

**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
LONE STAR CITY COUNCIL  
FIRE HALL – 201 WEST INDUSTRIAL  
November 16, 2017 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, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.075, 551.076, 551.077*

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, Aldermen Mona Brown, Lynn Cox, Keith Reiter and Ryan Harte and City Secretary Devon Whatley.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER by Mayor Randy Hodges**

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Invocation led by Alderman Lynn Cox  
Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison**

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None

**4. CONSENT ITEMS:**

A. Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting on September 21, 2017. There was no October meeting, therefore no October Minutes.

**A motion was made by Mona Brown and second by Keith Reiter to approve the Minutes of the September 21, 2017 meeting. All present voted aye.**

**5. REPORTS (September and October):**

- 5-1: Judge/Court Report
- 5-2: Police Department Report
- 5-3: Fire Chief Report
- 5-4: Public Works Report
- 5-5: NETWD Director's Report
- 5-6: Economic Development Corporation Minutes and Financial Report
- 5-7: Financial Reports
  - a. Water and Sewer Fund
  - b. General Fund

**A motion was made by Mona Brown and second by Lynn Cox to adopt reports 5-1 through 5-7 (a) and (b). All present voted aye.**

## 6. NON-ACTION ITEMS

6-1: The Lone Star Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade is Monday, December 11, 2017 at 5:30 pm. Applications to be in the parade are available at City Hall and on the City's website.

6-2: Economic Development Board Chairman Mitch Cox will provide a report on current/upcoming projects of the Economic Development Board.

**Economic Development Board Chairman Mitch Cox reported that East Texas Liquor will be expanding. An upscale convenience store, chicken restaurant and possible washeteria are planned to go in the Crump's shopping center. McCraw Petroleum of Sherman may bring in a truck stop. There will be a joint meeting of the EDC and City Council to hear from the Ark-La-Tex Council of Governments regarding available grants on January 8, 2018.**

**Mr. Cox has made contact with Dairy Queen in an attempt to attract a franchise to Lone Star. He was not successful in his attempt to bring a Love's truck stop to Lone Star.**

6-3: Chamber of Commerce member Mitch Cox will provide a report on the efforts to revitalize the Lone Star Chamber of Commerce.

**Chamber member, Mitch Cox, reported that the last meeting of the Lone Star Chamber of Commerce had 15 attendants. By-laws have been drafted and officers and directors have been elected. The Chamber is working on naming a business of the year. They are also hosting a business appreciation luncheon on December 6.**

## 7. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7-1: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action by the Council to allow ETex Communications to provide communications services in the city of Lone Star. The allowance of these services will provide additional franchise fee revenue for the City. A representative from ETex will be present to speak to the Council.

**Kelvin Miles and Brittany Murray with ETex Communications spoke to the Council. ETex will be providing internet and phone service to businesses initially and may offer residential service in the future. A motion was made by Ryan Harte and second by Keith Reiter to allow ETex Communications to provide communications services in the city of Lone Star. All present voted aye.**

7-2: Review, Discussion and Possible Action by the Council to approve Public Works Supervisor Shane Townson's recommendation on the purchase of a used backhoe for the amount of \$48,000.00 (as provided in the 2017-2018 Water & Sewer Budget).

**Shane Townson advised the Council that the City has had this backhoe for approximately a month for a "test drive." The backhoe did malfunction, but the company repaired it and added a one year warranty. Kenny Taylor has been looking for other backhoes, but has not found anything comparable. A motion was made by Mona Brown and second by Keith Reiter to approve the purchase of a used backhoe for the amount of \$48,000.00. All present voted aye.**

7-3: Review, Discussion and Possible Action by the Council to approve Public Works Supervisor Shane Townson's recommendation on the purchase of a used 2001 Ford V-10 Flatbed truck for the amount of \$4,000.00 (as provided in the 2017-2018 General Fund Budget).

**A motion was made by Lynn Cox and second by Mona Brown to approve the purchase of a used 2001 Ford V-10 Flatbed truck for the amount of \$4,000.00. All present voted aye.**

**Follow-up: This vehicle was not purchased as the dealer had just sold the truck when Shane made contact to tell them we would be purchasing it.**

7-4: Review, Discussion and Possible Action by the Council to approve an Economic Development Board expenditure to reimburse Mitch Cox \$750.00 for the payment of a traffic survey.

**Alderman Keith Reiter asked Chairman Mitch Cox why this item was not approved as a project, rather than an expenditure already made. Mr. Cox advised that Love's wanted traffic numbers, so he had the survey done. A motion was made by Mona Brown and second by Lynn Cox to approve the expenditure by the Economic Development Board. Voting Aye were Keith Reiter, Mona Brown and Lynn Cox. Ryan Harte abstained.**

7-5: Review, Discussion and Possible Action by the Council on an Agenda Request by Tina Sparks requesting that City employees have the option to be paid via direct deposit.

**A motion was made by Keith Reiter and second by Mona Brown to pursue direct deposit. All present voted aye.**

7-6: Review, Discussion and Possible Action by the Council on an Agenda Request by Tina Sparks to allow the Municipal Court to have a City credit card.

**A motion was made by Mona Brown and second by Lynn Cox to deny the request to allow the Municipal Court to have a City credit card. All present voted aye.**

7-7: Review, Discussion and Possible Action by the Council to approve the ability for water and sewer customers to pay their utility bills through an online portal provided by Continental Utility Solutions (the City's billing software provider), purchase a module for \$1,000.00 to allow for ACH (draft) payments of utility bills and purchase a credit card swiper from Continental Utility Solutions for \$100.00 to work in conjunction with the billing software. City Secretary Devon Whatley will provide information on the cost and benefits of this change.

**A motion was made by Lynn Cox and second by Ryan Harte to approve the use of an online portal for utility bill payments through Continental Utility Solutions, purchase of a credit card swiper for \$199 and to consider the ACH module at a later date, if needed. All present voted aye.**

7-8: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to approve the City of Lone Star Tax Roll Approval and Tax Levy Resolution for 2017.

**A motion was made by Mona Brown and second by Keith Reiter to approve the City of Lone Star Tax Roll Approval and Tax Levy Resolution for 2017. All present voted aye.**

7-9: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to vote for nominees to the 2018-2019 Morris County Appraisal District Board.

**A motion was made by Ryan Harte and second by Keith Reiter to provide 48 votes for Lynn Cox and 47 votes for Danny Lilly. All present voted aye.**

7-10: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action to finalize and approve the City of Lone Star's 2018 Holiday Schedule.

**A motion was made by Mona Brown and second by Lynn Cox to approve the City of Lone Star's 2018 Holiday Schedule. All present voted aye.**

7-11: Review, Discussion, and Possible Action by the Council to consider leasing office space at Lone Star State Bank.

**This item was deferred to the December meeting.**

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

8-1: To confirm hiring Mariah Brooke as a part-time police officer (TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 551.074). The council will then re-convene in open session for review, discussion, and possible action on this matter.

**9. RE-CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:** City Council to re-convene in Open Session for Review, Discussion, and Possible action on the possible confirmation of Mariah Brooke as a part-time police officer.

**No action was taken.**

**10. ADJOURN**

**A motion was made by Mona Brown and second by Lynn Cox to adjourn. All present voted aye.**

/s/ Devon N. Whatley  
**Devon N. Whatley, City Secretary**

/s/ Randy Hodges  
**Randy Hodges, Mayor**