

**REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2020**

The Linden City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 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, Bob Swisher, Luci Trahan, Christophe Trahan, Denise Hass, Scott Ross, Rick & Ellen Smith, Billie Duke, Kathryn Ryes, Michael Riley, Shirely Baker, Robert Kenward, Lynn Reynolds, Georgette Duke, LaVern Beard, Josh Lane, Robert Luzio, Keri Winters, Andrea Miller, Judy Andreson, Joseph Swanson, Carol Buse, Princess Higgs Spelling, Danny Ryon, and Tiffany Whorton.

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

Public Comment: None.

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

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

LEDC Update: Mr. Trahan stated in September the Calabri Health negotiations were completed. He stated he has been working on an advertising strategy to market the city as business friendly. He also stated there was a 10% increase in sales tax for the month of October from last year.

Mr. Swisher stated for the covid relief funds there was \$10,000.00 set aside for EMS fees, overtime in the police department, the L-KCISD for sanitization supplies which totals \$80,000.00 that has to be spent by December. The school system will purchase the supplies they need and the city will reimburse them, not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the school sanitization supplies for the L-KCISD from the Covid relief funds. All yeas

Mr. Swisher stated a new excavator he's looked at would be smaller than the backhoe the city now owns. He stated the rototill will do well for cleaning out ditches. He stated the city rented one for 24 hours to see how well it would work. He stated he received an \$11,000.00 bid from Case on a backhoe, which should be from \$14,000-\$20,000. He recommended buying the new Bobcat and selling the old backhoe at auction. He stated it will be approximately six weeks to fit the rototill from Bobcat. Then we would have one backhoe and one excavator. Mayor Burns asked about funding and Mr. Swisher stated he felt the street department should fund the new excavator. He stated the city could take funds from the reserve funds and repay with the sale of the old backhoe. He also recommended purchasing a one ton flatbed for a new street truck. He recommended going with the Ledwell bid and sell the backhoe.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Lanier to approve the Ledwell bid for an excavator and to auction the old backhoe. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher stated he thinks we should clean ditches and culverts and pave Smithland and Foster streets, and Texas street on the other side of town. He stated the CDBG bid match is 10% on this grant.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Berry to authorize the request proposals on administrative services and request for administrative services. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher stated a pasture sinking from sewer line repairs was filled in by a citizen who had requested reimbursement for this repair.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Evans to pay the bill presented for reimbursement. 4 yeas, 1 abstention from Mr. Berry.

Ms. Anderson went over the proposed nuisance abatement ordinance with the city council.

Motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Lanier to approve the nuisance abatement ordinance as presented. All yeas.

Mayor Burns read the LEDC Part 380 Resolution ref Calabri Health.

Mrs. Haas stated visitation to the library has really increased and that she wants to set up a computer lab. She stated there are 75 new library members.

Ms. Anderson stated Linden Together was hosting a Home Coming Parade downtown and another block party on Saturday from 6-8 p.m. She stated Trunk or Treat will be held on October 31. She stated with community development that the Senior Citizens' Building now has WiFi available. She stated she walked through the parks grounds and stated there are lights out on the walking trails and that the disc golf course needs to be cleaned up. She stated downed trees and mowing are a big concern. She stated on the old Milstep building there will be a drawing of the parking lot, an overhead drawing out by the end of the month. She stated community input will be requested for the November meeting. She stated everything has been submitted on the Main Street grant.

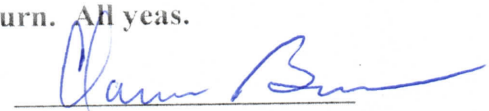
Chief Lee went over the monthly police report with the city council. He stated officers Lorance and Hampton and Ms. Prosperie will be attending courses in the the next few weeks.

Mr. Luzio stated the pump at Well#5 has been delayed due to original person passing away, but the new man is on it. He stated they have been working on w/s taps and leaks. He stated first responder calls are down due to Covid and other calls are about average. He stated the new fire truck will be on the assembly line next week.

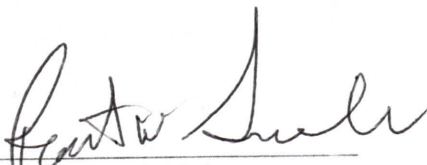
Mr. Swisher stated the FAST Grant was started almost two years ago, stating the cycle on grants is normally about two years. He stated there is a USDA Grant meeting tomorrow. He stated start up will probably be January-February and will take about 8-10 months to complete construction. GLO retention pond, bridge on Kaufman and Center Hill is a \$ 2,000,000.00 grant with a \$20,000.00 match. He stated he is hoping for some park grants.

Mayor Burns stated early voting going on, with the election on November 2. He stated November 9th is the next city council meeting. He stated another Farmers to Families box will be on October 31.

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



Clarence Burns
Mayor



Robert W. Swisher
City Administrator