CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETINGMEETING

Monday, September 14, 2026 – 6:00 PM

109 North Kaufman Street, Mount Vernon, Texas 75457

Our mission: to provide effective and fiscally responsible municipal services in a manner which promotes our high standard of community life.

Vision Statement Mount Vernon is a caring community committed to excellence and quality of life, aspiring to be the community of choice for ourselves, our children, and future generations – beautiful, clean, vibrant, and safe. We will strive to preserve our heritage, our friendly hometown atmosphere, and celebrate the diversity of all our citizens.

MINUTES

Call to Order
Mayor Ostertag called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

Present: Mayor Greg Ostertag, Council Members Sally Eng, Mary Keys, Martin Carrascosa, Mark Huddleston
Absent: Council Member Rebecca Bailey

Invocation and Pledges

Invocation led by Member Keys

Consent Agenda

1. Special Meeting Minutes - August 24, 2026
   Motion to approve the consent items as presented by Member Carrascosa, seconded by Member Keys
   All in favor, none opposed

Report on Items of Community Interest

Citizen Participation (3 minutes)
Representative from Sacred Heart Church, announced the International Food Festival, which is planned for November 07, 2026, to be held on the plaza.

Lillie Bush-Reves, spoke about the Main Street Program giving a history of the program in Mount Vernon. She went on to advise that there have been hundreds of volunteer hours put into the program and she hopes that the program can be revitalized within the community.

Public Hearing

2. The purpose of this hearing is to hear evidence for or against the 2026 proposed tax rate of $0.58102 per one hundred dollar assessed valuation on all taxable property within the corporate city limits of Mount Vernon, Texas

   Public Hearing Open at 6:11 pm

   Public Hearing Closed at 6:12 pm

Items to be Considered

3. Citizen Request to be Placed on Agenda, Jarrod Turner

Jarrod Turner, spoke to the Council, outlining what he believes to be ongoing code violation issues within the City. He advised that he has submitted over forty complaints in his neighborhood, including the building at 102 Rutherford. He further advised that he has requested to know why his concerns regarding the property have not been addressed. He discussed this with the City Administrator who advised that currently the property is under a Stop Work Order, as it has permits pending that have not yet been approved.
City Administrator Lindholm introduced Rodney Caudle, Code Enforcement Officer, who explained the legal requirements for Code Enforcement to issue letters, citations and similar, explaining that guidelines and timelines are strictly outlined by the state. Caudle clarified that he is working through the complaints submitted by Turner, as well as other Code Enforcement issues and they are all being addressed as quickly as possible.

Member Huddleston arrived at 6:26 pm.

4. Consider Service Agreement with Garage Technologies, Inc to facilitate the sale of the 2010 Ferrara Intruder 2 Fire Engine

   Fire Department Chief Sheffield explained that Engine One is not necessary for the department; therefore, they would like to sell the engine. He recommends entering into the agreement with Garage Inc. at this time.

   Motion to approve the agreement with Garage Inc, made by Member Huddleston, seconded by Member Keys
   All in favor, none opposed

5. Consider Request for Re-Plat of Property located at 1080 Texas Highway 37 South, Mount Vernon, Texas, AB 40, Robert M Bailey Survey, City of Mount Vernon, Texas

   Tim Seymore, owner of the RV Park, explained that they would like to re-plat the front portion of the property in order to make those parcels available for commercial use.

   Motion to approve the re-plat request as presented by Member Carrascosa, seconded by Member Keys
   All in favor, none opposed

6. Consider Resolution Number 26-16, Adopting an Agreement between the Mount Vernon Economic Development Council, City Council and The Ranch Fitness, LLC

   City Administrator explained that the agreement was recommended for approval by the Economic Development Corporation Board on August 13, 2026

   Motion to approve Resolution Number 26-16 with corrections, by Member Huddleston, seconded by Member Carrascosa

7. Consider Resolution Number 26-17, Authorizing an Agreement with TxDOT for a Road Closure Request

   Gaye Travis, explained the streets that would be closed for the upcoming Country Fest event

   Motion to approve the agreement with Texas Department of Transportation by Member Keys, seconded by Member Carrascosa

8. Consider Ordinance Number 2026-06, Regarding Deposits

   Motion to approve Ordinance Number 2026-06, as presented, by Member Keys, seconded by Member Huddleston
   All in favor, none opposed

9. Consider Ordinance Number 2026-07, adopting the budget for Fiscal Year beginning on October 01, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2027

   Finance Officer Pudell addressed the Council regarding the final version of the upcoming fiscal year budget.

Motion to adopt Ordinance Number 2026-07, approving the budget for the City of Mount Vernon for the fiscal year beginning October 01, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2027, a budget which will raise more total property taxes from last years budget by $38,372.00 or a 3.28% increase from last years budget. The amount to be raised from new property tax added to the tax roll this year is $17,887.00, seconded by Member Carrascosa Roll Call Vote; all in favor, none opposed

10. Consider Resolution No. 26-18, Ratifying the Property Tax Increase Reflected in the City's Adopted Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

    Motion to approve Resolution Number 26-18 ratifying the property tax reflected in the proposed budget for 2026-2027 budget by Member Keys, seconded by Member Carrascosa
    Roll Call vote; all in favor, none opposed

11. Consider Ordinance Number 2026-08, Adopting the Tax Rate for 2026 at a rate of $0.58102 per One Hundred Dollar Assessed Valuation on All Taxable Property within the Corporate City Limits of Mount Vernon, Texas

    Motion to increase the property tax rate by the adoption of a tax rate of $0.58102, which is effectively a 5.91% increase in the tax rate, by Member Keys, seconded by Member Carrascosa

    Motion to adopt Ordinance Number 2026-08, setting the tax rate at $0.58102, or $0.44354 for Maintenance and Operations and $0.03748 for debt services on each $100 valuation of property, by Member Huddleston, seconded by Member Keys

    Roll call vote; all in favor, none opposed

12. Consider Resolution Number 26-19, Amending the Current Fee Schedule

    City Administrator explained that the proposed fees are reflected in the proposed 2026-2027 budget. The servicer increased the trash rates earlier in 2026. The water and sewer rates are based on the rate study completed in 2024.

    Motion to approve Resolution No. 26-19, as presented by Member Keys, seconded by Member Huddleston
    All in favor, none opposed

Discussion Items and Mayor/Council/City Administrator Reports

13. Franklin County Historical Association Proposal Regarding Main Street

    Shannon Ostertag, Franklin County Historical Commission, advised that the budget that was just approved by the Council eliminated the Main Street Program altogether. Ostertag explained the benefits that her business received through the Main Street Program and the Texas Historical Commission and highlighted funding and accolades received by the program in the years since its' beginning. She added that the Main Street Program has agreed to a one-year probationary period to work with the THC on a path forward back to accreditation, with the Franklin County Historical Commission to serve as interim proxy for the upcoming year on a temporary basis, with Council approval.

Presiding Officer to Adjourn the City Council Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm

Approved: **Attest:**

_____ _____

Greg Ostertag, Mayor **Angie Pike, City Secretary**