

November 12, 2024

The City Council of the City of Lavaca met for a regular monthly meeting Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at city hall in Lavaca. Board members present were Mayor Hugh Hardgrave; Aldermen Gerald Schaeffer, Lorie Robertson, Rick Edgerton, Lisa Hogan and Mike Ray; and City Attorney John Verkamp. Alderman Benny Hunter and Recorder Shelly Hockaday were absent. Visitors present were Andy Hanna with McClelland Engineers, Chief of Police Randy Toon, Mac Green and Dawn Hutchins.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved with some revised language in Agenda Item 6. (LH/LR)

The Council reviewed the Police Report for the month of October. The department issued 23 warnings, 3 citations and made 6 arrests.

The Council reviewed the Fire Report for the month of October. There were 7 fire calls and 17 EMS calls as well as 23 agency assists.

Agenda Items:

1. The Mayor presented a proposal from McClelland Engineering at a cost of \$39,000 plus direct expenses to do the design work on a mill and overlay project on North Davis Street. The project covers that portion of North Davis Street that is in the city limits of Lavaca. The project will include 2-inch mill and overlay, concrete deep patching, ditch grading, culvert improvements, and guard rail installation. The contract covers project activities up to and including the bidding process. After a brief discussion Gerald Schaeffer made a motion to approve the proposal, Mike Ray second, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.
2. The Mayor presented a proposal from Cove Creek Construction to make repairs to the Senior Citizen Building parking lot. Work includes removing and replacing the culverts at each entrance at a cost of \$34,545. After some discussion Lisa Hogan made a motion to approve the proposal, second by Lorie Robertson, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.
3. The Mayor presented two addresses with past due sanitation accounts:
1902 Holt Street, Lavaca \$150.65
1016 Bitticks Street, Lavaca \$161.50
Gerald Schaeffer made a motion to certify the above amounts to the County Collector for collection with the personal property taxes along with a \$50.00 administrative fee. Mike Ray second, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.
4. The Mayor presented four addresses with outstanding property clean up charges:
202 W Houston, Lavaca \$500.00
1001 Jessie Drive, Lavaca \$325.00
400 N 4th Street, Lavaca \$75.00
910 Adams Street, Lavaca \$275.00

Lisa Hogan made a motion to certify each of these accounts to the County Collector for collection with the real estate taxes along with a \$100.00 administrative fee to be added to each account. Lorie Robertson seconded the motion, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

5. The Mayor recommended increasing the monthly retainer for the City Attorney from \$750 to \$1500.00 effective January 1, 2025. Rick Edgerton made a motion to approve this increase, Lisa Hogan second, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.
6. The Mayor presented an ordinance amending the charge for a 5/8 inch water tap from \$950 to \$1750 and setting a rate for a 2 inch water tap at \$8500. The sewer tap fee remains unchanged at \$600. Lorie Robertson made a motion to introduce the ordinance, Gerald Schaeffer second, all members present voted yes. The ordinance was read aloud by title only.
7. An ordinance to amend the meter deposit requirements for both homeowners and renters is under consideration. The meter deposit for those purchasing a home or business will increase to \$200 and the exemption for those signing up for bank draft will be eliminated. The meter deposit for those renting a home or business will increase to \$300. Lisa Hogan made a motion to place the ordinance for a second reading, Lorie Robertson second, all members present voted yes. The ordinance was read aloud by title only.
8. An ordinance amending the service charge for new accounts, transfer of accounts and insufficient checks/bank drafts from \$15 to \$30 is under consideration. Gerald Schaeffer made a motion to place the ordinance for a second reading, Lisa Hogan second, all members present voted yes. The ordinance was read aloud by title only.
9. An ordinance amending the charge for re-connection of service after disconnection for non-payment is under consideration. The charge would be amended to \$150.00. Lorie Robertson made a motion to place the ordinance for a second reading, Lisa Hogan second, all members present voted yes. The ordinance was read aloud by title only.

10. An ordinance amending the water rates is under consideration. New rates under consideration are as follows:

	2025	2026
First 2000 gallons, Inside City	\$23.80	\$29.80
First 2000 gallons, Outside City	\$32.37	\$40.23
Volumetric charge, all customers	\$10.40/1000 gal	\$13.40/1000 gal

Lori Robertson made a motion to place the ordinance for a second reading, Mike Ray second, all members present voted yes. The ordinance was read aloud by title only.

11. An ordinance amending the sewer rates is under consideration. Rates under consideration are as follows:

First 2000 gallons of water used	\$12.70
Volumetric charge	\$4.90/1000 gallons water used

Lorie Robertson made a motion to place the ordinance for a second reading, Gerald Schaeffer second, all members present voted yes. The ordinance was read aloud by title only. A public hearing is scheduled for December 5, 2024, 6 p.m. at Lavaca City Hall.

Rick Edgerton made a motion to pay the bills, Lisa Hogan second, motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Hugh Hardgrave, Mayor