



**Special Called City Council Meeting
July 17, 2026, 12:30 p.m.
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Owens called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Mayor Linda Owens led the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Owens led the pledge of allegiance.

4. HONOR THE TEXAS FLAG

Mayor Owens led the honor the Texas flag.

5. ROLL CALL

Mayor Owens took the roll call.

Council Members present:

Mayor Linda Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Graham McGruer, Councilmembers Ricky Wiggins, Melissa Futch, Richard Prater, and Justin Richardson

City Staff present:

Lawrence Cutrone, Renee Flores, Jannie Rodriguez, Gene Sprouse, Sergeant Martinez and Darrin Weaver, EDC President

6. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bunco Night at the church on July 17th and another food drive will be coming up soon.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS

None

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Council to discuss and consider the proposed 2026-2027 budget and tax rate.

Joyce McGlothlin spoke regarding the need for a Budget Committee, and she also spoke regarding the duties of the City Administrator.

Royce Ann Wiggins spoke regarding Council consideration of meetings being held in the evening so the public can attend.

Monique Sauer spoke regarding a new sign for Bruceville-Eddy, water rate concerns.

Darrin Weaver spoke regarding how the EDC is addressing a new sign for Bruceville-Eddy and a prospected new business may be able to assist in the new sign as part of their proposal. MR. Weaver also spoke regarding a new logo for the city and repainting the water tower.

Bear Haney spoke in favor of zoom upgrades and raises for employees.

Council discussed the procedures for the budget preparation and how the City Council oversees the budget.

Lawrence Cutrone, City Administrator, stated that his duties are in an ordinance and the budget does fall under his scope of work. He then presented the draft proposed budget for FY 2026/2027 and recommended a no new revenue tax rate for the FY 2026/2027 preliminary tax rate.

The proposed draft budget included a TMRS 2:1, three percent cost of living adjustment increase for employees, excluding the City Administrator, no price increase for Tx Health benefits, and new uniform shirts with logos. He also presented upgrades to computer software for virtual zoom meetings and presented the FY 2026/2027 city holidays to be adopted within the budget.

Lawrence presented the suggested changes given by Councilmember Wiggins.

Mr. Cutrone explained the current state of the City's finances and proposed a new water rate structure. He stated sewer and trash rates will remain the same.

Mayor Owens recessed meeting for a break at 1:53 pm.
Mayor Owens convened the meeting at 2:05 pm.

Mr. Cutrone explained that item requests for the public works and police department.

Councilmember Richardson suggested breaking out meetings each week for the different funds, instead of just one meeting.

The Economic Development Board spoke with Mr. Cutrone expressing interest to help pay for the new city website. Mr. Cutrone also gave a quick update on the Comprehensive Plan and the funds set aside for that project.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Richard Prater to adjourn at 3:19 pm, seconded by Justin Richardson, yeas 5, nays 0, motion passed.



Linda Owens, Mayor


Date



Renee Flores, City Secretary


Date

