



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 5, 2025 MINUTES

Willow Park Baptist Church, 777 Crown Pointe Blvd, Willow Park, TX 76087

Tuesday, August 05, 2025 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Palmer.

Quorum confirmed.

PRESENT

MAYOR Teresa Palmer

COUNCILMEMBER Eric Contreras

COUNCILMEMBER Chawn Gilliland

COUNCILMEMBER Greg Runnebaum

COUNCILMEMBER Nathan Crummel

CITY MANAGER Bryan Grimes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Councilmember Nathan Crummel gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Nathan Crummel and given by all present.

1. Mayor Announcements

Mayor Teresa Palmer made an announcement. Thank you all for being here. Your presence shows your commitment to our community and that means a great deal to me. We are blessed to live in a city full of people with different experiences, perspectives, and ideas. That diversity is one of our greatest strengths. It only becomes our strength when we approach one another with respect. Working together does not mean we will always agree. But it does mean that we will always listen. It means giving each other space to speak, valuing each others view point and finding the common ground that moves us forward. In the days ahead I hope we can each be intentional about our words and actions, choosing respect over division, collaboration over conflict, and solutions over stalemates. As your Mayor I am committed to creating an environment where every voice is heard, every person is treated with dignity and our shared visions for this community remains at the heart of every decision. Let's keep working together, not as separate voices, but as a community united in respect and dedicated to building a future we can all be proud of. So please show your Council and your Mayor the respect that we all deserve and each other the respect that you each deserve.

If anyone gets loud and disrespectful no matter who it is, the officers will show you to your car and then will show you the exit. Let's not repeat what happened last week. Let's have a great meeting. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to five minutes per person)

Residents may address the Council regarding an item that is not listed on the agenda. Residents must complete a speaker form and turn it in to the City Secretary five (5) minutes before the start of the meeting. The Rules of Procedure states that comments are to be limited to five (5) minutes for each speaker provided that there are no more than ten (10) speakers. If there are more than ten (10) speakers, the Mayor and/or the City Council may reduce the applicable time limits to speak to three (3) minutes. The Texas Open Meetings Act provides the following:

A. If, at a meeting of a governmental body, a member of the public or of the governmental body inquires about a subject for which notice has not been given as required by this subchapter, the notice provisions of this subchapter do not apply to:

- (1) A statement of specific factual information given in response to the inquiry; or
- (2) A recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry.

B. Any deliberation of or decision about the subject of the inquiry shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a subsequent meeting.

Gwendolyn Galle

Lee Miller

Dixie Smith

Libby Afflerbach

Bernard Suchocki on behalf of Doyle Moss

Bryson Adams

Randy Keck (#3)

Buddy Wright (#4)

Gene Martin (#5)

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

2. Discussion: Each Councilmember and Mayor Palmer will choose 1 candidate from the list to Interview for the Vacancy of City Council Place 4.

Council member Contreras requested to add Sam Minnick whose application was not shown as having been received on time. (I am unclear as to whether his application was considered)

Council member Contreras requested that all candidates be interviewed. He made a motion, but no second. The motion did not carry.

Mayor Palmer asked for the candidate each Council member selected from the list of applicants. Selections of each are as follows:

Council member Nate Crummel: Buddy Wright

Council member Greg Runnebaum: Catherine Davis

Council member Chawn Gilliland: Scott Smith

Council member Eric Contreras: Jonathan Strickland

Mayor Teresa Palmer: Judge Roy Kurban

3. Adjourn Into Executive Session, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters- Candidates for Council Place 4. (Mayor Teresa Palmer)

Mayor Teresa Palmer adjourned the regular session into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. for Council to interview Applicants for the Vacancy of City Council Place 4 individually.

4. Reconvene back into Regular Session: to consider action on item(s) discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Teresa Palmer Reconvened the regular meeting at 8:15 p.m.

5. Discussion/Action: Consider Appointment to Fill Vacancy for City Council Place 4. (Mayor Teresa Palmer)

Motion was made to appoint Scott Smith to the vacant position City Council Place 4 for an unexpired term.

Motion made by COUNCILMEMBER Gilliland, Seconded by COUNCILMEMBER Crummel.

Voting Yea: COUNCILMEMBER Contreras, COUNCILMEMBER Gilliland, COUNCILMEMBER Runnebaum, COUNCILMEMBER Crummel

6. Administer the Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Councilmember for Place 4 by Mayor Teresa Palmer. (Mayor Teresa Palmer)

Mayor Teresa Palmer administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Councilmember for Place 4, Scott Smith.

7. Discussion/Action: consider approval of ordinance allowing the City Council to hire attorney services. (Chawn Gilliland)

City Manager Bryan Grimes advised the City Council that, since an Ordinance is not part of the packet, they can advise Staff to complete an Request For Qualifications.

Motion to authorize Staff to prepare the RFQ for Attorney Services.

Motion made by COUNCILMEMBER Gilliland, Seconded by COUNCILMEMBER Contreras.

Voting Yea: COUNCILMEMBER Contreras, COUNCILMEMBER Gilliland, COUNCILMEMBER Runnebaum, COUNCILMEMBER Crummel

EXECUTIVE SESSION *It is anticipated that all, or a portion of the discussion of the foregoing item will be conducted in closed executive session under authority of the Section 551 of the Texas Open Meetings Act. However, no action will be taken on this item until the City Council reconvenes in open session.*

Mayor Teresa Palmer adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council into Executive Session at 8:24 p.m.

8. Section 551.074, Personnel Matters - Appointment of a Temporary City Attorney. (Councilmember Chawn Gilliland).

9. Section 551.074, Personnel/Officer; Mayor Palmer. (Mayor Teresa Palmer)

RECONVENE *into Open Session and consider action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session.*

Mayor Teresa Palmer reconvened the regular session of the City Council at 8:38 pm.

10. Discussion/Action: to designate a Council person and authorize him/her to retain an attorney on behalf of the City of Willow Park to facilitate a reasonable separation agreement with the City Manager and serve as temporary attorney for Willow Park until a permanent one can be appointed. (Councilmember Chawn Gilliland)

Mayor Teresa Palmer said there would be no action on this item discussed in Executive Session as the item had been addressed under item number 7 & 8 on the Agenda.

No action was taken.

INFORMATIONAL

11. City Council Comments

Councilmember Eric Contreras - Thanked everyone who put in their hat to be considered for the vacancy of City Council Place 4. Congratulations to Scott Smith for being selected.

Councilmember Chawn Gilliland - Thanked everyone who submitted applications to be considered for the vacancy of Council Place 4. There were many qualified candidates who applied for the position. Congratulations to Scott Smith on being selected.

Councilmember Nathan Crummel - I want to echo the thoughts from the other Councilmembers. Seeing the caliber and quality of the people who applied for the city council seat shows what a Gem we all consider this to be. There will be disagreements at times, but disagreements needs to equal discourse in talking, It does not need to be disagreements equal disrespect. I appreciate the process tonight and thank you Mayor Palmer for getting us back on track in those areas. Thank you all again for applying. We had 2 former Mayors, a Mayoral Candidate and a State representative among the applicants. Obviously this is not a political springboard. It shows me the servant hearts of the people who applied.

City Manager Bryan Grimes - Want to ask everyone to keep Deana McMullen and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Her husband is struggling at home with his recovery.

Councilmember Scott Smith - Thank you Mayor and Council for the trust and confidence you have in me by appointing me to this position. Thank you to my wife for allowing me to do this. Obviously this was not an easy decision for both of us. But I am a dedicated citizen to this City and want to do right by everyone. - So thank you again.

12. Mayor Comments

Mayor Teresa Palmer Congratulated Scott Smith for being appointed to City Council Place 4.

Mayor Palmer called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Motion made by COUNCILMEMBER Contreras, Seconded by COUNCILMEMBER Gilliland.

Voting Yea: COUNCILMEMBER Contreras, COUNCILMEMBER Gilliland, COUNCILMEMBER Runnebaum, COUNCILMEMBER Crummel, COUNCILMEMBER Smith

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2025

Teresa Palmer, Mayor

Deana McMullen
City Secretary