

CITY OF WINONA
Regular City Council Meeting
Community Center
520 Dallas St., Winona TX 75792
Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 6:00pm

MINUTES

On this 18th day of August, 2026, the Winona City Council convened at the Community Center located at 520 Dallas Street, Winona, Texas at 6:00pm 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 Gary Fox, Alderman Terry Cole, Alderman Karen Hysell, Alderman Headlee Daniels, and Alderman Dee Roden

Members Absent: Alderman Luis Diaz

Guest Present: Water Operator Glenn Trimble and City Attorney Judy El Masri (virtual)

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 the invocation prayer was given by Dee Roden.

C. VISITORS OPEN FORUM

No speakers were present during visitors open forum.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Mayor Rachel Moreno moved to have the minutes for the June 16, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting approved. Alderman Karen Hysell made a motion to approve said minutes, and Mayor Pro Tem Gary Fox seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

E. MONTHLY REPORTS OR UPDATES

1. Utility Department

- a) **Monthly Report:** Updated by Glenn Trimble and Rachel Moreno. Much of the city's losses over the years have been the result of slow or inaccurate meters. By updating most of the city's water meters, the city has greatly improved its unaccounted water losses. There are approximately 465 water connections in the city which is greater than the number of meters, as some meters, such as the RV park in town, have many connections. Many of the newer constructions in town are being built with sprinkler systems. This greatly increases the demand for water, which could increase the city's Alternative Capacity Requirement (ACR) over time. Approximately 84% of the city's well production capacity has been used,

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but Glenn Trimble intends to get this adjusted by TCEQ. Copper and lead samples have been obtained and are waiting to be sent to the lab for testing. Winona ISD is now included in this sampling. There was a gas line break at UT Health North, and it took a couple hours to get that line cut off and repaired. A few more roads and alleyways in the city were redone. There remains approximately 136 analog meters to be changed to digital meters. Bills are now being sent via e-mail, except for a small number of deliveries, due to the price of postage increasing.

2. Mayor Updates

The city recently hosted a game night at the community center. Almost 300 people came to the back-to-school bash which supplied backpacks and other school supplies provided by the community. Alderman Terry Cole requested an update on the Nolan Farms lawsuit. Attorney Judy El Masri stated that the litigation attorney will likely do an update during executive session in September.

F. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Discussion and possible action to accept the resignation of Alderman Headlee Daniels and declare the office vacant.** Alderman Headlee Daniels explained that he has had several personal issues arise after having taken office and apologized for not being capable of fulfilling his duties as alderman. Mayor Pro Tem Gary Fox made a motion to accept Headlee Daniels' resignation, and Alderman Karen Hysell seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Discussion and possible action regarding the alderman vacancy, including appointment of a qualified individual to fill the unexpired term, or directing that the position remain vacant until filled in accordance with applicable law.** Alderman Karen Hysell made a motion to nominate Dee Roden for the alderman vacancy, and Mayor Pro Tem Gary Fox seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously. Alderman Dee Roden will finish the remainder of Headlee Daniels' term.
- 3. Discussion and possible action to approve the final plat of the Wildcat Drive Addition, near Wildcat Dr and Beth St, for the purpose of subdividing an existing tract into multiple lots.** Since this item was on the agenda for July, there were no issues with the lot's setbacks or requirements, and it has been more than 30 days, this lot split was technically already approved. A vote was

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held as a formality. Alderman Terry Cole made a motion to approve the lot split near Wildcat Dr and Beth St, and Alderman Dee Roden seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Discussion and possible action to approve a proposed lot split of property located near the intersection of FM 16 East and Hussey Circle.** Alderman Terry Cole asked who owned this lot, and Mayor Rachel Moreno said that Laney Nick is the owner. This lot is zoned residential. This lot would meet setback requirements and has utility lines readily available. Alderman Terry Cole asked if the small houses near the church meet the square footage minimum for the city, and Mayor Rachel Moreno explained that areas already designated for tiny homes or mobile homes are exempt from the square footage and no-mobile-home ordinances. Mayor Pro Tem Gary Fox made a motion to accept this lot split, and Alderman Karen Hysell seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Discussion and possible action to accept the SC 911 budget for 2026/2027 as presented.** Alderman Terry Cole made a motion to accept the SC 911 budget, and Alderman Dee Roden seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6. Discussion and possible action to ratify the Order Prohibiting Outdoor Burning issued by Mayor Rachel Moreno on August 7, 2026, declaring a burn ban within the incorporated city limits of the City of Winona and confirming that the prohibition on outdoor burning shall remain in effect until terminated in accordance with the order.** Alderman Terry Cole suggested that the City of Winona rescind its burn ban and follow Smith County's burn ban. Alderman Karen Hysell disagrees with the timing of Smith County's burn ban and suggests that the city's burn ban should stay intact. Alderman Terry Cole made a motion to table this item and reevaluate the conditions of the burn ban at the September meeting, and Alderman Dee Roden seconded. Three (Alderman Terry Cole, Alderman Dee Roden, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Fox) in favor; one (Alderman Karen Hysell) opposed. Motion tabled until the next meeting.

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- 7. Discussion and possible action to ratify a proposed tax rate for tax year 2026.** Mayor Rachel Moreno suggested around a 10% decrease on the city's current tax rate of \$0.27 per \$100 of value. No action was taken; the tax rate will be discussed and approved at the next council meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 06:41 pm, and Mayor Pro Tem Gary Fox seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Rachel Moreno, Mayor

Jake Allen, City Secretary