

**MINUTES OF REGULAR CALLED MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE CITY OF LAMPASAS, TEXAS
CALVERT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
302 E THIRD STREET
Monday, September 23, 2024
5:30 pm Workshop Session
6:00 pm Regular Session**

The City Council of the City of Lampasas met in Regular Session on the above date and time with Mayor Pearce presiding.

Council Members Present:

Charlie Pratus
Eric Hernandez
Davis Keele
Myles Haider
Cathy Kuehne

City Staff Present:

Finley deGraffenried, City Manager
Ryan Ward, ACM
Monica Wright, IT Director
Becky Sims, City Secretary
Yvonne Moreno, Finance Director
Jody Cummings, Police Chief
Joe Adams, Fire Chief
Kayleigh Stanley, Executive Assistant
Chris Eicher, Parks Director
Kris Morin, Golf Course Manager

Council Members Absent

Zachary Morris

WORKSHOP SESSION

1. Call to order Workshop Session

Mayor Pearce called the workshop session to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Discussion regarding Hill Country Transit District service changes for the City and County, and subsidy levels. Presentation by Tony Austin, Director of Rural Operations, Hill Country Transit District.

“The Hill Country Transit District is changing”

- Proposed membership of Hill Country Transit District: Bell, Lampasas, Coryell, Milam Counties, Cities of Copperas Cove, Killeen, Harker Heights, Temple, Belton.
- Membership in the HCTD, will require local funding contributions based on services operated in each members jurisdiction. Funds will be used as local match for Federal, State, and other local funding based on associated allocations.
- The Service Plan Design improves regional connections to the largest growth areas for improved access to various services including health services, workforce/jobs, educational institutions, recreation, retail, entertainment, Fort Cavazos connectivity, and other.
- The change is driven by population growth, area coverage, and realignment of regional priorities.
- Reallocation and distribution of funds is based on latest census data and TxDOT financial analysis.
- New service plan proposes: Regional Connectors, Rural On-demand, Launch of Micro-transit as a feeder service to the Regional Commuter, Urban and Micro-transit Zones.

- New service plan improves access, frequency, reliability of transit services.
- Rural fares are being proposed based on service types with these funds reinvested in the local services to offset operating expenses.

“Local Funding Requirement”

- For years, HCTD was able to use revenue generated by Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) to offset the need for local funding.
- Now, NEMT is costing more than projected revenue, The service is not mandated by the state or FTA and requires significant resources dedicated to support the service which drives up cost.
- Eliminating of NEMT services will enable HCTD to focus on general-public trips, thereby increase access, reducing cancelled rider request, making rural transit service more responsive and efficient
- NEMT services will be provided by private providers through existing brokers

“Proposed Elimination of HCTD provided Non-Emergency Medical Transport”

- NEMT Statewide Trend – Transit Districts are experiencing continued ridership & revenues declines with no changes planned by Health and Human Services.
- Other Trans Districts have already or are considering dropping NEMT trips as private sector alternatives exist and are undercutting directly operated transit services.
- NEMT is not mandated by the state or FTA and requires significant resources dedicated to support the service which drives up cost.
- Elimination of NEMT allows improved utilization of fleet and increase access, reducing cancelled rider request, making rural transit service more responsive and efficient for the public with private providers handling longer distance trips.

“Proposed Rural Budget”

- Basis for CY25 budget is based on membership realignment and TxDOT analysis of funding reapportionments of statewide Rural Transit Districts.
- TxDOT and Federal Transit Administration DO NOT allocate funding by counties. TxDOT allocates based on multiple factors including population, land area, ridership performance, and other factors.
- The HCTD further allocates funding based on similar methods to distribute funding to each participating member of the transit district and allocates both revenue and expenses on this basis.
- HCTD submits reimbursement requests TxDOT for service rendered.

“Proposed Elimination of School Shuttles”

- School shuttles require dedicated vehicles and drivers during peak service hours and disrupt opportunities for General Public rides and are not in keeping with the proposed system plan design.
- School shuttles spend significant time picking up and dropping off children taking buses out of the system for up to 2 hours which means the buses can’t serve general purpose trips during these hours.
- School trips are not mandated by the State nor FTA and are not customary for transit operations unless a school is on an existing public transit route.
- School Districts do not assist in funding the service provided by HCTD.

- The proposed system design including on-demand and micro-transit is available to anyone that requests a ride “as a general-purpose trip” including students. These trips will be dynamically schedule by the micro-transit software.

“Proposed Rural Micro-Transit Services”

- Curb-to-Curb Service vs Door-to Door Service.
- Smart Phone App Scheduling in Micro-transit Zones.
- Higher volume of shared trips, increasing passengers per mile. Making for more efficient use of transit services, increase availability, and general-purpose trip denials.
- Micro-transit should increase general purpose ridership and will offer connections to regional Commuter Bus Connectors

“Regional Transit System”

Proposed Fares- (one-way trip)

- Micro Transit Zone \$2.00
- County Trips \$4.00
- Rural Regional Commuter \$6.00

Proposed Hours of Service

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Monday-Friday

- 8:00 am start time for Micro Transit and County On-demand
- Rural Commuter will depart the Micro-transit zones at 8:30 am
- All buses must be back into the yard by 5:00 pm.

*Fares can be purchased through the scheduling smartphone app

*Drivers can receive fares on the bus.

3. Discussion regarding swimming in Sulphur Creek.

Chris Eicher, Parks Director spoke on behalf of the citizens whom have inquired about swimming in the creek. An Ordinance has been in place since the 70’s and 80’s prohibiting swimming, fishing, wading etc. between Naruna Road Crossing and the Chestnut footbridge and from Highway 281 bridge to the water plant to protect the Golf Course. If challenged, these Ordinances would be hard to enforce since the creek is considered a navigable waterway and owned by the State of Texas.

The circulated petition has over 700 names in support of swimming in the creek. The TML Risk Pool has been contacted for liability and sign requirements.

Council inquired about clean-up; Mr. Eicher advised WM Brook Park is part of the weekend rotation. Mayor Pearce inquired about reported accidents at other creeks that allow swimming. Mr. Eicher advised of Bandera and San Saba. Council also mentioned signage to prevent jumping from bridges.

Mr. Eicher advised there is an action item for Council consideration and direction on the regular agenda.

4. Discussion regarding any item on the regular agenda

There was no discussion

5. Adjourn Workshop Session

Council member Hernandez moved to adjourn workshop at 6:43 p.m., the motion was seconded by Council member Keele and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

Without objection, Council took a 10-minute break.

REGULAR SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Call to Order- Mayor Pearce called the regular session to order at 6:53 pm.
- B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance- Jody Cummings, Police Chief gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags were recited
- C. Presentations and Proclamations

City Council recognized Sergeant Investigator Fidel Morua for 20 years of service.



TOURISM FRIENDLY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Lampasas has long been renowned for its rich history, vibrant culture, and unique attractions that draw visitors to our community; and

WHEREAS, the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center has been instrumental in promoting and supporting tourism, offering invaluable information, resources, and services to enhance the experience of visitors to our city; and

WHEREAS, it is with great pride and excitement that we announce Lampasas has been designated as Tourism Friendly by the State of Texas recognizing our city’s outstanding qualities and contributions to tourism; and

WHEREAS, this esteemed designation reflects our commitment to providing exceptional experiences, preserving our heritage, and fostering a welcoming environment for all who come to explore our city;

WHEREAS, this proclamation serves as a testament to the collaborative efforts of our city officials, community members, and the dedicated team at the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center whose collective efforts have contributed to this significant achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Herb Pearce, Mayor of the City of Lampasas, in recognition of this distinguished honor and in celebration of our collective success, do hereby proclaim Lampasas, Texas as a Tourism Friendly City. I encourage all residents and visitors to join in celebrating this remarkable milestone and to continue supporting our vibrant community and thriving tourism sector.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Lampasas to be affixed this the 23rd day of September 2024.



1.1	Citizen comments- Any citizen who desires to address the City Council on a matter that is not included on the Agenda may do so at this time.
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There were no citizens comments

1.2	Citizen comments- Any citizen who desires to address the City Council on a matter that is included on the Agenda may do so at this time.
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Chris Harrison addressed City Council regarding the appointments of members to the advisory boards vs. Economic Development Board. The EDC Board oversees the budget, real property, contracts, agreements and makes fiscal decisions. The diverse list of board applicants are business owners, contractors, builders, and developers who are invested in the local economy. Two of the applicants for reappointment have been on the

board for over 10 years. When you have members on boards for that long you run the risk of being stagnant. Mr. Harrison asked that consideration be made in the appointment of members to the LEDC board.

Michael Gil addressed City Council on the list of applicants for the EDC board as well. He advised of the merits of each applicant. He felt the applications should have been reviewed and discussed during the September 18, 2024 meeting instead of just voting to reappoint existing members of the board. The applicants have an interest in shaping the future of the city.

2.0	MINUTES
2.1	Discussion and possible action concerning approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 9, 2024

Council member Keele moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 9, 2024, the motion was seconded by Council member Haider and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

3.0	CONSENT AGENDA
3.1	Discussion and possible action regarding the July 2024 Investment Report.

Council member Keele moved to approve the consent agenda, the motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

4.0	BOARDS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS
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5.0	ROUTINE MATTERS
5.1	<p>CITY MANAGER’S OPERATIONAL REPORT</p> <p>Fire Dept Chief Adams reports Ladder One has been transported to Killeen to initiate rehabilitation at Siddons-Martin. Council’s directive, through the budget process, was to extend the useful life of the apparatus while saving for a replacement over the next 5 to 7 years. The rehabilitation is expected to take up to 6 months to assess and complete.</p> <p>LAFTA The Lampasas Association for the Arts (“LAFTA”) has reported that 6 new sculptures have been installed at the Campbell Park Sculpture Garden. Installation was conducted with LAFTA volunteers and artists on September 14th, with support from the Lampasas Parks Department. Also, remember to get your tickets to LAFTA’s Boots and Blazers event, on October 12, at Lafta.org or at Hodges and Sargent Pharmacy.</p> <p>Fencing If you have the opportunity, maybe on your way to Boots and Blazers, take a look at the new fencing adjacent to the Hanna Springs Pool Parking area at North and Live Oak. The fencing was a condition of the acquisition of the property, that had long been identified to address parking needs. The Street Department prepared and installed the foundation, and Eco-Flex generously provided materials and installation for the fence. The fence will serve as a sound/light barrier between the future parking lot and development to the south.</p>

	Community Luncheon	Chief Cummings and Chief Adams have announced the date for the annual Community lunch and toy drive as December 2, 2024. The annual event provides an opportunity for fellowship and is the primary funnel for collection of items and donations for the Christmas Toy distribution.
	FEMA/TDEM	Ryan Ward and Chief Adams have been working with State and Federal sources for a disaster recovery reimbursement grant as a result of localized flooding and impacts to City drainage and apparatus. Reimbursement will be sought, and almost certainly awarded, for repairs to Engine One as a result of deployment for swift water rescue; and for repair to East Ave H, culvert and drainage. Total reimbursement is estimated at approximately \$160,000 with the lion's share for Ave. H.
	BB-Q for Books	Get your tickets to help support the Library Foundation and the Lampasas Library. Shanda reports the annual Bar-B-Que for Books lunch will be held on October 21 st with tickets available from Foundation Board members, the Lampasas Library, or Hodges and Sargent Pharmacy. Delivery is available for orders of 6 or more.

5.2	MAYOR'S COMMENTS
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6.0	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
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There was no unfinished business.

7.0	NEW BUSINESS
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7.1	Discussion and possible action regarding the second reading of an Ordinance to approve tax rate for the City of Lampasas upon all property subject to taxation within the City of Lampasas, Texas for the 2024 Tax Year for the use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Lampasas for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025; apportioning said levy amount the various funds and items for which revenue must be raised including providing a sinking fund for the retirement of the bonded debt of the City.
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Council member Pratus moved to approve the second reading of an Ordinance to approve the tax rate for the City of Lampasas upon all property subject to taxation within the City of Lampasas, Texas for the 2024 Tax Year for the use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Lampasas for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025; apportioning said levy amount the various funds and items for which revenue must be raised including providing a sinking fund for the retirement of the bonded debt of the City, the motion was seconded by Council member Haider and with a unanimous vote the motion carried.

- Council member Haider- Aye
- Council member Pratus- Aye
- Mayor Pro Tem Morris- Absent
- Mayor Pearce- Aye
- Council member Hernandez- Aye
- Council member Kuehne- Aye

Council member Keele- Aye

7.2	Discussion and possible action concerning the second reading of an Ordinance approving and adopting a Budget for operating the Municipal Government of the City of Lampasas for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2024 and ending on September 30, 2025; appropriating money for the various funds and purposes of such budget including appropriations of money to pay interest and principal sinking fund requirements on all indebtedness; providing a severability clause; providing a repealer clause for the repeal of all Ordinances and appropriations in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance; and establishing an effective date.
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Council member Pratus moved to approve the second reading of an Ordinance approving and adopting a Budget for operating the Municipal Government of the City of Lampasas for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2024 and ending on September 30, 2025; appropriating money for the various funds and purposes of such budget including appropriations of money to pay interest and principal sinking fund requirements on all indebtedness; providing a severability clause; providing a repealer clause for the repeal of all Ordinances and appropriations in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance; and establishing an effective date, the motion was seconded by Council member Haider and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Council member Haider- Aye
Council member Pratus- Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Morris- Absent
Mayor Pearce- Aye
Council member Hernandez- Aye
Council member Kuehne- Aye
Council member Keele- Aye

7.3	Discussion and possible action concerning the audit engagement letter for the City of Lampasas FY 2023/2024 with Singleton, Clark and Company.
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Council member Hernandez moved to approve the audit engagement letter for the City of Lampasas FY 2023/2024 with Singleton, Clark and Company, the motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.4	Discussion and possible action regarding approval of mural at the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center Building by Vision Lampasas
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Council member Kuehne moved to approve the mural at the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center Building by Vision Lampasas, with Council member Pratus abstaining, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.5	Discussion and possible action regarding modification of the composition of the Golf Board Advisory Board.
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Council member Keele moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending the composition of the Golf Board Advisory Board, the motion was seconded by Council member Hernandez and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.6	Discussion and possible action regarding reappointment of board member to the Library Advisory Board.
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Council member Hernandez moved to reappoint Kristin Gerety to the library advisory board, the motion was seconded by Council member Keele and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.7 Discussion and possible action regarding reappointment and appointment of board members to the Planning Commission

Council member Keele moved to reappoint Zachary Taylor and to appoint John David Rott and Janet Logan to the Planning Commission, the motion was seconded by Council member Hernandez and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.8 Discussion and possible action regarding reappointment of board members to the Airport Advisory Board.

Council member Keele moved to approve the reappointment of Kevin Smith, John Fingerhut, Robert Lansford, and Mike Watson to the Airport Advisory Board, the motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.9 Discussion and possible action regarding reappointment of board members to the Airport Zoning Board of Adjustment Advisory Board.

Council member Keele moved to reappoint John Fingerhut and Steven Cohen to the Airport Zoning Board of Adjustment Advisory Board, the motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.10 Discussion and possible action regarding reappointment of board members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeal Advisory Board

Council member Hernandez moved to reappoint Jack Harrell to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeal Advisory Board, the motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.11 Discussion and possible action regarding reappointment of board members to the Lampasas Economic Development Board.

There was no action taken on this agenda item.

7.12 Discussion and possible action regarding the street closure from Live Oak to Pecan on October 5, 2024 for the Love Thy Neighbor Festival.

Council member Pratus moved to approve the street closure from Live Oak to Pecan on October 5, 2024 for the Love Thy Neighbor Festival, the motion was seconded by Council member Haider and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

7.13 Discussion and possible action regarding swimming in Sulphur Creek with specific boundaries and proper signage as recommended by City of Lampasas Parks Board.

Council member Keele moved to direct staff to move forward with securing designated area, signage, and updating Ordinance with guidance from TML Risk Pool to allow swimming in Sulphur Creek at W.M Brook

Park, the motion was seconded by Council member Hernandez and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

Adjourn into Executive Session

Council member Haider moved to adjourn into executive session at 7:35 pm, the motion was seconded by Council member Pratus and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council of the City of Lampasas, Texas will meet in closed Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, as follows:

8.0	.
8.1	Section 551.074 (personnel matters), to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties of City Manager; and other personnel matters as allowed by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.
8.2	Section 551.086 (Relating to the authority of public power utility governing bodies to deliberate regarding competitive matters) – Utilities
8.3	Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Regular Session

Council member Hernandez moved to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Session at 8:18 pm, the motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Morris absent).

REGULAR SESSION

9.0	ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION
9.1	Discussion and possible action concerning items posted and discussed by Council in Executive Session

There was no action taken on items discussed during executive session

Adjourn – Council member Pratus moved to adjourn at 8:19 p.m., the motion was seconded by Council member Hernandez and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Herb Pearce, Mayor

ATTEST

Becky Sims, City Secretary