



Item Brief

Meeting Date

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item

Discuss and consider action: Resolution No. R2026-22: D. Vaughn

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURNET, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX (HOT) FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 TO SUPPORT THE AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN ASSOCIATION FOR THE RESTORATION OF HISTORIC PASSENGER RAIL CARS AND PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN THE CITY OF BURNET; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Information

The Austin Steam Train Association (ASTA) operates excursion rail service that brings thousands of visitors to the City of Burnet each year, including regular Saturday excursions.

ASTA is currently planning a complete repainting and re-lettering of two historic passenger rail cars, Buckeye Lake and Buckeye Trail, restoring them to a professionally preserved condition consistent with Southern Pacific's historic "Daylight" paint scheme. The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$20,000.

As part of this effort, ASTA has committed to promoting the City of Burnet by installing a pamphlet stand within the rail cars to highlight local dining, lodging, shopping, and attractions. In addition, in recognition of the City's support, ASTA will allow the city naming rights for the new car, with permanent lettering and recognition in public communications. This project will enhance the visitor experience and provide ongoing exposure for Burnet to thousands of passengers annually.

Fiscal Impact

Use of HOT funds in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. R2026-22 as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. R2026-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURNET, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX (HOT) FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 TO SUPPORT THE AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN ASSOCIATION FOR THE RESTORATION OF HISTORIC PASSENGER RAIL CARS AND PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN THE CITY OF BURNET; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Burnet is authorized to use Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds to promote tourism and hotel industry, as provided by Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Steam Train Association (ASTA) operates regular Saturday excursion rail service that brings thousands of visitors annually to the City of Burnet; and

WHEREAS, these excursions contribute significantly to local tourism by bringing hundreds of visitors each Saturday to the historic Burnet Square and surrounding businesses, supporting local restaurants and shops; and

WHEREAS, ASTA is currently planning a complete repainting and re-lettering of two historic passenger rail cars, "Buckeye Lake" and "Buckeye Trail," restoring them to a professionally preserved condition consistent with Southern Pacific's historic "Daylight" paint scheme; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated cost of this restoration project is approximately \$20,000, including necessary exterior bodywork, labor, and materials; and

WHEREAS, the restored rail cars will be viewed by thousands of passengers and visitors annually, enhancing the overall visitor experience and further promoting tourism to and through the City of Burnet; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the City's support of this restoration effort, ASTA will give the City naming rights, with such designation permanently lettered on the car and acknowledged in ASTA's public communications as a lasting tribute to Burnet's connection to Central Texas rail history; and

WHEREAS, ASTA has committed to promoting the City of Burnet by installing a pamphlet stand within the rail cars to highlight local dining, lodging, shopping, and attractions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this expenditure directly enhances and promotes tourism and the hotel industry and is an eligible use of HOT funds under state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURNET, TEXAS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Findings. The recitals set out above are hereby approved and incorporated herein for all purposes.

Section Two. Approval. The City Council hereby authorizes the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds in the amount of \$20,000 to support the Austin Steam Train Association for the repainting and re-lettering of the historic passenger rail cars “Buckeye Lake” and “Buckeye Trail.”

Section Three. Authorization. The City Manager is authorized and directed to prepare an agreement with the recipient for the use of HOT funds; and take such other actions that are reasonably necessary to facilitate the purpose of this Resolution. The City Manager is further authorized to executed said agreement, without further Council action provided the terms of agreement are: (i) consistent with the purpose of this Resolution; and (ii) is approved by the City Attorney as to legal form.

Section Four. Open Meetings. It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution was passed was open to the public and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act.

Section Five. Effective Date. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, and approval as prescribed by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 14th day of April 2026.

CITY OF BURNET, TEXAS

Gary Wideman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Maria Gonzales, City Secretary