

**REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 2020**

The Linden City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 8, 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, Lynn Reynolds, Denise Hass, Mary Dowd, Brenda Swisher, Michael Woodfin, Jordan Shaw, and Jamie Jeans.

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

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

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Mr. Hamilton 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 stated Open Heart is full steam ahead. He stated a State CPS visit is one thing that has to be done before opening and currently those are not being done due to covid.

Michael Woodfin and Jordan Shaw with McMinn, Laird, Pope, & Woodfin, P.C. were present to present the LEDC annual audit to the city council. Both LEDC 4A and LEDC 4B audits were discussed. They stated everything was good.

Motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Evans to approve LEDC 4A FY 18-19 Audit as presented. All yeas.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Stevens to approve LEDC 4B FY 18-19 Audit as presented. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher discussed the 2020 DRP-Texas Community Development Fund application and project implementation. He stated there were two applicants, A.L. Franks Engineering and Hayter Engineering. He stated myself, Mayor Burns, and Allie were on the committee which chose Hayter Engineering. The grant is \$500,000 plus our match. He stated the city pays the engineers out of the match. He stated it will address access issues without curbs and will cover streets in the downtown area and the Main Street District. He stated the match will be between 5-15%. He stated Rush Street work and access/sidewalk issues will be worked on.

Motion by Mr. Lanier, seconded by Mr. Berry to adopt a resolution authorizing award of contract for engineering services for the 2020 DRP-Texas Community Development Grant to Hayter Engineering, Inc. out of Paris, Texas. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher discussed suggestions for reopening of city hall. He stated the street and water/sewer guys don't come into the office, other than himself and Mr. Luzio. He stated there should be less face to face contact so plexi glass should be installed at one window, minimize cash collections-expanding to money orders, checks, and Discover credit cards. He stated he will check on checking account drafts and expanding online to bank draft and Discover. He stated he wants to get automatic payments eventually. He wants to modify the phone system with extensions for customers to select which service they need. Councilman Lanier stated there was an issue with businesses on Windstream to use the service option with Entex. Mr. Swisher stated he will contact Etex about this matter. Mayor Burns asked for the council to either approve or give recommendations on Mr. Swisher's suggestions.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Lanier to go with the recommendations made and reopen city hall. All yeas.

Nominating an individual for the Cass County Appraisal District Board was discussed.

Motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hamilton to table nominating an individual to the Cass County Appraisal District Board. All yeas.

Mr. Swisher stated Denise Haas had been hired as the new librarian, who is salaried with benefits. He stated she moved to Florida and wanted to return, saying she feels like Linden is home. He added that Saturday 20th is the library's opening.

Chief Lee went over the monthly police report.

Mr. Luzio stated a 6" water line on Rush Street was installed, which had one leak which had to be fixed. He stated Wednesday he will charge it again to get a sample. He stated leaks are pretty much caught up. He stated Mr. Slider's pasture and Dr. Holder's spot have sewer problems to be fixed. He stated the water usage is 250,000 per day now. He then went over the fire report. He stated the equipment from the grant has all come in and been issued and that two thermal imaging cameras were purchased. He informed the council of repairs that are needed for the fire department- the motor hose reel on the brush truck and the auxillary air compressors build up moisture locked down and need replaced. He then went over the calls for April/May.

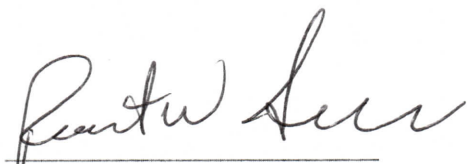
Mr. Swisher stated next Monday at 6:00 p.m. there will be a special meeting for the auditor to present the city audit and he will have packets on Friday. He stated he will be working on the budget, sales tax has dropped off, and fines are picking back up. He stated the city should finish the year in the black. He stated the street workers had been operating the city dump for burning tree debris. Workers have been working on cleaning up the park. He stated projects for streets will be started soon.

Mayor Burns stated the council needed to go into executive session.


Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Stevens to go into executive session. All yeas.

The council returned from executive session with no action taken.

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



Robert W. Swisher
City Administrator


Clarence Burns
Mayor