

CITY COUNCIL MEETING REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM

City Hall, 102 W. Ashley Wilson Rd, Sweeny, Texas

MINUTES

BE IT KNOWN that the City Council of the City of Sweeny met in **Regular Session** on **Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM.** at City Hall, 102 W. Ashley Wilson Rd, Sweeny, Texas with the following agenda.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Hopkins called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Neal Bess Jr., Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, Sandra Blaine, and Caniel "Shaun" Massey were in attendance.

PLEDGES & INVOCATION

The pledges were led by Neal Bess Jr. The invocation was given by Reese Cook.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS CITY COUNCIL

Kristin Simmons of S-Town Legends - Requesting to be placed on next month's agenda. She is upset with the issues caused by prior contractors. It has caused sewer and drainage issues at 105 Main, requiring her to close for business. She is looking for a reimbursement and a resolution to the issues. Linda Wolf- Gave verbal statement on the recent tragedies within our community. She referenced police department procedures and praised Chief Caudle.

Paul Jeffries- Requested to be on next month's agenda to discuss her daughter's case in further detail. Ms. Jeffries addressed the handling of the investigation as well as recent social media posts. She is requesting evidence be immediately turned over to the DA's Office.

Sunny Weeks- Approached Council on behalf of the Phillips Family. She expressed similar concerns of Ms. Jeffries, for the handling of the Phillips' case including witnesses and their safety. She feels that officers should be held to a higher standard or level of decorum and expressed distaste in the recent social media rhetoric. The Phillips family wishes for the case and all evidence to be turned over to the DA's Office.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes: Regular Session, May 20, 2025

Mayor Hopkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Session for May 20, 2025. Mr. Brooks stated so moved. Seconded by Neal Bess Jr. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Financial Statements
3. Personnel Status
4. City Managers Update: Gas Compliance & Project Status
5. Public Works Report: Critical Equipment, Generators, & Sidewalk Repair Updates

Mayor Hopkins asked for one motion to approve all remaining consent items. Neal Bess Jr. stated so moved. Seconded by Brian Brooks. All in favor. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Discussion and possible action to verbal update from the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD).

Woody Tolley, President of CCPD, along with David Jordan, City Manager, gave information on the board and their recent meeting. CCPD will be working to complete a preliminary budget for next fiscal year. No expenditures will be budgeted, and they will continue to have a two-year budget on file.

Council continued to discuss the Crime Control and Prevention District and cleared up any miscommunications between the Board and Council.

No action; discussion only.

7. Discussion and possible action to update from the Parks & Recreation Board.
Cerrington Massey, President of the Parks & Recreation Board, gave an update to Council of their recent progress and plans for our local parks.
No action; discussion only.

8. Discussion and possible action to requested variance at 222 Pecan Street, Ordinance §156.018 A(3) for flag pole height allowance; Sweeny Fire & Rescue
Cerrington Massey approached Council on behalf of Sweeny Fire and Rescue to request a variance to allow for two flag poles to be installed at the Fire Department. Flag poles are forty feet in height. All costs for poles and labor have been donated.
Brian Brooks motioned to approve 2 - 40 ft. flag poles and it will not authorize a type of sign which is specifically prohibited by this subchapter Section 156.046. It is not contrary to the goals and objectives outlined by the City's comprehensive plan. Is not contrary to the public interest, and due to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship, and the spirit and purpose of the ordinance will be observed, and substantial justice will be done. Seconded by Neal Bess Jr. All in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion and possible action to Sweeny Economic Development Corporation's Application for Incentive and Performance Agreement with Equipment Share.
Michelle Medina, SEDC Executive Director, stated the performance agreement is within the packet for Equipment Share. Tommy Sanders, representative for Equipment Share, was in attendance and stated their legal team has reviewed the performance agreement. Council discussed with SEDC and Equipment Share.
Reese Cook moved to approve the application and performance agreement from Sweeny EDC for Equipment Share as presented. Seconded by Neal Bess Jr. All in favor. Motion carried.

10. Discussion and possible action on selling the gas system; Councilman Cook.
Councilman Cook stated between mandates and repairs, he wanted to discuss the options of selling the gas system. Our required expenditures, some mandated, exceed the revenues. We are required to replace 8% annually per mandates for the next twelve years. Discussion ensued on options, advantages, and disadvantages.
Discussion only; no action.

11. Discussion and possible action on Containers Ordinance §51.02; Councilman Cook.
Councilman Cook stated that our ordinance states that trash containers must be removed within 24 hours following scheduled garbage pickup, with no provisions for exceptions. He is asking if Council would like to amend to add exceptions or repeal in full.
Reese Cook moved to repeal the removal of containers from the curbside within 24 hours following scheduled garbage pickup and citation requirements for §51.02. Neal Bess Jr. seconded.
Discussion: Councilman Brooks asked if there was a time requirement; no requirement by removing. Neal Bess Jr., Reese Cook, and Shaun Massey approved. Brian Brooks and Sandra Blaine opposed.
Motion carried.

12. Discussion and possible action on Eight Liner Machines Prohibited Ordinance, §130.07; Councilman Cook.
Councilman Cook stated he was contacted by a resident as to why we do not allow eight liners. Per Ordinance 130.07, they are prohibited. Attorney Stevenson stated that gambling machines are prohibited; game rooms are only legal if they give out prizes that are \$5.00 in value or less. A City is eligible to collect a flat annual fee per machine permitted if allowed.
Discussion only, no action.

13. Discussion and possible action for driving on flooded streets that may potentially damage another person's property; Councilman Cook.

Councilman Cook would like for the City to look at implementing something similar to Texas City. Their ordinance prohibits operating a motor vehicle on a flooded street, highway, alley, or parking lot in a manner that creates a wake capable of causing damage to other vehicles or adjacent real property or causing substantial inconvenience to property owners. Violating this ordinance can result in penalties, as defined by the city's code, if implemented.

Reese Cook moved the city look into and draft an ordinance similar to Texas City, § 71.17, operating on flooded streets etc. and including a penalty to that for violators.

Discussion: Councilman Massey asked if there would be an exception for Emergency vehicles and Council continued to discuss.

Seconded by Shuan Massey. Reese Cook and Shaun Massey approved. Neal Bess Jr., Brian Brooks, and Sandra Blaine opposed. Motion failed.

14. Discussion and possible action to require and enforce exterior security cameras at apartment complexes; Councilman Massey.

Councilman Massey is bringing this to Council due to the recent incidents at one of our apartment complexes. He has researched other cities who mandated security cameras at apartment complexes. Implementing would aid in law enforcement investigations and help to deter crime.

Shuan Massey motioned to have Charlie draft an ordinance for the City of Sweeny to mandate for apartment complexes, based on the Humble Ordinance, for the apartment complexes to install security cameras, and maintain in operational condition. Seconded by Neal Bess Jr. Neal Bess Jr., Brian Brooks, Sandra Blaine, and Shaun Massey approved. Reese Cook opposed. Motion carried.

15. Discussion and possible action to Ordinance 25-107, repealing §130.01, Curfew.

Mayor Hopkins asked for a motion to repeal §130.01. Brian Brooks stated so moved. Seconded by Reese Cook. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, Sandra Blaine, and Shaun Massey approved. Neal Bess Jr. abstained. Motion carried.

Mayor Hopkins stated that Council will take a quick break before convening into Executive Session at 7:58 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.071, 551.072 AND 551.074

The City Council will now convene into executive session pursuant to the provision of Chapter 551 Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained therein at 8:06 PM.

16. Deliberation Regarding Personnel Matters regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee, pursuant to Section 551.074 (a) (1) & (2) of the Texas Government Code; Police Chief

OPEN SESSION

The City Council will now adjourn Executive Session, reconvene into Open Session at 8:23 PM, pursuant to the Provisions of Chapter 551 Texas Government Code and take action, if any, on item(s) discussed during Closed Executive Session.

17. Discussion and possible action, if any, on item discussed during Closed Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 (a) (1) & (2) of the Texas Government Code, Personnel Matters, Police Chief, and action related thereto.

No action.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Neal Bess Jr. stated the 80th anniversary of the Lions Club is approaching, and this will be his 30th year. They are expecting a big turnout.

Shaun Massey stated the Lions Club 80th anniversary is this weekend, please come out and attend. The Lions Club became active in 1946 and helped sponsor the Fire Department, Hospital, and School District. It will be held at the Community Center this Saturday at 5 PM.

ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION Mayor Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Staff and Boards Present

City Manager, David Jordan

Chief of Police, Brad Caudle

Director of Public Works, DeLane Brown

Finance Director / Personnel Services, Karla Wilson

City Secretary, Kaydi Smith

Passed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Kaydi Smith -- City Secretary