

**REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2020**

The Linden City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 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. City Councilwoman Jeanie Stevens was absent. The following guests were present: Terressa Wall, Algera Anderson, Bob Swisher, Luci Trahan, Christophe Trahan, Lynn Reynolds, Denise Hass, Mary Dowd, Brenda Swisher, Shawna McElfish, Parker Harrison, Joseph Swanson, Kathy Boyles, Larry Allen, Whitney Goebel, Caleb Goebel, Prencess Spelling, Marcus Spelling, and Jamie Jeans.

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

Public Comment: Mrs. Haas gave library updates to the city council, stating everything is up other than new memberships.

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

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

LEDC Update: Mr. Trahan stated he has continued to work with small business owners to help with the covid issues and he hopes to continue with small business workshops. He is working on a project to demo the old retaining wall and replace the slope at the old locker plant. He stated he is looking for available grants. He stated the sales tax report was not available.

The Hope Initiative gave an update and talked about an equality, equity, and social justice workshop.

Mr. Trahan presented the LEDC budgets to the city council for approval.

Motion by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Lanier to approve the LEDC 4A budget as presented. All yeas.

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Mr. Hamilton to approve the LEDC 4B budget as presented. All yeas.

Mr. Trahan stated the LEDC had approved the nominations of Larry Wells, John Rountree, and Dave Stewart to serve on the LEDC Board of Directors.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Berry to approve the LEDC Board of Directors as presented. All yeas.

The Main Street TDA Grant was discussed.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Lanier to adopt a resolution declaring Main Street as slum and blight. All yeas.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Lanier to adopt a resolution to submit the 2020 Main Street Application, authorize signatory and commit matching funds. All yeas.

Motion by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Hamilton to adopt a Citizens Participation Plan for the City of Linden. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher discussed the Covid Relief Fund Application with the City Council. He stated the initial amount was \$20,000.00. He presented a resolution to apply for the Covid Relief Fund application. He stated EMS fees, overtime for the police department, and hand soap dispensers could be paid with these funds.

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Mr. Hamilton to apply for the Covid Relief Fund. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher stated a bid opening was held on June 16th for awarding the contractor for the homes program. Graco Homes was the single bid for this project in the amount of \$97,000.00.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Lanier to select Graco Homes for the Home Program contractor. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher stated the Home Program continuation is for a 3 year contract which would have no match. \$40,000.00 of unrestricted funds would be reimbursed.

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Mr. Berry to adopt a resolution to continue the Home Program. All yeas.

Ms. Anderson stated the architect firm working on the Milstep building is from Hughes Springs. She stated she has redesigned the city website, which will be a .gov website. When asked, she stated the Main Street Board still has a lot of openings.

Chief Lee went over the monthly police report with the city council.

Mr. Swisher stated the GLO is in the final plans, which will replace bridges and do dirt work. He stated the bids should be in September and work begin in November. He stated USDA is in approval, with bids in October for the new water system. Farmers to Families had around 780 cars with over 2,000 boxes of chicken handed out. He stated the past Saturday there were over 500 cars for produce boxes. He explained the program was from the USDA who required communities to handle the distribution of the boxes. He stated there will be another distribution at the end of August. He stated the Linden Together program is doing well and that they have a lot of plans and ideas. He discussed covers over the playground at the city park with the council. He stated the cost from the quotes he had were \$33,000 and \$25,000. He will be getting bids for metal covers hopefully next month.

Mayor Burns stated there will be three positions open for city council and applications could be filled out through August 17th. He stated he was proud of the food distribution project and volunteers. Mr. Lanier commended the group for cleaning up the Legion Field Ball Park after the tournament held there.

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



Clarence Burns
Mayor

Robert W. Swisher
City Administrator