

CITY OF WINONA
Regular City Council Meeting
520 Dallas St. Winona, TX
Tuesday, August 19th, 2025

MINUTES

On this 19th day of August 2025, the Winona City Council convened at the Community Center located at 520 Dallas St, Winona, Texas at 5:35 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, Alderman Luis Diaz, Alderman Terry Cole

Members Absent: none

Guest Present: Craig McCollum, Bill McDonald, Marilyn Gentry, Glenn Trimble

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

Marilyn Gentry spoke about her open records request, requesting financial statements, bank statements, and credit card statements.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of July 15th, 2025, regular call meeting minutes.

July 15th, 2025, meeting minutes will be available for approval at the September meeting along with May 17th, 2025, special call minutes.

E. MONTHLY REPORTS OR UPDATES:

1. Utility Department

a) Monthly report: Updated by Craig McCollum. We have been working on the wells, we need to change a 12in valve out at well 5 around the 1st week of September, just had a problem with the sewer lines under wildcat about 60 feet of line replaced. Filled in the hole today waiting for concrete to finish this repair, the line under Hwy 155 needs repaired, the last bids we got for this project were from when Mr. Land was here and came in at \$180,000 up to \$307,000. We got a bid from 7H for \$98,000 for everything. We are having to change the meter at well 4 and will probably be changing it out on Thursday. Just put in a new manhole and a flowmeter for the school which is working and is up and running. This will take the place of the meter reading for the sewer charges. We should know more about the ammonia levels once school is back in session for a week or two, we have reseeded the sewer plant with microbes twice and feeding them a sugar source to keep them alive, the ponds are heavy with algae right now because of the heat and we have been adding copper sulfate to the plant to help with the algae, work to the berms will begin tomorrow going up 3' to correct this violation.

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2. Mayor's Updates

a) Update on permits submitted for processing.

Updated by Mayor Rachel Moreno. We have had some generator permits pulled this month.

b) CERT (community emergency response team) training update from August 16th and
Mayor Rachel Moreno updated there was a great turnout. The instructor Jason with Smith County said this was the biggest training class he has had.

c) Park update: Basketball/Pickleball court completed

The court has been completed. We had to move the pickleball net that was broken by some kids so, anyone wanting to use the net for pickleball will need to contact city hall for the net.

d) SB 1851 (audit deadlines)

SB 1851 requires that all audits are to be completed within 180 days after the end of the city's fiscal year. HB 3512 Requires Artificial Intelligence training for any employees or elected officials that use the city's computer system and rely on the system to complete at least 25% of their work. SB 1173 Competitive Bidding, the new threshold for competitive bidding is now \$100,000 up from \$50,000, and any procurement of more than \$3,000 but less than \$100,000 must contact two historically underutilized businesses to possibly bid on the project. HB 198 is cancer screening for fire personnel which does not affect us, HB 762 Severance Pay can not be more than twenty weeks starting September 1st, HB 4214 Public Information, before October 1st of each year, we must notify the Attorney General's Office of the mailing address and email address designated by the city to receive Public Information Act requests, HB 1893 Open Records, license plates on law enforcement videos are no longer confidential, HB 1522 Open Meetings, three business days instead of 72 hours for the posting of meetings, the current authority suggest that the day after the posting is considered day 1 and the day before the meeting is considered day 3, HB 2464 No Impact Home Base Businesses, any home based business that provides little impact (there is a precise definition of a NIHBB) to the surrounding area can't be restricted by city regulations/zoning, HB 2844 Food Trucks, new legislation pre-empts certain areas where a city can/can't regulate, such as permitting.

F. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

1. Discussion and possible action on approving to move part-time worker Jimmy Gear, hired in July 2025 (full-time position hired from approval of council meeting May 21, 2024, replacing Mr. Johnson) to full time in 90 days or once training is complete.

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to hire Jimmy Gear full-time after 90 days of his hire date or until training date in September at \$18.00 per hour and seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

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MINUTES

- 2. Discussion and possible action to approve open position to be filled by maintenance supervisor/mayor without having to wait for council approval (approved and open positions only).**

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to ~~keep as is and call a special call meeting if necessary.~~ Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made a motion to go ahead and allow supervisor/mayor without having to wait for council approval (approved and open positions only) and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark
Four (4) in favor; one (1) opposed. Motion carried majority vote.

- 3. Discussion and possible action to approve changing our billing system to 3Verticals with permission for conversion and handling of the mailer, stuffing, and billing option.**

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to convert to 3verticals and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

- 4. Discussion and possible action to hire Sheri Taylor CPA to work as a contractor for recommendations and to work on audits and monthly financials.**

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to approve to come in and do assessment and make a proposal and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Discussion and possible action for a proposed 2025 tax rate (decrease).**

Mayor Pro-Tem made the motion to accept the decrease of the proposed tax rate for 2025 of 0.27 and seconded by Alderman Terry Cole.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

G. 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.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:25pm.
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.