

**REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2016**

The Linden City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 12, 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: Terressa Wall, Robert Luzio, Beverly Freeman, Terri Boland, Joe P. Early, Lynn Reynolds, and Police Chief Alton McWaters.

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

Public Comment: Ms. Lynn Reynolds stated she had questions concerning the Linden Public Library.

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

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

LEDC Update: Mrs. Freeman went over the sales tax report and the hotel/motel occupancy tax report.

Ms. Halleck stated she would like to request the LEDC provide expenditures and policies which have been previously requested. She asked for a comprehensive study with policy and program expenses to be reported at the next city council meeting. She also asked for a maximum 2 terms limit for board of directors to better have new ideas.

Motion by Ms. Halleck, seconded by Ms. Stevens to have a maximum 2 terms limit instituted for LEDC Board of Directors. 3 yeas, Ms. Halleck, Ms. Stevens, and Ms. Lazara and 2 nays, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Berry.

Motion by Ms. Halleck, seconded by Ms. Lazara for LEDC to present a comprehensive economic development program, policy program and expenditures review for 10 years reported at the next city council meeting. 3 yeas, Ms. Halleck, Ms. Lazara, and Ms. Stevens and 2 nays, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Berry.

Ms. Lazara discussed her proposal for the Main Street Program Manager interviewing and hiring process. She stated she would like for an interviewing committee to be formed and that she would like to serve on this committee, along with other council members if they so choose. She stated that she felt that Mr. Swisher should set up the interviews and get the notices posted so that the council could deliberate and hire at the appropriate point between now and January 9, 2017 city council meeting. She stated there should be a local advisory board of 9-11 members with various staffs for this board. That the by laws should state 2 year terms and approve this at the January 9, 2017 city council meeting. Mayor Burns stated that Bob Swisher as stated in contract, has hire and fire responsibility.

Motion by Ms. Lazara, seconded by Ms. Halleck that Ms. Lazara's suggestions be followed in the hiring process of the Main Street Program Manager, with deliberations by City Council and City Administrator Swisher. 4 yeas, Ms. Lazara, Ms. Halleck, Ms. Stevens, and Mr. Hamilton. 1 nay, Mr. Berry.

Mayor Burns stated the City Council needed to appoint a new Mayor Pro Tem and suggested Mr. Berry.

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Stevens to appoint Mr. Berry as Mayor Pro Tem. All yeas.

Chief McWaters went over the monthly police report.

Mr. Luzio stated there had been a lot of water leaks. He stated cold weather has caused a lot of sewer problems. He stated on Bronco Lane there is a deep sewer line which needs to be repaired by a contractor. He said the telemetry has been hooked up and that it is wonderful. He then went over the fire report with the council.

Mr. Swisher stated four new homes have been completed with the Home Program, with the 5th during this week. He stated the Linden United's first Christmas Ball went over well. He also stated he had received a letter from NETMWD.

Mayor Burns stated that the Texas Home Program reapplication will be done. He then stated the annual audit results will be completed soon. He stated on Friday from 4:00-6:00 Santa will be at the Mary Daughety Senior Citizens' Center. He also stated the burn ban had been lifted.

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



Clarence Burns
Mayor

Bob Swisher
City Administrator