



CITY OF WINTERS, TEXAS  
310 S. MAIN ST. WINTERS, TX  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 23, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

**Call meeting to order.** Mayor Bahlman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was established. In attendance were Aldermen Jimmy Butler, Mike Neal and Josh Lujano. Alderwoman Zan Jamieson came in late, and Alderman Randy Loudermilk was not present.

**Pledge of Allegiance -US and Texas Flag.**

**Agenda Item 1. Community Input.** Gary Kemp addressed the council stating that he was very disappointed in the state of the Community Center and stated that the city should be too. Mr. Kemp stated that the Texas Tech Alumni Association rents the building annually, which brings money to the community and raises money for the ZI Hale Museum and student scholarships, and the condition was more than embarrassing. Mr. Kemp provided pictures for the Council to see and provided a list of things that were not kosher including the state of the restrooms, stating that one of the ladies who went to decorate found a toilet in the ladies room was clogged and one did not have a cover on the tank, the sink in the men's restroom was held up by 2 x 4's, neither restroom was clearly marked for men or women, there was not hot water so dishes had to be washed at the Rock Hotel. The door to the storage room where the tables and chairs are kept was missing and they used a curtain to try and cover the sight. He would like to see the Council take this seriously and make the repairs and upgrades a priority using hotel tax dollars if needed as the Cobblestone pays the city monthly and the current condition is a disgrace.

**Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes** from February 2, 2026. Alderman Mike Neal made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Alderman Josh Lujano. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 3. Noes 0.

**Agenda Item 3. Department Reports:**

- **City Administrator: Nate Smith**
  - A. City Administrator Report. Mr. Smith's report included his resignation as of March 31, 2026 and some possible transitioning scenarios and plans.
  - B. Sales Tax graphics. Mr. Smith reported sales tax receipts for February were \$41,904.45, a 15.20 percent increase from the previous year, and stated for the calendar year the city is 12.87 percent higher than last.
- **City Secretary: Sheila Lincoln**
  - A. Atmos Rider GCR -Rate Filing. No discussion.

- B. City Hall Report. Ms. Lincoln informed the council and community that the election polling places for the March primaries would be combined and would be held at the old bank building/North Runnels Hospital building at 500 S. Main St., next to Yesway. Also noted was that the city's annual audit is still ongoing.
- C. TexPool Statement. The statement for TexPool for the month of January shows a month-to-date interest earned in the amount of \$6,602.70, with a year-to-date interest earned in the same amount for 2026. This brings the total amount in the TexPool account to \$2,095,976.94.
- **Public Works Director: Bobby Sanders**
- **Water/Sewer Department**
  - A. Projects. The water department worked on sixteen leaks and a total of 211 additional service calls; including turn-offs & ons, re-reads, sewer calls and line locates.
  - B. Jacob Strickland, Water plant Supervisor, stated that TCEQ had been out for the inspection and found noticeable improvements to both water and wastewater departments but did have eleven findings including cattails and trees as well as other infractions.
- **Street Department**
  - A. Projects. There are currently no ongoing projects for the street department. There were 3 service calls.
- **Police Department: Chief Paula Geyer**
  - A. Statistics- Report not provided for the month. Sgt. Eric Samaniego reported that K-9 Atlas was released from the WPD and would go with Officer Bryan Phillips who recently put in his two-weeks' notice. The K-9 was decommissioned 02/28/2026 and states that the K-9 patrol unit is still usable while the old K-9 patrol unit is now being used for SWAT.
  - B. Code Enforcement Statistics
- **City Judge: Greg Nichols**
  - A. Citation Statistics. Judge Nichols stated there were 29 new cases, 9 cases closed with \$2,063 going to the city and \$1,379 remitted to the state.
- **Airport Manager: Richard Humphrey**
  - A. Projects. Mr. Humphrey stated that the 2025 projects are just about finished with recoding radio frequency and the 2026 fuel tank project is waiting on the company to initiate.

**Agenda Item 4. Approval of Bills.** Alderwoman Zan Jamieson made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Alderman Jimmy Butler. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0.

**Agenda Item 5. Approval of the Financial Statement.** Alderman Jimmy Butler made a motion to approve the financial statement, seconded by Alderwoman Zan Jamieson. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0.

**Agenda Item 6. Council Report:**

- A. Mission, Vision, and Goal Setting. No discussion.

**Agenda Item 7. Old Business:**

- A. **Discussion and possible action regarding the quote for curbing for Lakeview Cemetery from Blas Lugo, this item tabled November 24, 2025.** Mr. Smith suggested the council reject the bid and rebid. There was no action taken for lack of motion.

## **Agenda Item 8. New Business:**

**A. Discussion and possible action regarding the challenge of the required number of signatures for a local option alcohol election by Hunter Davis.**

Alderman Jimmy Butler asked Mr. Smith if this called for a resolution and if this was a legal move and if the attorney has been involved, Mr. Smith replied that the City Attorney had not been involved but he would follow up with the SOS Legal Advisors. Alderman Mike Neal made a motion to accept 205 signatures, subject to laws relating, seconded by Alderman Jimmy Butler. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0. Nate will follow up with the SOS for legal questions.

**B. Discussion and possible action regarding current cemetery plot pricing.** Mr. Smith stated that in his opinion the Council would have a better idea on rates once the curbing is decided. No discussion.

**C. Discussion and possible action regarding collection rate schedule due to cost increases by Republic Services.** Per the current contract with Republic Services, a 3 percent price increase is calculated every March 1<sup>st</sup>. As per Article 13.02.006 of the City of Winters Code of Ordinances, the city is to create a rate schedule. The proposed rate schedule per Mr. Smith is a .25 cent increase for additional polys for residential, inside and outside of city limits; a \$2.75 increase for 2-yard dumpsters, \$3.00 for 3-yard dumpsters, \$5.00 for 4-yard and \$7.00 for 6 & 8-yard dumpsters. The largest proposed change was for replacement of the additional residential poly carts at \$45 per replacement where the customer is currently not charged for replacements. When questioned about going from \$0 to \$45 by Alderman Neal, Mr. Smith stated that it is the proposed rate. Joe Spano with Republic Services was in attendance and stated there is no charge as primarily the poly is broken due to their drivers/trucks causing the damage and that cost will not be passed on to the customer and will remain at \$0 unless the poly is just completely gone or missing or if the customer were to burn trash in it and damage the cart. The delivery/removal fees will increase to \$20 for poly carts (removal only), \$43 for steel dumpsters, \$13 for lock bar rental and \$100.00 for lock bar installation. Alderman Jimmy Butler made a motion to accept the 3 percent increases listed, seconded by Alderwoman Zan Jamieson. Ayes 4. Noes 0.

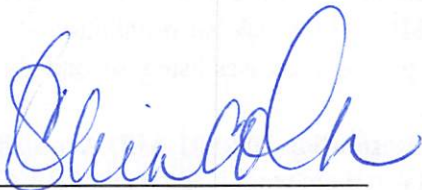
**D. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2026-01 AED Acquisition Project for 2026-2027.** WPD Sgt. Eric Samaniego stated there would be a total of six AEDs, one for each police unit. The officers would be trained by NRH staff on how to use the AEDs. Alderman Mike Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 for the AED Acquisition Project for 26-27, seconded by Alderwoman Zan Jamieson. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0.

**E. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2026-02 Police Academy Sponsorship.** WPD Sgt. Eric Samaniego stated that there would be an exam to determine eligibility, and each candidate would have to meet all requirements. Upon meeting requirements and passing the exam the candidate would have to be accepted to the academy and WPD would assist with cost and would take the best candidate overall. Alderman Mike Neal asked what the cost would be per cadet, Sgt. Samaniego answered it would be around \$2,500. He stated further that there would be a three-year agreement upon graduation to work for WPD. The academy runs from September through May. Alderman Mike Neal made a


motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 Police Academy Sponsorship, seconded by Alderwoman Zan Jamieson. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0.

- F. Discussion and possible action to approve a purchase request for 300 tons of seal coating rock from Vulcan Materials Company.** Alderman Jimmy Butler made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Mike Neal. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0.
- G. Discussion and possible action to approve a purchase request for hose by the Winters Volunteer Fire Department.** Winters Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Michael Blackshear addressed the Council informing them that this hose would provide better flow, higher pressure and better communication. This hose would be able to connect from a 2" to a 5". The cost of hose is \$8,400. Alderman Mike Neal made a motion to approve the purchase of the hose, seconded by Alderman Josh Lujano. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0.
- H. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2026-03 authorizing the mayor to sign the Municipal Maintenance Agreement with TxDOT.** Mr. Smith stated this agreement update with TxDOT has no changes and recommends approval. Alderman Mike Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-03, seconded by Alderwoman Zan Jamieson. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0.
- I. Executive Session -In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.001, et seq., the City Council will recess into Executive Session (closed meeting) to discuss the following:** Council went into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.
- a. Section 551.074 Personnel – City Administrator**
- J. Reconvene in Open Session.** The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:28 p.m.
- K. Discussion and possible action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session.** Alderman Jimmy Butler made a motion to accept the resignation of City Administrator Nate Smith, seconded by Alderwoman Zan Jamieson. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 4. Noes 0.

Attest:



Sheila Lincoln, City Secretary

  
Chris Bahlman, Mayor