

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF AUGUST 2025 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 200 NORTH FIFTH IN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS AT 6:00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: IANTHIA FISHER, DENNIS IVEY, CHRISTOPHER PRICE, NATRIENIA HICKS, ELBERT JOHNSON & MIKE MARSH. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN ANGERSTEIN, CITY SECRETARY MITZI STEFKA, ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR LEE STANDLEY, CITY ATTORNEY DONNA GORDON, AND POLICE CHIEF CLAYTON SMITH

OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Fisher called the formal session open and Council member Ivey gave the invocation. All joined in the pledge.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Fisher recognized all visitors present.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE OR COUNCIL *(At this time, anyone will be allowed to speak on City-related matters only; no personnel matters or matters under litigation will be allowed. The length of time may not exceed three minutes. NO Council discussion or action may take place on a matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with law.)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. REGULAR SESSION: JULY 21, 2025

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2025 Regular session. Council member Ivey seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

Mayor Fisher then moved to Item #8 and 9 on the agenda and stated Council would convene into Executive Session per Gov. Code Sec. 551.071. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Lincoln Lumber Recapture of Incentives and Tax Abatements and Gov. Code 551.074: Personnel Matters. Consider Matters Related to City Administrator and Assistant City Administrator and Plan of Succession. Time was 6:05 P.M.

Mayor Fisher reconvened the meeting into open session. Time was 7:23 P.M.

BUSINESS

2. FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Angerstein presented council with a draft budget. This budget does not include any capital requests due to lack of available funds. He suggested that those requests be addressed at a later date with remaining ARPA funds or issuance of debt if council decides those requests are necessary. Mr. Angerstein then explained the differences in expected revenue from the No New Revenue rate and the Voter Approval Rate. He noted that the No New Revenue rate would require us to scale back our street improvements

due to inflation as the cost of materials has increased. We have the manpower and equipment to do the work, but we will need more funds to keep up with needed street improvements and repairs. Mr. Angerstein and Chief Smith also discussed staffing options as employees at City Hall and the Police Department are scheduled to retire during the upcoming fiscal year. Fire Chief Frizzell will meet with the Emergency Services District (ESD) to request funding assistance for an additional firefighter.

In accordance with council's request at the last meeting, Mr. Angerstein explained that this budget shows the 01 fund (tax revenue) and 02 fund (utility revenue) would split the costs of paying for the bonds on street/vehicle projects and water well/wastewater plant projects, respectively.

Mr. Angerstein noted that he had removed line items for the repair/painting of city hall offices and new equipment for the Parks Department. Additionally, funds from the utility fund would be used to purchase a used car to replace the Fire Marshall truck when it was reassigned to the Fire Department.

He then explained that the next step in the process was to hold a public hearing on the draft budget at the next scheduled meeting. This hearing would be advertised on the city website and in the newspaper to meet state requirements.

3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE PROPOSED TAX RATE

Council member Johnson made a motion to approve the Voter Approval Rate of \$0.6808 per \$100. Council member Price seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-1. Council member Hicks voted against the motion.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.6362	\$0.6808	Increase of \$0.0446 per \$100, or 7%
Average homestead taxable value	\$91,353	\$99,449	Increase of 8.86%
Tax on average homestead	\$581.19	\$677.05	Increase of \$95.86 or 16.49%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,576,887	\$2,872,787	\$295,900

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN HOUSTON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CROCKETT UNDER THE TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA TEXAS TAX CODE CHAPTER 312, SEC. 312.002

Mr. Angerstein explained that the tax abatement agreement between the city and the county must be approved every two years, and a public hearing is required prior to the adoption of the agreement. He stated that the only update to the agreement was related to quarterly and annual reports from companies that receive abatements to verify that they are abiding by the stipulations in their respective performance agreements. Mayor Fisher opened the public hearing and invited citizens to comment on the tax abatement agreement. There were no public comments. Mayor Fisher closed the public hearing.

5. CONSIDER AND APPROVE ADOPTING UPDATED POLICY FOR JOINT TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH HOUSTON COUNTY UNDER THE TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA PURSUANT TO TEXAS TAX CODE CHAPTER 312, SEC. 312.002

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve the adoption of the updated policy for joint tax abatement agreements with Houston County under the Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria pursuant to Texas Tax Code Chapter 312, Sec. 312.002. Council member Price seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

6. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION AND AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STATE RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIDDLERS' FESTIVAL IN CROCKETT

Council member Price made a motion to approve a resolution and agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the temporary closure of state right of way for the World Championship Fiddlers' Festival in Crockett. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

7. CONSIDER AND APPROVE GATEWAY SIGN LOCATIONS

Council member Ivey made a motion to approve the proposed gateway sign locations. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. GOV. CODE SEC. 551.071. CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING LINCOLN LUMBER RECAPTURE OF INCENTIVES AND TAX ABATEMENTS

Council member Price made a motion to extend the cure period for the recapture of incentives and tax abatements for Lincoln Lumber to allow for legal research. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0

9. GOV. CODE 551.074 – PERSONNEL MATTERS - CONSIDER MATTERS RELATED TO CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND PLAN OF SUCCESSION

Council member Ivey made a motion to approve the Plan of Succession as presented, which includes the promotion of Assistant City Administrator, Lee Standley, to the position of City Administrator; the reassignment of City Administrator, John Angerstein, to the role of Deputy City Administrator to provide transitional support and oversight of ongoing projects; and the transfer of Fire Marshal duties from the Assistant City Administrator to the Fire Chief, with fire investigation and inspection responsibilities delegated to designated Fire Department officers, effective October 1, 2025; and approve the presented Employment Agreements of the City Administrator and Deputy City Administrator. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-1. Council member Hicks voted against the motion.

Mr. Angerstein read a statement expressing his gratitude to the city and appreciation of his service as City Administrator.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mayor Fisher adjourned the meeting at 8:48 P.M.

Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mitzi Stefka, City Secretary