



**City of La Vernia**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
City Council Chambers of La Vernia City Hall  
102 E. Chihuahua Street, La Vernia, Texas 78121

February 13, 2020  
6:30 PM

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Texas Pledge** (*Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible*).

**3. Citizens to be Heard**

*(At this time, citizens who have filled out a registration form prior to the start of the meeting may speak on any topic they wish to bring to the attention of the governing body so long as that topic is not on the agenda for this meeting. Citizens may speak on specific agenda items when that item is called for discussion. During the Citizens to be Heard section no council action may take place and no council discussion or response is required to the speaker. A time limit of three minutes per speaker is permitted; the council may extend this time at their discretion)*

**4. Consent Agenda**

*(All consent agenda items are considered routine by City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember requests an item be removed and considered separately.)*

- A. Minutes from the January 9, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. La Vernia Police Department – Reports, Traffic Violations & Arrests; and Number of Occurrences by Offense for the month of January;
- C. Check Register and financial report for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter

**5. Discussion/Action**

- A. Discuss and consider action on moving 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday from Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>

**6. Ordinances**

- A. Discuss and consider approval of Ordinance No. 021320-01, to call a General Election for the City of La Vernia on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 for the purpose of electing one (1) Mayor and two (2) council members.

**7. Resolution**

- A. Discuss and consider approving Resolution 021320-01 Medical/First Aide Project grant.
- B. Discuss and consider approving Resolution 021320-02 for rifle resistant body armor grant.
- C. Discuss, consider and take appropriate action on adopting a resolution to adopt the Karnes-Wilson Counties Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Action Plan in its entirety.

**8. Items Specific to Future Line Items on the Agenda**

**9. Adjourn**

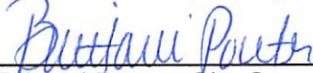
#### DECORUM REQUIRED

Any disruptive behavior, including shouting or derogatory statements or comments may be ruled out of order by the Presiding Officer. Continuation of this type of behavior could result in a request by the Presiding Officer that the individual leave the meeting, and if refused, an order of removal.

The City Council for the City of La Vernia reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Governmental Code §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), §551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), §551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), §551.074 (Personnel Matters), §551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and §551.087 (Economic Development), and any other provisions under Texas law that permits a governmental body to discuss a matter in closed executive session.

The City of La Vernia City Council meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. This facility is wheelchair accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for accommodations, should you require special assistance, must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Braille is not available. Please contact the City Secretary at (830) 779-4541 or email [bporter@lavernia-tx.gov](mailto:bporter@lavernia-tx.gov).

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above Notice of Meeting of the governing body of the above named La Vernia City Council is a true and correct copy of said Notice and that I posted true and correct copy of said Notice on the bulletin boards, of the City Hall of said City of La Vernia, Texas, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times, and said Notice was posted on February 10, 2020 at 4:30 P.M. and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours proceeding the scheduled time of said meeting.



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Brittani Porter, City Secretary



**City of La Vernia**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
City Council Chambers of La Vernia City Hall  
102 E. Chihuahua Street, La Vernia, Texas 78121

January 9, 2020  
6:30 PM

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order** – Mayor Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:30 and declared a quorum. All members were present.

**2. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Texas Pledge** – Invocation was led by [redacted] and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

**3. Citizens to be Heard-** there were no citizens to be heard.

**4. Consent Agenda**

*(All consent agenda items are considered routine by City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember requests an item be removed and considered separately.)*

- A. Minutes from the December 12, 2019 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. La Vernia Police Department – Reports, Traffic Violations & Arrests; and Number of Occurrences by Offense for the month of October ;
- C. Check Register and financial report for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter
- D. Quarterly Investment Report

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Councilman Poore to accept the consent agenda as presented seconded by Councilwoman Recker. **Motion passes: 5-0.**

**5. Presentation**

**A. Presentation by Chief Ritchey on the Public Safety Award for 2019 National Night Out**

Chief Ritchey thanked many sponsors and volunteers for the 2019 National Night Out that landed them in 1<sup>st</sup> place for their region.

**B. Presentation from Armstrong, Vaughn & Associates regarding the FY 2019 Annual Audit**

Mr. Phil Vaughn presented the FY Audit for 2019. He stated we are in good shape. He stated on pg. 49 total revenue was under 1.8 million, the City had a \$30k increase in sales tax & grants for the Police Department. Overall he stated we were under budget for the year. General fund ended at 1.6 million which was evaluated by months of operational costs and is very health. Last he stated that the Municipal Development District street maintenance saw an increase and debt services were paid out. Mr. Vaughn stated Yvonne has done an outstanding job with the financials.

La Vernia City Council took a recess at 6:56 PM and reconvened into the meeting at 7:04 PM.

## **6. Discussion/Action**

### **A. Discuss and consider action on granting easement to GVEC located at 14000 blk of US Hwy 87**

City Administrator stated GVEC has a utility line over a lot within the mobile home park in the 14000 blk of US Hwy 87 W. Request is to move the line that is a potential safety hazard.

**MOTION:** Councilman Hennette made a motion to approve granting an easement to GVEC located at 14000 blk of US Hwy 87, seconded by Councilwoman Recker. **Motion passes: 5-0.**

### **B. Discuss and consider action to go out for proposals for cleaning services at City Hall.**

City Administrator advised that since she has been employed for 5-6 years and we have not gone out for bids and would like to based on some previous inquiries from Jana-King.

**MOTION:** Councilman Poore made a motion to go out for bids, seconded by Councilman Cormier. **Motion passed: 5-0.**

### **C. Discuss and consider action on possible revisions to the pay scale/steps for City Employees.**

Mayor Gregory stated that himself, Chief and City Administrator spoke immensely for many hours on the pay scale and would like to have a workshop to clarify what is in place. What has been implemented is very effective to include longevity and certification pay. Mayor Gregory stated the workshop will provide explanation in greater detail.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Recker made a motion to table the possible revisions to the pay scale contingent upon the workshop, seconded by Councilman Hennette. **Motion to table passes: 5-0.**

## **7. Ordinances**

### **A. Discuss and consider approval of Ordinance No. 010920-01, designating the City's official newspaper.**

**MOTION:** Councilman Poore made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 010920-01, designating the City's official newspaper, seconded by Councilman Cormier. **Motion passes: 5-0.**

## **8. Resolution**

### **A. Discuss and consider approving Resolution 010920-01 to adopt City's Investment Policy.**

**MOTION:** Councilman Poore made a motion to approve Resolution 010920-01 to adopt City's Investment Policy, seconded by Councilwoman Hutchinson. **Motion passes: 5-0.**

## **9. Items Specific to Future Line Items on the Agenda**

**10. Adjourn** – Councilman Poore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hennette. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

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Robert Gregory, Mayor

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Brittani Porter, City Secretary

**ORDINANCE NO. 021320-01**

**AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR A MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020 FOR THE CITY OF LA VERNIA, WILSON COUNTY, TEXAS; ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING TWO (2) ALDERMAN AND ONE (1) MAYOR FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM; DESIGNATING THE LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE; PROVIDING FOR DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS FOR SUCH ELECTION; SETTING THE RATE OF PAY FOR THE ELECTION CLERKS; PROVIDING FOR THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ELECTION CLERKS; AND DESIGNATION OF THE EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD.**

**WHEREAS**, the laws of the State of Texas provide that on May 2, 2020, there shall be a general election for two (2) Alderman and one (1) Mayor for two (2) year terms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Election code is applicable to said election, and in order to comply with said Code, an ordinance should be passed calling the election and establishing the procedures to be followed in said election, and designating the voting place for said election; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of La Vernia (the "City") lies within the boundaries of Wilson County; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council must call for an election to elect its city officials.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNIA, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1. General Election Ordered.** A general election shall be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020 to elect the following city officers: two (2) Aldermen and one (1) Mayor of the City Council of the City of La Vernia, Texas.

**SECTION 2. Filing Period.** Candidates for the above officers may file their application beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 15, 2020, and shall file their applications by later than 5:00 p.m. February 14, 2020. All candidates for the office to be filled in the election to be held on May 2, 2020, shall file their application to become candidates, with the City Secretary of the City at City Hall, 102 E. Chihuahua Street, La Vernia, Texas, on any weekday that is not a City holiday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and all of said applications shall be on a form as prescribed by Section 141.031 of the Election Code of the State of Texas.

**SECTION 3. Write-in Candidates.** A write-in vote may not be counted unless the name written in appears on the list of write-in candidates. To be entitled to a place on the list of write-in candidates, a candidate must make a declaration of write-in candidacy. A declaration of write-in candidacy must be filed with the City Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

**SECTION 4. Drawing.** The order in which the names of the candidates are to be printed on the ballot shall be determined by a drawing conducted by the City Secretary as provided by the Election Code. Such drawing will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, February 24, 2020 in the City Secretary's Office of La Vernia City Hall.

**SECTION 5. Ballots and Printed Materials.** The ballots used for the election shall comply with the Chapter 52 Texas Election Code and be in the form provided by the City for use on the voting devices or on paper ballots. The official ballots, together with such other election materials as are

required by the Texas Election Code, as amended, shall be printed in both the English and Spanish languages and shall contain such provisions, markings and language as required by law.

**SECTION 6. Conduct of Election.** The election judge, alternate judge and clerks properly appointed for the election, shall hold and conduct the election in the manner provided by the law governing the holding of general elections by general law cities of the State of Texas.

**SECTION 7. Polling Place.** The polling place for joint election shall be held at the following place:

The City of La Vernia City Hall, Council Chambers  
102 E. Chihuahua Street  
La Vernia, Texas 78121.

**SECTION 8. Election Officer.** The Election Officer is appointed to serve as the City's Election Officer, Joint Early Voting Clerk and the Custodian of Records for the City of La Vernia and to conduct the City's election on May 2, 2020.

As the City's Election Officer and Early Voting Clerk, the Election Officer shall coordinate, supervise, and conduct all aspects of administering voting in the City's election in compliance with state law.

**SECTION 9. Election Judges and Clerks.** The presiding judge, alternate presiding judge and clerks for the election shall be selected and appointed by the City of La Vernia, Texas and its appointees in compliance with the requirements of state law, and such judges and clerks so selected are hereby designated and appointed by the city council as the election officers, judges and clerks, respectively, for the holding of said general election. The presiding judge, alternate presiding judge and clerks shall perform the functions and duties of their respective positions that are provided by state law.

The following named persons are hereby appointed officers for said election:

ELECTION JUDGE: Elaine Schnitz  
308 McCoy  
La Vernia, TX 78121

ALTERNATE JUDGE: Chrystal Coble  
962 CR 352  
La Vernia, TX 78121

In accordance with Section 32.091 of the Texas Election Code, the presiding judge shall be paid the rate of \$15.00 per hour, the alternate judge shall be paid the rate of \$12.50 per hour, and clerks shall be paid the rate of \$10.00 per hour.

There shall be a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) clerks at the polling place. The poll at the above-designated polling place shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on said election day.

**SECTION 10. City Secretary.** The City Secretary, or designee, is instructed to acquire and furnish all election supplies and materials necessary to conduct the election. The City Secretary

will serve as Election Officer and Regular Early Voting Clerk for the City to receive requests for applications for early voting ballots. The City Secretary is further authorized to give or cause to be given notices required for the election, and to take such other and further action as is required to conduct the election in compliance with the Texas Election Code.

**SECTION 11. Early Voting.** Early voting, both by personal appearance and by mail, will be conducted in accordance with the Texas Election Code. Early voting by personal appearance for the above designated election shall be at La Vernia City Hall, 102 E. Chihuahua Street, P.O. Box 225, La Vernia, Texas 78121-0225. Early voting will commence on Monday, April 20, 2020, and continue through Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

During the early voting period, the early voting clerk shall keep continuously posted:

1. At the entrance to the room in which the early voting polling place is located, a sign on which is printed in large letters "Early Voting Polling Place"; and
2. In each corridor leading to the entrance to the room in which the early voting polling place is located, 100 feet from the entrance, a sign on which is printed in larger letters "Distance Marker – No electioneering between this point and the entrance to the early voting polling place."

The above described place for early voting is also the early clerk's address to which ballot applications and ballots voted by mail may be sent. Early voting by mail shall be by paper ballots. An applicant for a ballot to be voted by personal appearance must make application at the early voting polling place when the applicant desires to vote. Pursuant to Section 84.007 of the Election Code, an application for a ballot to be voted by mail must be submitted to the early voting clerk by (1) mail; or (2) common or contract carrier. An application by mail must be submitted on or after Tuesday, March 3, 2020 (the 60<sup>th</sup> day before election day) and before the close of regular business in the early voting clerk's office or 12 noon, whichever is later, on Thursday, April 24, 2020 (9<sup>th</sup> day before election day). An application is considered to be submitted at the time of its receipt by the clerk. An applicant for a ballot to be voted by mail may submit his application by delivering it in person to the early voting clerk if the application is submitted no later than the close of regular business in the clerk's office on Friday, April 17, 2020 (the business day before the first day for the period for early voting by personal appearance.) The early voting clerk shall mail without charge an appropriate official application form for an early voting ballot to each person requesting the clerk to send him an application form. The early voting clerk shall review each application for a ballot to be voted by mail. If the applicant is entitled to vote an early voting ballot by mail, the clerk shall provide and official ballot to the applicant as provided by Chapter 86 of the Election Code. If the applicant is not entitled to vote by mail, the clerk shall reject said application in accordance with Section 86.001 of the Texas Election Code. Balloting materials for voting by mail shall be mailed to voters as soon as practicable after the ballots become available but not earlier than Wednesday, March 18, 2020 (the 45<sup>th</sup> day before the election day). A marked ballot voted by mail must arrive at the address on the official carrier envelope for early voting (the City Hall) before the time the polls are required to close on Election Day, May 2, 2020. Voting by mail shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 86 of the Election Code.

**SECTION 12. Notice of Election.** Notice of the election shall be given by posting a notice containing a substantial copy of this ordinance on the bulletin board used for posting notice of meetings of the governing body at the City Hall and at the afore said election day polling places not

later than the twenty-first (21st) day before the election, and by publishing said Notice of Election at least one time, not earlier than thirty (30) days nor later than ten (10) days prior to said election, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City. The notice that is posted, and the notice that is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the city, will be written in both English and Spanish.

**SECTION 13. General.** The Election Officer shall hold said election in accordance with the Texas Election Code, and only resident qualified voters of said City shall be eligible to vote at said election. Returns of said election shall be made known as soon as possible after the closing of the polls; and the election returns shall be canvassed by the City Council not earlier than May 5, 2020 nor later than May 17, 2020.

**SECTION 14. Open Meetings.** It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to public and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Notice was also provided as required by Chapter 52 of the Texas Local Government Code.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

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Robert Gregory, Mayor  
City of La Vernia

**ATTEST:**

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Brittani Porter, City Secretary  
City of La Vernia

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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City Attorney's Office  
City of La Vernia

**RESOLUTION NO. 021320-01**

**WHEREAS**, The City of La Vernia City Council finds it in the best interest of the citizens of La Vernia, that the La Vernia Police Department Medical/First Aide Supplies be operated for the 2020 and

**WHEREAS**, The La Vernia City Council agrees to provide \$20,133.72 for the said project as required by the Criminal Justice Assistance Grant Program grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, The La Vernia City Council agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, La Vernia City Council assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

**WHEREAS**, The La Vernia City Council designates the Mayor as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Vernia City Council approves submission of the grant application for the La Vernia Police Department Medical/First Aide Supply Project to the Office of the Governor.

Signed by:

Passed and Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020.

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Robert Gregory, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Brittani Porter TRMC, City Secretary

Grant Number: 3799501

**RESOLUTION NO. 021320-02**

**WHEREAS**, The City of La Vernia City Council finds it in the best interest of the citizens of La Vernia, that the La Vernia Police Department Rifle Resistant Body Armor Project be operated for the 2020 and

**WHEREAS**, The La Vernia City Council agrees to provide \$2,548.36 for the said project as required by the Rifle Resistant Body Armor Grant Program grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, The La Vernia City Council agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, La Vernia City Council assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

**WHEREAS**, The La Vernia City Council designates the Mayor as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Vernia City Council approves submission of the grant application for the La Vernia Police Department Rifle Resistant Body Armor Project to the Office of the Governor.

Signed by:

Passed and Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020.

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Robert Gregory, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Brittani Porter TRMC, City Secretary

Grant Number: 3977601

**Resolution No. 021320-03**

**RESOLUTION FOR the City of La Vernia  
APPROVAL OF Karnes County – Wilson County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard  
Mitigation Action Plan 2020**

WHEREAS, natural hazards in Wilson County and the City of La Vernia Texas, historically have caused disasters with losses of life and property and natural resources damage; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) require communities to adopt a hazard mitigation action plan to be eligible for the full range of pre-disaster and post disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes; and

WHEREAS, FEMA requires communities to update Hazard Mitigation Action Plans every five years in order to be eligible for the full range of pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Vernia has assessed the community's potential risks and hazards and is committed to planning for a sustainable community and reducing the long-term consequences of natural and man-caused hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Karnes County – Wilson County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Action Plan outlines a mitigation vision, goals and objectives; assesses risk from a range of hazards; and identifies risk reduction strategies and actions for hazards the threaten the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Karnes County – Wilson County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Action Plan is approved in its entirety;
2. The City of La Vernia will pursue available funding opportunities for implementation of the proposals designated therein, and will, upon receipt of such funding or other necessary resources, seek to implement the actions contained in the mitigation strategies;
3. The City of La Vernia vests with the County Judge the responsibility, authority and means to inform all parties of this action; assure that the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be reviewed at least annually; and that any needed adjustments will be presented to the County Commissioners for consideration; and
4. The City of La Vernia agrees to take such other action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Plan and report on progress as required by FEMA and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM).

ADOPTED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020

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Robert W. Gregory  
Mayor, City of La Vernia

Attested to:

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Brittani Porter  
City Secretary