

**REGULAR MEETING
LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL**

AUGUST 20, 2024

6:30 P.M.

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

Council present:

Councilmember John Castillo
Councilmember Juan Mendoza
Councilmember Jeffry Michelson

Mayor Lew White
Councilmember Brad Westmoreland
Councilmember John Lairsen
Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez

Staff present:

Steve Lewis, City Manager
Joseph Resendez, Assistant City Manager
Gary Williamson, Police Chief
Sean Kelley, Public Works Director
Will Wachel, TRC Engineering

Brad Bullock, City Attorney
Julie Bowermon, City Secretary
Holly Malish, Economic Development Director
Keeli Michna, Finance Director
Tatianna Salazar, Public Information Officer

Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council: Dave Marsh of CARTS; Robert Lee Lewis, Citizen;

Work Session 6:30 p.m.

Mayor White 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 AMENDING THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAPITAL AREA RURAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (CARTS) AND THE CITY OF LOCKHART.

Mr. Resendez stated that on June 20, 2024, David Marsh, CARTS General Manager, submitted a funding request letter to staff for the City's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget for City Council consideration. CARTS is requesting \$40,000 to be approved by City Council for the upcoming fiscal year. During the July 16th City Council meeting, Mr. Marsh and Ms. Dana Platt, CARTS Community Services Director, gave a presentation to City Council with additional information associated with their increased funding allocation request. Staff was directed to perform additional review and return to City Council for consideration. Previously, City Council approved an Interlocal Agreement with CARTS in August 2023 to include a \$20,000 contribution for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. In 2022, CARTS introduced the CARTS Now service. The added costs for this type of service requires a higher level of funding.

Dave Marsh of CARTS thanked the Lockhart City Council for continued support and for consideration of the increased funding request. There was discussion.

B. DISCUSS INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOCKHART INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF LOCKHART REGARDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS FOR THE 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR AND A PROPOSED FIRST ADDENDUM TO THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE REIMBURSEMENT FROM LISD TO THE CITY FOR SRO SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT STIPEND.

Chief Williamson stated that this Interlocal Cooperation Agreement (ILA), for the 2024-2025 school year, between the Lockhart Independent School District and the City of Lockhart sets forth guidelines to ensure

that Lockhart Police Department and Lockhart ISD have a shared understanding of the role and responsibility of each in maintaining safe schools, and supporting educational opportunities for all students. The agreement details the SRO program structure, services to be provided, general duties and responsibilities, training, financial responsibilities and equipment, and the relationship between the parties. Lockhart ISD approved the 2024-2025 school year ILA on July 22, 2024. The purpose of the proposed First Addendum to the current ILA is to provide for reimbursement from LISD to the City for the amount of the SRO special assignment stipend paid to SROs. LISD is requesting and will fund the special assignment pay of \$1,000 per month from August 26, 2024 to May 31, 2025. This additional assignment pay shall cease at the end of the school year, May 31, 2025. This pay is in addition to their normal assignment pay of \$200 per month. This addendum is expected to be considered by the LISD Board soon. Amendments to Ordinance 2024-21 will be considered on a separate agenda item. There was discussion.

C. DISCUSS ORDINANCE 2024-21 AMENDING UN-CODIFIED ORDINANCE 2018-07, SECTION II (F) REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER WITHIN THE LOCKHART POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ALL OTHER SECTIONS OF ORDINANCE 2018-07 REMAINING UNCHANGED.

Chief Williamson stated that the Lockhart Independent School District (LISD) has proposed to temporarily increase the assignment pay of Lockhart Police Officers assigned by the Police Chief as School Resource Officers at LISD campuses from August 26, 2024 through May 31, 2025. LISD will cover the expense of this increase as stated in the "First Addendum of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Lockhart Independent School District and the City of Lockhart."

Civil Service - Local Government Code Chapter 143, permits an ordinance to establish assignment pay and shift differential pay for fire fighters and police officers that perform specialized assignments such as School Resource Officer. This was done by passing Ordinance 2018-07 which includes a \$200 per month school resource officer assignment pay. The proposed amendment authorizes an additional assignment payment of \$1,000 per month, as proposed by LISD, to be paid to Lockhart Police Officers assigned as SROs.

The additional pay is proposed to be for a term of August 26, 2024 - May 31, 2025. After May 31, 2025, SRO assignment pay would return to the current \$200 per month. This is similar to what was done earlier this year in March 2024, at that time a temporary additional pay was requested by LISD and approved for the remainder of the 23-24 school year which was from March 2024 through May 2024.

In accordance with the "First Addendum of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Lockhart Independent School District and the City of Lockhart," the proposed temporary additional SRO assignment pay would be funded by LISD. Therefore, the additional pay should not have a financial impact on the City.

D. DISCUSS RESOLUTION 2024-20 BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOCKHART, TEXAS AND FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT OF THE TEXAS STATE HIGHWAY 130 CONCESSION COMPANY AND ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE.

Ms. Malish stated that a major initiative began in 2019 for advocacy of additional connectivity between SH 130 and I-35. This would benefit Lockhart by increasing regional mobility and providing additional accessibility for major industries and residents alike. Interest is increasing again to encourage the

legislature and TxDOT to find a way to utilize SH 130's existing agreement to fund other area road improvements (not any new tolls). Caldwell County recently passed a Resolution in support of this.

E. DISCUSS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN THE GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY (GBRA) AND THE CITY OF LOCKHART REGARDING THE DEDICATION OF EASEMENTS RELATED TO THE CARRIZO GROUNDWATER SUPPLY PROJECT AND RELATED CLOSING DOCUMENTS, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN, IF APPROVED.

Mr. Kelley stated that on June 4, 2024, City Council approved an MOA between the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the City of Lockhart authorizing the dedication of two easements associated with Phase II of the Carrizo Water Supply Project. Recently, additional documents from GBRA's title company were submitted to the City for signature that were not apart of the initial easement and MOA packet. Consequently, under the direction of the City's Attorney, the signing of the additional closing documents will require authorization. The appraised value of the two easements is approximately \$134,350. GBRA asks that the City dedicate the easements to GBRA in consideration for a second delivery point provided to the City of Lockhart at the Cesar Chavez Elevated Storage Tank. The estimated cost for the second delivery point is \$1.95M in construction costs, which GBRA can offer to the City as compensation for the dedicated permanent easements. The second delivery point would be treated water with a dedicated chemical treatment feed, and a metering station. The connection size has been designed as a 12" water main connection. Establishing a second delivery point for treated water is important for several reasons, including:

- Create redundancy in the water system to make the utility more resilient.
- Diversify and increase the City's water supply pumping capacity beyond its current delivery point, which is centralized at the Water Treatment Plant's high service pump station.
- Provide additional water supply during outages, rehabilitation, or scheduled maintenance at the City's water treatment plant.

There was discussion.

F. DISCUSS THE AMENDED AND RENEWAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (ILA) WITH PLUM CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT IF APPROVED.

Mr. Kelley stated that the Plum Creek Partnership was created in 2006 and was established to restore and protect the waters of the Plum Creek. In 2011, the City along with other governmental agencies and utilities entered into an Interlocal Agreement regarding the partnership, which was renewed April 18, 2023. The Amended and Renewal Interlocal Agreement establishes the primary responsibilities and tasks of the Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator, found in Attachments A & B. The agreement also sets forth the annual financial commitment for each entity based on population and square miles. The City's annual commitment remains the same as last year at \$2,686.00. The terms of the agreement are for (1) one year and will automatically renew each year.

G. DISCUSS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RISK POOL AND THE CITY OF LOCKHART FOR CYBER LIABILITY AND DATA BREACH RESPONSE COVERAGE.

Mr. Resendez stated that the City is a member of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) to provide insurance for liability, property, errors and omissions, and other claims and coverage, including cyber liability and data breach response coverage. In 2016, TMLIRP began offering

cyber liability coverage to all members. Since that time, cyber crimes have exponentially increased in both frequency and severity. Future cybercriminal activity is impossible to predict, which means neither the TMLIRP nor any other insurer can rely on past patterns and trends to predict future losses. The Board of Trustees recently approved the Pool's formation of a new Cyber Fund and updated cyber liability and data breach response coverage, effective October 1, 2024. Each member of TMLIRP, including the City, must approve a new, separate interlocal agreement (ILA) to join the new Cyber Fund.

TMLIRP's cyber liability and data breach response coverage includes the following:

- Breach Response - which includes access to computer experts, public relations specialists, attorneys, negotiators, and others with experience responding to cyberattacks.
- Network Business Interruption - which can help cover the loss of income and extra expenses (for a limited period) caused by a cyberattack.
- Cyber Extortion - which can help with ransom payments to recover data.
- Data Recovery Costs - which can help with costs to restore data that was damaged, corrupted, and/or deleted.
- Fraud Protection - which can help (if certain conditions are met) with costs related to - for example - when an employee is tricked into sending money to a cybercriminal.

Currently, the City has Core+ Cyber Coverage, the highest coverage offered by TMLIRP. Staff recommends maintaining this level of coverage with the approval of the Cyber Fund ILA. To date, the City has not reported any cyber-related claims to TMLIRP.

There was discussion.

H. RECEIVE AND DISCUSS THE 3RD QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2024 INVESTMENT REPORT.

Ms. Michna stated that the Texas Public Funds Investment Act requires local governments to review and accept the quarterly investment reports for each quarterly reporting period of the fiscal year. She provided details about the 3rd Quarter Investment Report of Fiscal Year End (FYE) 2024, ending June 30, 2024.

I. DISCUSS CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES WITH THE CALDWELL COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR TO CONDUCT THE CITY OF LOCKHART'S SPECIAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024.

Ms. Bowermon stated that the Caldwell County Elections Administrator (County EA) is conducting Elections on November 5, 2024. The City of Lockhart will hold a special election for a proposed charter amendment. Since 2010, in the interest of a public purpose, the City of Lockhart has contracted with the County EA to conduct City Elections to enable all propositions and public official positions to be on one ballot for voters within Caldwell County. The City of Lockhart shall pay an administrative fee of 10% of the total cost of the election and any runoff election or \$75, whichever is greater. In the event the services are provided for a joint election, the cost shall be equally prorated between the participating entities. The City of Lockhart ordered the November 5, 2024 Special Election during the previous Council meeting held on August 6, 2024. The Caldwell County Commissioners Court is anticipated to consider appointment of Central Count, Early Voting Ballot Board, and Election Day Judges at the next County Commissioners Court at the end of August. These appointments are referenced in the contact as Attachment 'C'. If necessary, after the County appointments these positions, an item will be placed on the following City Council meeting to consider acknowledging their appointments.

There was discussion.

J. DISCUSSION REGARDING NOMINATION OF ROB ORTIZ TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD BY COUNCILMEMBER JOHN CASTILLO FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN NOVEMBER 2025.

Mayor stated that the vote will be considered during the regular meeting portion of the agenda.

RECESS: Mayor White announced that the Council would recess for a break at 7:15 p.m.

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Lew White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ITEM 2. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor White gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

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

Robert Lee Lewis, 718 Chihuahua Street, expressed concern about shootings in the neighborhood. He expressed concern about an unfinished sewer line repair that left a dangerous deep manhole on the street. He requested that the manhole be repaired.

ITEM 4-A. HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED CITY OF LOCKHART FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET.

Mayor White opened the public hearing at 7:37 p.m. and requested the staff background report.

Mr. Resendez stated that the City Charter requires that the City Council hold one public hearing for the City of Lockhart Budget to allow for public comments. It was staff's recommendation to hold two hearings to allow residents two opportunities to comment on the proposed budget. This is the first public hearing. The second public hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on September 3, 2024. There were updates about the proposed budget.

Mayor White requested citizens to address the Council. There were none. He closed the public hearing at 7:48 p.m.

ITEM 5. CONSENT AGENDA.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to approve consent agenda items 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D. Councilmember Lairsen seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

The following are the consent agenda items that were approved:

- 5A: Approve Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and the City of Lockhart regarding the dedication of easements related to the Carrizo Groundwater Supply Project and related closing documents, and authorizing the Mayor to sign if approved.
- 5B: Approve the Amended and Renewal of Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Plum Creek Watershed Partnership and authorizing the City Manager to sign the document if approved.
- 5C: Approve Interlocal Agreement between Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool and the City of Lockhart for Cyber Liability and Data Breach Response Coverage.
- 5D: Accept the 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2024 Investment Report.

ITEM 6-A. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING AMENDING THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAPITAL AREA RURAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (CARTS) AND THE CITY OF LOCKHART.

There was discussion.

Mayor White made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with CARTS with funding in the amount of \$30,000. Councilmember Michelson seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 6-B. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOCKHART INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF LOCKHART REGARDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS FOR THE 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR AND A PROPOSED FIRST ADDENDUM TO THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE REIMBURSEMENT FROM LISD TO THE CITY FOR SRO SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT STIPEND.

Councilmember Michelson made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement and a First Addendum, as presented. Councilmember Westmoreland seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 6-C. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ORDINANCE 2024-21 AMENDING UN-CODIFIED ORDINANCE 2018-07, SECTION II (F) REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER WITHIN THE LOCKHART POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ALL OTHER SECTIONS OF ORDINANCE 2018-07 REMAINING UNCHANGED.

Councilmember Lairsen made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-21, as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 6-D. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING RESOLUTION 2024-20 BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOCKHART, TEXAS AND FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT OF THE TEXAS STATE HIGHWAY 130 CONCESSION COMPANY AND ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE.

Councilmember Michelson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-20, as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 6-E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES WITH THE CALDWELL COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR TO CONDUCT THE CITY OF LOCKHART'S SPECIAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to approve the contract with the Caldwell County Elections Administrator, as presented. Councilmember Lairsen seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 6-F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING NOMINATION OF ROB ORTIZ TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD BY COUNCILMEMBER JOHN CASTILLO FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN NOVEMBER 2025.

Rob Ortiz, 1004 N. Commerce Street, stated that he has served as an alternate on the Parks and Recreation Board for approximately 15 years and stated that he looked forward to serving as a regular member.

Councilmember Castillo made a motion to appoint Rob Ortiz to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Update regarding the TXCDBG Water Meter grant.
- Austin Community College annexation Election: upcoming Community Outreach event.
- Update regarding the Downtown Revitalization Project – pre-construction meeting scheduled for August 22nd.
- Final Courthouse Nights Music event of the summer will be held August 23rd.
- Lockhart Municipal Airport TxDOT Paving Project update – TxDOT anticipates resoliciting bids in November 2024 with construction estimated to start April 2025.

ITEM 8. COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS - ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Councilmember Westmoreland encouraged everyone to be mindful of students and pedestrians during school hours.

Councilmember Mendoza expressed condolences to the Oliva and Sanchez family for their loss. He invited the Council to attend a seminar hosted by Denton and Navarro about city issues.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez expressed condolences to the family of Chris Sanchez for their loss. She encouraged everyone to be safe and mindful of children walking during school hours. She wished students a successful school year.

Councilmember Lairsen stated that the Gaslight-Baker Theatre has renovated their venue to improve performance stages. He encouraged everyone to be safe during the extreme heat.

Councilmember Castillo expressed condolences to Oliva and Sanchez family for their loss. He thanked all that are working in the extreme heat, and he encouraged them to stay safe and hydrated.

Councilmember Michelson encouraged everyone to be safe and mindful of children walking during school hours. He encouraged everyone to be safe during the extreme heat.

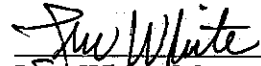
Mayor White encouraged everyone to be safe and mindful of pedestrian traffic during school hours. He gave an update about the Old Carver School proposed renovations. He stated that some emergency hospitals have expressed interest in Lockhart, which staff will meet with soon. Staff is working on design standards to present to Council during the next meeting that will limit and/or prohibit Residential High Density development on San Antonio Street and major entrances to Lockhart. He expressed condolences to the family of Chris Sanchez for their loss.

ITEM 9. ADJOURNMENT

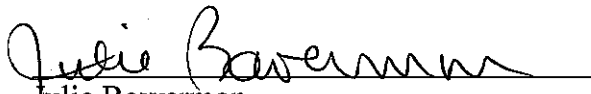
Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 5th day of August, 2025.

CITY OF LOCKHART


Lew White, Mayor

ATTEST:


Julie Bowermon
City Secretary

