

November 10, 2025

The City Council of the City of Lavaca met for a regular monthly meeting Monday, November 10, 2025, at City Hall in Lavaca. Board members present were Mayor Hugh Hardgrave, City Attorney John Verkamp, and Aldermen Mike Ray, Gerald Schaefer, Mac Green, Lisa Hogan and Dawn Hutchins. Alderman Lorie Robertson and Recorder Shelly Hockaday were not present. Visitors present were Chief Jeremy Smith, Kirk Barber, Barry McCormick, Toby Beavers, Gloria Karran and Ame Eksteen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Hardgrave led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mac Green led in Prayer.

The minutes from the October 13, 2025, regular meeting were approved as written. (GS/LH)

Chief Smith presented the Police Report for October. Four arrests, 39 warnings and citations, and 25 outside agency assists were recorded.

The Fire Report was presented by Kirk Barber. The department conducted training on various issues at the monthly meetings. 11 Fire calls, 18 EMS calls, and 8 community events were recorded for October.

The Public Works report showed 1 water tap made in October. Five leaking sewer manholes were repaired by Haynes Environmental. The Fall Clean Up event was held in October. Various daily activities were recorded.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Engineering proposal for sewer line replacement in Woodridge Addition (old part of South 15th Street). Barry McCormick with Hawkins Weir Engineers was present to answer questions about the proposal to replace the sewer lines in Woodridge Subdivision. These lines are old, concrete, and failing. Gerald Schaefer's motion to enter into a contract with Hawkins Weir Engineers to design the proposed improvements and any other activities up to the bid opening and award of contract for construction was seconded by Mike Ray, all members present voted yes. Motion carried. **Cost of the engineering contract is not to exceed \$30,500.00.**

On-Call Services Contract. Funds allocated to the On-Call services contract have been depleted. The contract is used for day-to-day engineering services such as correspondence with ADEQ, engineering information questions for small projects, etc. **The council approved additional funding for the On-Call Services contract in the amount of \$20,000.00.** (LH/MR)

Construct aprons for two driveways at city shop, 904 N Davis. The Mayor presented three bids for 8-inch-thick concrete driveways at the city shop. The aprons will extend to and include the sidewalk and keep the edge of the pavement from breaking down. **Cove Creek Construction was the low bidder at \$15,810.00.** Other bidders were Crawford Construction \$ 23,995 and

Steve Beam Construction \$ 26,360. Gerald Schaefer's motion to accept the bid from Cove Creek Construction was seconded by Mike Ray, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ordinance to regulate open burning in the City Limits. (Ordinance 2025-08)

Gerald Schaefer made a motion to introduce an ordinance to regulate open burning in the City of Lavaca, second by Mike Ray, all members present voted yes. Motion carried. The ordinance defines materials permissible to burn and gives the police department the authority to issue a citation for violating the ordinance and the fire department authority to extinguish any fire containing materials that are not permissible to burn.

Mike Ray's motion to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only was seconded by Lisa Hogan, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mike Ray's motion to adopt the ordinance was seconded by Dawn Hutchins, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

FSPWA 2026 Budget Proposal. Mike Ray's motion to approve the 2026 Budget Proposal for the Franklin Sebastian Public Water Authority was seconded by Gerald Schaefer, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

City of Lavaca 2026 Budget Proposal.

The Mayor presented the 2026 budget proposal for all city funds.

Street Fund – total budget \$299,700.00.

General Fund – total budget \$855,000.00. (45% Administration, 40% Police, 15% Fire)

Public Works – total budget \$1,653,132.00. (Water, Sewer, Sanitation)

Lisa Hogan's motion to approve the 2026 Budget Proposal was seconded by Dawn Hutchins, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Tax lien certifications, Property Clean-up fees.

Two properties have unpaid clean up charges: 202 W Houston \$300 and 1001 Jessie Dr \$225. Mike Ray made a motion to certify the above charges along with a \$100.00 administrative fee to the County Collector for collection with the 2026 real estate taxes. Gerald Schaefer second, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Tax lien certification, Sanitation Charges.

The following have unpaid sanitation charges at least 90 past due as of November 1, 2025:

1902 Holt Street \$212.88 plus \$50.00 administrative fee = \$262.88

1016 Bitticks St \$195.14 plus \$50.00 administrative fee = \$245.14

2000 Holt Street \$70.96 plus \$50.00 administrative fee = \$120.96

2011 Holt Street \$53.22 plus \$50.00 administrative fee = \$ 103.22

Gerald Schaefer's motion to certify these charges to the County Collector for collection with the 2026 Personal Property Taxes was seconded by Lisa Hogan, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Fill vacant planning commission seat.

Gerald Schaefer made a motion to appoint Robert Woods to the planning commission seat vacated by the death of Mary Ray. Mike Ray seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Lisa Hogan, Dawn Hutchins, Mike Ray and Gerald Schaefer voted yes. Mac Green voted no. Motion carried.

Lisa Hogan's motion to pay the bills for the month of November was seconded by Mike Ray, all members present voted yes.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Hugh Hardgrave