

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2017**

The Linden City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 10, 2017 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, Alton McWaters, Algera Anderson, Joe B. Lovelace, Brenda Deming, Julie Morgan, Frank Lanier, Richard Bowden, and Jimmy Watson.

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

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

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

LEDC Update: Mrs. Freeman stated the city sales and use tax report was not available. She stated the Hotel/Motel Tax has been transferred to Main Street. She also stated that Emily Henderson had resigned as of March 14, 2017 and that job has been posted on three websites with April 28, 2017 as resume deadline. She stated the annual audit will be conducted on April 19, 2017. She added that the LEDC Board of Directors has requested the City Council request reports they needed go through the Mayor.

Allie Anderson – Main Street Manager thanked Beverly Freeman for getting the Hotel/Motel Tax ready and making the transition easy. She stated the 1st Lady will be in Linden next Tuesday and that the State has approved everything for this visit. She requested the City Council be present for taking a picture before the ceremony. She stated Main Street tee shirts were available at City Hall for \$15.00 and that the new Main Street banners for the downtown street lamp lights came in today.

Joe B. Lovelace gave an update on the Linden Heritage Foundation. He first thanked the City for all it has done along with other various organizations. He stated the foundation has over 235 charter members. He talked about the old water tower which is being preserved and the Historic Linden Firehouse which the foundation is currently working on restoring. He stated the foundation has an architect working on drawings for possible uses for the building. He stated the Board will decide at the April meeting what to do with the building. He stated they should have specs in July with restoration to begin in 2018. He went over the different projects the foundation has been involved with since formation.

The Center Point Energy rate hike was discussed. Mr. Swisher went over the options the City Council had on this request.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Halleck to suspend the Center Point Energy rate hike for 45 days. All yeas

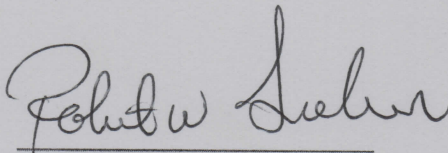
Chief McWaters went over the monthly police report with the council.

Robert Luzio – Public Works Director stated leaks are down. He stated City employee John Elmore has received his “C” water license. He stated that four members of the LVFD had attended fire school in Queen City in February and that he went to the NETX District Fire meeting on Saturday. He then went over the fire report.

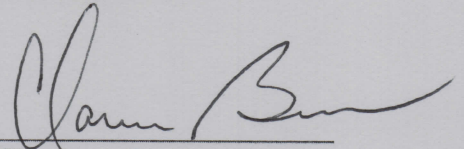
Bob Swisher – City Administrator stated water meters are being worked on and that sewer plants will be recertified this year, so City crews are going over them ahead of inspection. Beech Creek repairs will possibly run around \$120,000.00 according to estimates done by the engineers. He stated CDBG administration has begun on the \$285,000.00 project which will provide water on Hamilton Street and include project at Jim’s Bayou Sewer Plant. He then stated the budget on salaries is off because he left out the Municipal Judge’s office salaries and the LEDC salaries weren’t included. Also, revenue is showing income from LEDC reimbursement of payroll expenses which was not included in the budget, saying these will be included next year. He stated there will be a water rate hike next year. He also stated that his salary should be divided between the general and utility salaries in the budget instead of being solely in the general fund salaries. He added there will be big culvert projects which will cost approximately \$20,000.00. He stated the Linden Parks Board had voted to disband and that the City has taken over the park. He stated plans are for building a pond and to make changes in the R.V. Park rules. He will hire part time summer help for keeping up the park grounds. He stated the Easter egg hunt will be at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, 2017 at the City Park and the Wildflower Trails Festival will be April 28-29, 2017 with a really big car show and D.D.’s Saloon at the Academy of Texas Music on East Houston.

Mayor Burns stated April 15, 2017 is the annual Cindy Henderson Memorial Easter Egg Hunt, April 18, 2017 is the First Lady Visit for Main Street, April 28-29 is Wildflower Trails Festival and Cass County Championship Rodeo, and that May 6, 2017 is City Election Day. He also stated Music City Texas Theatre will be having the following shows: May 6, 2017 Area Gospel Show, May 20 Stoney La Rue, and June 3, 2017 The Darrin Morris Band Dance.

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



Robert W. Swisher
City Administrator



Clarence Burns
Mayor