



**CITY OF
IOWA
COLONY**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, January 26, 2026
7:00 PM**

Iowa Colony City Council Chambers, 3144 Meridiana Parkway, Iowa Colony, Texas 77583

Phone: 281-369-2471

Fax: 281-369-0005

www.iowacolonytx.gov

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
CITY OF IOWA COLONY

BE IT REMEMBERED ON THIS, the 26th day of January 2026, the City Council of the City of Iowa Colony, Texas, held a meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the Iowa Colony City Council Chambers, there being present and in attendance the following members to wit:

Mayor Wil Kennedy
Mayor Pro Tem Marquette Greene-Scott
Councilmember Arnetta Murray
Councilmember Nikki Brooks (Arrived at 6:07 P.M.)
Councilmember Tim Varlack
Councilmember Kareem Boyce
Councilmember Sydney Hargroder

And none being absent, constituting a quorum at which time the following business was transacted.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Kennedy called a recess at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor and City Council returned back into session at 7:10 p.m.

INVOCATION

Reverend Duane Turner prayed aloud.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were recited.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

The following citizens spoke regarding the building setback requirements in Magnolia Bend. They expressed concerns that the current setbacks are too restrictive and should be reduced. They also stated that the Unified Development Code and the Subdivision Ordinance appear to contain conflicting provisions and requested that the Council review the regulations.

Speakers:

Jose Bernal
Charles Koch
Curtis Olsen
Brett Masoni
Tim Allen

Michael Dunlap thanked Mayor Kennedy for the opportunity to speak. He addressed the consideration of adopting a City flag and outlined several reasons in support of the idea. He stated that a flag serves as a

strong symbol of identity and fosters a sense of community. It provides a visual representation of connection among residents and reflects the City's history; past, present, and future. He further noted that a City flag would symbolize the people of Iowa Colony and could be displayed at public buildings and community events as a reminder that Iowa Colony is a community built on unity and history.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Proclamation- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Mayor Kennedy read aloud and presented the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation to Councilmember Arnetta Murray.

2. Officer recognition for performing emergency life saving techniques.

Chief Bell recognized Officer Portano for his actions on December 6, 2025, while assisting other agencies during a medical emergency. His quick response, effective life-saving measures, and coordination with assisting agencies played a critical role in stabilizing the patient and ultimately saving their life. Chief Bell also shared that he received a formal compliment recognizing Officer Portano's professionalism and dedication to public service, and he expressed his appreciation for Officer Portano's outstanding work.

City Manager Tarron Richardson presented a token of gratitude to Officer Portano on behalf of the City Council and himself in recognition of his actions and service.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Hold a public hearing pursuant to the City of Iowa Colony's Citizen Participation Plan regarding the completion of the City's Community Development Block Grant - Regional Mitigation project (GLO Contract #24-065-009-E166) to allow citizens the opportunity to review the project's performance and to discuss citizens' views, proposals, questions, and comments.

Mayor Kennedy opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m. Megan Flynn with Public Management provided an overview of the CDBG award from the General Land Office (GLO) for the drainage improvement project. She asked if there were any questions and noted that the project is anticipated to reach full closeout by March. There were no additional comments. Mayor Kennedy closed the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott thanked everyone in attendance and recognized staff for their hard work on the MLK event, the State of the City, and the BCCA meeting. She quoted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., stating, "We have some difficult days ahead, but we will get through it together, and we have to work through it together."

Councilmember Murray shared that she previously lived on 40 acres and noted that when you own land, you value the ability to use it as you choose.

Councilmember Brooks thanked everyone who participated in the MLK parade and said she was especially impressed by the involvement from the Magnolia Bend community. She encouraged continued engagement and offered her assistance to residents. She also expressed that it was great to see strong attendance at the City Council meeting, reflecting transparency and community involvement.

Councilmember Hargroder thanked everyone for attending and expressed appreciation to Councilmember Murray. She acknowledged the recognition given to staff for their hard work and stated that during her time serving alongside Councilmember Murray, she has witnessed her dedication to community building. She added that Councilmember Murray deserves recognition for her efforts. She also thanked the City Secretary for her efforts with the State of the City and BCCA.

Councilmember Boyce stated he was pleased to see a full gallery. He noted it had been a busy few weeks with the MLK parade, the City of Alvin's first MLK event, the State of the City for Iowa Colony, and the BCCA meeting at Meridiana Elementary School. He shared that he served on the committee and worked closely with Councilmember Murray, noting that the MLK event has grown significantly and was a great success. He commended her for bringing the event to fruition and thanked staff, including Public Works and Albert Cantu. He also acknowledged the Police Department for their planning and dedication to ensuring safety during the events.

Councilmember Varlack thanked Councilmember Murray and Councilmember Boyce and recognized Mrs. Boyce for her speech at the MLK Day event. He also thanked Chief Bell and his staff for their leadership and service, particularly in light of current national challenges. He quoted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and stated that Iowa Colony must continue to be the light and change the world needs.

Mayor Kennedy thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Dr. Tarron Richardson to his first City Council meeting. He acknowledged the Police Department's efforts and contributions, as well as the success of the MLK Day event and program. He also recognized the Iowa Colony Fire Department and thanked Councilmember Murray and her team for their work.

STAFF REPORTS

The City Secretary reminded everyone that the filing period for a place on the ballot closes on Friday, February 13, at 5:00 p.m. The positions up for election are Councilmember Position 1, Councilmember Position 2, and Councilmember Position 3.

Dinh Ho, City Engineer, provided clarification regarding the adoption dates of the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Ordinance, as well as the building line setback regulations contained within each document.

Councilmember Brooks asked what the quickest resolution would be to address the issue. Mr. Ho explained that amending the ordinance would require a public hearing and formal action to revise the ordinance. He further noted that any amendment would need to be citywide and could not be limited to a specific subdivision.

Councilmember Boyce asked about issues related to stray animals and inquired about best practices residents can follow to assist staff in addressing the problem. Fire Marshal Cantu advised residents to microchip their pets, explaining that doing so greatly improves the City's ability to identify and quickly reunite animals with their owners.

Councilmember Varlack inquired about the status of the gates at Sterling Lakes Drive. Dinh Ho responded that construction has begun.

4. Building Official/Fire Marshal Monthly Report
5. Public Works Monthly Report
6. Police Department Monthly Report
7. Municipal Court Monthly Report
8. City Engineer's Report
9. Finance Monthly Reports
10. Technology Department Monthly Report
11. Water/Wastewater Utility Monthly Report

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

12. Consideration and possible action on a variance to the lighting requirements in the City's Unified Development Code for the Parkway Kia facility.

Motion made by Councilmember Varlack to approve a variance to the lighting requirements in the City's Unified Development Code for the Parkway Kia facility located at 25262 SH 288, subject to the conditions in the staff report, Seconded by Councilmember Hargroder.

Voting Yea: Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

Voting Nay: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Varlack

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Murray

13. Consideration and possible action to reschedule the City's Regular Council Meeting on February 16, 2026, due to the observance of the President's Day Holiday.

Motion made by Councilmember Murray to reschedule the City's Regular Council Meeting on February 16, 2026, due to the observance of the President's Day Holiday to be held on Monday, February 23, 2026, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

14. Consideration and possible action approving a resolution adding and removing authorized signers for all bank accounts held by the City of Iowa Colony.

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve a resolution adding and removing authorized signers for all bank accounts held by the City of Iowa Colony and to remove the Interim City Manager and add the City Manager, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

15. Consideration and possible action for an amendment to the sign ordinance to expand the requirements for subdivision monument signage.

Motion made by Councilmember Boyce to approve an amendment to the sign ordinance to expand the requirements for subdivision monument signage, Seconded by Councilmember Hargroder.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

16. Consideration and possible action to amend the Unified Development Code Section 3.5.3.1 – Setback, Driveways, Sidewalks, and Parking for Commercial, Retail, Office, and Industrial Use Buildings.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott to amend the Unified Development Code Section 3.5.3.1 – Setback, Driveways, Sidewalks, and Parking for Commercial, Retail, Office, and Industrial Use Buildings, Seconded by Councilmember Murray.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

17. Consideration and possible action on an amendment to the UDC Sec. 3.5.3.12.(b) for non-residential storefront transparency requirements based on building uses.

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve an amendment to the UDC Sec. 3.5.3.12.(b) for non-residential storefront transparency requirements based on building uses, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

18. Consideration and possible action to award the Solid Waste Collection Services contract in accordance with the City's RFP and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute the agreement and related documents.

Motion made by Councilmember Varlack to award the contract to Best Trash for Service Solid Waste Collection Services in accordance with the City's RFP and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute the agreement and related documents, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

19. Consideration and possible action to approve a joint election agreement with Brazoria County.

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve a joint election agreement with Brazoria County, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

20. Consideration and possible action on a resolution calling for the general election of officers to be held on May 2, 2026.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott to adopt a resolution calling for the general election of officers to be held on May 2, 2026, Seconded by Councilmember Murray.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

21. Consideration and possible action to acknowledge receipt of the 2025 Charter Review Commission Report and discuss potential propositions for consideration in a Special Charter Election in May 2026.

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to acknowledge receipt of the 2025 Charter Review Commission Report and discuss potential charter amendments for possible adoption and submission to the voters in a Special Charter Election in May 2026, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

22. Consideration and possible action on a resolution calling for a Special Election to be held on May 2, 2026, on the adoption of amendments to the existing City of Iowa Colony Home Rule Charter.

Motion made by Councilmember Boyce to approve a resolution calling for a Special Election to be held on May 2, 2026, on the adoption of amendments to the existing City of Iowa Colony Home Rule Charter and to adopt the proposed charter amendments in their entirety for submission to the voters at the election with all propositions listed separately on the ballot, Seconded by Councilmember Hargroder.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

23. Consideration and possible action to approve a resolution authorizing a grant application through the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division, for two-way radios for the Police Department.

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve a resolution authorizing a grant application through the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division, for two-way radios for the Police Department, Seconded by Councilmember Murray.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

CONSENT ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

24. Consideration and possible action on an ordinance amending the FY2025-26 City Budget.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott to approve an ordinance amending the FY2025-26 City Budget on second and final reading, Seconded by Councilmember Varlack. The City Secretary read the ordinance caption aloud.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

25. Consideration and possible action on a Resolution granting restricted prior service credit under the Texas Municipal Retirement System.

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve an ordinance granting restricted prior service credit under the Texas Municipal Retirement System on second and final reading, Seconded by Councilmember Brooks. The City Secretary read the ordinance caption aloud.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve all consent items as presented with the removal of item no. 31 and item no. 32, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

26. Consider approval of the November 5, 2025 Amended City Council meeting minutes.
27. Consider approval of the November 17, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.
28. Consider approval of the November 17, 2025 City Council worksession minutes.
29. Consider approval of the November 20, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.
30. Consider approval of the December 8, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.
31. Consider approval of the December 15, 2025 City Council worksession minutes.

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve the December 15, 2025 City Council worksession minutes as presented, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

32. Consider approval of the December 15, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.

Councilmember Brooks requested that this item be pulled, stating that a resident had contacted her with concerns that the minutes did not fully capture everything that was discussed.

Discussion was held regarding prior practices for meeting minutes. Councilmember Varlack requested that the City Secretary read the referenced item from the minutes aloud.

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve the December 15, 2025 City Council meeting minutes as presented, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Brooks

33. Consider reappointment of Municipal Court Judge whose terms expires January 2026.
34. Consider approval of the Updated Ellwood General Development Plan.
35. Consider approval of Primrose School Meridiana Reserve Final Plat.
36. Consider approval of Meridiana Section 55C Final Plat.
37. Consider approval of Ellwood Karsten Boulevard Phase 4 Street Dedication Preliminary Plat.
38. Consider approval of the quarterly investment report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- 9:26 P.M.

Executive session in accordance with 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074 of the Texas Gov't Code to deliberate and consult with attorney on the following:

39. Discussion on the purchase of real property and financial matters related thereto

POST EXECUTIVE SESSION- 9:49 P.M.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

40. Consideration and possible action on Executive Session matters.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott to direct staff to finalize negotiations for the property, Seconded by Councilmember Hargroder.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Hargroder, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Boyce, Councilmember Brooks

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

Kayleen Rosser, City Secretary

Wil Kennedy, Mayor

