

## **MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2026, REGULAR MEETING**

On this day, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, the City Council convened in regular session in the City Council Room. The regular meeting being open to the public and notice of said regular meeting having been given as prescribed by Chapter 51 of the Government Code with the following being present and in attendance to wit:

Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd Roberts, Council Members Zack Altman, Jill Cromwell, Leslie Ivy, Melisa McIntosh, Winfred McQueen, Woody Richardson, and Mark Sweatt. Mayor Joe Davis was absent. Employees present were City Administrator Jack Owens, City Secretary Amalia Gaxiola, and Police Chief Rex Plant. Others present were Kim Cloyd, Alexis Gentry, Jacob Gilbertson, Ashlee Estlack, Victoria Davis, Melissa Hibbitts, Jone Ponder, Thelma Beasley, Diane Conatser, Roman Buckner, Daena Santos, and Robert Connell.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted a quorum present. He asked Alderman Richardson to voice the invocation, and Roberts led the pledge of allegiance.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alexis Gentry greatly thanked Brian Watson for all he did for them regarding animals.

### **3. HEARING FOR DILAPIDATED PROPERTIES AND ABANDONED VEHICLES**

No action.

### **4. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The consent agenda items were presented for approval: Regular meeting minutes of February 9, 2026; accept collections & pay expenditures for February 2026. Alderwoman Ivy made the motion to approve the consent agenda items, seconded by Alderman Altman. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

### **5. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS ON MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

Administrator Jack Owens read the written reports for library, judicial, and fire. Police Chief Rex Plant read his written report. Administrator Owens read his written admin report which also included water, landfill, street, parks/rec, airport, the TxDOT waterline relocation project, and the Fiberlight project.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. DISCUSS MEMPHIS LITTLE THEATRE RECOGNIZING AS NONPROFIT – JONE PONDER**

Jone Ponder informed the council on Memphis Little Theatre being around since 1929. They

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helped with the stage and the curtains in the Community Center. Jone asked to be recognized as a nonprofit organization and asked to be put on the list with the others that are on there. Little Theatre has and will continue to pay for the community center, dish use, and decorating days but Jone is asking that they not be charged for the days they use the building for practice. Council asked how often they use it for practice, and they said for at least four days a week for a month. This item was on the agenda for discussion only and the council asked for it to be on the March 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting agenda to act on. Mayor Pro Tem was asked to move up item l.

### **I. CONSIDER REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FOR SPRING WELCOME GUIDE – ROGER ESLACK**

Ashlee Estlack was here in place of her husband Roger. They have done five issues now for the community guide. She is asking for assistance with the spring/summer guide which will be up to one thousand two hundred dollars. The three thousand copies get distributed in travel centers across the state, runs in the local newspaper, as well as distribute them around the county. Alderwoman Ivy made the motion to give \$1,200 for the spring/summer guide, seconded by Alderwoman McIntosh. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

### **b. ACCEPT THE CERTIFICATION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR MAY 2, 2026, CITY OFFICERS GENERAL ELECTION FOR MAYOR, WARD 2, AND WARD 4**

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts advised the council on Mayor Joe Davis being unopposed, Ward 2 Lloyd Roberts being vacant after his term, and Ward 4 Winfred McQueen being unopposed. Alderwoman Cromwell made the motion to accept the certificate of unopposed candidates for Mayor, Ward 2, and Ward 4, seconded by Alderwoman Ivy. The vote passed with 7 in favor. A copy of the certification of unopposed candidates follows these minutes.

### **c. ADOPT THE ORDER OF CANCELLATION FOR MAY 2, 2026, CITY OFFICERS GENERAL ELECTION FOR MAYOR, WARD 2, AND WARD 4**

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts mentioned that this cancellation prevents the unopposed candidates from being on the ballot. Alderman Altman made the motion to adopt the order of cancellation for Mayor, Ward 2, and Ward 4, seconded by Alderman Winfred. The vote passed with 7 in favor. A copy of the order of cancellation follows these minutes.

### **d. CONSIDER ELECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HALL COUNTY FOR MAY 2, 2026, CITY OFFICERS GENERAL ELECTION**

Alderwoman Ivy made the motion to consider election services agreement with Hall County for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election, seconded by Alderwoman Cromwell. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

### **e. CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION JUDGE AND CLERKS FOR MAY 2, 2026, CITY OFFICERS GENERAL ELECTION**

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Alderwoman Ivy made the motion to consider appointment of Randy Phillips and Nancy Chastain as Election Judge and Clerk for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election, seconded by Alderwoman McIntosh. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

### **f. DISCUSS & CONSIDER SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

City Administrator Owens mentioned it's similar as Amarillo's. Mayor Pro Tem advised the public that this policy is for when the council meetings start getting live streamed and they can also go back to view later. Alderwoman Ivy asked about people who may not want to be seen. Administrator Owens mentioned the meetings are public and possibly have them address their council member in private and the council member bring it to discussion. Alderman Altman added that they could also write letters. Alderman Altman made the motion to adopt the social media policy, seconded by Alderwoman Ivy. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

### **g. DISCUSS FAIRVIEW CEMTERY GRAVE DIGGING DESIGNATION**

Alderwoman McIntosh informed council on Manuel Torres acquiring the grave digging equipment. Alderman Altman added that Manuel is back to digging graves. Secretary Gaxiola informed the council on Manuel now has a signed grave digging agreement with the City due to one day Chester could not dig a grave with it being such short notice and his schedule was full, so Manuel filled in. Since then, Manuel has asked about digging in Memphis more. Secretary Gaxiola added that she has continued to go with Chester as he was there when Godfreys Services was no longer available. Administrator Owens and Secretary Gaxiola added that Robertsons does not have a signed agreement with Chester and Owens stated that it should be up to the funeral homes to choose who digs. Alderwoman Cromwell asked if both can be offered to choose from. Alderman Sweatt added that maybe a rotating schedule can be done. The consensus of the council agreed for Secretary Gaxiola to provide a letter to the funeral homes with both Chester Fowler and Manuel Torres' names for grave digging for Memphis.

### **h. CONSIDER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR TDEM SIREN GRANT**

Administrator Owens advised that this is with the Texas Department of Emergency Management for the FEMA grant received for the siren at 16<sup>th</sup> & Main and PRPC wants to enter the interlocal agreement so they can facilitate the project. Alderwoman McIntosh made the motion to accept the Interlocal Agreement for TDEM Siren Grant, seconded by Alderman Altman. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

### **i. CONSIDER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TDA CDBG**

Administrator Owens informed that this is with PRPC and they are maxed out on points for a million-dollar grant for community block development grant for downtown revitalization and the city would have to come up with twenty thousand dollars in restricted funds. Owens added they would need to start this process and then council would need to convene again to

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pass a resolution to apply for the grant. Alderwoman Ivy made the motion to enter interlocal agreement TDA CDBG, seconded by Alderwoman Cromwell. The vote passed with 7 in favor. A copy of the Resolution to enter into Interlocal Agreement will follow these minutes.

### **j. DISCUSS & CONSIDER TRUCK PARKING ORDINANCE**

Administrator Owens let the council know that the survey went out and the response was sixty-six percent opposed and thirty-three percent in favor and there were ninety-six responses total as of today with it being out for three weeks. After some discussion, Alderman Sweatt asked if the survey could be left open till the next meeting. Alderwoman McIntosh made a motion to table this item, Alderwoman Cromwell asked that the survey go back out with the water bills, seconded by Alderman Sweatt. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

### **k. CONSIDER & APPROVE REVOLVING LOAN FUND LOAN TO J & J LUBE & DETAIL**

Administrator Owens informed the council that the Revolving Loan Board met two weeks ago and approved a ten-thousand-dollar loan to J & J Lube for repairs to equipment and supplies. The note is a thirty-six month note at three percent interest. Owens let the council know he talked with Underwood Attorney Matthew Murray, and he advised that the council could amend if they'd like. Alderwoman Cromwell let council know that if they approve this as is, they have a thirteen-hundred-dollar monthly payment already so adding will make payments go to sixteen hundred dollars a month to a struggling business for the next three years. Cromwell added that they requested the ten thousand dollars, but they requested it be put at the end of their contract. Alderwoman Cromwell talked with Administrator Owens today and asked about deferred payments for six months. Alderman Sweatt made the motion to approve the Revolving Loan Fund loan of ten thousand dollars to J & J Lube & Detail with six-month deferment with the first payment being September 1<sup>st</sup> till they can meet with EDC to restructure loan, seconded by Alderwoman Ivy. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

### **m. DISCUSS HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FOR RV PARKS**

Administrator Owens said this discussion is to make sure HOT Tax was put on for the RV Parks that are coming in. Owens proposes drafting a letter to send to RV Parks here in town whether it be new, current, or short-term rentals. Alderwoman Cromwell added that Administrator Owens contact Childress about their ordinances.

### **n. DISCUSS & CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO DOG ORDINANCE**

Police Chief Plant went over the special order put in place after the last incident which will sufficiently cover what is needed so no change is needed. Alderman McQueen made the motion to leave ordinance as is with the special order in place, seconded by Alderman Richardson. The vote passed with 7 in favor. A copy of the special order will follow these minutes.

### **o. CONSIDER REQUEST TO PURCHASE NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT GUNS**

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Police Chief Plant informed the council on previous discussion of safety not being a factor when he first got here. The Sig Sauer's were bought and there are now incidents of un-commanded discharge which there are over one hundred incidents in the U.S. where the weapons discharge and he would like to make the command decision to take the P320s out of service and would like to purchase replacement guns. After some discussion regarding the Sig Sauer cases, Alderwoman Ivy mentioned the department still having Glocks. Police Chief went over a proposal – if no new department weapons can be purchased then he makes a list of approved weapons so they can buy their own which he asked if the city could purchase the weapons back if they are taken if there's a city involved shooting. Alderman Sweatt asked Administrator Owens what the liability would be for the city if the department bought their own weapons and if they were in a shooting. Owens added that he would have to look into it. Alderman Sweatt asked Administrator Owens to find the legalities of buying and carrying their own firearm. Alderwoman McIntosh made the motion to table this item till the special called meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Alderman Altman. The vote passed with 7 in favor.

**p. CONSIDER MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

Alderwoman Cromwell thanked everyone for their input and information and how they can agree to disagree and gather information for educated decisions. She also thanked Jack and Amalia. Alderwoman Ivy congratulated Jack on the election and thanked Amalia. She also thanked the council. Alderman Altman congratulated Jack and thank him and Amalia for what they do for the meetings. Alderman Richardson agreed with Alderwoman Cromwell and he appreciates everyone. Alderman McQueen congratulated Jack. Mentioned being in a whole new thing for the county and that it's good and he appreciates everyone and how he sees things turning around. Alderwoman McIntosh congratulated Jack and thanked him and Amalia. Alderman Sweatt congratulated Jack and thanked Jack and Amalia. He thanked everyone for showing up as well. Mayor Pro Tem Roberts thanked everyone for putting up with him and congratulated Jack. Administrator Owens asked the council to meet on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> for the special meeting. The consensus of the council agreed to have the Special Called meeting on Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**q. ADJOURN**

Alderwoman Ivy made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Altman. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Approved:   
Joe Davis, Mayor

Attest:   
Amalia Gaxiola, City Secretary