

**REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2018**

The Linden City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:00p.m. at the Mary Daughety Senior Citizens' Center, 507 S. Kaufman, Cass County, Linden, Texas.

Members present were: Mayor Clarence Burns; City Councilmen Mike Berry and Frank Lanier, and City Councilwoman Jeanie Stevens. Members absent were: City Councilwoman Sue Lazara and City Councilman Kenny Hamilton. The following guests were present: Bob Swisher, Terressa Wall, Algera Anderson, Ben Woods, Robert Luzio, Eric Lee, Gus Gustafson, Rhonda Jones, Toni Henry, Lucinda Trahan, Tony and Jeanette McDuffie, Josh Lane, Chris Meggs, Belinda Meggs, JoAnna Duncan, Mary Dowd, and Thomas Duncan.

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

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Lanier to approve the minutes from the previous meetings. All yeas.

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

LEDC Update: Mr. Gustafson stated the sales tax report was down for one month, but the same for the year as this time last year. He stated the LEDC audits will be presented by Mr. Caver at the March meeting. He also stated the Kirkland house is on the ground and the locker plant property is being cleaned up.

Rhonda Jones with Holliday, Lemons, & Cox, P.C. went over the annual city audit for FY 2017. She stated that Toni had conducted the majority of the audit this year. She went over the basic information on the audit and asked for any questions from the council.

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Mr. Berry to approve the audit as presented by Rhonda Jones. All yeas.

Allie Anderson-Main Street Manager stated the ½ term board members have been reappointed a second full term. She stated there is one new board member Ben Woods.

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Berry to appoint the board members to the Main Street advisory board. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher discussed the CDBG-DR grant with the council. He stated the only expense up front is for advertising for a grant administrator and an engineering firm for the project.

Motion by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Lanier to adopt the resolution to move forward to hire a grant administrator and an engineer for the CDBG-DR project. All yeas.

Mr. Meggs addressed the council to request city sewer connection to 507 Center Hill Road. Mr. Swisher stated the approximate cost of the pipe is \$1,200, fittings \$200, and labor around 100 hrs for a total of around \$1,500. He stated this can only be done on a time available basis and this project will take approximately a ten year payback. Mr. Meggs then stated that he had done what the city had told them to do and after four months they are waiting to be connected. Different ideas were discussed as ways to connect this property to the city sewer, including Mr. Meggs purchasing a grinder pump for his property.

Police Chief Eric Lee discussed an E Grant Retention of Evidence with the council. He stated it will be for five vehicles and includes in-car videos, body cams, and a server for downloads. The cost per each is \$2,019.00 and is an 80/20 match. He stated the department would apply now and the next budget will include \$10,000.00 for this grant.

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Ms. Stevens to approve the E Grant Retention of Evidence Grant as presented. All yeas.

Allie Anderson stated that Linden Public Library needs to be accredited with the state for it to receive E rate, a possible 10% of the phone/internet bill total. She stated the inside of the library is complete. The next step is sidewalks, ADA compliance, and parking. She stated the January meeting for Main Street lined out Spring activities. She stated she was speaker at the National Heritage Foundation. She stated in January there is the Martin Luther King Parade. She also stated the Linden United will be sponsoring a Cruise Night and a new pizza business will be opening soon. At the next meeting annexation of the Linden Public House as a Main Street District business. She stated she has been working on the Wildflower Trails Festival, signage system, annual report, and the national office report. She stated the city Main Street Program has been nationally accredited and this will be a March recognition.

Police Chief Eric Lee went over the monthly police report with the council.

Robert Luzio-Public Works stated the cold weather had kept city crews busy, both water lines breaking due to the freezing weather and sewer line stop ups most every day. He then went over the fire report. He stated the Texas Forest Service funding was not approved for any grants funds right now.

Mr. Swisher stated in March plans are to repair the street and parking lot at Linden United Methodist Church. He stated that Precinct Commissioner 1 Brett Fitts will be helping the city with this. He also stated paperwork on grants has been keeping him busy.

Mayor Burns stated within a week or so the new pizza restaurant will be opening.

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

Clarence Burns
Mayor

Robert W. Swisher
City Administrator