



CITY COUNCIL MEETING JULY 28, 2026 MINUTES

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Teresa Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and determined a quorum was present for this meeting.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Councilmember Buddy Wright

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager - Toni Fisher

City Secretary - Deana McMullen

City Attorney - Judy El Masri in for Andy Messer

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND TEXAS PLEDGE

Pastor Ted Kitchens of Christ Chapel West gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

1. Mayor Comments: 1) Bible Verse 2) Business Recognition

Mayor Teresa Palmer read Bible Verse: James 1:19

Mayor Palmer recognized a business in the City: Clean Eat, 337 Shops Blvd, Ste 104, Willow Park, TX 76087. Clean Eat is a healthy food restaurant that offers a variety of menu items including burgers, bowls, wraps flatbreads and more.

PROCLAMATION: Recognition of Aledo High School Baseball Team

Mayor Teresa Palmer read aloud and presented a Proclamation in recognition of Aledo High Scholl Baseball Team for thier 2026 Class 5A State Championship, their back-to-back titles and the incredible accomplishments of the players and Coaches.

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.

The Following Citizens were present for Public Comments:

1. Kenna Hannah
2. Tara Stark
3. Marcy Galle
4. Chris Wood
5. Gene Martin
6. Bill Green

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed below are considered routine or "housekeeping" by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Council Member requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence. Approval of the Consent Agenda authorizes the City Manager to implement each item in accordance with staff recommendation.

2. Approval of Regular City Council Meeting Minutes: July 14, 2026

Mayor Teresa Palmer requested that there be a correction made on item number 7 in reference to a discussion regarding a discussion for City Council to consider approval of an Ordinance to approve a new City Code of Conduct to ensure the professional

conduct of City Council, Staff, Boards and commissions to increase public confidence and efficient respectful governance.

Mayor Palmer's correction was read aloud for Council to consider.

Motion was then made for the minutes from July 14, 2026 be updated to reflect the change(s) recommended by Mayor Teresa Palmer.

Motion made by Councilmember Crummel, Seconded by Councilmember Gilliland.

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

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

3. Discussion: Parks and Wildlife Representative to discuss deer issues.

Ms. Kailee Bedunah-Ott a biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife and a Willow Park resident addressed the City Council concerning the immense population of deer in the area. She stated that the city can put a rule in place that would deter residents from feeding the deer. She stated that as long as there is a food source for them, the problem will only grow bigger. She noted that at least three young fawns had been hit on the Interstates just this week. People should also be aware that when you feed feral cats, or birds or any other wildlife the deer are eating it too. Ms. Bedunah-Ott stated that it is a problem that can be solved if the city is willing to take the steps to do so.

A resident stated that he had recently seen a minimum of around 40 deer in one area including both adults and fawns.

Another resident asked about the coyote population stating that if the deer go away would the coyotes go with them or stay behind and start attacking and killing household pets. Ms. Bedunah-Ott stated that if the deer are moved and/or go away that the coyotes should move with them.

There was no definitive resolution and no action at the table on this item, however everyone agreed that something should be done before the population grows even bigger.

4. Discussion: Update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. (Councilmember Eric Contreras, Director of Public Works Chase McBride)

Councilmember Eric Contreras requested an item for an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Public Works Director Chase McBride gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant: Chase stated that the plant was 94-95% complete. The next 2 months will be the testing phase. Once those tests are done and approved and we can go online with the new facility, we will be working with engineers on the decommission of the existing plant. We do not currently have a timeline on this.

No action was taken on this item.

5. Discussion/Action: to consider possible Subdivision regulations in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction in Willow Park as it relates to Data Centers.
(Councilmember Eric Contreras)

Councilmember Eric Contreras asked that this item be tabled to the next regular meeting.

Motion was made to table this item until the next regular meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

6. Discussion/Action: City Manager Toni Fisher employment contract
(Councilmember Scott Smith)

City Councilmember Scott Smith requested the item regarding City Manager Toni Fisher's employment contract.

Councilmember Scott Smith asked that this item be removed from the Agenda. He was informed of the information he needed so no further discussion was needed. Mayor Palmer did not want this item removed as she had a letter that she wanted to present regarding this matter. This was an item placed by Councilmember Scott Smith, so he is able to remove the item.

Motion was then made to table this item until the next meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

7. Discussion/Action: to address the Mayor being abruptly removed from the agenda setting process. *(Mayor Teresa Palmer)*

Mayor Teresa Palmer requested the item to address the Mayor being abruptly removed from the agenda setting process.

Mayor Palmer stated that for some reason she is being left out of the agenda setting process. She stated that she is already part of the process, pointing out that she was the person that requested this item be placed on the Agenda. She stated that she runs the meeting's and that her input on the Council agenda items is vital. City Secretary Deana McMullen spoke up that there has been continuous issues when trying to set the Agenda and Mayor Palmer wanting/trying to change items at the last minute. Mayor Palmer continuously wants the city attorney's office involved during the Agenda process. City manager Toni Fisher stated that we have the attorney's involved as we send them the Final Preliminary Agenda for review before it is sent out the the City Council. The process we have in place now only includes one review by the Attorney's office versus up to three conference calls, sometimes lasting as long as an hour and includes other Council members, both City Managers, and City Secretary. The process

was changed to help curb cost as well as curb the stress of all the changes that sometimes come from those meetings. Everything is now done by email. Mayor Palmer is not left out of the process, she is able to add items to the Agenda and ask questions regarding other items.

Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Nate Crummel told mayor Palmer that nothing has been abruptly changed. You have not been abruptly removed. We have a process.

There was no action on this item.

REPORTS: Staff Reports for 2nd and 3rd quarter

8. Quarterly Staff Reports

All Departments submitted a mid year report and were present for questions from the Mayor and Council:

Mayor Palmer called City Engineer Gretchen Vazquez to the podium to answer questions regarding the Bankhead roadwork. Ms. Vazquez stated that businesses had been notified about the impending road closures along Bankhead highway before work began. The road is not fully closed, people can still get to the businesses. The school is aware of the construction and will be holding a meeting on Monday, August 3, 2026.

There was also discussion and update regarding the Kings Gate Road Bridge.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, the City Council will recess in Executive Session (closed meeting) to discuss the following:

Mayor Teresa Palmer adjourned the regular city council meeting at 7:48 pm into Executive Session to discuss the items listed on the agenda.

Those present in this session were Mayor Teresa Palmer, Mayor Pro Tem Nathan Crummel, Councilmember Eric Contreras, Councilmember Chawn Gilliland, Councilmember Scott Smith, City Manager Toni Fisher and City Attorney Judy El Masri.

- 9. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney: City of Aledo, Texas and City of Fort Worth, Texas v. City of Willow Park, Texas, Beall-Dean Ranch and Parker County cause number: CV26-0175 in Parker County District Court, 43rd District.**
- 10. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney: Charter and Charter Commission legal issues.**
- 11. "Section 551.074 Personnel, Section 551.071 Consultation with City Attorney: Police Chief Position"**
- 12. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney, Section 551.087, Economic Development negotiations (BANDIDAS WILLOW PARK, LLC)**

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

In accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, the City Council will reconvene into Regular Session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Teresa Palmer called the regular session of the city council back to order at 9:15 pm.

Mayor Palmer asked if there were any motions for any items discussed in Executive Session.

There was no action taken on items discussed in Executive Session.

INFORMATIONAL COMMENTS

13. City Manager Comments - Response/Reaction to meeting.

Community Interest -

Come See Us at "Bearcat Nation 101", a Back to School event hosted by Aledo ISD - Saturday, August 1, 2026 - 9:00 am-12:00 noon @ Aledo High School.

"National Night Out" Event - October 6, 2026 @ The District of Willow Park

Muni-versity schedule

City Manager Toni Fisher reminded everyone about Bearcat Nation 101 which is an event for back to school sponsored by Aledo ISD will be held on Saturday August 1st from 9:00 am to Noon. The City of Willow Park will have a table and be represented there.

Also, National Night Out will be held on October 6, 2026 with more information coming as we move closer to the event.

The next City Muniversity will be held in September with more details to come.

14. City Council/Mayor Comments: Response/Reaction to meeting

Councilmember Chawn Gilliland asked that the ad for the Police Chief position on TML be halted as of 5:00 pm today.

Councilmember Scott Smith reminded everyone about Coffee with a Councilmember to be held on the 1st Friday of every month at 8:30 am. The next one will be on Friday, August 7, 2026 at 8:30 am until 9:30 am.

There were no other Council/Mayor comments.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to discuss or consider Mayor Palmer asked for a motion to adjourn this regular meeting of the Willow Park City Council.

Motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:19 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY WILLOW PARK CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor

Date

City Secretary