:01 p.m.

**11. Take any action based on discussions held in Executive Session under agenda item 10.**  
Council reconvened into regular session at 7:15 p.m. No action was taken on this item.

**12. Adjourn**

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

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

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

Attest:

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

