



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL/WORKSHOP MEETING

Monday, August 17, 2026 at 9:00 AM

City Council Chambers | 202 N. Virginia Street, Port Lavaca TX 77979

MINUTES

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CALHOUN §
CITY OF PORT LAVACA §

On this the 17th day of August 2026, the City Council of the City of Port Lavaca, Texas, convened in a Special and Workshop session at 9:00 a.m. at the regular meeting place in Council Chambers at City Hall, 202 North Virginia Street, Port Lavaca, Texas, with the following members in attendance:

I. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER	at 9:00 a.m.
Luis De La Garza	Mayor
Daniel Aguirre	Councilman, District 1
Tim Dent	Councilman, District 2
Rosie G. Padron	Councilwoman, District 4, Mayor Pro Tem
Rose Bland-Stewart	Councilwoman, District 5
Justin Burke	Councilman, District 6

And with the following absent:

Mary E. "Sissy" Rigby	Councilwoman, District 3
-----------------------	--------------------------

Constituting a quorum for the transaction of business, at which time the following business was transacted:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

- Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman District 1 Aguirre
- Invocation: Mayor De La Garza

III. MEETING SAFETY BRIEFING:

- **911** Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart
- **AED** Councilman District 6 Burke
- **EVAC** Meet at the corner of Mahan Street and Virginia Street, at the stop sign.
- **CPR** Police Chief Tobie Bias
- **SAFETY** Councilman Aguirre advised everyone to use caution at stop signs.

IV. REVIEW OF VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

- **OUR VISION:**

The Mayor and the City Council envision a friendly town on Lavaca Bay where economic and recreational opportunities abound, providing for a wonderful quality of life for both citizens and tourists, rich in history and looking toward a vibrant future!

- **OUR MISSION:**

Our mission is to make Port Lavaca a desirable place to live through high-quality services, responsible use of public resources, and a progressive approach to community development. With enthusiasm, integrity, and vision, we will maintain a safe environment and continually improve the quality of life for all citizens.

V. PRESENTATION(S) None**VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - *Limited to 3 minutes per individual unless permission to speak longer is received in advance. You may make public comments as you would at a meeting on Zoom by logging on with your computer and/or smart phone as described in the zoom invitation below or on Facebook Live through the comment section, which will be monitored and answered. As appropriate.*

- Mayor De La Garza asked for comments from the public and there were none.

VII. ACTION ITEMS - (Council will consider/discuss the following items and take any action deemed necessary)

1. **Consider a proposed tax rate for 2026-2027 fiscal year and take a record vote. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Mayor De La Garza called the agenda item and deferred consideration until after the budget-related agenda items were reviewed. Council returned to the item later in the meeting to consider the proposed tax rate.

Finance Director Hogan presented information regarding the City's proposed property tax rate and the required No-New-Revenue (NNR) and Voter-Approval (VAR) tax rate calculations in accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code and the Comptroller's Truth-in-Taxation requirements.

Hogan reported that the proposed FY 2027 budget was prepared using a property tax rate of \$0.8956 per \$100 valuation and that City Council could propose a tax rate up to \$0.8956 without triggering a mandatory voter-approval election.

Hogan further reported that \$0.1009 of the proposed \$0.8956 tax rate is allocated for debt service. The City currently has four outstanding debt issues, with total FY 2027 debt service requirements of \$1,570,050, of which \$799,726 is secured by property taxes.

A comparison of the required calculation is as follows:

Property Tax Rate Comparison

	2026-2027	2025-2026
Property Tax Rate:	\$0.8956/100	\$0.8000/100
No-New-Revenue Tax Rate:	\$0.7968/100	\$0.7583/100
No-New-Revenue Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate:	\$0.7202/100	\$0.6401/100
Voter-Approval Tax Rate:	\$0.8957/100	\$0.8277/100
Debt Rate:	\$0.1009/100	\$0.1013/100

Hogan explained that the No-New-Revenue (NNR) and Voter-Approval (VAR) tax rates are calculated in accordance with the Texas Tax Code and are published to provide transparency to property taxpayers.

Hogan stated that the NNR rate represents the tax rate that would generate approximately the same amount of property tax revenue from properties taxed in both the prior and current year. If the City proposes a tax rate exceeding the NNR rate, applicable public hearing and notice requirements must be followed.

Hogan further explained that the VAR represents the highest tax rate the City may generally adopt without triggering voter-approval requirements. The City may consider a tax rate up to \$0.8956 without requiring an election.

The proposed tax rate is projected to generate approximately \$613,521, or 10.56%, more property tax revenue for the proposed FY 2027 budget. Hogan advised that once City Council votes to propose a tax rate, the required notices must be published. The City Council may subsequently adopt a lower rate but may not adopt a rate exceeding the proposed rate without satisfying applicable statutory requirements.

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with the recommendation of staff, Council hereby proposes a tax rate of \$0.88 per \$100 value for the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget and publishing notice thereof.

Seconded by Councilman District 2 Dent

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, and Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart,

Voting Nay

Councilman District 6 Burke and Councilman District 1 Aguirre

2. **Consider setting a public hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 fiscal year Budget for Monday, September 14, 2026. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Finance Director Hogan explained that, in accordance with applicable State law, Truth-in-Taxation requirements, the Local Government Code, and the City Charter, the City is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget.

Hogan stated that, in accordance with the City's budget calendar, staff recommended setting the public hearing for September 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. during the Regular City Council Meeting, at which time the first reading of the ordinance adopting the FY 2026-2027 budget may also be considered.

Hogan further explained that because the proposed tax rate of \$0.8956 exceeds the No-New-Revenue rate, the required budget notice must state that the proposed budget will raise \$613,521, or 10.56%, more in total property tax revenue than the previous year's budget, of which \$114,123 is attributable to new property added to the tax roll.

Hogan advised that one public hearing is required prior to consideration of the ordinance adopting the annual budget.

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with the recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves a Meetings for setting a Public Hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget, for Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, and Councilman District 6 Burke

3. **Consider setting a public hearing on the proposed 2026 Tax Rate for Monday, September 14, 2026. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Finance Director Hogan explained that, in accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code and the Comptroller's Truth-in-Taxation requirements, a proposed tax rate exceeding the No-New-Revenue (NNR) rate is considered a tax increase and is subject to applicable public hearing and notice requirements.

Hogan stated that the proposed tax rate of \$0.8956 exceeds the NNR rate of \$0.7968 and is projected to generate approximately \$613,521, or 10.56%, more property tax revenue.

In accordance with the City's budget calendar, Hogan recommended setting the public hearing on the proposed tax rate for September 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. during the Regular City Council Meeting and authorizing the required Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase. The first reading of the Tax Rate Ordinance may also be considered at that meeting, with the required record vote.

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with the recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves a meeting for setting a Public Hearing on the proposed 2026 tax rate, for Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. and authorize the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase to describe the date, time and place for the hearing along with the required language as set forth by Property Tax Code.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, and Councilman District 6 Burke

4. **Consider appointment/reappointment of member(s) to the Recreation and Parks Board to fill an expired term and/or begin a new two-year term. Presenter is Wayne Shaffer**

Public Works Director Shaffer reported that the Recreation and Parks Board currently has vacancies and that the City received applications from Ramona Servantes, Vincent Cisneros, Natalie Gonzalez, Rosa Martinez, and Maggie Sepulveda. The applicants were listed in no particular order, and all reside within the city limits.

Shaffer further stated that the Board currently consists of five members and, pursuant to City Ordinance, may consist of up to nine members. Board members serve two-year terms with no established term limits.

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with the recommendation of staff, the City Council hereby appoints Ramona Servantes, Vincent Cisneros, Natalie Gonzalez, and Maggie Sepulveda to the Recreation and Parks Board to fill existing vacancies and serve new two-year terms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the City Council hereby appoints Rosa Martinez as an alternate member to the Recreation and Parks Board for a new two-year term.

Seconded by Councilman District 2 Dent

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

5. **Consider approval of temporary street closures for the Bulls on the Bay event on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 19, through 12:30 a.m. Sunday, September 20, 2026, at the following locations: Stringham Drive at Henry Barber Way, Fairgrounds Road at Henry Barber Way, and Airline Drive at Peikert Lane. Presenter is Tania French**

Events Coordinator Tania French presented request for Cowboys for the Crossroads, a nonprofit organization, requested temporary street closures in connection with the Bulls on the Bay event scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds. The event will include bull riding and live music, with gates opening at 4:00 p.m.

French stated that the requested closures include Stringham Drive at Henry Barber Way, Fairgrounds Road at Henry Barber Way, and Airline Drive at Peikert Lane from 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 19, through 12:30 a.m. Sunday, September 20, 2026. Access would be maintained for event attendees, emergency responders, and City of Port Lavaca vehicles and personnel.

French further reported that Calhoun County Precinct 1 Commissioner John Martinez had discussed the proposed closures with the EMS Director and advised that the closures would not interfere with emergency medical services.

Cowboys for the Crossroads requested City Council approval of the temporary traffic restrictions for the duration of the event.

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, Council hereby approves the temporary closure to through traffic of Stringham Drive at Henry Barber Way, Fairgrounds Road at Henry Barber Way, and Airline Drive at Peikert Lane from 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 19, through 12:30 a.m. Sunday, September 20, 2026, for the Bulls on the Bay event, with access maintained for event attendees, emergency responders, and City of Port Lavaca vehicles.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

6. **Consider the temporary closure of Main Street from Virginia Street to Commerce Street on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 3 to 11 p.m., for a Main Street Trick-or-Treat event. Presenter is Tania French**

Events Coordinator Tania French presented a request from Helping Hands on the Coast and Port Lavaca Main Street, Inc. for the temporary closure of Main Street from Virginia Street to Commerce Street on Saturday, October 31, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for a community Halloween trick-or-treat event.

French stated that the event is a partnership among Helping Hands on the Coast, the City of Port Lavaca, and Port Lavaca Main Street to provide a safe, family-friendly Halloween activity for local children and families. Local businesses will distribute candy from storefronts or pop-up locations, and the theater will provide Halloween-themed entertainment.

French explained that the requested closure period includes additional time for the placement and removal of barricades before and after the event. Staff recommended approval of the temporary street closure as presented.

Motion made by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, Council hereby approves the temporary closure of Main Street from Virginia Street to Commerce Street on Saturday, October 31, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for the Main Street Trick-or-Treat Event hosted by Helping Hands on the Coast.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

VIII. ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor De La Garza announced the adjournment of the Special Meeting at 9:16 a.m.

Following the Workshop Session, Mayor De La Garza called the Special Meeting back to order at 4:45 p.m. to address Agenda Items 1, 2, and 3. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

IX. CALL TO ORDER at 9:18 a.m.

- X. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - *Limited to 3 minutes per individual unless permission to speak longer is received in advance. You may make public comments as you would at a meeting on Zoom by logging on with your computer and/or smart phone as described in the zoom invitation below or on Facebook Live through the comment section, which will be monitored and answered. As appropriate.*

- Mayor De La Garza asked for comments from the public and there were none.

XI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – (Council will discuss the following items)

1. Discuss proposed city budget for 2026-2027 fiscal year. Presenter is Brittney Hogan

Council discussed this agenda item.

No action necessary and none taken.

2. Conduct Cyber Security Training. Presenter is Jody Weaver

No individuals present needed to complete the Cyber Security Training; therefore, no training was conducted.

No action necessary and none taken.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY MANAGER

XIII. ADJOURN WORKSHOP

Mayor De La Garza asked for motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

These minutes were approved on September 14, 2026.

ATTEST:

Luis De La Garza, Mayor

Lorena Perez-Diaz, City Secretary