



**MINUTES**

**CITY OF GAINESVILLE**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

September 16, 2025

06:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 200 SOUTH RUSK, GAINESVILLE, TEXAS

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council of the City of Gainesville, Texas met in regular session on September 16 at 6:30 p.m. with the following persons in attendance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Tommy Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Mary Jo Dollar, Linda Lewis, Dakota Nichols, Randy Jones, Gary Sutton, Jeff Johnson.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Barry Sullivan, City Manager; Diana Loch, City Secretary; Allen McDonald, Public Works Director; JI Johnson, Finance Director; Kevin Phillips, Police Chief; Mike Doughty, Community Development Director; Olu Ososanya, Finance Controller; Paulina Swiatkowski, Communication and Outreach Director; Thomas Hamilton, Police Officer.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Amy Hamilton, Angel Gonzalez, Anna Beall, Carolyn Hendricks, Chris Hamilton, David Jones, Delania Raney, Forrest Head, Henry Koehler, James Lewis, Jennica Alder, Mary Onugha, Mike Gordon, Nancy Brannon, Pam Johnson, Rod Tyler, Jayden Stringfellow (Videographer).

**2. INVOCATION**

Jeff Langley from the First Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**3. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Tommy Moore led the pledge to the flag.

**4. RECOGNITIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS**

**5. REPORTS**

**6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Minutes of the September 2, 2025 City Council Meeting.
- b. Consideration of and action on a resolution of the City Council approving the sale of alcohol at the Gainesville Civic Center during the Zoobilee Event October 3, 2025.

- c. Consideration of and action on a resolution of the City Council of the City of Gainesville, Texas approving the actions of the Gainesville Economic Development Corporation, which voted to approve the Second Amendment to the Performance Agreement with Camp Howze Development Partners, LLC.

Councilmember Dollar moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutton and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

## 8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Public hearing on the Proposed Budget for the City of Gainesville for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Mayor Tommy Moore opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. and called for public comment.

No citizen came forward to speak on behalf of the item.

Councilmember Dollar moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, the motion carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

The public hearing was closed at 6:31 p.m.

- b. Public hearing on an Ordinance levying, assessing, and fixing the Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the City of Gainesville, Texas General Fund and Interest and Sinking Fund for the Fiscal Year from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026; appropriating each levy for the specific purpose; providing for the assessment of all annual occupational taxes provided by law; requiring publication; providing an effective date; and making an open meeting finding.

Mayor Tommy Moore opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. and called for public comment.

No citizen came forward to speak on behalf of the item.

Councilmember Johnson moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the motion carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

The public hearing was closed at 6:32 p.m.

- c. Public hearing on City fees including Building Permits.

Mayor Tommy Moore opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. and called for public comment.

No citizen came forward to speak on behalf of the item.

Councilmember Lewis moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the motion carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

The public hearing was closed at 6:33 p.m.

- d. Consideration of and action on an Ordinance establishing appropriations for the Support Maintenance, Buildings, and Improvements for the City of Gainesville, Texas, for the Fiscal Year from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 and revising the budget for October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025; providing an effective date; and making an open meeting finding; and providing for ratification of the property tax increase reflected in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 operating budget by a separate vote.

Councilmember Sutton moved to SUSPEND THE CHARTER. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutton and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

Councilmember Sutton moved to ratify the increase in property tax revenue as reflected in the FY 2025-2026 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johnson and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- e. Consideration of and action on an Ordinance levying, assessing, and fixing the Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the City of Gainesville, Texas General Fund and Interest and Sinking Fund for the Fiscal Year from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026; appropriating each levy for the specific purpose; providing for the assessment of all annual Occupational Taxes provided by law; requiring publication; providing an effective date; and making and open meeting finding.

**City of Gainesville – Taxpayer Impact Statement**

*(For inclusion with budget adoption notices per HB 1522, effective September 1, 2025)*

The following information is provided to give Gainesville taxpayers a clear comparison of how the proposed FY 2025–2026 budget will affect property taxes on the **median-valued homestead**.

- **Median home value (2025 certified roll):** \$180,000
- **Last year’s adopted tax rate:** \$0.535700 per \$100 valuation
- **No-New-Revenue (NNR) tax rate (2025-2026):** \$0.515430 per \$100 valuation
- **Proposed tax rate (FY 2025–2026):** \$0.573779 per \$100 valuation

**Comparison of Property Tax Bills**

*(for a median-valued Gainesville homestead)*

Scenario	Tax Rate Estimated	Annual Tax Bill
Current Fiscal Year (FY 2024–2025)	\$0.535700	\$964.26
Proposed FY 2025–2026 Budget	\$0.573779	\$1,032.80
Balanced Budget at No-New-Revenue Tax Rate	\$0.515430	\$927.77

**Explanation**

- If the **proposed budget is adopted**, the average homeowner with a median-valued property of \$180,000 would pay about **\$68.54 more** in property taxes compared to the current year.
- If the City adopted a **no-new-revenue budget**, that same homeowner would see a **\$36.49 decrease** compared to the current year.

Councilmember Johnson moved to SUSPEND THE CHARTER. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutton and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

Councilmember Sutton made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion **“I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.573779”** The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nichols and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- f. Consideration of and action on a resolution updating and approving the annual Fee Schedule for City of Gainesville services for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and providing an effective date.

Councilmember Sutton moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lewis and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- g. Consideration of and action on a resolution approving the City of Gainesville Five (5) Year Capital Improvement Plan (FY 2026-2030).

Councilmember Nichols moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dollar and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- h. Consideration of and action on a resolution approving a Five (5) Year Budget Model (FY2026-2030) for City of Gainesville.

Councilmember Dollar moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lewis and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- i. Consideration of and action on a resolution approving actions of the Gainesville Economic Development Corporation of the City of Gainesville which approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 revised and Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Councilmember Sutton moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johnson and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- j. Consideration of and action on a resolution approving actions of the Board of Directors of the Stanford Charitable Corporation, which voted to adopt the FY 2025-2026 Stanford House Budget.

Councilmember Sutton moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- k. Consideration of and action on a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Change Order Number Three to the agreement with Lynn Vessels Construction for the Chalmers Sanitary Sewer Line Project.

Councilmember Lewis moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- l. Consideration of and action on a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Change Order Number Four to the agreement with Lynn Vessels Construction for the Chalmers Sanitary Sewer Line Project.

Councilmember Sutton moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nichols and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- m. Consideration of and action on a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Wes Tech Engineering, LLC, a sole source provider, for the replacement of Multiblocks in the Trident TR-420-A Filter at the water treatment plant.

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johnson and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- n. Consideration of and action on a resolution of the City Council of the City of Gainesville, Texas approving the Major Goals for Fiscal Year 2025–2026; and providing an effective date.

Councilmember Sutton moved to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lewis and carried by vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 0 Absent.

- o. Executive Session

Adjourn into closed or executive session in compliance with Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, Government Code, Chapter 551 (Open Meetings Act), to discuss the following:

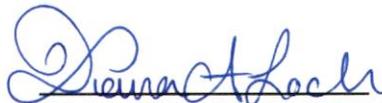
Under Government Code § 551.072 Real Property

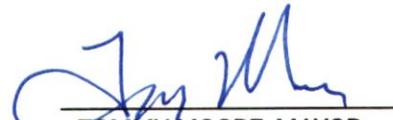
At 6:53 p.m. Mayor Tommy Moore announced that Council would convene into Executive Session in compliance with Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, Government Code, Chapter 551 (Open Meetings Act).

Council reconvened into open session at 7:03 p.m. and Mayor Tommy Moore announced no action was taken during executive session.

9. **ADJOURN**

With no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

  
DIANA LOCH, CITY SECRETARY

  
TOMMY MOORE, MAYOR