



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 MINUTES

City Hall, 120 El Chico Trl., Suite A, Willow Park, TX 76087

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Teresa Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

A quorum was present for this meeting

PRESENT

Mayor Teresa Palmer
Councilmember Eric Contreras
Councilmember Chawn Gilliland
Councilmember Buddy Wright
Councilmember Scott Smith
Councilmember Nathan Crummel

City Manager Bryan Grimes

City Secretary Deana McMullen

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mr. Gil Green gave the Invocation and Led the Pledge of Allegiance given by all present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to five minutes per person)

To address the City Council, residents must complete a speaker form and turn it in to the City Secretary at least five (5) minutes before the start of the meeting. The Rules of Procedure state that all 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. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any item not listed on the agenda. The Council may: (1) make a statement of fact regarding the item; (2) make a statement concerning the policy regarding the item; (3) propose the item be placed on a future agenda (Tex. Govt. Code §551.042). Each speaker shall approach the podium or designated speaker location and state his/her name and address before speaking. Speakers shall address the City Council with civility that is conducive to appropriate public discussion. Speakers may only address the City Council and not individual officials, commission members, committee members, or employees. The public cannot speak from the gallery, but only from the podium or designated speaker location.

There were no public comments for this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The City of Willow Park City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the 20-25-2026 Fund Year at a Special City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 24, 2025, in the Willow Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 120 El Chico Trl., Suite A, Willow Park, Texas.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Teresa Palmer opened the public hearing for anyone wishing to speak for or against the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the 2025-2026 Fund Year at 6:02 pm

1) Michelle Krall at 110 Lori Drive - We have lived here for 2 1/2 years and we are going to have to move because the City of Willow Park does not have a Homestead Exemption like the ISD. Cannot the City consider adding a Homestead Exemption of \$140,000? I pay over \$7,500 in taxes. This is not normal.

2.) Gil Green - Do we have a homestead exemption? Answer was 65 yrs and over, \$10,000..

3) Gene Martin - The sales tax is up and there is a no new revenue tax rate, so if there are added homestead exemptions, the money has to come from somewhere..

Mayor Teresa Palmer closed the Public Hearing at 6:12 pm.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Discussion/ Action: To consider and act on adopting an ordinance adopting an Ad Valorem Tax Rate and levy on assessed property not to exceed \$0.421646 per \$100 valuation for tax year 2025 for the City of Willow Park, Texas including a Levy for Debt obligations (\$0.225893) and a levy for Maintenance and Operations (\$0.195753) consistent with the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Municipal Budget**

Motion was made to adopt Ordinance 922-25 adopting an Ad Valorem Tax Rate and levy on assessed property not to exceed \$0.421646 per \$100 valuation for tax year 2025 for the City of Willow Park, Texas, including a Levy for Debt Obligations (\$0.225893) and a levy for Maintenance and Operations (\$0.195753) consistent with the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Municipal Budget.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Gilliland.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Contreras, Councilmember Gilliland, Councilmember Wright, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Crummel

This was a Roll Call Vote. All in Favor and None against.

- 2. Discussion and Action: To consider and act on approving a resolution acknowledging and ratifying that the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Budget requires raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous Fiscal Year and ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the Budget; and providing an effective date.**

This item was not needed, so no action was taken.

INFORMATIONAL

City Manager Comments

City Council Comments

Mayor Comments

City Manager Comments:

City Manager Bryan Grimes stated that tonight was his last meeting with the City of Willow Park. His last day of employment will be Friday, October 10, 2025. His first day with Willow Park was October 10, 2017. It has been a good 8 years. This Community has been a blessing for me and my family. Thank you to the original Council who hired me. I have enjoyed my time here in Willow Park and am proud of what we have accomplished. Thank You!

City Council Comments:

Councilmember Eric Contreras stated he had a couple of comments: First was to ask everyone to keep Charlie Kirks' family in their prayers. Second was some questions for Mayor Teresa Palmer. Councilmember Contreras read aloud the Mayor's Proclamation that she read when she was sworn into office. Following that Councilmember Contreras had questions of Mayor Palmer regarding her relationship with a citizen who contributed to her campaign and is now in trouble with the law. (See attached transcript, **Note this transcript came from a private citizen handed to city secretary by Mayor Palmer)

Councilmember Chawn Gilliland - Thank you to Brian Grimes for a great job during your tenure at Willow Park. You have helped manage our growth and created a fantastic team to work with you.

Councilmember Scott Smith - I echo the comments from Chawn Gilliland, you have done a great job. I hate to see you leave, but understand.

Councilmember Nathan Crummel - I will not be present at the 1st meeting in November.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Teresa Palmer - I will not be smeared by Councilmembers or any other person. I am a 66 year old woman, a mother and grandmother. I was elected Mayor. If you do not respect me as a person, you should respect the position of Mayor the title. I will continue to stand up and speak as the Mayor. I can't address everything that was said, but I am very disappointed, Shame on you for saying these things.

ADJOURN

With there being nothing further to discuss or consider, Mayor Palmer asked for a motion to adjourn this Special meeting of Willow Park City Council.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Contreras, Councilmember Gilliland, Councilmember Wright, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Crummel

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE ____ DAY OF _____ 2025.

Teresa Palmer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deana McMullen
City Secretary

This transcript starts at approximately 22 minutes into the posted video of the Special Willow Park City Council meeting held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025.

Council Member Eric Contreras:

I have a couple comments. First, I just want to make sure everybody's keeping Charlie Kirk's family and their thoughts and prayers. Also making sure that we're all keeping everyone that was affected by the shooting in Dallas today and their thoughts and prayers and hoping everybody recovers and we just got to stop the senseless acts of violence. But I do have a couple other comments.

Mayor Palmer, your very first act as mayor was to declare proclamation on May 13th about your commitment to transparency and what you said, and I quote, the public should never be left in the dark, every citizen deserves direct, clear and complete answers. We will build a culture of trust. This administration must be committed to rebuilding through action. Accountability will be expected and enforced. This proclamation is not a suggestion, but an expectation of citizens who we serve. It sets the standard of conduct this administration will uphold and enforce. Most importantly, it marks a culture shift at City Hall; one rooted in humility, transparency, and trust. I trust this administration will embrace this obligation with the grace of a servant's heart. You can expect nothing less from me.

One thing I want to talk about because trust and transparency is so critical to the public. Is on August 20th in Willow Park, you were eating lunch and someone at your table got arrested. **Can you please tell us who that person was?**

Mayor Palmer: OK Eric, thank you for asking me a question and I am not going to comment on someone's personal issues. I think that's disrespectful to everyone here, so I'm not gonna engage in that kind of gossip so you can move on to your next.

Council Member Contreras:

OK, thank you. Well, this person was also; you brought them to City Hall multiple times.

And, you brought them to development meetings and meetings you had with city staff.

And one of the things that we had read about is a lot of incidents that occurred in the communion [community?] that was written in an article in Community News on August 7th, 2025, that this person had a situation at the City Hall with our city staff. Many people are watching and are asking themselves, you know, **why are you so close to this person?**

And the question I have is, is, **did he contribute to your campaign?**

Mayor Palmer: I think that's public record, Eric Contreras, and I think you've seen it and you know it. And I think that he did contribute to the campaign. I think that we again should not run around with gossip. And misleading comments about people's personal lives. So I would hope that you would not engage in that. Eric, thank you.

Council Member Contreras: Well, I'm not gossiping at all, it's just a statement of fact that **Do you know how much he did contribute to your campaign?**

Mayor Palmer: I don't have those numbers for you. Thank. You

Council Member Contreras: So I've got that number right. I've got that number right here. It's over \$11,000 to your campaign.

And um. He also did buy all your, I believe most of your street signs. And paid for almost an entire campaign event.

And most people are at home are just watching and trying to understand. **Why would you let someone who you know has had issues contribute over 90% to your campaign?**

So. This person that we're, excuse me, talking about here. His name is Spencer Hodge and he committed a CR___. Well, the courts have said he committed a crime of misappropriating of fiduciary or financial property. So in other words, he stole or conned someone, someone out of money. And this person, according to the court records, stole or conned between 30,000 and \$150,000 from someone court records show lives in Parker County.

So, from the court documents found online, it appears that they, the court ordered him to pay the money back. But the available information indicates that no money had been paid back to the victim.

But you received over \$11,000 from this person. So, **people in Park County right now are trying to figure out and put these puzzle pieces together that your campaign could have very well been funded with stolen money from an innocent person in Parker County.**

So, I've been contacted and the reason why I'm talking about this, because truth and transparency matters a lot. I've been contacted by people from Aledo and other communities or other cities within Parker County, that this gentleman is going around trying to fundraise money.

So, a court of law said he took between \$30,000 \$150,000 to somebody's money.

Residents, please do your research and don't be the next victim.

This right here is why transparency is so important. You should have been able to tell us and transparency.

That in warn us in the community about this person.

And I pray that you didn't take any money from him as a client in your financial services business. **Can you please be transparent and tell us if he is or was one of your clients and did he or anyone in his family invest money in your business?**

Mayor Palmer: Eric Contreras. Councilman Eric Contreras.

Council Member Contreras: Your proclamation.

Mayor Palmer: I'm trying to be very nice in my comments. So basically. Do not. Do not think you're going to smear Teresa Palmer. Don't think you're gonna do it. Nope. Stand down. Just a minute. I listen to you and I watched your boards. I'm gonna.

Council Member Contreras: Reclaiming my time, you.

Mayor Palmer: Go right ahead.

Council Member Contreras: You had in your proclamation as Mayor, the public should never be left in the dark. Every citizen deserves direct, clear and complete answers. You also said that accountability would be expected and enforced. And then you finally said you can expect nothing less from me.

So were your words hollow, or will you take action and hold yourself accountable?

Or will you continue to avoid answering questions the community believes you're being controlled by a shadow government? You could put that rumor to rest right now and show the community that you aren't controlled by a shadow government and answer the questions right here.

And if you haven't answered the questions regarding who created this embarrassing RFQ about the request for attorney services from July 28th council meeting.

People, it's been 57 days and we have still not gotten an answer about that. It's kind of hard to claim truth and transparency with this kind of record. The conservatives in our community believe and truly hope that you don't revert to victimhood tactics of the left and call me anti woman or a bully because we all know that's not true and that any claims would be a desperate attempt to deflect from your actions. It is the free press's job to hold government accountable and your silence to the Free Press speaks loud.

Folks, you've heard that this person is starting a news outlet as well and is seeking financial support for it. Do we actually think this person's going to cover anything fairly?

And just reminder for those that want to threaten public officials, there are both federal and state laws in place regarding harassment and threats against elected officials, including eighteen USC 115. And yes, I've already been threatened with physical harm and have been threatened politically as well. I told the mayor this, that one of her supporters threatened me in May. But Mayor Palmer has not toned down her rhetoric. The more you threaten me, the more I'll expose of the tactics of the shadow government that would do anything to try and destroy our community.

We as Republicans do not revert to the tactics of the left and threaten one another. We debate matters in public justice. Charlie Kirk would have wanted it. We heard numerous, numerous people at Charlie Kirk's funeral that Charlie believed that the people in charge should repent when they get it wrong. I look forward to your apology. With that, I yield.

Mayor Palmer: You're looking for my apology.

Is that what I just understood?

Council Member Contreras: I yield.

Clearly, I asked him for my apology.

Eric, I am very embarrassed for you. I don't talk about my customers, never have and never will. If you are a financial advisor as I am, you understand that clearly. Whether he is or is not, I would never be able to answer that question to anyone.