

*LONE STAR CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FIRE HALL – 201 WEST INDUSTRIAL  
July 21, 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**

**Attendees were: Mayor Randy Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Jerri Chism, Aldermen Rudy Dudley, Tony Johnson, Cody Wommack and Secretary Tina Love. Absent was Alderwoman Mona Brown.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Randy Hodges at 6:22 p.m.**

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Invocation – Mayor Randy Hodges**

**Pledge of Allegiance - All in Unison**

**3. 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.*

Several citizens asked to speak on various topics. For transparency purposes, the citizens comments are briefly summarized below.

Mandy Weldon asked about the \$38,000 in the Waste Budget Cody Wommack referenced in a previous meeting. The City Secretary doesn't know which specific account was being referenced but offered to discuss afterwards.

Ginger Smith, owner of Rocky Point Adventures, discussed the VIP grant applied for, referenced the 13, 000 people who have come to RPA, the hiring of more than 25 students for the summer, negative comments on social media, speed bumps placed prior to entry into RPA, but feels that Rocky Point is doing their part as a business in Lone Star and would like to see others do the same.

Monica Sampson, discussed having 10 yrs. experience as Court Clerk/Judge, she tries to do things in accordance with the law, expressed she was tired of social media post that are derogative towards the court and court personnel, she is trying to help the city move forward, discussed schooling she and court clerk were attending soon, and would be willing to sit down and answer questions anyone had in reference to the court proceedings.

**Keith Reiter wants the governing body to maintain openness in all meetings**

Robert Hunt referenced Monica Sampson working for him. He tries to help the city by allowing her to leave as necessary to handle municipal court business and doesn't dock her for time gone.

Steven Blythe discussed the negativity of some council members and wished it could be changed to something positive for the city. He referenced a recent incident in Lone Star that is still under investigation but wanted to thank Chuck, Roger and Felipe for their assistance with the incident.

Chrissandria Beltran stated we need more police officers on our streets and asked what could be done to get more police and first responders. She thinks we need more funding for the first responders in Lone Star. Mayor Hodges spoke about trying to get more revenue coming into the city. The volunteer fire department needs more volunteers. There are fewer people doing more and until we can increase the tax base we will struggle. Mrs. Beltran discussed the time it takes for an officer to respond at night from county and thinks we need more officers covering night shift in Lone Star. She referenced different programs available to help cities.

Roger Dudley referenced the grant the city received two years ago to purchase the fire truck. The city received a \$300K vehicle and paid \$5K so the city tries to use available programs.

Sadie Dennis is the food manager at Rocky Point Adventures. She referenced how Rocky Point has helped her career and discussed her job. She is supportive of Rocky Point and does everything she can to help the business and the area.

Karen Ball wanted to speak on behalf of Jami Smith being considered for hire as a full-time employee at Lone Star as the Municipal Court Clerk.

Chris Moore wanted to know if anything was being down about the racial slur a council member directed towards him at a previous meeting. Mayor Hodges asked to speak with Mr. Moore after the meeting.

#### **4. CONSENT ITEMS:**

Minutes of Meeting on June 16, 2022

Minutes of Special Meeting on June 30, 2022

A motion to accept the meeting minutes for June 16, 2022 and Special Meeting on June 30, 2022 was made by Jerri Chism with a second from Rudy Dudley. All voted Aye.

#### **5. REPORTS:**

5-1: Judge/Court Report

5-2: Police Department Report

5-3: Fire Chief Report

5-4: Public Works Report

5-5: Water District Report

5-6: EDC Report

5-7: Financial Reports

a. Water and Sewer Fund

b. General Fund

**Item 5-4 – In the absence of the Water & Sewer supervisor, Rudy Dudley discussed ongoing Public Works activities which include cutting back trees overhanging neighborhood roadways. He discussed Public Works has utilized over 14 tons of cold mix to fill potholes in various areas and has more cold mix on order to continue the work. The drought contingency plan will be implemented to conserve water. Citizens should consider reducing water usage by 10% and consider reduce watering lawns. Also discussed the new water storage reservoir being installed. If water drops below a certain level the Water Department is automatically notified.**

**Item 5-6 – Cody Wommack asked Rudy Dudley about the bids for the Senior Citizens roof. Rudy discussed J. C. Lanier was the lowest bid and would replace the roof.**

**A motion to accept reports as presented was made by Jerri Chism with a second from Tony Johnson. Three voted Aye, one no vote.**

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

**6.1 Review, Discussion, and Possible Action by the Council to approve the Financial Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021, as presented by the audit firm of Arnold, Walker, Arnold, and Company, P.C.**

**Luke Arnold, of Arnold, Walker, Arnold and Company, P.C. thanked the council for allowing their firm to perform the audit for FY2021. There were no issues or problems found during the audit. Mr. Arnold did not discuss individual line items of the audit but offered to answer any questions anyone had, or he could be contacted directly at his office to discuss. Mr. Arnold notified the City Council their firm was cutting back on the number of audits performed and the 2021 audit would be their last audit for the city of Lone Star. Cody Wommack asked what type of things this audit would and would not find and did it include assets, land, and buildings. Mr. Arnold provided details of the items reviewed.**

**A motion to accept the audit report from Arnold, Walker, Arnold, and Company was made by Cody Wommack with a second from Rudy Dudley. All present voted AYE.**

**6.2 Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to consider the implementation of a smoking ordinance within the city limits of Lone Star.**

**Rudy Dudley discussed he was approached by citizens about implementing a smoking ordinance in the City of Lone Star. A draft copy of a smoking ordinance was provided for reference. Items to consider if implementing a smoking ordinance were to identify if a business or restaurant wanted to have a designated smoking section and a non-smoking section, if existing businesses would be grandfathered in or exempt from the smoking ordinance, and if implemented, the need to define the allowed footage outside a building to smoke. Cody Wommack asked about smoking on city property. Mayor Hodges indicated smoking occurs outside and not inside the city offices.**

**Several citizens asked the Mayor if they could speak. One question was if the smoking ordinance would be applicable to all businesses? Another was if a business were to have a smoking and a non-smoking section who would be responsible to pay for the separation between the two? Some feel it should be the business owner's decision to determine if smoking is or is not allowed on their property and it's not the city's responsibility to dictate. One citizen feels the city should butt out. If a business wants to allow smoking on their property, then they should be allowed to do so.**

**A motion to ban smoking on city property was made by Cody Wommack. There was no second motion.**

**The Mayor indicated the city doesn't have a policy disallowing smoking on city property.**

**This item was for reference and discussion purposes and to determine if it is something the citizens want to consider placing on a ballot to vote on for the next election.**

**No action taken.**

6.3 Review, discussions, and possible actions on updates on the Engineering Study performed by Stephens Engineering for City Park the drainage.

**Rudy Dudley updated the council on the Engineering Study performed by Stephens Engineering for the City Park drainage issues. Drawings were included in the council packet for review. There were discussions about the proposed drainage layout, the removal of pipe and replacement pipe within a few feet of the original pipe location at an estimated cost of \$60-\$80 per foot (18" - 24" pipe, discussed utilizing the existing concrete drainage ditches and build a collection point to divert water away from the swimming area. Rudy has met with two contractors and has a meeting with a third contractor later in the week. He indicated it will not be cheap, but the drainage issues must be corrected before any additional park improvements can be done.**

**This item was for update purposes and discussion. No action taken.**

6.4 Review, Discussion, and Possible Action for EDC Chairman Rudy Dudley to update the council on the June 14, 2022, second public hearing about the revitalization of the Lone Star Senior Citizens Building.

**The second public hearing about the revitalization of the Senior Citizens Building was held on June 14, 2022. There were two who didn't approve of the building revitalization but others in attendance felt it was beneficial to the area.**

**The Senior Citizens Board members met on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, to review the bids received for the roof replacement. J. C. Lanier was selected and voted as the contractor to perform the work. The members were told shingles were going up 10% on August 1<sup>st</sup>, so shingles would be purchased quickly. On July 21<sup>st</sup> Mr. Lanier was able to replace the roof and building insurance can now be purchased.**

**The building is estimated to hold up to 108 people. Allison Hudson referenced the various activities for the building usage, such as wedding showers, birthday parties, domino tournaments, 42 tournaments, etc. Rudy discussed contacting Northeast Texas Community College to see if they may be interested in holding GED classes at the facility. Roger Dudley stated the Volunteer Fire Department and the Police Department have discussed a community outreach program for the youth in the area and could use the facility for the outreach.**

**This item was for update purposes and discussion. No actions taken.**

6.5 Review, discussion, and possible actions on Rocky Point Adventures application for VIP assistance in helping to obtain and install two, 8 x 8 signs for the outside of their building.

**The VIP is an EDC provided grant in which business owners can apply to improve the exterior appearance of a business. The grant is for one-half of the purchase price with a maximum of \$2,000 granted within an 18-month period. A business can apply for the grant every 18 months. Spoons BBQ was the first VIP grant awarded.**

**Rocky Point Adventures (RPA) applied for a \$1,664 VIP grant to assist with the purchase of two, 8 x 8 signs for the business. The EDC approved \$832 towards the purchase of the two signs and is presenting to council for approval. If approved, RPA will be issued an \$832 reimbursement check after work is completed and invoice is received.**

**A motion to approve the VIP application for Rocky Point Adventures in the amount of \$832, pending invoice receipt, was made by Rudy Dudley, with a second from Jerri Chism. Three voted Aye, one no vote.**

6.6 Review, discussion, and possible actions on 6-A Storage application for VIP assistance with the installation of a 6 ft. chain link fence and 2 gates to surround the storage facility property.

**The EDC received a VIP application from Kevin Allen, owner of 6A Storage, for a grant to place a 6 ft. chain link fence and two entry gates to secure and improve the business appearance. The estimated project cost is \$3,875 in which the EDC can reimburse one-half of cost at \$1,937.50 if approved.**

**A motion to approve the VIP application for 6A Storage for \$1,937.50, pending invoice receipt, was made by Rudy Dudley, with a second from Jerri Chism. Three voted Aye, one no vote.**

6.7 Review, discussions, and possible actions to consider hiring Jami Smith full-time as the Lone Star Municipal Court Clerk and discuss salary.

**A motion to hire Jami Smith full time as the Lone Star Municipal Court Clerk at the rate of \$15.00 per hour was made by Rudy Dudley, with a second from Jerri Chism. Three voted Aye, and one no vote.**

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

7-1: To consider hiring Jami Smith full time as the Lone Star Municipal Court Clerk and discuss salary. (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.

**The Council convened into executive session at 7:34 pm and re-convened in open session at 7:58 pm with no action taken in Executive Session.**

**8.0 ADJOURN**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Jerri Chism, with a second from Rudy Dudley. All present voted Aye.**

/s/ Randy Hodges  
Randy Hodges, Mayor

/s/ Tina Love  
Tina Love, City Secretary