

MINUTES

THE CITY OF LOMETA

COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL
100 E SAN SABA ST, LOMETA TX 76853
512-752-3331

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

7 P.M.

THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED, CONSIDERED, OR ACTED UPON ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Stephen Brister Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mayor Stephen Brister Hicks led council and guest in pledging allegiance to the American and Texas Flag.
- III. **INVOCATION:** Chief Cantu led council and guest in prayer.
- IV. **ROLL CALL:**

1. Mayor, Stephen Brister Hicks	PRESENT
2. Councilmember, Doug Brister	PRESENT
3. Councilmember, James Dickison	PRESENT
4. Councilmember, Marsha Laughlin	PRESENT
5. Councilmember, Ronnie Cartwright	PRESENT
6. Councilmember, Johnny Towerton	PRESENT

- I. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
 1. **AUGUST 2, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**
 2. **AUGUST 9, 2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP**
 3. **AUGUST 23, 2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP**
 4. **AUGUST 30, 2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

A motion was made by Ronnie Cartwright with a second by Marsha Laughlin to accept the minutes for the August 2, 2021 regular meeting and the August 9th, 23rd and 30th budget workshops. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- II. **REVIEW, RATIFY AND ACCEPT THE BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2021.** A motion was made by Marsha Laughlin with a second by Johnny Towerton to accept the bills for the Month of August 2021. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- III. **OPEN FORUM:**

Citizens are welcome to speak about any subject matter, even if it is not on the agenda, for up to three (3) minutes during open forum. *If you need more time, please contact the City Secretary in advance.* Please keep in mind that council action cannot and will not be taken during open forum. For such an item, the Council may either: (1) make a statement of fact, (2) make a statement concerning the policy regarding the item or (3) propose that the item be placed on a future agenda.

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1. Ms. Medina spoke about her concerns regarding the possible reopening of the Williams House and said she heard another facility may be put in and what will we do then?
2. Mr. Devoglaer said he has a ranch a few miles outside of Lometa and heard about the prior issues with Williams House and had wanted to come see what the real issues are. He purchased the old hardware store in town which is close to Williams House and he just doesn't know if it is a viable business or not.
3. Brett Cali spoke about hearing rumors about Williams House and said that he was challenging the fact that it didn't bring any money into the City and that it caused more harm than good.
4. Terri Harris said she owns a business off Main St. and it was difficult when Williams House was here because she'd be walking people in to close a deal and with the Williams House personnel and children being loud people would stop and watch and then start asking her tons of questions about it. She doesn't think the downtown area needs to have a facility like that. It's a hindrance for Lometa. Downtown should be for businesses.
5. Brenda Thompson said she owns a building directly across from the Williams House and they've seen so much happen in town, even witnessing abuse, unsupervised children running around town, not to mention EMS and Police showing up on a regular basis. Burglary made it to where she had to keep her doors locked during open hours. She mentioned that with Williams House gone that there has been a 75% decrease in crime.
6. Lisa Vannatta says she owns property on Main St., and she knows a lot of people coming to Lometa and these people want to come into our town and help make it better. We need to bring a lot of people in that want to improve our school district. She fears another Williams House type facility will turn that type of people away.
7. Tico Hicks spoke and reiterated the same things prior speakers said and she has had personal dealings with the Williams House, and it wasn't ever good.
8. Linda Klose said she doesn't want something like the Williams House to come back. She said Lometa will grow due to subdivision's coming in.
9. Mike Williams owner of the Williams House spoke and said that Williams House will not be reopening, and he will not be opening anything personally, but that two groups are looking into leasing/renting the buildings. He said thank you for the opportunity to have allowed him to have and operate the Williams House.
10. Linda Walker asked, "Even if we say no to any new coming businesses for the Williams House facility, can the Federal/State government step in at any time and take control?" The attorney was given permission to answer her question and the short answer is a situation like that would be complicated to explain but, no.

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IV. BUSINESS Note: Agenda items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on the meeting notice.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discuss and Consider Action: Approval to execute the American Rescue Plan Act Administration Services Contract with GrantWorks, Inc.** A motion was made by James Dickison and Johnny Towerton to approve the contact between the City and GrantWorks. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.
- 2. Discuss and Consider Action: Establishment of Police Department policy to mandate for police vehicles to be parked at City Hall when not in use.** A motion was made by Johnny Towerton with a second by Doug Brister to establish a policy to bring the police vehicles back to stay in Lometa. Ronnie Cartwright abstained. Motion passed 5:1.
- 3. Discuss and Consider Action: Authorizing the City Secretary and City Attorney to proceed with terminating the Unifirst Service Contract if adequate funds are not appropriated for uniforms under the final adopted City Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022, effective October 1, 2021.** A motion was made by James Dickison with a second by Johnny Towerton to authorize the City Secretary and City Attorney to terminate the Unifirst Service Contract. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- 4. Discuss and Consider Action: Amending Zoning Ordinance to modify various zoning districts providing for certain "Use Categories" to exclude certain types of structures related to group and community living and recovery facilities within the City Limits.** A motion was made by Ronnie Cartwright and a second by Johnny Towerton at 7:54 PM to move into Executive Session to discuss this above line item with the City Attorney.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will convene into Executive Session in Accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney.

- 1. Discuss and Consider Action: Amending Zoning Ordinance to modify various zoning districts providing for certain "Use Categories" to exclude certain types of structures related to group and community living and recovery facilities within the City Limits.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:36 PM and took no action.

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X. REPORTS: MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS, WHEN NECESSARY.

MAYOR: Read a letter stating that Councilmember's and City staff must show respect towards each other. That it is the duty of the elected and appointed to keep peace and be an example in front of its citizens- who they represent.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Marsha Laughlin thanked the guests who came to the meeting and asked them to continue to return, as what they (council) do is for the people.

CHIEF OF POLICE: none

CITY SECRETARY: none

MUNICIPAL COURT: none

FIRE DEPARTMENT: none

XI. ADJOURN: A motion was made by Ronnie Cartwright with a second by James Dickison to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVED:



Mayor Stephen Brister Hicks

Date: October 4, 2021



ATTEST:



Lindsey Grant, City Secretary

Date: October 4, 2021