



CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION MINUTES

**Monday, August 31, 2026
6:00 PM**

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

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STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF IOWA COLONY

BE IT REMEMBERED ON THIS, the 31st day of August 2026, the City Council of the City of Iowa Colony, Texas, held a worksession at 6:00 P.M. at the Iowa Colony City Council Chambers, there being present and in attendance the following members to wit:

Mayor Wil Kennedy
Councilmember Arnetta Murray
Councilmember Margaret Madariaga (Arrived at 6:18 P.M.)
Councilmember Tim Varlack
Councilmember Kareem Boyce
Councilmember Sydney Hargroder

And Mayor Pro Tem Marquette Greene-Scott being absent, constituting a quorum at which time the following business was transacted.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kennedy called the worksession to order at 6:00 P.M.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discussion on the water and wastewater rate study.

Nelissa Heddin presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the water and wastewater rate study, including projected operating costs, customer growth, and recommended rates. She recommended maintaining the existing water rates and increasing the monthly wastewater charge from \$25.00 to \$42.38.

Councilmember Varlack inquired about the cost difference and the factors contributing to the proposed wastewater rate increase. It was clarified that the increase would apply equally to all customers, regardless of consumption. He also expressed concerns regarding meter accuracy and requested that information on reported meter failures be presented at a future City Council meeting.

Consulting Engineer Dinh Ho explained that operating multiple smaller wastewater treatment plants results in higher overhead costs compared to operating a regional facility.

Councilmember Hargroder inquired about potential grant funding for surface water projects and requested a copy of the presentation.

Mayor Kennedy asked about the number of customers included in the study. It was explained that the study used a baseline of 4,216 City customers and 1,988 MUD 55 connections, with an anticipated annual growth rate of 5%.

City Manager Tarron Richardson clarified the distinction between individual water meter issues and the functionality of the customer dashboard.

2. Discussion on the FY 2026-2027 City Budget, tax rate, and related matters.

Finance Director; Chris Thomas presented slides comparing proposed tax rate scenarios and their projected impact on future revenues, including scenarios based on tax rates of \$0.50 and \$0.52.

Councilmember Madariaga inquired about the potential for future tax rate decreases and the City's financial obligations.

Councilmember Murray expressed support for the \$0.52 tax rate while acknowledging concerns about the financial impact on residents. She requested clear and detailed explanations outlining the reasons for the proposed increase and how the additional revenue would benefit the community.

Councilmember Varlack expressed concern about the combined financial impact of the proposed wastewater and property tax increases on residents. He suggested considering a part-time communications position or a shared staffing arrangement to improve public communication.

Councilmember Hargroder encouraged staff to consider using available park funds to begin planning for an inclusive park on donated land.

Councilmember Boyce emphasized the importance of clearly communicating how tax revenues are used and explaining the benefits residents receive from those funds.

Dr. Tarron Richardson requested that Councilmembers share frequently asked questions received from residents so staff could prepare responses for publication on the City's website.

Mayor Kennedy requested clarification regarding the estimated combined annual financial impact of the proposed increases on residents.

ADJOURNMENT

The worksession was adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 19TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

Kayleen Rosser, City Secretary

Wil Kennedy, Mayor

