

§STATE OF TEXAS
§CALDWELL COUNTY
§CITY OF LULING

THE CITY OF LULING CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON THURSDAY, MAY 11, 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
Ray McGlothlin	Council Member
John Wells	Council Member

Staff Members present:

Mark Mayo	City Manager
Martha C. Velasquez	City Secretary
James Rougeou	Finance Director
William Sala	Police Chief
Jessica L. Tucker	Deputy City Secretary

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**
2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.**
(Texas Pledge: Honor the Texas flag, I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible)

Pastor Allen Davis said the invocation and we pledged allegiance to the Texas and American 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 April 13 regular City Council meeting..**
 - b. **Consider/Approval of Accounts Payable.**

Mayor Watts thanked Council Member Marc Taylor for getting us a framed Texas pledge.
Mayor asked all visitors to please sign in if they hadn't done it.

Council member Jackie Campbell made a motion seconded by Council Member Ray 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.

Mayor Watts stated that there were a couple of young ladies that are running for Watermelon Thump Queen.

Evelyn Hicks came before the Council and stated that she is running for Thump Queen this year.

Alyson Taylor stated that she is running for the 70th annual Thump Queen. Both candidates would appreciate your vote if you aren't committed to someone else.

5. **Canvass election.**

Mayor Watts canvassed the May 6, 2023 General Election for the City of Luling.

Council Ward 1 Total votes received 47 -Election Day 14 votes Early Voting 33votes

Council Ward 2 Total votes received 99 - Election Day 24 votes Early Voting 75 votes

Council Ward 3 Total votes received 43 - Election Day 18 votes Early Voting 24 Mail in 1

ADDENDUM -

6. **Discussion and possible action on an order declaring the charter amendments approved at the May 6, 2023 election adopted.**

Mayor CJ Watts read the Charter Amendments

Council Member John Wells made a motion seconded by Council Member Lee Rust adopting the order declaring the charter amendments proposition 2 and proposition 3 as approved and adopted at the May 6, 2023 election adopted. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

7. **Mayor C J Watts will issue certificates of election to the elected officers of the 2023 General Election.**

Mayor Watts issued the certificates of election to the elected officers of the 2023 General Election, which were Council Member Jackie Campbell – Ward 1, Council Member Lee Rust – Ward 2 and Council Member Marc Taylor – Ward 3.

8. **City Secretary, Martha Velasquez will administer the statement of Elected Officers and Oath of Office to the elected officers of the 2023.**

City Secretary, Martha Velasquez administered the statement of elected officers and Oath of Office to the elected officers of the 2023 General Election, which were Council Member Jackie Campbell – Ward 1, Council Member Lee Rust – Ward 2 and Council Member Marc Taylor – Ward 3.

9. **Consider/action to elect a Mayor Pro-tem in accordance with Section 3.05 of the City of Luling Charter.**

Council Member Ray McGlothlin made a motion seconded by Council Member Jackie Campbell electing Council Member John Wells – Ward 5 to Mayor Pro-tem in accordance with Section 3.05 of the City of Luling Charter. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

10. **Presentation from Alfonso Sifuentes with Central Texas Refuse / 130 Environmental Park.**

Alfonso Sifuentes, Director of the Public Sector and Community Relations, brought a presentation stating that they offer free disposal once a week for all Caldwell County residents. They will provide funding for 5 Community wide disposal events. Mr. Sifuentes stated that at this time they are open Monday through Friday, and later look at opening on Saturdays
They are looking at building a community center where they can have a facility to have meetings.

11. Consider/action a resolution on Texas Smart Buy Membership Program.

City Manager, Mark Mayo stated that this is a program like the Buy Board which allows us to purchase items at a lower bid price like state agencies.

Council Member Jackie Campbell made a motion seconded by Council Member Marc Taylor approving the resolution on Texas Smart Buy Membership Program. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

12. Consider/action amending the outside city limit electric base fee from \$12.74 to \$18.74.

City Manager, Mark Mayo, stated that when we adopted the fees and rates we adopted the electric base rate as residential and we did not specify inside or outside city limits. So we want to amend the electric base rate to reflect outside and inside city limits.

Council Member John Wells made a motion seconded by Council Member Jackie Campbell approving the amendment to the outside city limit electric base fee from \$12.74 to \$18.74. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

13. Consider/action approving payment request #1 for G-5 Utilities, LLC on the Alamo Street water and sewer extensions in the amount of \$70,637.05.

Finance Director, Sonny Rougeou stated that the amount for payment request is \$63,573.35 instead of the \$70,637.05 because of the retainage.

Council Member Lee Rust made a motion seconded by Council Member Raymond McGlothlin approving payment request #1 to G-5 Utilities, LLC on the Alamo Street water and sewer extensions in the amount of \$63,573.35. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

14. Police Department Monthly Activity Report.

Chief Sala gave his monthly report, there were no questions.

15. City Manager's Monthly Update on EDA Grant and Industrial Park.

City Manager Mark Mayo stated that this was not going to be a monthly update that it would be a quarterly report. He gave a report on the EDA grant, the attorney's found some wording on the broadband portion that required changes. The attorney for EDA grant had been out for a while in Washington but they are back and the changes were sent to VTX1 (broadband provider) we are now waiting on the approval letter from EDA in about 2 weeks. TDA grant that we did receive we are holding on to because these 2 grants run together for the improvements at the Industrial Park, and they will be submitted at the same time. This will cover the u shoe road improvements and water improvements.

The Industrial Park is in negotiations for a new business to relocate to the Industrial Park; Mark stated that he is not going to mention the name of the company at this time.

The Evacuation Center sold to Caldwell County and they have seen the first phase of the Evacuation Center which will be about 4,200 sq. ft. and house 350 people in the event of an evacuation and 650 people comfortable for special event. The equestrian center will consist of 3 buildings, a rodeo arena, staging area and livestock pens, for a total of 120,000 sq. ft.

Mark Mayo stated that we cleared out the area where the airport hangars were and all the tin has been removed. He stated that the 2 portable buildings left behind have been sold and are gone. The rodeo arena building has been sold at auction. The only thing left out there is the old airplane and it will be moved over to the airport so that kids can play out there.

Mark stated that to date 47 rockets motors have been tested at the Luling site (Xbow) and we have not received one complaint on anything. 20 rocket motors are scheduled to be tested in June, 11 employees are at the Luling office site and hopefully by the end of June all the employees at the New Mexico site will be transferred to the Luling office.

16. **Adjourn.**

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: _____

CJ Watts, Mayor
City of Luling

Martha C. Velasquez
City Secretary