

CITY OF WINONA
Regular City Council Meeting
520 Dallas St. Winona, TX
Tuesday, May 20th, 2025

MINUTES

On this 20th day of May 2025, the Winona City Council convened at the Community Center located at 520 Dallas St, Winona, Texas at 6:30 pm in a Regular City Council Meeting. The meeting was open to the public and the following were present:

Members Present: Mayor Rachel Moreno, Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden, Alderman Gary Fox, Alderman Shanna Clark, New Alderman Terry Cole, New Alderman Luis Diaz

Members Absent: Alderman Craig Attaway

Guest Present: Cima Real, Janelly Hurta, Adrian B, Bill McDonald, Brionne McDonald, Rusty Smith, Teresa Smith, Luis Hernandez, Luis Diaz, Terry Cole

A. CALL TO ORDER

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Roll Call. Public notice of this meeting has been given, and a quorum is present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

At this time Mayor Rachel Moreno asked everyone to observe in the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden gave the invocation prayer.

C. VISITORS OPEN FORUM

Rusty Smith spoke about TRWA presentation, requesting if it could be put on the city's website, and also about the community center rental rates are pretty high, suggesting a possible decrease in rates for people who live within the city limits.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 18th, March 18th, and April 15th, 2025, Regular meeting minutes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to approve all of the meeting minutes and seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

E. FINANCIALS:

1. Update of Financials

April 2025 financials to be available at the June meeting.

F. MONTHLY REPORTS OR UPDATES:

1. Utility Department

a) Monthly report: Updated by Mayor Rachel Moreno. Changed out water meters, started the roadwork in town for the CDBG grant.

2. Park/City Beautification

Updated by Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden updated on the park, we are in the beginning stages of the installation for the double basketball/pickleball court, we have the black borders to expand the playground area. Will be looking for volunteers to help spread the mulch when we get it ordered and are ready to install the borders and new playground equipment.

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3. Mayor's Updates

a) Update on permits submitted for processing.

Updated by Mayor Rachel Moreno. 2 permits submitted and uploaded, one for Verizon and one for a billboard.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

1. Discussion and possible action to appoint an Alderman to the vacant seat for a 1yr term.

This item should not have been on the agenda and is to be dismissed.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve to adopt the Tax Abatement Policy Principles.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to approve the Tax Abatement Policy Principles and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

3. Discussion and possible action to continue to use the use of Acker and Co as the city auditors.

Alderman Gary Fox made the motion to keep Acker and Co as the city auditors and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action on appointing the City Judge.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to keep Judge Curtis Wulf and seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action on appointing the city attorney.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to keep Blake Armstrong and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action on the designation of an official bank for the City of Winona.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to keep 1st National Bank of Hughes Springs, Southside Bank and Vera Bank as the official banks for the City of Winona.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action on the designation of an official newspaper.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to keep Tyler Morning Telegraph as the official newspaper and seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible action to canvass the May 3rd, 2025, election.

Presented by City Secretary Deana Powell. The City of Winona election summary results are as follows:

Luis Diaz received 50 votes

Terry Cole received 45 votes

Gary Fox received 49 votes

Craig Attaway received 39 votes

Total votes cast were 183

Overvotes were 0

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Undervotes were 78

The three candidates to receive the most votes are Luis Diaz, Gary Fox, and Terry Cole.

9. Administering the Oath of Office to the new Council members.

The statement of officers and the oath of office was administered to Luis Diaz, Gary Fox, and Terry Cole by City Secretary Deana Powell.

10. Discussion and possible action on appointing someone to head the Park/City Beautification committee.

Suggestion of recommendation was made to seek volunteers in the community for this position.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to table this discussion until June's meeting and was seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

3 in favor; 2 opposed. Motion carries majority vote.

11. Discussion and possible action to appoint the Mayor Pro-Tem. (1-yr term)

Alderman Terry Cole suggested to rotate the position each year so that every member of council gets the chance to serve in this position. Alderman Terry Cole nominated Gary Fox. Alderman Gary Fox made the motion to appoint Dee Roden to be Mayor Pro-Tem and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark.

3 in favor; 2 opposed. Motion carried majority vote.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The City Council reserves the right to convene into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by the Texas Open Meeting Act, Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consult with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personal Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.087 (Economic Development). This session is a closed session.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:01 pm.

Seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the council, this meeting was adjourned.

Rachel Moreno, Mayor

Deana Powell, City Secretary