

October 14, 2024

The City Council of the City of Lavaca met for a regular monthly meeting Monday October 14, 2024, at City Hall in Lavaca. Board members present were Mayor Hugh Hardgrave, Aldermen: Mike Ray, Gerald Schaeffer, Rick Edgerton, Lisa Hogan, Lorie Robertson, Benny Hunter, City Attorney John Verkamp and Recorder Shelly Hockaday. Visitors present were Alicia Jetton, Darin Jetton, Dwayne Wallace, Butch Maness, Mac Green, Jeremy Smith, Kirk Barber, Jacob McVay, and Colby Rasmussen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P. M. Mike Ray led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Hardgrave led the prayer.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the September regular meeting. Rick Edgerton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as printed. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Council members reviewed the report from the Police Dept. The Department answered 636 calls in September. LPD issued 5 tickets and 13 warnings. There were 4 arrests made in the month of September.

Council members reviewed the report from the Fire Dept. They responded to: 1 structure fire, 1 smoke alarm, 1 Chemical call, 1 fallen tree and 28 EMS calls in September.

Agenda Item #1 – Consider bids, Pickle ball court improvements. Jacob and Colby from Mickle Griffen Engineers were present to present the bid and answer any questions. Mike Ray made a motion to accept the bid from Custom Pavement for \$101,189.80. Lisa Hogan seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #2 – Consider Franklin Street Drainage repairs. Mayor Hardgrave presented 2 bids for this project. Cove Creek was \$34,980.00 and Steve Beam was \$88,900.00. Dwayne Wallace advised that the metal culvert between Franklin Street and the 2 townhouses is rusted out and collapsed under the concrete and needs to be replaced. Benny Hunter made a motion to accept the bid from Cove Creek Construction for the repairs. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #3 – Consider various street repairs. Mayor Hardgrave presented a bid from Cove Creek Construction to repair 8 area streets and 1 driveway in town for \$19,977.00. The street work will be for 1011 Adams Street, 806 Adams Street, 505 Tiffany Street, 711 Tiffany Street- Driveway, Corner of Jessie and Shawna, 707 Village Drive, 603 Nixon Road, S. Franklin Street, and Holt Street. The driveway being repaired had to be dug up to repair a water leak. The roads being repaired are from pot holes, damage by trucks and cut outs to repair water leaks. Mike Ray made a motion to accept the bid from Cove Creek Construction and proceed with the repairs. Lorie Robertson seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #4 – Resolution to apply for Ar. Rural Community Grant, Fire Dept. Mayor Hardgrave presented proposed resolution #2024-01. This is a resolution allowing us to apply for a \$15,000 no

match grant for some updated equipment. Kirk Barber said if we receive the grant it would be used to purchase a new step chair and gurney for the ambulance. Gerald Schaefer made a motion to pass the resolution. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Resolution # 2024-01 passed.

Agenda Item #5 – Consider 2025 FSPWA Budget proposal. Benny Hunter made a motion to accept the FSPWA 2025 Budget. Rick Edgerton seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #6 – Consider Annual Millage Certification Ordinance. Mayor Hardgrave explained that this is to assess a 5.0 mill tax on real and personal property in the City Limits of Lavaca for the volunteer Fire tax. Rick Edgerton made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance 2024-01. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed and the motion was read aloud by title only. Gerald Schaefer made a motion to suspend the rules and forgo the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings. Lorie Robertson seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed. Rick Edgerton made a motion to adopt as ordinance 2024-01. Lisa Hogan seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #7 – Consider ordinance to set rates for water & sewer tap fees. After some discussion about requiring a specific tapping saddle for sewer taps Mr. Verkamp advised that he would add the needed language and send a new copy for review. No action was taken on this item.

Agenda Item #8 – Consider ordinance to amend water service deposits. The proposed ordinance would increase water deposits for home owners from \$75.00 to \$200.00 and would eliminate the option to waive the deposit with ACH enrollment. The deposit for renters would increase from \$100.00 to \$300.00. Rick Edgerton made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance. Lisa Hogan seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed and the proposed ordinance was read aloud by title only.

Agenda Item #9 – Consider ordinance amending the service charge fee. The proposed ordinance would increase the water dept service charge fee, and returned check fee from \$15.00 to \$30.00. Lisa Hogan made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance. Lorie Robertson seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed and the proposed ordinance was read aloud by title only.

Agenda Item #10 – Consider ordinance amending charge for re-connection after shut off. The proposed ordinance would increase the water dept reconnection fee to \$150.00. Lisa Hogan made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed and the proposed ordinance was read aloud by title only.

Agenda Item #11 – Consider ordinance amending the water rates. The proposed ordinance would increase the water rates to the following.

For 2025 the minimum charge inside city limits would be \$23.80.                      Outside City limits \$32.37  
For each additional 1000 gallons the charge would be \$10.40 for both inside and outside City Limits.

For 2026 the minimum charge inside city limits would be \$29.80.                      Outside City limits \$40.23  
For each additional 1000 gallons the charge would be \$13.40 for both inside and outside City Limits.

Rick Edgerton made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed and the proposed ordinance was read aloud by title only.

Agenda Item #12 – Consider ordinance amending the sewer rates, set date for public hearing. The proposed ordinance would increase the minimum charge for sewer to \$12.70 per month and \$4.90 for every 1000 gallons over the minimum of 2000 gallons. Mayor Hardgrave added that this increase is based on the rate study required by ACT 605. Gerald Schaefer made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance. Lisa Hogan seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed and the proposed ordinance was read aloud by title only.

Act 605 also requires us to have a public hearing on the proposed sewer rate increase. Lorie Robertson made a motion we set a public hearing for 6PM December 5 at City Hall in Lavaca before the Council Study session. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #13 – Consider opening new account “Water Refurbishment and Reserve”. Mayor Hardgrave advised this was another requirement by ACT 605. Lorie Robertson made a motion to open a new account at FNB Lavaca titled “Water Refurbishment and Reserve account” with an opening balance of \$40,000 and include signers: Hugh Hardgrave, Susan Weaver, Shelly Hockaday, Mike Ray, Gerald Schaefer, Rick Edgerton, Lisa Hogan, Lorie Robertson, and Benny Hunter. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Lisa Hogan made a motion to pay the bills for the month of October. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

With no further business on the agenda, meeting was adjourned. (RE, LH)

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Mayor

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Attest: Recorder