

*LONE STAR CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FIRE HALL – 201 WEST INDUSTRIAL
December 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.*

*We reserve the right to enter into Executive Session on any Agenda item pertaining to
TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. Sections 551.071-551.078, 551.087-551.089*

In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code, the City of Lone Star issues this public notice. If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in executive or closed session, the board will convene in such executive or closed session in accordance with Section 551 of the Texas Government Code, Et Seq. The City Council will consider and act on the following items:

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on the meeting notice.

MINUTES

Present were Mayor Randy Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Jerri Chism, Alderwoman Mona Brown, Aldermen Rudy Dudley, Tony Johnson, Cody Wommack, and City Secretary Tina Love.

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Randy Hodges at 6:14 PM

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS: *At this time, anyone will be allowed to speak on any matter other than personnel matters or matters under litigation, for length of time not to exceed **three minutes**. No Council/Board discussion or action may take place on a matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with law.*

Cody Wommack referenced the words “other than personnel matters or matters under litigation” listed in the citizens comments was not legal. Discussed the statement had been included in the citizens comments for a while but would be removed from future citizen comments.

City Secretary referenced corrections to the numbering under the executive session and police position as full time instead of part time.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- 3-1: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action of the reassignment of the Municipal Court Clerk to the Water & Sewer Clerk, the combining of the two jobs, and evaluate the salary for the combined position.

The Municipal Court Clerk and Water & Sewer Clerk positions were combined into one position as a new business model. The salary for the combined position had to be determined. Three salary proposals were provided to council members for consideration.

A motion to accept proposal one at \$16.00 per hour was made by Cody Wommack with a second from Jerri Chism. One voted for, four voted against. Motion failed.

Additional discussions occurred about the position and responsibilities.

A motion to consider option three at \$18.00 per hour and consider a six-month performance evaluation was made by Tony Johnson with a second from Cody Wommack. Four voted for, one opposed. Motion passed.

- 3-2: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action of the hiring of an additional full time police officer with benefits.

Tony Johnson asked if the hiring of an additional police officer would cut down overtime. Police Chief Steven Blythe believes it will reduce OT and provide additional needed coverage to the City. Chief indicated officers would have to work 86 hrs. before OT is paid. Discussed why there are two officers working on the same shift, instead of different shifts to provide extra coverage. Discussed the reduced crime rate in Lone Star compared to other cities in Morris County. Discussed if the City would have twenty-four-hour coverage with the hiring of an additional officer. Most shifts will be covered with possible exceptions to weekends because it is difficult to get people to work nights or weekends. Local salaries for police personnel were discussed and the pay for a new police officer considered. If the position is approved, consider a recruit from a local academy. Discussed a beginning pay rate at \$15.00/hr. and with a successful evaluation consider an additional \$1.00 per hour increase at budget time.

Rudy Dudley made a motion to hire another full-time police officer at a pay rate of \$15.00/hr and with a successful evaluation at budget time consider an additional \$1.00 per hour increase, Tony Johnson second. Three voted for, two voted against, motion passed.

- 3-3: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action of hiring part time employee, Jerry Dorough, as a full-time employee with benefits.

Rescinded request for full time employment. No action taken

- 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** City Council to convene into executive session for the following issues:

4-1: To discuss the reassignment of the Municipal Court Clerk to the Water & Sewer Clerk, combine positions, and evaluate the salary for the combined position. (TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 551.074).

4-2: To consider for hire an additional part time police officer. (TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 551.074).

4-3: To consider for hire part time employee, Jerry Dorough, as a full-time employee with benefits. (TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 551.074). The council will then re-convene in open session for review, discussion, and possible action on these matters.

No actions were taken during executive session.

5 ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerri Chism with a second from Mona Brown. All present voted Aye.

/s/ Randy Hodges
Randy Hodges, Mayor

/s/ Tina Love
Tina Love, City Secretary