



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, July 02, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Fulton Council Chambers, 201 N. 7th Street

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Place 2 Chris Garis Place

STAFF PRESENT

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary
Ty Gerstenberger, Chief
Robert Brake, Officer
Steven Robertson, Comptroller
Ashley Sloan, Bookkeeper

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.

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.

Kathy Kane spoke on item 5 of the agenda and discussed her concerns with the addition of adding to the police force. She asked that the Council consider all avenues of help for the police department.

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.

- 1. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 4, 2025.
- 2. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** the May 2025 financial report.

Motion made by Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 4 Nielsen to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** Ordinance No. 325, an Ordinance relating to battery energy storage; repealing ordinances in conflict; providing for severance; providing a penalty; and providing for publication.

Mayor Cole read the item and reminded the Council that this was on the agenda previously and has been modified with the Council's suggestions.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle to approve Ordinance No. 325, an Ordinance relating to battery energy storage; repealing ordinances in conflict; providing for severance; providing a penalty; and providing for publication.

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

- 4. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** revisions to Job Titles and Pay Ranges.

Mayor Cole read the item and discussed by adding the additional police officer positions supports the Town's desire to become more self-sufficient within its police department. There was some discussion regarding the approval of this item so that the Town may consider hiring additional officers.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle to approve the revisions to Job Titles and Pay Ranges.

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

- 5. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** the hiring and paying of a hourly wage during attendance at the police academy; making employment contingent upon successful completion of the academy and obtaining a Texas peace officer license; and authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute an employment agreement.

Mayor Cole read the item and began by informing the Council that the Town is working with Hal George on an employment agreement for the cadet(s), the reimbursement to the Town and commitment of employment by the cadet(s) for two years. Mayor Cole also discussed the Town's desire to become more self-sufficient within the police department. Offering this opportunity to a young officer helps to ensure that the officer is invested in the Town of Fulton. Mayor Cole also noted it has been difficult to hire new officers. Hal George, the Town's attorney, spoke briefly of the history of how law enforcement evolved in Fulton. He discussed the other agencies raising our fees by triple that in the past, wherein the Town and the other entity came into an agreement for \$60,000 a year. Mr. George informed the Council that again the other entity will be raising the cost by more than double. In hiring our own officers, we can eliminate other interlocal agreements and use those funds to pay our own officers. Mr. George stated that he feels this is the right move for the Town. Steven Robertson, Comptroller, noted that the budget for the police department will be discussed during the July 15, 2025, budget workshop meeting.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle to approve the hiring and paying of a hourly wage during attendance at the police academy; making employment contingent upon successful completion of the academy and obtaining a Texas peace officer license; and authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute an employment agreement.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, 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.

The Council convened into Closed Session at 6:06 p.m. between Items for Consideration 4. and 5.

OPEN SESSION

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

The Council reconvened in to Open Session at 6:27 p.m. and continued with Items for Consideration 5.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. Mayor's Update.

Mayor Cole noted it is 4th of July weekend, and the area will be busy. Alderwoman Maryann Pahmiyer inquired as to the plans for a new Town Hall. Mayor Cole informed the Council that the Town has come into an agreement with an architect; however, it is in the very early stages. Mr. Robertson noted that the pier is thirty-three percent (33%) higher in revenue at this time than it was last year.

7. The next Regular Fulton Town Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, July 16, 2025, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Cole announced the date and time of the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Kelli Cole, Mayor

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary