

**REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

The Linden City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 13, 2016 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 Kenny Hamilton, and Mike Berry ; City Councilwomen Ruth Halleck, Jeanie Stevens, and Sue Lazara; and the following guests: Bob Swisher, Terressa Wall, Robert Luzio, Beverly Freeman, Russell Wright, Joe P. Early, Chuck Evans, Kayla Williams, Lucy Heide, Jo Miller, Carla Surratt, Renee Murphy, Judy Lanier, Frank Lanier, Teri Boland, Julie Morgan, Frank Freeman, Vera Allen, Darryl Allen, Nancy Belford, Sammy Bailey, Stacey Rogers, Annis Hays, Nathan Trammell, Mildred McDuffie, Lucky Boyd, Jinelle Boyd, Megan & Russell Dickinson, Catherine Knapp, Kate Turner, Jo Anna Duncan, Roger Warren, Dempsey Thomas, Ben Woods, Floyzell Stevenson, Richard Bowden, Holly Bowden, Emily Henderson, Dan Boon, Janet Boon, Betty Law, Lou Johnson, Linda Wells, Larry Wells, Rhonda Jones, Glenn Lanier, Allie Anderson, David Hulme, Sam Corbett, Josh Lane, Paula Aleman, Kyle Morgan, Eric Bond, Tanya Bond, Judy Sullivan, Daphne Leach, Allen Leach, Patricia Love, Larry Love, Gary Albertson II, and Police Chief Alton McWaters.

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

Public Comment:

Kate Turner stated her past experience with nonprofits and economic development and stated she felt there needs to be new leadership organization in the LEDC.

JoAnna Duncan stated she supported the LEDC, that they were the first people there for her when she opened her new business and that she had no loan from them.

Anna Barber stated she was a building owner and that she had been helped by both the City Council and LEDC and wanted to thank them both.

Richard Bowden stated the LEDC had loaned Music City Texas Theatre funds and that since he's been back in Linden, he has strived for economic development. He added there needs to be no mudslinging and vendettas.

David Hulme stated Music City Texas Theatre started work hoping to stimulate the economy. He stated the LEDC had given them a loan and that he supports LEDC, adding sure there have been missteps along the way.

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

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

Rhonda Jones-Holiday Lemons Cox in Texarkana stated their firm gave an unqualified opinion which is what the city wants. She briefly went over the annual audit, stating the deficit is mostly made up of depreciation, with Capital Improvements of the water tank and the police department building.

Mr. Swishser stated systems are depreciated and thanked Rhonda for all their help while completing the audit.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Lazara to accept the annual audit. All yeas.

Kathy Boyles stated there have been 5 homes completed with the home program and that there are 3 more to be built. She stated there have been 3 contractors which turned in bids for the new homes: Cypress Creek Homes, Graco Homes, and Whittaker Homes. Graco Homes was the low bidder for the project.

Motion by Ms. Lazara, seconded by Ms. Halleck to accept the low bid from Graco Homes for contractor for the Home Program. All yeas.

Mrs. Boyles then presented a resolution for the Home Program which authorizes submission of application.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Lazara to adopt the resolution authorizing submission of the Home Program application. All yeas.

Gary Albertson, the City Attorney stated the LEDC directors would propose the limit of bylaws and then provide them to the City Council for approval. He stated he called TML and was told directors could be removed for cause which is what is stated in the articles of incorporation. He stated the City Council was not authorized to make the changes. He instructed the City Council to rescind the previous motion.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Berry to repeal the term limits previously approved. Two yeas – Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Berry, and three nays – Ms. Stevens, Ms. Lazara, and Ms. Halleck.

LEDC update – Mrs. Freeman went over the sales tax report, stating the City Council had been provided a 10 year history report on flash drives, with a 10 year loan history still to come. She stated LEDC is working with Holiday, Lemons, and Cox on their annual audit. She stated the City Council appoints the LEDC Board, both the A and B Corporations. She stated LEDC hires the executive director, and the executive director hires the office manager. She further stated the City Council approves the budgets and audits. She stated the mission of the LEDC is to assist business and job creation and that they had operated in the black since inception. She stated LEDC supports qualified projects: Parks/Business Incentives/Downtown Revitalization.

Concerned citizens' comments:

John Baxter spoke to the City Council regarding streets around the courthouse square.

Carla Surratt stated she wants to help make the city grow, that unity has fallen by the wayside, and that everyone needs to work together and stick together.

Judy Lanier stated that removal of the LEDC Board was from a deceptive spirit over our city. She spoke of the men on the LEDC Boards integrity and urged unity.

Joe Pat Early stated the seven members of the LEDC Board are all successful businessmen and are three of the city's largest employers.

Larry Wells, President of the LEDC Board stated the existing board understands the request for new ideas, but the board needs knowledge and experience, that there is no need to dismiss the entire board at the same time. He stated the city needs unity to increase, not decrease. He stated the LEDC feels that the City Council doesn't want to work with the LEDC Board. He stated the LEDC Board Members strive to improve the city, that the LEDC Board Members integrity has been threatened. He also stated the LEDC has nothing to hide, that priority is to work together, discuss issues, and move forward.

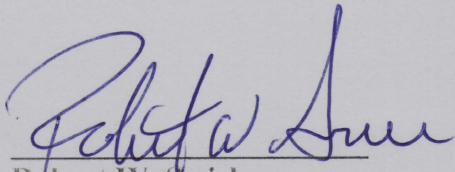
Renee Murphy went over the monthly police report with the council.

Mr. Luzio stated water leaks have slowed down. He stated the water line on Rush Street has been completed and Well # 6 pump motor and pipe had to be replaced unexpectedly. He then went over the fire report.

Mr. Swisher updated the Home Program progress and stated the Main Street has a great advisory board, which he stated LEDC needs to support Main Street, and he encouraged the City Council to consider options, adding we need to be united and knock off the fighting.

Mayor Burns stated Music City Texas Theatre has upcoming shows: February 18 Hickory Hill and March 11 Asleep at the Wheel. He added the Wildflower Trails will be held on April 28 and 29.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Berry to adjourn. All yeas.


Robert W. Swisher
City Administrator

Clarence Burns
Mayor