



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - BUDGET WORKSHOP

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Fulton Council Chambers, 201 N. 7th Street

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Mayor Kelli Cole

Place 3 MaryAnn Pahmiyer

Place 4 Margo Nielsen

Place 5 Laura McCorkle

ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Loflin

Place 2 Chris Garis Place

STAFF PRESENT

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary

Ty Gerstenberger, Chief

Mr. Robertson, Comptroller

Ashley Sloan, Bookkeeper

Melissa Pina, Coordinator

Alyssa Hendricks, Administrative Assistant

Sherry Hudson, Pier Manager

Matt Olenick, Director of Operations

Johnny Davis, Building Official

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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.

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 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.

No one came forward.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

1. Presentation and general discussion of proposed FY 2025 - 2026 Budget.

Mayor Cole read the item and asked Mr. Robertson, Comptroller, to begin the presentation.

Mr. Robertson began with the summary on Page 1.

Page 2 tax rate – The referenced tax rate is a preliminary estimate based on Voter Approval Rate (VAR). There was some discussion regarding the tax rate. The Town will not be able to have a definite rate until the Tax Appraiser informs the Town of the appraised values.

General Fund: The tax rate used is the estimated VAR, approximately 3.5%. There was discussion regarding the entities that pay sales tax to the Town. Alderwoman Laura McCorkle asked why the permits budget has decreased. Mr. Robertson and Johnny Davis, Building Official, addressed that question. Hurricane Harvey increased the permit fees in the last few years. Now that most have rebuilt and/or built, the permit fees have decreased. Matt Olenick informed the Council of the change in the water permits. Those permits will now go through the City of Rockport due to their not being an interlocal for water usage. It's approximately \$1700 a year in water permits. Mayor Cole indicated that the Town should be able to collect franchise fees from the new gas company. Interest rates are down approximately a percent; therefore, the interest income has slightly decreased. There was discussion regarding a possible increase with the cellular tower lease. He noted that Rockport Police Department law enforcement will not be in the next fiscal year budget. There was a discussion regarding an agreement with the Aransas County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Robertson indicated that the Town Hall repairs, and maintenance budget will decrease. He noted that the personnel cost varied due to the new cadet addition for the rest of this fiscal year. Mr. Robertson gave a general overview of the other general fund items and the graph showing the changes. Mr. Robertson assured the Council that the Town has more than an appropriate fund balance.

Debt Service – This will be fund will be slightly revised once the Town received final numbers. The debt with Bank of America will be paid off in 2026.

Hotel/Motel – Mr. Robertson noted the projected actuals for this year and indicated that the numbers being received are slightly lower than expected. With that, there were necessary cuts in the budget. There was some discussion regarding what advertising had been done. Alderwoman MaryAnn Pahmiyer had a question regarding the funds provided to the Rockport-Fulton Chamber. There was discussion regarding the same. Mr. Robertson indicated there are new requests for HOT funds and there is an additional \$10,000 that can be considered for that.

Police – Mr. Robertson noted that the fines and fees have almost doubled due to the increase in fees. The Town also received the funds for an asset forfeiture seizure. The Chief is the only person that can sign on that account and that budget must go before Council. He reviewed the

equipment needs and the budget to accommodate the officers. There was discussion on possible grant funds to offset some of the costs. It was noted that the savings in dispatch and Rockport Police Department Law Enforcement agreement costs helped to facilitate the new officers.

Sewer – The fund decreased due to the current water restriction that has taken place this year. Matt Olenick indicated there are not as many taps being put in. He also noted that with the large project going in within the Town there will be some fees accrued from that. Mr. Robertson indicated there are not many changes to the overall fund.

Convention Center – Mr. Robertson indicated this fund is steady and asked Melissa Pina, Coordinator for any input. She indicated that she is booking many back-to-back events, and the weekend dates are filling up very quickly. She has the books open through 2029. She indicated in the fiscal year 2026 – 2027 the Town should consider an increase in the fees. There was discussion regarding trash removal. Alderwoman, Laura McCorkle noted that internet and office expenses are less. The Coordinator and City Secretary addressed her question.

Pier/Visitor Center – Mr. Robertson noted the hours have changed and it has done very well this year. Sherry Hudson, Pier Manager indicated it has been busier than the prior year. He indicated the increase to the fund is good because the pier requires maintenance. Mr. Robertson briefly reviewed the additional fund items.

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).

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion made by Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 4 Nielsen to adjourn the meeting.

Voting Yea: Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Kelli Cole, Mayor

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary