

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

MINUTES

On this 16th day of September 2025, the Winona City Council convened at the Community Center located at 520 Dallas St, Winona, Texas at 5:30 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, Alderman Luis Diaz, Alderman Terry Cole

Members Absent: none

Guest Present: Candy Folley, Craig McCollum, Jeremy Buechter SPI

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

Candy Folley spoke at this time about her resignation, and it did not get sent to all the council members on the city domains, she then read the resignation to the council. Disgruntled citizens not being able to get ahold of council members, council should update Employee Handbook a suggestion was passed out.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of May 17th, Special call meeting July 15th, and August 19th, 2025, Regular meeting minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to approve all minutes and seconded by Alderman Terry Cole. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

E. MONTHLY REPORTS OR UPDATES:

1. Utility Department

a) Monthly report: Updated by Craig McCollum. There was a problem on well 4, we changed out the meter we were at a 6% loss, it could go up. Line under wildcat redone and was successful, we did get some complaints about the paws being covered up by the school patrons. We did some meters work this month around town, filled in potholes, installed some electronic meters installed at the hospital, coffee company. Flow meter reported last month 7H was here last week valve on well 5 quit 12" valve was replaced. Well 5 was cleaned, power washed and back up and running. Sewer plant is done and looks great, added new air to school access lift station. We are at 85% capacity on our water infrastructure. We would like to push out drilling for a new well 2 years.

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2. Mayor's Updates

a) Update on permits submitted for processing.

Updated by Mayor Rachel Moreno. We had a parade permit, and 2 business permits issued this month.

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion of potential wastewater grant funding through the Texas Water Development Board.

Jeremy with SPI spoke to explain what was turned in in March for projects that got submitted for funding potential projects, 3.4 million was awarded for sewer project and a second application for a water well. Sewer plant ranked high for possible approval but was an incomplete project and should not have been ranked, you can reject the offer or do nothing, and it will be offered to the next recipient in line.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve by Ordinance the tax rate for the 2025 tax year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made a motion to approve the Ordinance for the tax rate for the 2025 tax year, and it was seconded by Alderman Terry Cole. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

2. Discussion and possible action to approve the interlocal agreement between Smith County Road and Bridge and the City of Winona.

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to accept the agreement and seconded by Alderman Luis Diaz. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve by Ordinance the TMRS Employee Contribution Rate to 8%.

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to approve the Ordinance for the 8% rate and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

4. Discussion and possible action for changing the start time for future city council meeting to be moved from 5:30pm to 6:00pm. (Terry Cole, Luis Diaz)

Alderman Gary Fox made the motion to approve to move the start time to 6:00pm and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the renewal of the Tax Abatement Policy between the Tyler Economic Development Council and the City of Winona.

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Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to approve the renew and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve by Ordinance the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year Budget.

Alderman Terry Cole made motion to approve as discussed. Water Projects – Johnson Road \$60-70 thousand is critical project. Generator at lift station move from well 5 to lift station and then install a new/newer generator at well 5 cost \$125,000. Manholes \$1,000,000 infrastructure needs to be completed. Recommend the worst ones first, complete 5-10 a year spread out. Line the racetrack at the sewer plant. New siren into budget \$8,000. Church street repairs \$60,000 and seconded by Alderman Luis Diaz.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action for approval and acceptance of a company for outsourcing financial services.

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to approve Sherry Taylor CPA who accepted the engagement letter and seconded by Alderman Shanna Clark.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible action to accept the resignation of the City Secretary Deanna Powell.

Alderman Gary Fox made a motion to approve with the acceptance of Deanna last day in office be Wednesday, September 16, 2025, with paid administrative leave for the 17th and 18th and was seconded by Alderman Terry Cole.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action to give the mayor permission to post the city secretary position and hire someone to fill the position.

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to approve the action and seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action to restructure all paid positions within the city.

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to approve the action with moving the City Secretary to part time since outsourcing some of the functions and seconded by Alderman Luis Diaz.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

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I. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:23pm.

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

Angela Owens, City Secretary