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Mayor Hendricks sworn in; Wayne Tresner appointed Council Member for Ward 3



Luling Mayor Mike Hendricks and Council Member James Nickells sworn in by City Secretary Martha Velasquez.

LULING — City Secretary Martha Velasquez administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Mike Hendricks, and Council Member James Nickells at the regular meeting of the Luling City Council on May 15. Council Member Wood Cox also retained his seat on the council, but was absent due to health concerns.

Council Member John Wells was nominated as mayor pro-tem, and will act as mayor in the event Mayor Hendricks is absent.

On May 5, Council Member John Bell sent a letter of resignation expressing his sincere regret at having to vacate his position due relocating for a change of employment. He expressed his gratitude to the citizens of Luling for giving him the opportunity to serve on the council since 2011.

Wayne Tresner was appointed Council Member for Ward 3, filling John Bell's unexpired position. Tresner accepted the appointment the following day.

While there was no opposition from residents, the Planning and Zoning Commission denied Kevin McClure's application for a Conditional Use Permit (CPU) to reopen the bar previously known as "The White Front" in the residential district.

McClure said, "We've been cleaning up out there with the intention to reopen it. We missed the zoning requirement by five days for turning the lights back on. We're willing to work with the Council and the police. We'll change the hours we're open, add security lights. There won't be any live music. If the building is not rezoned, it's a dead building."

City Manager Mayo explained to the council, "They're not trying to have it rezoned; they've only applied for a CPU."

Mayor Hendricks asked McClure, "Did you state these facts at this morning's Planning and Zoning meeting?"

McClure replied, "Yes. They denied the rezoning request, but I don't think they considered the people. I think they only followed the law. You can even make the CPU for a year and then reevaluate."

After much discussion, the council voted three to one in favor of granting the CPU for one year. John Wells voted against the CPU after saying, "My only position is there are already two bars within four blocks in that area. We don't need another bar."

During the Public Works Report, Director Chris Powell said, "The Zedler Mill Dam project is progressing along. We have removed three houses which were on the demolition list. Clean Luling Day on May 10 was a huge success. We collected over 300 cubic yards of debris from Luling residents. The pool is freshly painted and filled with water, awaiting the first of the swimming season – and warmer weather."