



CITY COUNCIL MEETING 06/23/2026 MINUTES

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

Tuesday, June 23, 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 that a quorum was present for the meeting.

PRESENT

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

Staff Present were:

City Manager Toni Fisher

City Secretary Deana McMullen

City Attorney Andy Messer

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND TEXAS PLEDGE

Roy Ramos gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge given by all present.

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

Mayor Palmer read a bible verse: John 16:33

Mayor Palmer had the pastor of the Farther West Church in Aledo to talk about his church. He stated that they hold services on Sunday evening at 5:00 pm and start each one with a meal. He invited everyone to attend.

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 people were present for the Public Comments:

- 1) Cassandra Tidwell
- 2) Houston Wingard
- 3) Chris Wood
- 4) Gene Martin
- 5) Roy Kurban
- 6) Jeannette Kurban
- 7) Bill Green
- 8) Roy Ramos

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: June 9, 2026

Motion was made to approve the regular city council meeting minutes from the June 9, 2026 meeting as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

3. Discussion/Action approving Resolution 2026-28 updating signatories for City bank accounts.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 2026-2028 updating signatories for City bank accounts.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

4. Discussion/Action: to Approve Resolution 2026-29 updating signatories for the Police Seizure Fund.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 2026-29 updating signatories for the Police Seizure Fund.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

5. Discussion/Action: To Approve Resolution 2026-31 supporting appointment of the Parker County Judge Pat Deen as the Primary Voting Representative and the Wise County Judge JD Clark as the Alternate Representative to the Regional Transportation Council.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 2026-31 supporting appointment of the Parker County Judge Pat Deen as the Primary Voting Representative and the Wise County Judge JD Clark as the Alternate Representative to the Regional Transportation Council.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6. Discussion/Action: Regarding the issuance of debt for street/water/drainage/sewer projects including but not limited to Squaw Creek Road Project. (Councilmember Eric Contreras, Asst City Manager Michelle Guelker)

Councilmember Eric Contreras wanted to see what we would need to do to approve a Tax Note for \$6 million dollars for street repairs. We can do this as we will come under a Debt cliff next year so the tax rate would not necessarily change. We could do a City Roads package that would include Squaw Creek but unfortunately it would not include the water portion of that project. A tax note must be repaid within 7 years. A certificate of obligation takes 20/30 years to repay. We need to ID the roads that are the worst. We will not be able to put the new water lines in Squaw creek unless we are awarded the grant that would allow an additional \$10m for those improvements. The Squaw

creek project would earn points in the application process for the water improvements because the road is shovel ready.

7. **Discussion/Action: consider approval Resolution 2026-30 amending Resolution 2026-26 by adding additional water line replacement projects to the proposed West Oak Subdivision HB 500 TWDB Grant application.** (*Public Works Director Chase McBride, City Engineer Gretchen Vazquez*)

Motion was made to approve Resolution 2026-30 amending Resolution 2026-26 by adding additional water line replacement projects to the proposed West Oak Subdivision HB 500 TWDB Grant application as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Gilliland.

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

8. **Discussion/Presentation: Comprehensive Plan Survey Results** (*City Manager Toni Fisher*)

City Manager Toni Fisher introduced Robert Hanna of Zactax who gave a presentation of the Comprehensive Plan Survey Results. Resident voices shaping the Willow Park Comprehensive Plan: who we are; what we value; where we see challenges and what we hope this city becomes.

There were 314 responses in a 12 week window from March 13 to June 5th. We reached citizens with mailed postcards with a QR Code to the survey, posters at local businesses, multiple facebook posts and utility billing inserts.

Citizens responding to the survey represent the full fabric of Willow Park. Some were long standing residents mixed with newer families drawn here by the very qualities others have worked to protect.

The survey ultimately reflects a community that is engaged, invested and paying close attention. In closing a clear mandate: grow with care; protect what matters.

9. **Public Hearing: to consider approval of a Specific Use Permit (SUP) pursuant to Sections 14.13.001 - 14.13.004 of the Willow Park Code of Ordinances to allow for a New Multi-tenant Pylon Sign with Electronic, Informative Digital Message for advertising live bands and more at the top to change every 8-10 seconds for The District at Willow Park, an approximately 1.29-acre tract legally described as Lot 8R1 Block B of the Crown Pointe Addition in Willow Park, TX, Parker County.** (*City Planner Chelsea Kirkland, City Manager Toni Fisher*)

Mayor Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:24 pm to consider approval of a Specific Use Permit (SUP) pursuant to Sections 14.13.001 - 14.13.004 of the Willow Park Code of Ordinances to allow for a New Multi-tenant Pylon Sign with Electronic, Informative Digital Message for advertising live bands and more at the top to change every 8-10 seconds for The District at Willow Park, an approximately 1.29-acre tract legally described as Lot 8R1 Block B of the Crown Pointe Addition in Willow Park, TX, Parker County.

OPEN HEARING: The public hearing was opened at 7:24 pm for anyone wishing to speak for or against the item.

Sandra Tidwell spoke on the item with a concern that the proposed digital sign would cause a traffic hazard due to it flashing too often.

Gene Martin spoke in regards to the item also regarding the amount of times the message would be changing.

City Planner Chelsea Kirkland gave a brief to the Council and stated that the Planning & Zoning Board had approved the digital sign that would change the messaging every 8-10 seconds.

CLOSE HEARING: Mayor Teresa Palmer Closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 pm.

- 10. Discussion/Action: to consider approval of a Specific Use Permit (SUP) pursuant to Sections 14.13.001-14, 14.13.004 of the Willow Park Code of Ordinances to allow for a New Multi-tenant Pylon Sign with Electronic, Informative Digital Message for advertising live bands and more at the top to change every 8-10 seconds for The District at Willow Park, an approximately 1.29-acre tract legally described as Lot 8R1 Block B of the Crown Pointe Addition in Willow Park, TX, Parker County. (City Planner Chelsea Kirkland, City Manager Toni Fisher)**

Motion was made to approve a Specific Use Permit (SUP) pursuant to Sections 14.13.001-14, 14.13.004 of the Willow Park Code of Ordinances to allow for a New Multi-tenant Pylon Sign with Electronic, Informative Digital Message for advertising live bands and more at the top to change every 8-10 seconds for The District at Willow Park, an approximately 1.29-acre tract legally described as Lot 8R1 Block B of the Crown Pointe Addition in Willow Park, TX, Parker County.

Motion made by Councilmember Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Gilliland.

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

- 11. Discussion: Presentation of Federal Funding Grant for ICE Certification of WPPD Officers. (Councilmember Chawn Gilliland; Interim Chief Quincy Hamilton)**

Motion was made to table this item until a representative can be present.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Gilliland.

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

- 12. Discussion: to review the City's legal expenditures, including attorney fees, current litigation costs, budget impacts, and any potential measures for cost management and transparency. (Mayor Teresa Palmer)**

Mayor Teresa Palmer stated she asked for this item to be on the Agenda. She stated that she has talked with a number of small cities and most only have one attorney versus

a panel of specialized attorney as we have with Messer Fort. It is very important that we avoid situations causing any future litigation as we have spent thousands of dollars on attorney fees for the current litigation(s) we are currently involved in. City Attorney Andy Messer stated that Boundary lawsuits are very difficult battle but worth fighting for. In most cases the entity that wins such a lawsuit would be refunded back the Attorney's fees that were spent during the litigation as part of the settlement.

Carol Bracken spoke in reference to this item stating that Council should also consider travel fees when looking for/at attorney's requirements. Such as our attorney's travel from Plano.

City Manager Toni Fisher stated that Messer and Fort were exceptional in the service that they provide the City of Willow Park.

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 Session into Executive Session at 7:48 pm. Those present during this meeting were Mayor Teresa Palmer, Mayor Pro Tem Nathan Crummel, Councilmember Eric Contreras, Councilmember Chawn Gilliland, Councilmember Buddy Wright, Councilmember Scott Smith, City Manager Toni Fisher and City Attorney's Andy Messer and Fritz Quast. This session was to discuss items 13 thru 16 listed on the city council agenda.

13. 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.

14. Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney; City of Willow Park v. Halff & Associates. (Fort Worth Water Project)

15. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney, Charter and Charter Commission legal issues.

16. Section 551.074, Personnel Matters; Interim Police Chief, Interim Assistant Chief

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 reconvened the regular city council meeting at 9:15 pm.

She stated that we would be skipping item number 17 and number 19 for discussion following the Executive Session.

She then asked for any motions of any items discussed in Executive Session.

Motion was made to direct the City Manager to research and come up with an appropriate stipend for the Interim Police Chief and to back date it to the time he became the Interim.

Motion made by Councilmember Gilliland, Seconded by Councilmember Wright.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Contreras, Councilmember Gilliland, Councilmember Wright,
Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Crummel

17. Discussion/Action: Mayor appointment of a Charter Commission and assigned tasks

There was no discussion or action regarding this item.

18. Discussion/Action: City Council appointment of a Charter Commission and assigned tasks.

Councilmember Eric Contreras asked how many people would want a Data Center in Willow Park. One way that we could stop them would be to add a section in the City Charter that would not allow them at all. They would be prohibited. This would be the #1 way to best protect the City of Willow Park from Data Centers coming into the city at all. This would become a law in the Constitution of the City (The Home Rule Charter) and could only be changed by an election, which cannot be held for a minimum of 2 years.

Carol Bracken spoke regarding this item.

Motion was made for the City Council and the Mayor to appoint a Charter Committee with a specific goal amending several items, such as the dates and other items necessary, and to create a section adding the prohibition of Data Centers to protect our City from Data Centers.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

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

19. Discussion/Action: City Council proposed charter amendments.

There was no discussion or action on this item.

20. Update from the City Attorney, including charter legal issues, and consider approval of Ordinance calling for a Special Election for November 3, 2026, for the purpose of consideration of approval of a Home Rule Charter. (City Attorney Andy Messer and Mayor Teresa Palmer)

Mayor Teresa Palmer asked the Council what their intentions are in reference to the Charter. We only have a few short weeks until we reach the deadline for getting it on the ballot for the November Election.

Mr. Gene Martin previous Charter Committee Chairman spoke on this item and asked the Council to consider reappointing the same Charter Commission who could go back and make the corrections needed (Dates, item for Data Centers, etc.) within two weeks and have it back on the Agenda to move forward with getting it on the ballot.

Ms. Carol Bracken spoke on this item as well. She recommended the Council let the commission make the decision as to whether or not to add the Data Center language to the proposed Charter.

Following discussion motion was made to table this item until the next meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Crummel.

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

INFORMATIONAL COMMENTS

21. City Manager Comments - Thank you to Public Works Department for their hard work on the Squaw Creek leak on June 10, 2026.

City Manager Toni Fisher thanked the Public Works department for their hard work on the Squaw Creek leak on June 10, 2026.

She also thanked the Police Department for a job well done when working on a missing child. They were able to locate the missing child within 20 minutes and get them back to their parents.

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

Mayor Palmer had no comments for this item.

Councilmember Scott Smith stated that the Coffee with a Councilmember would not be held on the 1st Friday of July as this is a Holiday. On July 10th he would be out of town and unable to attend if there are other councilmembers that would like to sit in for him. Other members stated they would check their calendars to see if they can attend.

23. Items of Community Interest

City Manager Toni Fisher reminded everyone of the Willow Spark July 4th event at the Distric from 6-9:15 pm. There will be family fun, face painting, food trucks, live music and a drone show when it gets dark. Make plans to attend.

24. Future Agenda Items requested by Mayor, City Council or City Staff

Councilmember Eric Contreras asked for an item to be added to future agenda to discuss creating sub-division regulations for the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) to keep Data Centers out of Willow Park.

Councilmember Buddy Wright asked for the item for possible park dedication to Lea Young be placed back on the Agenda.

Councilmember Scott Smith asked for the item that was tabled tonight regarding a presentation of Federal Funding Grant for Ice Certification of WPPD Officers.

ADJOURN

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

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Contreras, Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

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

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY WILLOW PARK CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor - Teresa Palmer

Date

City Secretary Deana McMullen