

# NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Gonzales City Council will be held on December 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Gonzales City Hall, 820 N. St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 for the purpose of considering and taking action on all matters on the agenda for the meeting, including approval of an agreement with the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to collect unpaid fines, fees and court costs as provided in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 103.0031 and authorizing the execution of such agreement.

The agreement to be considered is necessary for the unpaid fines, fees and court costs owed to the City of Gonzales to be collected in the most effective manner. The City desires that such unpaid fines, fees and court costs be collected as provided in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP firm is fully qualified to provide this representation, being the largest law firm specializing in the collection of governmental receivables in the State of Texas, as well as the United States, and having been engaged in this specialized legal service for more than 40 years. In addition, the Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson, LLP firm possesses infrastructure and technology, such as call center technology, that the City of Gonzales does not currently possess.

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP has not represented the City of Gonzales for the collection of unpaid fines, fees and court costs.

The specialized legal services required by this agreement cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the City of Gonzalees due to the high cost of implementing the appropriate infrastructure and technology and employing sufficient in-house attorneys and staff with the level of experience and competence necessary to perform these activities.

Linebarger will be compensated on a contingent fee basis as provided in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 103.0031. This Article specifically provides for an additional collection fee in the amount of 30 percent in certain cases to compensate collection attorneys. A contract to pay inside or outside attorneys on an hourly basis would represent an additional cost to the City of Gonzales.

Entering into the proposed agreement is in the best interests of the residents of the City of Gonzales because the unpaid fines, fees and court costs will be professionally and competently collected without the additional costs to the City of implementing infrastructure and technology, and employing in-house personnel or paying outside counsel on an hourly fee basis which would otherwise be required.