



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL/WORKSHOP MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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 22nd day of August 2026, the City Council of the City of Port Lavaca, Texas, convened in a Special and Workshop session at 5:30 p.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 5:30 p.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
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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: Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart
- Invocation: Mayor De La Garza

III. MEETING SAFETY BRIEFING:

- **911** Councilman District 1 Burke
- **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** Mayor De La Garza reminded everyone that temperatures remained very hot and everyone to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and electrolytes.

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 the following citizen spoke:
 - Citizen Jan Regan, expressed her support for the proposed plans for the former Regan Building. She stated that she was pleased the plans would preserve portions of the existing structure rather than completely demolishing the building.
 - Citizen Russell Cain expressed his support for the proposed plans for the former Regan Building.

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

1. **Consider Second and Final reading of an Ordinance (S-5-26) approving the annual Budget for the City of Port Lavaca, Texas and adopting the budget document for the fiscal year October 01, 2026 thru September 30, 2027. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

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

THAT, in accordance with recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Annual Budget Ordinance (S-5-26), as presented by the City Manager, on this its first reading.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea Record Vote:

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

2. **Consider Second and Final reading of an Ordinance (S-6-26) fixing the Tax Rate and Tax Levy for the City of Port Lavaca, Texas for the year 2026. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Motion #1:

Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

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

THAT, the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.8800, which is effectively a 10.44 percent increase in the tax rate; and

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

THAT, in accordance with recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves fixing the 2026 Tax Rate and Tax Levy Ordinance (S-6-26) on this its first reading.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea and Record Vote:

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

Voting Nay and Record Vote: None

Abstain: None

Motion #2:

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, City Council adopts a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.7791.

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, and Councilman District 6 Burke

Voting Nay: None

Motion #3:

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, City Council adopts an Interest & Sinking rate of \$0.1009.

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

Voting Nay: None

3. **Consider Ratification of Property Tax increase reflected in the 2026-2027 FY Budget.**
Presenter is Brittney Hogan

City Manager Weaver explained that, in accordance with Section 102.007(c) of the Texas Local Government Code, when the City adopts a budget that raises more revenue from property taxes than was generated in the previous year, the City Council is required to take a separate vote to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the adopted budget. This vote is separate from the vote to adopt the budget and the vote to set the tax rate.

Motion made by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

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

THAT, in accordance with recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves to ratify the property tax revenue increase reflected in the 2026-2027 fiscal year Budget.

Seconded by Councilman District 6 Burke

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

VIII. TAXPAYER IMPACT STATEMENT

(Required under Texas Government Code §551 as amended by HB 1522, effective September 1, 2025)

This notice informs taxpayers of the potential impact of the proposed budget and tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026-27, comparing what would be paid under the no-new revenue tax rate versus the proposed tax rate.

1. Average Taxable Homestead Value

Prior Year (FY 2025-2026)	\$154,791.00
Current Year (FY 2026-2027)	\$162,756.00

2. Tax Rates

No-New-Revenue Tax Rate (FY 2026-2027)	\$0.7968 per \$100 valuation
Proposed Tax Rate (FY 2026-2027)	\$0.8800 per \$100 valuation

3. Estimated Annual Tax Bill Comparison

Scenario	Tax Rate	Estimated Tax Bill	Difference from No-New-Revenue
Prior Year (FY 2025-2026)	\$0.8000	\$1,238	\$59
No-New-Revenue Tax Rate (FY 2026-2027)	\$0.7968	\$1,297	\$0
Proposed Tax Rate (FY 2026-2027)	\$0.8800	\$1,432	\$135

Calculations

- Prior Year Tax Bill = $(\$154,791 \div 100) \times \$0.8000 = \$1,238.33$
- No-New-Revenue Tax Bill = $(\$162,756 \div 100) \times \$0.7968 = \$1,296.84$
- Proposed Tax Bill = $(\$162,756 \div 100) \times \$0.8800 = \$1,432.26$

Summary

If the City of Port Lavaca adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.8800 Per \$100 valuation, the average homestead owner would pay approximately \$135.42 more annually compared to the no-new-revenue tax rate. This increase supports continued city services and infrastructure investments.

VIII. ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor De La Garza announced the adjournment of the Special Meeting at 5:44 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

IX. CALL TO ORDER at 5:44 p.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 options for the potential development or demolition of the former Regan Dry Goods building located at 233 E. Main Street. Presenter is Jody Weaver

Council discussed this agenda item.

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 6:08 p.m.

These minutes were approved on October 12, 2026.

ATTEST:

Luis De La Garza, Mayor

Lorena Perez-Diaz, City Secretary