CITY OF WINONA
Regular City Council Meeting
Community Center
520 Dallas St., Winona TX 75792
Tuesday, September 15th, 2026, 6:00pm

MINUTES

On this 15th day of September, 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 Headlee Daniels, Alderman Dee Roden, and Alderman Luis Diaz

Members Absent: Alderman Karen Hysell

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 August 18th, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting approved. Alderman Dee Roden 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. Mayor Updates:
a) Burn Ban: The City is still under a burn ban as the Council has not voted to repeal the ban or make a repeal contingent upon Smith County's decision.

2. Utility Department
a. Monthly Report: There are no major updates for the utility department. Routine repairs and procedures such as changing out water and gas meters have been the main focus. Glenn Trimble and the utility workers checked on the school lines to verify where these lines all connect.

F. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. **Administering the Oath of Office to Dee Roden, appointed by the City Council to fill the vacant Council Member position, and receiving the Statement of Elected or Appointed Officer.** The Statement of Officer (Form 2201) and the Oath of Office (Form 2204) were administered to Aldermen Dee Roden by Mayor Rachel Moreno.

2. **Discussion and possible action to approve a tax rate of $0.23 per $100 of value for Tax Year 2026.** Mayor Rachel Moreno explained that lowering the ad valorem tax rate does not affect the City's sewer, water, or gas budget as these taxes simply pay for things such as City Hall construction or road repairs, both of which should not incur and large costs in the near future. If any high-cost items arise, bonds would be a good option for the City as this would also give the citizens the capability to vote on a large expense. Alderman Terry Cole made a motion to approve the new rate for Tax Year 2026, and Alderman Dee Roden seconded. 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 Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consult with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Maters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.087 (Economic Development).

This session is discussion only, actions on this discussion were made once back in regular session.

Mayor Rachel Moreno closed regular session meeting at 6:16 pm and opened executive session
Mayor Rachel Moreno closed executive session at 6:42 pm and reconvened into regular session meeting

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding raises to the rate of pay for City employees.** Alderman Terry Cole made a motion to keep the rate of pay for City employees the same as the prior year, and Alderman Dee Roden seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Discussion and possible action to move the City Secretary position to full-time and to hire City Secretary Jake Allen full-time with benefits, excluding health insurance.** Alderman Terry Cole made a motion to table this item, and Alderman Luis Diaz seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Discussion and possible action to approve by Ordinance the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budget.** Switching to hand-delivery of bills has and will save the city several hundred dollars each month in postage and printing costs. Electricity has greatly risen in cost. The City has incurred a lot of maintenance expenses along the UT Health Center gas line, but only transportation has can be charged as this is a state entity. Alderman Luis Diaz asked if legal fees are expected to decrease for the next budgeting cycle, and Mayor Moreno explained that legal fees can occur unexpectedly due to fines for wastewater treatment and gas compliance. Alderman Dee Roden made a motion to approve the budget, and Mayor Pro Tem Gary Fox seconded. Three (Alderman Dee Roden, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Fox, and Mayor Rachel Moreno) in favor; two (Alderman Luis Diaz and Alderman Terry Cole) opposed. Motion carried majority vote.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Terry Cole made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 07:27 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.

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Rachel Moreno, Mayor Jake Allen, City Secretary