

§STATE OF TEXAS
§CALDWELL COUNTY
§CITY OF LULING

THE CITY OF LULING CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON THURSDAY, ,JULY 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
Lee Rust	Council Member
Marc Taylor	Council Member
Ray McGlothlin	Council Member
John Wells	Council Member

Council Member Jackie Campbell was absent.

City Secretary Martha Velasquez was absent.

Staff Members present were:

Mark Mayo	City Manager
James Rougeou	Finance Director
William Sala	Police Chief
James Pehl	Asst. Police Chief
Ryan DeCamp	Code Enforcement Officer
Mona Harmon	Librarian
Buddy Pearson	Public Works Director
Jessica Tucker	Asst. City Secretary

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Mayor Watts called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

EMS Director, Richard Slaughter led us in our invocation followed by 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 June 8, 2023 regular City Council meeting.**
- b. Consider/Approval of Accounts Payable.**
- c. Consider/action budget amendments for fiscal year 2023-2024 budget.**

Council Member John Wells 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.

There were no citizen comments.

AGENDA ADDENDUM

The following item is added to the main agenda:

**Consider/action reappointing Tommie Cooper and James Montgomery to the Luling Housing Authority Board for the remaining of their 1 year term.
Consider/action reappointing Jeff Ferry, Ada Kyle and Jeff Sanderson for a two year term**

Mayor Watts stated that Brandy Hardeman and Ada Kyle were present if the Council had any questions. There were no questions and Council Member Lee Rust made a motion seconded by Council Member Marc Taylor approving the motion to reappoint Tommie Cooper and James Montgomery to the Luling Housing Authority Board for the remainder of their 1 year term. And reappointing Ada Kyle and Jeff Sanderson for a two year term. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

5. Presentation from Denise Green and Lindsey Wallace on the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse.

Mayor Watts stated that this is a presentation and no council action will be taken on this agenda item. Denise Green, with Holly Quilts stated that although she does not live inside the city limits she does own a business downtown and what happens in Luling does directly effect her and her employees. Mrs. Green stated that there are two eclipses happening and one is happening this year Saturday, October 14th it will be an annular eclipse and the second one will be a total solar Monday, April 8, 2024. She stated that we need to be prepared because a lot of people will be passing through Luling to get to San Antonio and Hill Country. City Manager, Mark Mayo asked Mrs. Green if she could leave some information so we could post on our website.

Kelly Quinney stated that she is a recent retiree from UT's astronomy department in Austin and back in 2017 when there was an eclipse there was over 3,000 people in the plaza and next year they will be holding it in the stadium. She stated that this is a huge deal. Denise Green stated that she wants Luling citizens to be prepared for this event, she feels there will be a lot of traffic with people traveling through Luling to get to and from the San Antonio, Austin and Waco areas for this total solar eclipse.

6. Presentation from Kelly Quinney on a monthly Artisan Market.

Ms. Quinney stated that she did some research about getting some shows and getting an Artisan Market started here in Luling. She stated she is owner of a soap company. She would like to have the shows the 3rd Saturday from March to October. The show is a total Artisan Market, she would like to showcase things that are handmade. She would like to cottage, bakers. Her goal is to get people to wander downtown and if people see tents they will go see what is happening and stop at our local shops. She stated that she feels good about getting a true Artisan downtown.

Mayor Watts stated that there is a lot of talent in Luling and this would be a great opportunity for our citizens to showcase their work.

7. Presentation from Council Member Lee Rust on a Dog Park at Blanche Park.

Council Rust brought a presentation about getting a dog park, he stated that he is not looking for funds what he is wanting to know is if the City Council is on board about having a dog park. Dogs are being used more and more for special needs people and dogs need a place to be able to run loose and be safe. Council Member Lee Rust stated that He stated that there were visitors that wanted to speak about the dog park.

Georgian Matthews, owner of the Luling Animal House for over 35 years stated a dog park would be a great place for dogs to run loose. She stated that travelers that come through Luling and our citizens need a place to take their dogs and allow them to run loose.

Patti Scandal with Patti's Paws, she stated that she gets a lot of people asking if Luling has a dog park and she feels that we need one and hopes that the City will consider bringing a dog park to Luling.

Mayor Watts stated that she appreciates the presentation that was brought before the Council and that there was a lot of work put into it and appreciates all the inputs. She stated that she feels the area that they are looking at is very small.

Council Member John Wells stated that he wishes the area was bigger because it is too small.

City Manager, Mark Mayo, stated that the North Park or South Park would be a better area since there is more space

Mayor Watts stated that she was told that there is a big liability to the City when you have a dog park.

8. Discussion and possible action on a Resolution granting the consent of the City of Luling, Texas to the creation of Caldwell County Emergency Services District No. 5.

City Manager, Mark Mayo, stated that this would be a taxing district and all EMS services in Caldwell County would be part of this creation if it is passed. There will be two (2) public hearings on this, the first one being Tuesday, July 25th.

Following discussion, Council Member Ray McGlothlin made a motion seconded by Council Member John Wells approving the resolution granting the consent of the City of Luling, Texas to the creation of Caldwell County Emergency Services District No. 5. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

9. Discussion and possible action on Pay Request#3 for \$157,026.50 from G5 Utilities for the Luling Alamo Sewer and Water Improvement Project.

City Manager, Mark Mayo stated that the engineers had signed off on this invoice and that they are retaining the retainage and holding on to additional funds for additional permits that will be needed.

Council Member Lee Rust made a motion seconded by Council Member Marc Taylor to pay request #3 for \$157,026.50 from G5 Utilities for the Luling Alamo Sewer and Water Improvement Project but subtracting \$433.38 in reference to 410 Wall Street. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

10. Discussion and possible action on approving a contract between City of Luling and ATS Engineers, Inspectors and Surveyors.

Ryan DeCamp stated that he came before the Council last month and this month we need to approve the contract. City Manager, Mark Mayo stated that the fees were the same as the fees brought before Council last month.

Council Member Lee Rust inquired as to when they would start using ATS? City Manager stated if this was approved it would be within a couple of weeks.

Council Member John Wells made a motion seconded by Council Member Ray McGlothlin approving a contract between City of Luling and ATS Engineers, Inspectors and Surveyors. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

- 11. Discussion and possible action on a Resolution of the City of Luling, Texas, approving a project of the Luling Economic Development Corporation, to wit: a grant of up to \$50,000, to Fox Tank Company in consideration of establishing a business enterprise in the City; bringing full-time, Texas Local Government Code; providing for two separate readings; open meeting and adoption, and an effective date.**

EDC Director, Trey Bailey stated that this is the first reading of a resolution and they are required by law anytime they enter into a performance agreement or incentive package with a project that is over \$10,000 to bring before Council with 2 readings and then next month get approval.

Council Member Lee Rust made a motion seconded by Council Member John Wells approving a project of the Luling Economic Development Corporation, to wit: a grant of up to \$50,000, to Fox Tank Company in consideration of establishing a business enterprise in the City: bringing full time, Texas Local Government Code; providing for two separate readings; open meeting and adoption, and an effective date. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

- 12. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2023-R-09 disapproving of the Caldwell County Appraisal District Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.**

City Manager, Mark Mayo stated that the CCAD is looking at giving exorbitant raises and that all other entities are struggling to give raises. He stated that we need to get 50% disapproval rate and the CCAD will need to go back to the drawing board and start over. Council Member John Wells stated this is about a 22% raise and last year it was about 40%.

Council Member John Wells made a motion seconded by Council Member Ray McGlothlin approving Resolution 2023-R-09 DISAPPROVAL of the Caldwell county Appraisal District Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

- 13. Police Department Monthly Activity Report.**

There were no questions asked of Chief Sala.

- 14. Adjourn.**

Council Member John Well made a motion seconded Council Member Ray McGlothlin to adjourn meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approved: _____

C.J. Watts, Mayor
City of Luling, Texas

Martha C. Velasquez
City Secretary