

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 13, 2020**

The Linden City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mary Daughety Senior Citizens' Center, 507 S. Kaufman, Cass County, Linden, Texas.

Members present were: Mayor Clarence Burns; City Councilmen Frank Lanier, Chuck Evans, Mike Berry, Kenny Hamilton, and City Councilwoman Jeanie Stevens. The following guests were present: Terressa Wall, Algera Anderson, Robert Luzio, Luci Trahan, Christophe Trahan, Bri Thomas, Josh McCaine Metro, Jeff Cooper Texas Fire & Apparatus, Jeanie Cass County Sun, and Bob Swisher.

The Mayor called the meeting to order, Mr. Swisher gave the invocation, and the Mayor welcomed the guests.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Lanier to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. All yeas.

Motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Stevens to approve the current bills and bank statements. All yeas.

LEDC Update: Mr. Trahan stated he has been researching government grant process for small businesses. He stated he has been meeting with business owners on an appointment basis and helping to connect them for assistance in getting help. He stated the LEDC audits were approved and that the CPA will be present to go over the audits with the city council in May if meeting is held in person or in June if not. He then went over the March and April sales tax, stating the sales tax was up for March and down from last April 10%. He added the industries hit hardest were the restaurant and entertainment businesses.

Mr. Swisher discussed the Fast Grant stating 3 bids were received and evaluated. He suggested awarding the contract for this grant to Metro Fire Apparatus whose submitted bid was \$463,913.00. He stated the grant has a match, which will be \$5,000.00 and the contract # is 7219146. Plans are to retire the '87 Chev. Fire truck and the jeep.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Evans to award Metro Fire Apparatus Fast Grant Contract # 7219146. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher then discussed the CDBG Downtown Renovation Grant, stating it is 50% sidewalks and 50% streets drainage inside the Main Street District. He stated the council needs to hire a grant administrator/writer for the grant. He stated it is for \$500,000.00 with a variable match between 3%-15%, and will probably be 8%-10%, and between \$50-\$500,000.00.

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Mr. Berry to hire a Grant Administrator for the CDBG Downtown Renovation Grant. All yeas.

Librarian position changes were discussed. Ms. Anderson stated she would like for the position to be full time salaried pay with benefits, working 31 hrs per week, with a salary of \$28,000.00. She stated the applicant does not have to have a Masters in Library Science because we are so small.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Berry to approve the librarian position changes. All yeas.

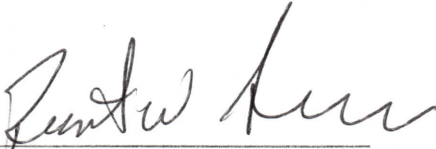
Allie Anderson stated the Wildflower Trails tees are for sale. She stated there will be a FB Group for Main Street Businesses and she thanked LEDC for helping the businesses seek government help. She stated with Community Development she is working from home, studying for second accreditation and will be taking an exam next week.

Robert Luzio stated pretty much all leaks had been fixed and stated about 200,000 gallons was the daily water usage. He stated one sewer line was replaced and then he went over the fire department report. He stated with the guidelines for COVID responses were cut down on those calls.

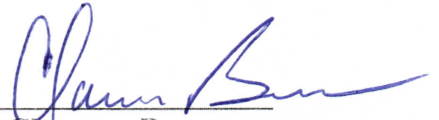
Mr. Swisher stated the EMS contract from Christus to LifeNet will be a June contract. He then stated Christus is on hold with the gym project. He stated there are two new hires in the street department and asked for everyone to call in about culverts that are stopped up. He stated street work will be done with warm up in weather. He stated City Hall will be closed to walk in traffic until restrictions are lifted. He then stated architects with qualifications will be contacted for packages on parking lots.

Mayor Burns suggested the city hold off on bond issuance right now due to Municipal Bond interest rates being higher than loan interest rates at this time.

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Ms. Stevens to adjourn. All yeas.



Robert W. Swisher
City Administrator


Clarence Burns
Mayor

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