

July 13, 2026

The City Council of the City of Lavaca met for a regular monthly meeting Monday July 13, 2026, at City Hall in Lavaca. Board members present were Mayor Hugh Hardgrave, Aldermen: Mike Ray, Mac Green, Gerald Schaefer, Lisa Hogan, Lorie Robertson, Dawn Hutchins, and Recorder Shelly Vann. Visitors present were Jeremy Smith, Butch Maness, Kirk Barber, Jennifer Barber, Larry Yancey and Paul Sanders.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P. M. Dawn Hutchins led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mac Green led the prayer.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the June regular meeting. Lisa Hogan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as printed. Dawn Hutchins seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Mayor Hardgrave updates. There were 312 customers at the ABC Recycling Center in June and 1877 YTD. There were 8 clean up notices served in June and 46 YTD. Contracts were signed for the intersection improvement project. Susan Hayden and Shelly Vann have completed AI training through ARML.

Council members reviewed the report from the Police Dept. The Department performed 448 activities in June. LPD issued 1 ticket and 14 warnings. There were 3 arrests made in the month of June.

Council members reviewed the report from the Fire Dept. They responded to: 6 fire calls, 27 EMS call.

Council members reviewed the report from the Public Works Dept. They replaced 55 meters that were not working, repaired 5 water leaks, continued spraying and mowing. Cleared dirt off the roadway due to heavy rains and cleared debris from El Paso Street Bridge. They also completed 28 one call requests.

Agenda Item #1: Consider Hawkins Weir Engineers, INC. Contract, W Birch St water line improvements. This project would replace an old 2" dead end line with a new 6" line and loop back into the main on Hwy 255, eliminating the dead end. The contract proposal is for the design phase up to and including the bidding process. The contract fees will not exceed \$17,140. Mike Ray made a motion to approve the contract and proceed with the project. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #2: Police Department Roof. Mr. Verkamp advised the council that we have a court date of Oct. 19, 2026 for a bench trial. Liberty Roofing has offered to pay 50% of the \$44,960.85 that the City spent to correct the issue and repair all the damage. Gerald Schaefer made a motion to counter the offer for 75%, and if they don't agree then we proceed with the trial date. Lorie Robertson seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #3: Credit Card – Police Dept. Lisa Hogan made a motion to open a City of Lavaca credit card account with First National Bank of Fort Smith with a credit limit of \$2500 and make Jeremy Smith and Toby Beavers the signers for the account. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #4: Credit Card – Fire Dept. Lorie Robertson made a motion to close the current City credit card account for the Lavaca Fire Dept. with Citizens Bank & Trust and open a new City of Lavaca credit card account with First National Bank of Fort Smith with a credit limit of \$2500. Signers for this account would be Paul Sanders, Kirk Barber and David Dixon. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #5: Consider Sales Tax Ordinance. The proposed ordinance would be for 2% sales and use tax within the City of Lavaca, Arkansas to be on the ballot in November 2026. There would be a sunset on the tax for June 30, 2037. Lorie Robertson made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Lorie Robertson made a motion to suspend the rules for the 2nd and 3rd readings. Lisa Hogan seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Lorie Robertson made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance. Dawn Hutchins seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed, Ordinance 2026-03 was adopted.

Lisa Hogan made a motion to pay the bills for the month of July. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Gerald Schaefer made a motion to adjourn. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Attest: Recorder