

**MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2025
CITY OF LUMBERTON**

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Lumberton was held at 7:00 p.m. on April 28, 2025, pursuant to notice duly posted according to law. The following members were present:

Don Surratt	-	Mayor
Lynette Barks	-	Councilwoman
Joey Schoen	-	Mayor Pro Tem
Kenneth Wahl	-	Councilman
David Maniscalco	-	Councilman
Dan Bell	-	Councilman

Also present were City Manager Steve Clark, City Attorney Curtis Soileau, Police Chief Danny Sullins, City Secretary Darla Harrington and other guests (see attached Guest Register).

Mayor Surratt called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. noting that a quorum was present, and meeting was duly called and posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Councilman Wahl then delivered the Invocation; Mayor Surratt led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Maniscalco led the Texas Pledge.

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION – MAYOR PRO TEM SCHOEN PRESIDING

Ms. Terry Woodson, with Frontier Waste Solutions, came forward to address the Council. She Stated that Frontier Waste Solutions is a Texas based company that started in 2017 and that their goal is to help clean up every city in Texas. Ms. Woodson stated that she had heard about the issues that Lumberton is having with their garbage pick up and wanted to introduce her company and offer their services.

Cheryl Backhouse, a 10-year resident of Lumberton came forward to speak regarding the trash pickup problem. She stated that they have never had any issues with garbage pickup until Live Oak Environmental took over. She stated that she had observed the new garbage truck, which only has one employee working on it, and she feels like this method is much slower than having the two-man method that they used to have. She also stated that sometimes on rainy days the lids are left open, accumulating rain, and it makes it hard to dump the trash can over and clean out.

Precinct 4 County Commissioner Ernie Koch came forward to address the Council regarding Live Oak Environmental. He stated that his Precinct covers the area from Walton Road to Pine Island Bayou and Hwy 69 to the Neches River so a portion of this area is within the Lumberton City Limits. Mr. Koch stated that he wanted the Council to know that the problems with Live Oak Environmental is not only within the City limits, but also extends to the surrounding areas as well.

Dwight Robinson, with Live Oak Environmental came forward to address the Council regarding the trash pickup issues. Mr. Robinson acknowledged the issues and accepted full responsibility for the problems. He stated that to remedy the current issues they brought in extra trucks and also brought in a third-party vendor to help them catch up. Moving forward, they are in the process of hiring new employees and will have a representative check in daily with the City for any problems or complaints. He assured the Council that these issued will be resolved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CITY BUSINESS:

None at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2025 PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING

Councilman Bell made a Motion to accept the Minutes as presented.

Councilman Maniscalco seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously with six (6) for and none (0) against.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Item #250421 – Discussion and Possible Action – Discuss Solid Waste Collection Service Contract with Live Oak Environmental, LLC

City Attorney Curtis Soileau explained that the contract states that the City is to provide a written notice advising Live Oak Environmental that they have thirty (30) days to remedy the problems. At this time, it is up to the Council as to what, if any, action they choose to take. Each Council member had opportunity to voice their concerns. Councilman Bell stated that the citizens of Lumberton deserved better service and that he will hold Live Oak Environmental to their promises made. Councilman Maniscalco agreed and stated that because of all the issues that the City has had with Live Oak Environmental he would cancel the contract immediately if it were possible. Mayor Pro Tem Schoen voiced his concerns regarding the current issues as well as the issues in the past. Specifically, Live Oak Environmental's billing process, lack of trucks, and employees that cannot pass a drug test. He stated that he has driven through a whole neighborhood and the garbage caused the whole neighborhood to smell. Councilman Wahl stated that this has been an ongoing problem since Live Oak Environmental took over. He questioned what would happen after the 30-day notice if Live Oak were to go back to the same issues again. City Attorney Curtis Soileau stated that there would not be any additional 30-day letters. If the problems did not stay resolved, the next letter will be a termination notice.

Councilman Bell made a Motion to send the thirty (30) day notice letter, as written by City Attorney Curtis Soileau, to Live Oak Environmental, and the City will uphold the notice as it states. Councilman Maniscalco seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously with six (6) for and none (0) against.

After the Motion was unanimously approved, City Attorney Curtis Soileau requested that Mayor Surratt sign a copy of the letter and hand deliver it to Mr. Dwight Robinson right then. He also requested that a copy of the letter be sent to Live Oak Environmental via certified mail. Mayor Surratt signed the letter and it was personally given to Mr. Robinson at that time.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Monthly financial reports were reviewed and discussed at this time.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Clark stated that the final plat for Chick-fil-A has been completed and recorded and construction should begin soon.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Sullins stated that Ranger, the new canine unit, is doing well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council did not enter into closed Executive Session.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

None at this time.

PERSONNEL:

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Councilman Wahl made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Barks seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously with six (6) for and none (0) against. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

DON SURRATT
MAYOR

ATTEST:

DARLA HARRINGTON
CITY SECRETARY