

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 20th DAY OF JULY 2026 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, NATRENIA HICKS, AND HUDSON DUREN. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN ANGERSTEIN, CITY SECRETARY MITZI STEFKA, FINANCE DIRECTOR LAURE MORGAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR GERALD COLTER, POLICE CHIEF CLAYTON SMITH, AND FIRE CHIEF JASON FRIZZELL. ROCKY SIMON WAS ABSENT.

OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Fisher called the formal session open and gave the invocation. All joined in reciting the pledge.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Fisher recognized all visitors present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE *(At this time, members of the public 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 (3) minutes. CITY COUNCIL SHALL NOT SPEAK UNDER THIS ITEM. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council may not deliberate or take action on matters except as properly posted in accordance with law)*

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. SPECIAL SESSION: JULY 6, 2026

Council member Price made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mayor Pro Tem Ivey seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

REPORTS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT MANPOWER & CRIMINAL INCIDENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2026

Chief Smith reported for the month of June 2026: 16 total manpower, 2,694 total manpower hours, 416 total calls and 5 total accidents.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY & STATUS REPORT FOR JUNE 2026

Chief Frizzell reported for the month of June 2026: 38 total calls.

BUSINESS

4. CONSIDER AND APPROVE MOVING THE AUGUST 17, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO AUGUST 24, 2026

Mayor Pro Tem Ivey made a motion to approve moving the August 17, 2026 City Council meeting to August 24, 2026. Council member Price seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

5. FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Angerstein gave a brief recap of the capital requests that were discussed during the July 6, 2026 budget workshop. He explained that all the Public Works vehicle requests had been removed from consideration for this budget cycle. He would like to keep the street sweeper/broom and presented several options for that request. He also informed council that the Fire Department had dropped their request for 5-inch fire hose and requested \$8,140 for attack hose. Mr. Angerstein requested that council approve the purchase of rifle packages for the Police Department from fund balance.

He then discussed the repair/refurbishment of the southwest water tower and explained the USDA Asset Reserve in our utility budget could be used to pay for those needed repair without affecting water/sewer rates. He also mentioned the clarifier at the South Wastewater Treatment plant was under TCEQ mandate to be repaired. Estimated cost is \$320,000, but we need to get current bids. He proposed to pay for this repair with \$200,000 out of the USDA Interest & Sinking (I&S) fund and the remainder from utility fund balance or increased water/sewer rates.

Mr. Angerstein explained that the need for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was the most important priority in the current budget to help retain and attract quality employees. The last COLA was 2% in 2022. Since then, inflation has increased 12.5%. He proposed a 10% salary adjustment to bring employees (excluding the City Administrator, City Secretary and Finance Director) compensation back to 2022 levels. Other cities and counties in the area have provided annual COLA adjustments, but the City of Crockett has not. The total cost of a 10% COLA would be approximately \$448,000. This would impact our General Fund by approximately \$338,000 and our utility fund by approximately \$109,000. The ad-valorem tax rate to support this would cost the average homeowner \$75.71 per year. The water rate would increase \$1.35 per month and the sewer rate would increase \$1.65 per month. He also specified that the salary adjustments would be weighed evenly across all positions and not applied as a percentage increase.

Police Chief Smith provided several options for leasing new patrol vehicles and expressed the need to continuously rotate older vehicles out of the fleet and replace them with new units. He reiterated the need to increase salaries to retain officers and attract new recruits.

After some discussion, Council member Price made a motion to allow the City Administrator to build the budget to accommodate a 10% cost of living adjustment with the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.0796, move forward with the search for a street sweeper/broom, and the purchase of hoses for the Fire Department. Mayor Pro Tem Ivey seconded the motion. Council member Price then amended the motion to include the

purchase of rifle packages from General Admin fund balance and purchase of a new clarifier for the South Wastewater Treatment facility from USDA I&S Fund and Utility fund balance. Council member Duren seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-1. Council member Hicks voted against.

NEW BUSINESS - CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (New business items must be presented as a motion without discussion. If the motion receives a second and a majority vote, the item will be placed on a future agenda for deliberation and possible action)

Council member Price made a motion to bring agenda item #3 from the July 6, 2026 council meeting regarding city participation in the Tex-21 project back to the next city council meeting agenda for reconsideration. Council member Duren seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-1. Council member Hicks voted against.

Council member Hicks made a motion to place an item on the next council meeting agenda to discuss a municipal swimming pool. Council member Price seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-1. Council member Duren voted against.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fisher adjourned the meeting at 7:16 P.M.

Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mitzi Stefka, City Secretary