

**Official Minutes
City Of Lorenzo, TX
September 8, 2025**

**PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL ROOM - LORENZO, TX 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Lori Landin called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Aldermen, Earlene Rampy, Cheryl Birdwell, Janet Peterson-Gonzales, Rhonda Cypert and Steven Longoria. Also, present were City Manager Michael Chambers, City Secretary Lisa Hernandez, Public Works Director Chad Mobbs, City Utility/Court Clerk Isabel Salazar, Crosby County Sheriff Corey Nunley, Crosby County Deputy Chief Frank Lara, Fire Chief Joe Caballero, and guests.

Lorenzo City Council Member Janet Peterson-Gonzales gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Lori Landin.

Public Hearing on the City of Lorenzo governing body's proposed tax rate of \$0.924766 per \$100 valuation creating a tax levy of \$362,681; which is an 3.35% increase on taxes from the previous year. The purposed tax rate does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate.

Public Comment:

Hilda Castillo states her name and address. Mayor and council people in the public budget report for 2025-2026 it says this budget supports a lowered property tax rate of .92100 valuation, I voted for that and was happy to give that to the citizens and I just want to know what changed. I know there are things that change throughout the year but why this much as we all know utilities, gasoline and food and other things have risen and keep on rising it not only affects all of us and I know it affects the cities in different ways. Most of us have had to reassess our budgets and cut back, leave out and I suggest for Lorenzo to do the same. The notice doesn't give us the reason for the increase but if I did the math correctly according to the purposed and current tax assessments that gives us an increase of eleven thousand six hundred and eighty one dollars. I know that there is probably an expected additional tax levy so this number may be different but why and why does the city needing twelve thousand dollars more. I urge you to please find that in the budget before you burn the citizens with a tax increase that will be permanent. Thank you.

Delia Quintana states her name and address. To the members of the Lorenzo City Council I am writing as a concerned resident of Lorenzo regarding the purpose increase in our city tax rate. While I do understand that the cities require revenue to maintain services and infrastructure. I do not believe that raising the tax rate at this time isn't in the best interest of our community. Many residents are already struggling to manage with the rising cost of living, including higher prices for groceries, utilities, healthcare, and also housing. For working families, seniors on fixed incomes and those living paycheck to paycheck, even a modest tax increase can create real financial hardship. Asking citizens to bare an additional burden during such an unstable economic climate feels unfair and unsustainable. Adding to these concerns is also the fact that city employees and administrators have continued to receive significant raises in recent years while fair compensation is important, it is difficult for taxpayers to accept higher taxes when city leadership has not demonstrated physical restraint or commitment to aligning in spending with their financial realities facing residents. Before considering a tax hike, I strongly urge the council to review salaries, staffing levels and discretionary spending to ensure the taxpayer dollars are being managed responsibly. By healthy community thrives on balance between the needs of its citizens and responsibilities of its government, right now the balance feels out of place, raising taxes without first addressing spending priorities, roads trust in leadership places an undue burden on the very people you were elected to serve. I respectfully ask that the council reconsider the purpose tax increase, instead focus on budgetary countability, cost efficiency and transparent financial planning. Our town deserves a path forward that supports a central services without over taxing its citizens. Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Dana Cunningham states her name and address. I am speaking in regarding to the considering and approving the Ordinance regards to running a business in a residential area and this affects me as well as other people in my neighborhood because where this resident is on the corner of Harrison and first street and they are wanting to run their mechanic shop out of that address. It has become a danger, I have almost been hit three times at that intersection because I have not been able to see around all the cars, trailers and pickups and all the junk. If I wanted to live in a junk yard, I would have gone to build a junk yard but I am not wanting to do that. This is a public safety issue because of the fact that it is impeding the vision of vehicles coming to and from but also if there is a fire further west of that address there is no way fire trucks or any other emergency vehicles can get down the street if they got vehicles on either side so I do not believe we need to be approving something of

that nature because this is a residence area only. If they wanted to run a business they could have gone elsewhere where they could have all of that, but not in a residential area. Thank you.

Closed Public Hearing at 7:08 pm.

Opened Special Council Meeting at 7:09 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

Public Hearing and possible action regarding:

- 9. City of Lorenzo governing body's proposed tax rate of \$0.924766 per \$100 valuation creating a tax levy of \$362,681; which is an 3.35% increase on taxes from the previous year. The proposed tax rate does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate.** - Council Member Cheryl Birdwell moves that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.899766, which is effectively a 0.56 percent increase in the tax rate. Council Member Janet Peterson-Gonzales seconded. VOTE: Five (5) in favor, motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Regular Agenda – Items 10-12: *These are items of a routine nature that may be approved with one motion unless a Council Member requests that an item be removed from Consent Agenda and considered separately. That motion will approve the recommended action for each item on the Consent Agenda.*

- 10. Approve August 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.** - Council Member Rhonda Cypert motions to accept the August 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Council Member Steven Longoria seconded. VOTE: Five (5) in favor, motion passed.
- 11. Approve August 18, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.** - Council Member Cheryl Birdwell motions to accept the August 18, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes. Council Member Earlene Rampy seconded. VOTE: Five (5) in favor, motion passed.
- 12. Approve Financial Statements/Accounts Payable for August 2025.** - Council Member Rhonda Cypert motions to accept the August 2025 Financial Statements and Accounts Payable. Council Member Janet Peterson-Gonzales seconded. VOTE: Five (5) in favor, motion passed.
- 13. Staff Reports:**
{Staff reports are for discussion only. No Action may be taken on items listed under this portion of the agenda other than provide general direction to staff or to direct staff to place such items on a future agenda for action.}
- a) City Manager Report: Michael Chambers
 - b) Crosby Conty Sheriff Report: Corey Nunley
 - c) Fire Department Report: Joe Caballero

Discuss and Take Action Regarding:

- 14. Consider and approve moving the Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, October to Tuesday October 14 due to the National Holiday of Columbus Day.** - Council Member Janet Peterson-Gonzales motions approve to move the Council Meeting in October to Tuesday the 14th. Council Member Rhonda Cypert seconded. VOTE: Five (5) in favor, motion passed.
- 15. Consider and Approve resolution 090825 for the home grant program.** – *Tabled Resolution for only the council to set up a workshop with SPAG to get more information on the home grant program.*
- 16. Consider and approve ordinance 250908 in regards to running a business in a residential area.** – *Tabled to have a Public Hearing on September 22nd for this Ordinance and to have the City Attorney here.*
- 17. Consider and approve R&J Dirt Work invoice to be paid from the property clean up fund.** – *Tabled to get the actual expenses for the invoice.*
- 18. EXECUTIVE SESSION: An Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate regarding Real Property:**
- A. Discussion on property 105 N. Monroe**

TIME INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:07 PM

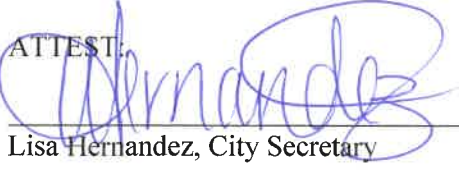
TIME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:37 PM

19. Reconvene into open session and take action on items discussed in Executive Session.

- A. Discussion on property 105 N. Monroe.** - Council Member Cheryl Birdwell motions that for the property at North Monroe we talk to the appraisal district and other entities and agree upon deeming the property back to the owner, he would have to file his exemptions so he can qualify for a deferral, this deferral would postpone tax payments and prevent foreclosure while in effect. Council Member Steven Longoria seconded. VOTE: Five (5) in favor, motion passed.

20. Adjournment. - City Mayor Lori Landin adjourns the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

ATTEST:



Lisa Hernandez, City Secretary



Lori Landin, City Mayor