



TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, August 05, 2026 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 Elizabeth Hackleman
Place 5 Laura McCorkle

ABSENT

Place 2 Chris Garis Place

STAFF PRESENT

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary
Hal George, Town Attorney
Steven Robertson, Comptroller
Ty Gerstenberger, Chief of Police

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/PRAYER

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.

PROCLAMATION

1. Proclamation proclaiming the week of August 1 - 7, 2026 as Clown Week.

Mayor Cole read the proclamation proclaiming the week of August 1 – 7, 2026 as Clown Week. Boo the Clown thanked the Council for the proclamation.

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.

2. **Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** minutes of the Budget Workshop and Regular Meeting held on July 15, 2026.
3. **Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** the June 2026 financials.

Motion made by Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 3 Pahmiyer. to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Voting Yea: Place 1 Loflin, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Hackleman, Place 5 McCorkle

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

4. Receive the Marketing Reach and Brand Exposure for the Town of Fulton submitted by Nannette Eiland, CVB Tourism Manager regarding Hotel Motel Funds for 2025.

Mayor Cole read the item and asked Nannette Eiland to review the report. Mrs. Eiland referenced the report provided and summarized the information. She noted there was at least one post a week for the Town of Fulton and that there are dedicated pages for the Town, pier, and convention center. Mrs. Eiland also indicated that the CVB has spent approximately \$12,000.00.

5. **Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Tax Assessment and Collection of Property Tax in 2026-2027 Between County of Aransas, Texas, and The Town of Fulton, Texas.

Mayor Cole read the item and noted that nothing has changed other than the dates. Motion made by Place 1 Loflin, Seconded by Place 4 Hackleman to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Tax Assessment and Collection of Property Tax in 2026-2027 Between County of Aransas, Texas, and The Town of Fulton, Texas.

Voting Yea: Place 1 Loflin, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Hackleman, Place 5 McCorkle

6. **Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** authorization to issue Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Town auditor.

Mayor Cole read the item and Mr. Robertson noted we received the draft and discussed the Town's dissatisfaction with the current auditor. Alderwoman Hackleman asked if procuring a new audit firm would be cheaper for the Town. Mr. Robertson indicated that it should be and briefly discussed our audit needs.

Motion made by Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 1 Loflin to approve the authorization to issue Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Town auditors.

Voting Yea: Place 1 Loflin, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Hackleman, Place 5 McCorkle

BUDGET WORKSHOP

7. Presentations and general discussion of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) fund request from the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Cole read the item and asked for comments. Shelly Stewart and Diana Pardue introduced themselves and reviewed their request. They are increasing their programs and hours and carrying new merchandise. Mrs. Stewart noted that even though the Chamber is requesting the same amount of funds that the prices of everything have increased. The Chamber continues to work with the funds provided to the best of their ability. Mrs. Pardue reviewed the number of visitors to the center, and how they promote the Town of Fulton. Mrs. Pardue also gave the council a flyer for their Jimmy Buffet event.

8. Presentations and general discussion of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) fund request from the Aransas County Council on Aging.

Mayor Cole read the item and asked for comments. Debbie Thompson introduced herself and reviewed their struggles due to budget cuts and government changes. They are asking for funds to advertise for the Bountiful Bowl project and reviewed how they spend the funds that are allocated from the Town. She noted that they provide approximately 50,000 meals in Aransas County.

9. Presentations and general discussion of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) fund request from the Friends of Fulton Mansion.

Mayor Cole read the item and asked for comments. Courtney Smith and Kay Scott introduced themselves. Mrs. Scott reviewed the things that are happening at the Mansion and how they are advertising the Town. She noted an increase in visitation, Sundays are their busiest days. She indicated that they have had over 10,000 visitors there this year. She also noted that there will be some renovations taking place in the next year. The Fulton Mansion will be 150 years old.

10. Presentations and general discussion of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) fund request from the Wings Over Rockport.

Mayor Cole read the item and asked for comments. Chad Mitchell, president introduced himself and noted they are dedicated in expanding aviation in Aransas County. He discussed activities they are planning that will bring visitors into the area. They have signed agreements with several of the Fulton hotels for confirmed hotel stays for their events.

11. Presentations and general discussion of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) fund request from the Visit Rockport Fulton CVB.

Mayor Cole read the item and asked for comments. Mrs. Eiland referred to the information provided and reviewed the goal of bringing visitors to the area and helping the industry. She reviewed the budget that she provided. Craig Griffin introduced himself and noted he is a chairperson on the CVB board. He advocated for the CVB and their help with promoting the Town.

12. Presentation and general discussion of proposed FY 2026-27 Budget.

Mayor Cole asked Steven Robertson to begin the discussion. He noted that if we had final collections from Aransas County, we would have a better idea of Town's working numbers. He reviewed the information that we had at this time last year with the Council and explained that it will possibly be a tight budget year. Mr. Robertson explained the requirements of giving hotel motel tax to another governmental entity. He also reviewed the laws of collecting hotel motel tax and how Town must spend those funds. He noted that the schoolhouse museum will need more than \$20,000 for repairs. Alderwoman Pahmiyer asked about increasing Oysterfest. It was noted that with the prediction of the collection there are not enough funds to increase Oysterfest at this time. Alderwoman McCorkle had a question regarding reducing some of the other funds. Alderwoman Hackleman asked if the Chamber is doing \$35,000 worth of work for the Town. Mr. Robertson stated they are helpful in many ways.

Mr. Robertson reviewed the review of the other funds.

General fund – Mr. Robertson discussed the property revenues, sales tax, franchise fees and other line items. There have not been any major changes since the last workshop.

Debt service – Mr. Robertson indicated a change in the sewer fund which would be discussed shortly. He indicated that the Town of Fulton does not have a large amount of debt.

Police – Mr. Robertson noted there have been no changes since the last workshop.

Sewer – Mr. Robertson shared with the Council that there was a change of a slight increase in the fund due to the water restrictions being lifted.

Convention Center – Mr. Robertson stated there is not a change at this time; however, there may be to the facilities fees by the next meeting. We are looking to review the maintenance and repairs line item also.

Pier and visitor center – Mr. Robertson indicated there may be minor changes, but it is still steady and maintaining a healthy fund balance.

Alderwoman McCorkle asked about a breakdown of the cola increase for the employees. Mr. Robertson will provide that information and noted if the Council votes for a higher cola increase something else in the budget will have to be reduced to accommodate that increase.

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 7:10 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

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

The Council reconvened into Open Session at 7:14 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. Mayor's Update.

Mayor Cole shared that the draft audit has been received and will be on the next agenda. She also noted that the preconstruction meeting for the dual project with Aransas County took place today.

14. The next Regular Fulton Town Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 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 Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 4 Hackleman to adjourn the meeting.

Voting Yea: Place 1 Loflin, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Hackleman, Place 5 McCorkle

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Kelli Cole, Mayor

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary