

**LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

DECEMBER 20, 2016

6:30 P.M.

**CLARK LIBRARY ANNEX-COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 217 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 3rd FLOOR,
LOCKHART, TEXAS**

Council present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez
Councilmember Benny Hilburn
Councilmember Brad Westmoreland

Mayor Lew White
Councilmember Juan Mendoza
Councilmember Jeffry Michelson

Council absent:

Councilmember John Castillo

Staff present:

Vance Rodgers, City Manager
Peter Gruning, City Attorney

Connie Constancio, City Secretary
Jeff Hinson, Finance Director

Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council: None.

Work Session 6:30 p.m.

Mayor White announced that Councilman John Castillo would not be attending the meeting because he was ill. He opened the work session and advised the Council, staff and the audience that staff would provide information and explanations about the following items:

DISCUSSION ONLY

A. DISCUSS MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2016.

Mayor White requested corrections to the minutes. There were none.

B. DISCUSS ORDINANCE 2016-29 SETTING RATES AND ESTABLISHING TARIFFS FOR THE PROVISION OF NATURAL GAS SERVICE BY TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY, A DIVISION OF ONE GAS, INC., FOR CUSTOMERS IN THE CITY OF LOCKHART, TEXAS; APPROVING CONSOLIDATION OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS SERVICE AREA AND THE SOUTH TEXAS SERVICE AREA INTO A NEW, COMBINED SERVICE AREA KNOWN AS THE CENTRAL TEXAS SERVICE AREA.

Mr. Rodgers stated that in July 2016, an ordinance was passed by the City Council directing Texas Gas Service Company, a division of One Gas, Inc., to file a statement of intent, subsequent to receiving final approval of gas utility rates (lower) in impending gas utilities Docket No. 10526, to combine two (2) natural gas service areas. On November 15, 2016, the Texas Railroad Commission (TRC) approved the consolidation of Central Texas Service Area and the South Texas Service Area into a new combined area known as the Central Texas Service Area; this lowers gas rates for customers in Lockhart and six (6) other cities in Central Texas. This ordinance gives Council's approval to the consolidation and lower gas rates as approved by the TRC. Mr. Rodgers recommended approval. There was discussion.

C. DISCUSS ALLOCATION OF HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES TO ENTITIES REQUESTING DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017.

Mayor White stated that Southwest Clocks and Watches Museum would not be receiving hotel occupancy tax this year and proposed that Hat Rod Productions be included in the allocations. There was discussion about the in-kind service values offered by the City of Lockhart for the Hat Rod Car Show, and several Hispanic and Lockhart Chamber events.

There was discussion about a proposal to allocate Fiscal Year 2016-2017 hotel occupancy tax funds based on previous year's budgeted distribution as follows:

Caldwell County Museum	\$ 2,110
Gaslight-Baker Theatre	\$ 7,875
Greater Caldwell County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	\$10,249
Lockhart Chamber of Commerce	\$31,825
Hat Rod Productions	\$ 4,961
TOTAL	\$57,020

Mayor White announced that the allocations would be determined during the regular meeting.

RECESS: Mayor White announced that the Council would recess for a break at 6:50 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Lew White called the regular meeting of the Lockhart City Council to order on this date at 7:30 p.m.

ITEM 2. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Invocation - Ministerial Alliance.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

ITEM 3. CITIZENS/VISITORS COMMENTS.

Mayor White requested citizens to address the Council. There were none.

ITEM 4-A. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2016.

Councilmember Michelson made a motion to approve the December 6, 2016 Council meeting minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

ITEM 4-B. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2016-29 SETTING RATES AND ESTABLISHING TARIFFS FOR THE PROVISION OF NATURAL GAS SERVICE BY TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY, A DIVISION OF ONE GAS, INC., FOR CUSTOMERS IN THE CITY OF LOCKHART, TEXAS; APPROVING CONSOLIDATION OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS SERVICE AREA AND THE SOUTH TEXAS SERVICE AREA INTO A NEW, COMBINED SERVICE AREA KNOWN AS THE CENTRAL TEXAS SERVICE AREA.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-29, as presented. Councilmember Hilburn seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

ITEM 4-C. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER ALLOCATION OF HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES TO ENTITIES REQUESTING DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017.

Mayor White clarified that hotel occupancy tax is not limited to be distributed to non-profit organizations and that any organization that brings tourism to Lockhart is eligible.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez suggested that the hotel occupancy taxes are not allocated and should be saved to begin accumulating funds towards a convention center. There was discussion.

Councilmember Hilburn made a motion to allocate the hotel occupancy tax as listed below with each entity receiving the lesser of the percentage or the estimated budgeted amount. Councilmember Westmoreland seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1, with Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez opposing.

The hotel occupancy taxes were allocated as follows:

Caldwell County Museum	Lesser of 3.7 % or \$4,840
Gaslight-Baker Theatre	Lesser of 13.8% or \$12,000
Greater Caldwell County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Lesser of 18.0% or \$59,800
Lockhart Chamber of Commerce	Lesser of 55.8% or \$94,769
Hat Rod Productions	Lesser of 8.7% or \$20,000

ITEM 4-D. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS OR COMMITTEES.

Mayor White requested appointments to various boards, commissions or committees. There were none.

ITEM 5. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT, PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION.

- Update: US Hwy 183 expansion project, Hickory to Blackjack.
- Update: Drainage work continues on Mesquite, Braden, Wichita, and Vega Street areas; detention ponds and other work about 85% complete.
- Update: E. Walnut Street Neighborhood Drainage Project, utility clearance work.
- Update: Still working on final designs for Ash, Comal and Pine Street about complete to address drainage issues; neighborhood meeting will be set up in January.
- Update: Economic Development Director, Mr. Rob Tobias will start January 3, 2017.
- Update: Police Chief position interviews complete; City Manager will be interviewing top two candidates within the next two weeks if their schedule allows.
- Report: Job Fair at the Clark Library, Thursday, January 19, 2017 from 11 am – 2 pm.

ITEM 6. COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS – ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST.

Councilmember Westmoreland wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! He inquired about and there was brief discussion regarding properties that needed to be addressed regarding junk, litter and debris.

Councilmember Mendoza thanked the Light Up Lockhart group for the Christmas Tree Lighting event on the Courthouse lawn and Lilly's for the Children's Christmas party. He thanked staff for their work at restoring power as quickly as possible during the outage this weekend. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez thanked staff for working to restore power during the outage this weekend. She expressed condolences to the families of Blas Rodriguez and Cynthia Shuler for their loss. She thanked the Lockhart Police Department for hosting the Blue Santa program and to Lilly's for hosting the Children's Christmas party. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Councilmember Hilburn wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Councilmember Michelson wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! He thanked staff for their work on restoring power this past weekend.

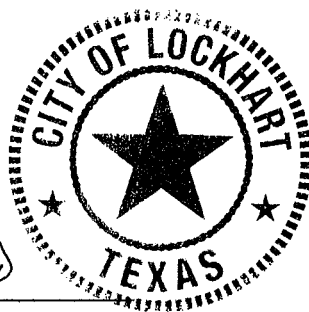
Mayor White thanked all City staff for their work. He thanked Lydia Serna for hosting the annual Children's Christmas party. He wished everyone safe and Happy Holidays and a Happy 2017 Year!

ITEM 7. ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 3rd day of January 2017.

CITY OF LOCKHART



Lew White

 Lew White, Mayor

ATTEST:

Connie Constancio

 Connie Constancio, TRMC
 City Secretary