

§STATE OF TEXAS  
§CALDWELL COUNTY  
§CITY OF LULING

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LULING, MET IN BUDGET WORKSHOP  
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M. IN CITY HALL, 509 EAST  
CROCKETT STREET.**

The following members were present:

Mike Hendricks	Mayor
Jackie Campbell	Council Member
Melanie Doyle	Council Member
Wayne Tresner	Council Member
James Nickells	Council Member
C. J. Watts	Council Member

Staff Members present:

Mark Mayo	City Manager
Martha Velasquez	City Secretary
James Rougeou	Finance Director
William Sala	Police Chief

**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

Mayor Hendricks called the meeting to order and welcomed the visitors.

**2. Budget Work Session on the 2020/2021 Proposed Budget.**

City Manager, Mark Mayo, stated that Sonny Rougeou, Finance Director, had put this letter together for the Council and that they have gone through it. Based on the last Budget Workshop under scenario A, this is list of things, pending Council's approval, of some of the things several department heads requested and Council wanted us to come up with the list of things that were really needed and not a wish list. Under the General Fund the base minimum is to be (minimum by ordinance is \$737,000) \$1,000,040. That is where we are sitting at this time. If you look at the capital layout request; there is a list that shows 2020-2021 capital outlay request and it shows \$72,000 and that is included in the budget and what is not included \$562,035 and we can talk about those and also some things that we are waiting on quotes.

Water and wastewater is requesting a Hole hog, which is a piece of 5 ft. solid pipe and it pounds and pounds and you don't have to dig up the street. The \$30,000 is for the Hole hog and air compressor.

Mark stated that we could probably get some of this but we would need to go out for a bond or something. Pablo is asking for a generator for the Parks Department.

Mark stated that there is some equipment that is being asked for but that some of the prices on the equipment aren't high enough.

Council member CJ Watts asked about the sludge box and how they are talking about building a sludge box and that shouldn't cost as much as if we purchased one.

There are a couple of things that we need, like example the generator. There are grants that we can go for to get a generator.

The pump for Ottine is something that we definitely need, but it isn't something that we need at this time; maybe in the next 5 year but not now.

Another piece of equipment that is being asked for is a scorpion trailer which is a safety trailer that follows other equipment or workers. This is something that will probably be mandatory in the future but it isn't at this time, but something that we need to think about.

The sweeper truck that is on the list of equipment that they need it is twice the size of what we have now, what we have is a parking lot sweeper but right now we have what we can afford, but we really need a bigger sweeper for everyday use around the City.

Mark stated that what he is trying to say is that he thinks we can get some of these items, some of these items we can wait on, but the top items are some of things that we need.

Council Member James Nickells said that we are projecting to have \$167,000 positive fund balance at the end of this year, and we were supposed to have a deficit.

Sonny Rougeou, Finance Director, said that he is looking at the numbers and seeing what we can purchase now before the next Budget.

There was some talk about how much money has been spent on air conditioners.

Mark stated that we have done everything that was needed to do on the LCRA electric study and that it is time to do another study and that study cost will be put into our bill and we can pay it monthly in our bill from LCRA.

Jamie Nickells stated that when you do the study and see what repairs would need to done that maybe EDC can help with the cost to do repairs. He stated that when you do repairs that keeps the cost down on the electric rates.

Mark Mayo stated that since he has been here, we have lowered electric rates and that we have not transferred money from utility funds to general funds like the City used to do.

Council Member CJ Watts asked what we thought we should do, should we go through this budget item per item or what?

Sonny Rougeou stated that this does include a cost of living raise.

Mark stated that we can either approve with the budget with a deficit or approve the Council and then come by and approve budget amendments, once Sonny Rougeou goes through and has a true number of what some equipment cost that they want to include in the budget.

Everything would come back before the Council before things were purchased besides the things that were discussed today as items that were needed.

Mark Mayo stated that our Court Fees are down because of the indigent program. He stated that what we estimated our revenues were and our expenditures is a difference of about \$80,000. Mark stated that he wants the Council to know that legislation is killing us with some of these new laws.

After a lot of discussion on this budget, Council decided to go with the budget and then amend the budget after it was approved according to things that were needed. Council stated to go through the list and look at the things that are really needed and get them but not to get everything that is on the list.

3. **Adjourn**

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mike Hendricks, Mayor  
City of Luling

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Martha C. Velasquez  
City Secretary