

§STATE OF TEXAS
§CALDWELL COUNTY
§CITY OF LULING

THE CITY OF LULING CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 509 E. CROCKETT STREET, LULING, TEXAS.

The following members: present:

C. J. Watts	Mayor
Jackie Campbell	Council Member
Lee Rust	Council Member
Marc Taylor	Council Member
Raymond McGlothlin	Council Member
John Wells	Council Member

Staff Members present:

Mark Mayo	City Manager
Absent: Martha C. Velasquez	City Secretary
James Rougeou	Finance Director
William Sala	Police Chief
Trey Bailey	EDC Director
Bonnie Townsend	Municipal Judge
Eva Angeles	Court Clerk
Jeff Pehl	Assistant Police Chief
Uriel Valencia	Police Patrol Officer
Jessica L. Tucker	Deputy City Secretary

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Mayor CJ Watts opened the Regular Council Meeting at 6:00 PM and welcomed all present.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member John Wells led us in invocation. Everyone said the pledge of allegiance to the American and Texas flag.

3. Consent Agenda- *All consent agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. Information concerning consent agenda items is available for public view.*

- a. Approval of Minutes of the March 9, 2023 regular City Council meeting, Minutes of the Budget Workshops on March 23, 2023 and March 28, 2023 Minutes of the Special Called meeting of March 28, 2023 and Special Called meeting of March 30, 2023.**
- b. Consider/Approval of Accounts Payable.**
- c. Consider/action adopting a resolution of the City Council of the City of Luling, Texas designating the Luling Newsboy and Signal as the official newspaper for the City of Luling for fiscal year 2023-2024.**
- d. Consider/action a proclamation proclaiming the month of “April” as fair housing month in the City of Luling, Texas.**

- e. **Consider/action reappointing James Nickells, Eddie Moses, Linda Moore and Dennis Engelke to the Economic Development Corporation Board for a two year term.**

Council Member Jackie Campbell made a motion seconded by Council Raymond McGlothlin approving the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

4. Citizen Comment Period with City Council.

Any person with business before the City Council may speak to the Council at this time. No formal action can be taken on these items at this meeting. Comments will be limited to three (3) to five (5) minutes per person.

No citizens were present to make any comments.

5. Proclamation for Hays Caldwell County Child Abuse and Sexual Assault.

Lisa Jabsen was present to accept the Proclamation for Hays Caldwell County. Mayor CJ Watts proclaimed April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Brandi, the Training Coordinator for CASA of Central Texas was also present to accept the Proclamation for Hays Caldwell County. In 2022, CASA served over 562 children, an additional 309 children were without a volunteer. She wanted to ask the community to wear blue in recognition of the children that experience abuse and also wanted to present the opportunities to become a CASA volunteer.

6. Proclamation/recognition of National Autism Acceptance Month, April 2023.

Sabrina Aldis, Board Secretary of CNC Spectrum Infinity, and Adriana Romero, Board Treasury of CNC Spectrum Infinity were both present. Mayor CJ Watts wanted to recognize that Sabrina and Adriana held an Autism walk at Longer Park on April 2, 2023 that was very successful and brought the community together.

Mayor CJ Watts proclaimed April 2023 National Autism Acceptance Month in Luling.

Adriana Romero gave a speech about how they started the program CNC Spectrum Infinity.

7. Consider/action approving the Luling Economic Development budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Trey Bailey, EDC Director, opened by first thanking the Council for reappointing the board of directors for EDC. Trey Bailey started by showing the operating budget for fiscal 2023-2024. Trey explained that everything is the same as last year's budget except for the salary which will mirror the 3% cost of living raise that the City of Luling is giving.

The general budget showed revenues at 600,000.00 in sales tax receipts. Last year, there was a 667,582.00 in sales tax receipts. Estimated interest is 35,000, with 46,000 in interest last year. General budget also showed contractual obligations with Main Street and they've added in \$48,850 to this year's budget because they're participating in a Caldwell County Economic Approach with Lockhart, Uland and Caldwell County. \$5,000 is set aside for Greater San Marcos Partnership. An amount of \$8,000 in professional services which is for Legal and Audit Fees was also a part of the general budget.

Council member Jackie Campbell pointed out that EDC budgeted \$15,000 for advertisement and promotions, but only used \$700 last year. Trey responded by explaining that the EDC plans to bring in a new website this year that will use up the budget that they allocated.

After expenses are deducted from the anticipated revenues, it will leave a net \$457,601.00 that EDC plans to use for workforce development, job creation programs, business community development programs, recreation, housing and lodging, and tourism.

The fund balance shows monies that have ben appropriated but unspent. The balance shows \$1, 572,123.86. Trey was open to answering any questions after presenting the budget. Sonny said this was vetted and recommended by the EDC Board.

Council Member Jackie Campbell made a motion seconded by Council Member John Wells to approve the Luling Economic Development budget 2023-2024 as presented to the council.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

8. Consider/action a proposal from Schneider for distributed generation ordinance and guidelines development.

Mark explained that ever since the winter storm, legislature has been getting tighter on rules and regulations. We have a growing number of citizens that want to put solar in our system and our current ordinance is out of date. The City of Luling does not have someone with expertise in solar to update the ordinance with all the rules and regulations. Schneider Electric would work with the City of Luling and with LCRA on putting a new solar ordinance together. The service cost will not exceed \$6,500.

Council Member Raymond McGlothlin made a motion seconded by Council Member Lee Rust to approve the proposal from Schneider as presented to the council.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

9. Consider/action an Interlocal Agreement Amendment between the City of Luling and Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA).Plum Creek Watershed.

Mark explained that our participation in costs is not changing on the agreement, but chance of having to hire someone due to lack of funding through grants have been added. If changes were to arise in the future, they would have to notify the City of Luling. Our current commitment is only \$1,017.00

Lee said that during the next GBRA meeting, they will look at taking the organization to a non-profit. The Watershed Coordinator helps in many areas to assist the city as in, picking up and disposing of tires, to helping the city find grant funding for flood mitigation.

Council Member Lee Rust made a motion seconded by Council Member Jackie Campbell to approve the Interlocal Agreement Amendment as presented to the council.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

10. Consider/action awarding bid for the Municipal Court Delinquent Case Collection Services.

Mark noted that we had two submissions for bid for the collection services. One bid was from Linebarger and the other was from our current collection services Mccreary Veselka Bragg & Allen

(MVBA). Those present from MVBA were: Craig Morgan, Katherine Torrence, and Chris Veselka. Those present from Linebarger: JJ Wells, Sam Turner and Sara Hayne.

Mark asked Bonnie Townsend, Municipal Court Judge, to speak on a recommendation. Bonnie stated that she's known all the representatives for quite some time. She says that bid process for these collection services is not like other bid processes. One bid will not be lower than another. The big is driven by statute, its 30% on top of the balance with fines and fees. The collection services help get people in to the court to pay what is due to the court. The Luling Municipal Court has been with MVBA since 2005 and have done a very good job. She is happy with the services that MVBA has been providing and she doesn't feel a need for change at this time.

Mark stated that he, Bonnie, Sonny and Mayor CJ Watts met about both RFP's and they decided that the city will stay with MVBA. Mark thanked everyone for showing up from both Law firms and said that he would like to meet with MVBA soon to discuss some future goals.

Council Member Jackie Campbell made a motion seconded by Council Member John Wells to award the bid to McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

11. Consider/action declaring equipment surplus.

Mark stated that the Council has a list of items with pictures in their packet. Some items on the list include an old golf cart, and old sweeper, a couple of trailers, two old water pumps that are wore out, and an exhaust fan that was donated to us. He noted that all these items are worn out and would like to present all these items as surplus so that the City can put them up for auction. New leased vehicles have replaced the vehicles being put up for surplus.

Council Member Jackie Campbell made a motion seconded by Council Member Marc Taylor to accept the equipment as surplus as presented to the council.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

12. Consider/action approving a mission statement for the City of Luling.

Mark reminded us of the strategic planning workshop with Alysia Cook, Opportunity Strategies. He stated that we needed to pick out and submit a mission statement for the City of Luling to Alysia and she will in turn submit the strategic planning proposal.

Council Member Jackie Campbell said she liked "The mission of the City of Luling is to promote a safe and healthy environment for the citizens by providing superior services, facilities, and opportunities for our community to prosper."

Council Member John Wells said he had a couple that he liked. One was "Luling, the crossroads for Texas and for the future." He felt like it needed to be short and to the point.

Council Member John Wells made a motion seconded by Council Member Lee Rust approving "Luling, the crossroads for Texas and for the future." as the City's new mission statement.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

13. Consider/action annual budget amendment for fiscal year ending 2022-2023

Sonny stated that he looked at each line item prior to the fiscal year end. Instead of bringing a budget amendment each month to a council meeting, he likes to present an annual budget amendment. In the general fund, the total additional appropriation is \$17,725.00, but there is revenue to offset that balance with reimbursement of \$24,000 in state funding for three (3) EMS personnel that are going to Paramedic School.

The total utility fund appropriation was used for water leaks and sewer line replacement throughout the year for a total of \$856,900, which is offset by additional revenue from the following: electric \$300,000, water \$35,000, garbage \$23,400 and also the second year of the Covid Relief Fund federal grant in the amount of \$498,000. The Covid Relief Fund was not budgeted, so it offset the additional expenditures in the utility fund for all the water and sewer projects throughout the year.

Council Member John Wells made a motion seconded by Council Member Raymond McGlothlin to approve the annual budget amendment as presented to the council.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

14. Consider/action amending FY 2023-2024 budget to reflect a one-time bonus to all employees.

The cost of living increase of 3% and 6% for our employees was entered into the system. At that time, it was discovered that the number of hours that were used to calculate the annual salaries was incorrect due to the use of on-call hours for public works employees and library part-time clerks. After the new figures were entered, there was a surplus of \$116,000 that could still be used towards cost of living raises. At the last budget meeting, it was decided to move that money into contingency, in the utility fund, until the council could decide how to use the surplus.

Sonny explained that if council approved this particular action, he would present a budget amendment to move the funds out of contingency and move them to each individual departments. Mayor CJ Watts told the council that she met with Sonny and Mark and they decided on two options: to give a \$1,000 bonus to all 81 full-time employees as of March 31, 2023 totaling \$92,469.60, and option two would be to give a \$1,200 bonus to all 81 full-time employees as of March 31, 2023 totaling \$110,963.52.

Council Member Lee Rust asked who qualified as a full-time employee. Mark stated that it would be employees that reach a total of 32 hours and over in a work week. Sonny stated that if these bonuses are awarded, they will be paid out on a separate check with all taxes withheld.

Council Member Lee Rust made a motion seconded by Council Member Raymond McGlothlin to give a one-time bonus of \$1,200 to all full-time city employees as presented to the council.

The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

15. Police Department Monthly Activity Report.

Police Chief Bill Sala stated that he didn't have anything to add to his report. He said that they are still waiting for vehicles to come in. The only vehicle in is the Animal Control vehicle. The new dispatcher is Gena Edwards.

Mark made an announcement about S. Hackberry being closed, from Hwy 80 to Hwy 90, for construction starting on Friday, April 14th. The road is going to be closed through the weekend.

16. Executive Session: The City Council will conduct an Executive Session in accordance with the Government Code §551.074 – Personnel Matters. (City Manager's Evaluation)

The Mayor and Council went into Executive Session at 6:47 PM.

17. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consider Action, if any on Items discussed in Executive Session.

The Mayor and Council reconvened into regular session at 7:50 PM. Mayor CJ Watts stated that there was no action taken in Executive Session.

18. Adjourn.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Approved: _____

CJ Watts, Mayor
City of Luling, Texas

Jessica L. Tucker
Deputy City Secretary