



**TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING  
AND REGULAR MEETING**  
Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM  
Fulton Council Chambers, 201 N. 7th Street

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**MINUTES**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT**

Mayor Kelli Cole  
Mayor Pro Tem Robert Loflin  
Place 2 Chris Garis  
Place 3 MaryAnn Pahmiyer  
Place 4 Margo Nielsen  
Place 5 Laura McCorkle

**STAFF PRESENT**

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary  
Matt Olenick, Director of Operations  
Melissa Pina, Coordinator  
Steven Robertson, Comptroller  
Ty Gerstenberger, Police Chief

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – U.S. Flag and Texas Flag**

Mayor Cole led everyone in the pledges.

**OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAAYER**

Mayor Cole led everyone in a moment of silence.

**CLOSE REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Cole closed the Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Cole opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.

**1. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM: BUDGET**

The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget proposed for adoption by the governing body of the Town of Fulton.

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$14,716, which is a 1.99 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$15,712.

Mayor Cole read the item and briefly reviewed the attached. She asked the Council for any questions. Mr. Robertson indicated that there has been very little change since the last workshop other than to better the estimates. He noted that the projections were slightly lower than the prior year. Alderwoman McCorkle stated she was glad to see the contributions to other entities remain the same. It was noted that the police fund wages are down from last year's budget even including the additional insurance costs. It was also noted that the Town can no longer receive insurance on the pier due to it being uninsurable.

Rebecca Johnson asked about the health insurance increase in the funds. Mr. Robertson explained that the insurance increased substantially, and that the Mayor and employees chose a lower premium option to keep the cost as low as possible. It was also noted that the previous Chief of Police opted out of the insurance; therefore, the Town did not have that expense. She also had questions about the increase in communications with the City of Rockport. Mayor Cole explained the increase. Mrs. Johnson had several other questions where in Mr. Robertson, and Town employees clarified.

## **2. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM: TAX RATE**

The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss a Tax Rate of \$0.266875 per \$100 valuation that has been proposed for adoption for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 tax year by the governing body of the Town of Fulton.

Mayor Cole read the item and indicated the Town is proposing the no new revenue tax rate.

### **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Cole closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

### **OPEN REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Close opened the Regular Meeting at 6:21 p.m.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD (PUBLIC FORUM)**

*Public participation is valued and at this time, comments limited to three (3) minutes will be taken from persons who have signed the Speaker's Card located on the table inside the Council Chambers and delivered to the City Secretary before the meeting begins. Written comments received by submission to the City Secretary in person or emailed to [citysec@fultontexas.org](mailto:citysec@fultontexas.org) by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any subject matter that is not on the agenda, will be read and summarized in the minutes of the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Council and who have registered using the Speaker's Card will have up to three (3) minutes to speak. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. While civil public criticism is not prohibited; disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace as prohibited by law shall be cause for the chair to terminate the offender's time to speak.*

Pam Stranahan introduced herself and discussed their needs for the Pathways. She would like a council member to be on their committee. Alderman Loflin agreed to attend their meetings.

## CONSENT AGENDA

*All consent agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

- 3. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 6, 2023.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Tax Rate of \$0.266875/\$100.

Mayor Cole read the item.

Motion made by Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 2 Garis to approve the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Tax Rate of \$0.266875/\$100.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

- 5. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** Ordinance No. 313 an Ordinance adopting the tax rate and levy ad valorem taxes for use and support of the Municipal Government of the Town of Fulton, Fulton, Texas for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year; providing for apportioning each levy for specific purposes; and providing when taxes shall become due and when same shall become delinquent if not paid and providing for publication.

Mayor Cole read the item.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 3 Pahmiyer to approve Ordinance No. 313 an Ordinance adopting the tax rate and levy ad valorem taxes for use and support of the Municipal Government of the Town of Fulton, Fulton, Texas for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year; providing for apportioning each levy for specific purposes; and providing when taxes shall become due and when same shall become delinquent if not paid and providing for publication..

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

- 6. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Town of Fulton Budget.

Mayor Cole read the item.

Motion made by Place 2 Garis, Seconded by Place 3 Pahmiyer to approve the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Town of Fulton Budget.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

7. **Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** Ordinance No. 314 an Ordinance making appropriations for the support of the Town of Fulton for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024; Adopting the Annual Budget of the Town of Fulton, Aransas County, Texas for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Cole read the item.

Motion made by Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 2 Garis to approve Ordinance No. 314 an Ordinance making appropriations for the support of the Town of Fulton for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024; Adopting the Annual Budget of the Town of Fulton, Aransas County, Texas for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

8. **Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** Ordinance No. 315, An Ordinance Relating to Office of Police Chief; Confirming the Appointment of Police Chief; Repealing Ordinances in Conflict and Providing for Severance.

Mayor Cole read the item.

Motion made by Place 2 Garis, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin to approve Ordinance No. 315, An Ordinance Relating to Office of Police Chief; Confirming the Appointment of Police Chief; Repealing Ordinances in Conflict and Providing for Severance.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

## **CLOSED SESSION**

*The Town Council may elect to go into closed session pursuant to Chapter 551, Government Code on any Agenda item where appropriate and particularly Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney) and 551.074 (personnel matters), Government Code.*

Council did not convene into Closed Session.

## **OPEN SESSION**

*Discuss/Approve/Disapprove any and all action necessary with regard to the preceding matter(s).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 9. Mayor's Update.

Maintenance: The Town is continuing updates on FaceBook as they are received. Paving will begin on Mesquite, Chaparral, and Myrtle on Sept. 19 – 21, 2023. There was a construction update held on September 12th at FCC, 6 p.m. in conjunction with Neighborhood Watch. Alderwoman Pahmiyer indicated that after the construction meeting several of the concerned citizens' driveways had been repaired. Johnny Davis will be bringing code enforcement up-to-date and begin routinely enforcing.

Fulton Convention Center: Pavecon will begin work at Fulton Park and FCC on September 21 and 22, 2023. The park will be closed.

Police Department: Chief Gerstenberg indicated that he has had a brief catching up in the last two weeks. He mentioned he has spent multiple hours on an online harassment issue.

Mayor Cole noted that National Night Out will be held at the Fulton Convention Center on October 10, 2023 at 6 p.m.

### 10. The next Regular Fulton Town Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 4, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Cole announced the next meeting date and time.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cole entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 2 Garis to adjourn the meeting.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

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Kelli Cole, Mayor

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Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary