



City of Wichita Falls City Council Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026

1. Call to Order

The City Council of the City of Wichita Falls, Texas, met in a regular session on the above date in the Seminar Room at the MPEC with the following members present.

Present: Mayor Tim Short
Councilor At-Large Austin Cobb
Councilor District 1 Whitney Flack
Councilor District 3 Jeff Browning
Mayor Pro Tem/Councilor District 4 Mike Battaglini
Councilor District 5 Tom Taylor

Absent: Councilor District 2 Robert Brooks

Mayor Short called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Invocation

Minister Ken Holsberry, Tenth & Broad Church of Christ, gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Short led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Presentations

a) Proclamation - English Pharmacy Day

Mayor Short read a proclamation proclaiming March 17, 2026, as English Pharmacy Day in Wichita Falls, Texas.

b) Proclamation - Wichita Falls Ballet Theatre Dance Academy Month

Mayor Short read a proclamation proclaiming March 2026 as Wichita Falls Ballet Theatre Dance Academy Month in Wichita Falls, Texas.

- c) Proclamation - American Red Cross Month, American Red Cross Serving Texas Big Country

Mayor Short read a proclamation proclaiming March as American Red Cross Month in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Mayor Short presented a surprise proclamation recognizing Mike Mitchell for receiving the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor a local council may bestow upon a volunteer for distinguished service to youth within the Boy Scouts of America.

5. Citizen Comments

Tanya Katongole expressed concerns regarding the adult probation department's handling of medical accommodations and the lack of response to submitted complaints. She also raised concerns about alleged retaliation practices and a perceived lack of accountability. Ms. Katongole further noted a shortage of community resources for individuals in need and limited recreational opportunities for teens. She encouraged the City Council to be receptive to citizen concerns and emphasized the importance of unity, collaboration, and community improvement.

Stephen Garner expressed appreciation to the Mayor, City Council, and staff for their support of the Art Walk and efforts to continue the event. He noted the event's importance in bringing the community together and enhancing downtown activity. Mr. Garner also expressed support for Potencia Projects assuming management of the Art Walk, highlighting their 10-year history of successful community events. He voiced optimism about the event's continued success and future growth, as well as broader positive changes taking place in the community, and encouraged the public to attend the upcoming Art Walk.

Crystal Washington shared concerns about transparency and accountability within the City, including the handling of the Victoria Lang case and delays in releasing body camera footage. She noted that responses to public information requests often cite ongoing investigations or litigation and questioned what she views as inconsistencies in how information is released. Ms. Washington also raised concerns about decisions made in executive session, how resources are distributed within the community, and prior ethics-related matters involving council members. She emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and consistent ethical standards, and encouraged community involvement and voter participation.

Kenny Reynolds, Home for Freedom, provided an update on the organization's efforts to support veterans, including housing homeless veterans through its tiny homes initiative and plans to construct a gate at the county cemetery to honor veterans. He also shared information on upcoming fundraising events, including a golf tournament, a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse, and a marathon, noting these efforts will support continued development of the organization's programs.

Joel Jimenez spoke in recognition of National Vietnam War Veterans Remembrance Month and encouraged the community, especially young people, to remember the veterans of the community, including those who did not return home. He noted upcoming remembrance events at Sheppard Air Force Base and Lake Wichita Plaza. Mr. Jimenez also expressed his appreciation for Wichita Falls, stating that the city provided him not only a place to live but also an environment where he could succeed and raise his family. He reflected on the love, respect, and sense of belonging he experienced in the community and emphasized the importance of unity, respect, and following the “golden rule” of treating others as we want to be treated.

John Richoux shared concerns about the City’s lawsuit against the Texas Attorney General over public records related to the Lake Ringgold Project. He said the requested information, including land acquisition and contract records, should be accessible to the public and questioned the City’s use of the litigation exception to withhold them. Mr. Richoux referenced legal standards requiring a clear link between withheld records and active litigation, and noted that the Attorney General had already determined the records should be released. He encouraged the Council to reconsider the lawsuit and place a greater emphasis on transparency.

David Coleman encouraged the public to vote for the Hotter’N Hell Hundred as the nation’s best road ride and thanked the City for promoting the effort. Speaking on behalf of the Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee, he also expressed support for Item 11c and urged its approval to allow construction of a proposed trail along Lake Wichita. He noted the project would enhance use of the area and aligns with the intended purpose of 4B sales tax funding, and he thanked the Council, 4B Board, and staff for their efforts to improve the community.

Courtney Sampley spoke regarding concerns with a child currently in the foster care system, stating that a qualified biological grandfather in Wichita County is willing and able to provide care but has not been considered for placement. She expressed concerns about a lack of communication and limited family access, and stated the child is not currently placed with a biological or kinship caregiver. Ms. Sampley also shared concerns about the handling of the case, stating the family feels their concerns have not been fully acknowledged despite multiple attempts to address the issue. She requested that the City look into the matter and consider potential oversight in the process.

Mike Mitchell thanked the Council for the surprise proclamation and expressed appreciation for the recognition. He shared information about the Southwest Rotary Duck Race scheduled for May 30, noting the goal of selling 5,000 ducks and encouraging participation from local nonprofits. Mr. Mitchell also provided an update on the Heart of the Falls City Revitalization efforts, highlighting the recently launched tree abatement program. He explained the program is intended to help residents remove dead or dangerous trees and will continue until funding is exhausted. He thanked the Council and staff for including the program in the budget and recognized Fabian Medellin and Christal Cates for their work on this project.

Consent Agenda - Items 6-9

Moved by Councilor Battaglino to approve the Consent Agenda — Items 6-9.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and, with no comments or questions from the public, carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Mayor Short, Councilor Cobb, Councilor Flack, Councilor Browning, Councilor Battaglino, Councilor Taylor
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a) March 3, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

7. Receive Minutes

- a) 4B Sales Tax Corporation (WF4BSTC) September 4, 2025
- b) 4B Sales Tax Corporation (WF4BSTC) October 2, 2025
- c) Wichita Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee October 9, 2025
- d) Wichita Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee October 22, 2025
- e) Central Wichita Falls Neighborhood Revitalization Committee January 6, 2026
- f) Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee February 10, 2026
- g) 4B Sales Tax Corporation (WF4BSTC) February 12, 2026

8. Ordinances

- a) Ordinance 11-2026 authorizing the development of the City's first Comprehensive Safety Action plan for the total cost of \$300,000 funded by the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning Funds in the amount of \$240,000 and local match funds of \$60,000 through the Transportation Planning Division/WFMPO

9. Resolutions

- a) Resolution 25-2026 authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Black & Veatch Corporation for the Plant 61 Filter Rehabilitation Improvements, in the amount of \$528,000
- b) Resolution 26-2026 Directing Publication of Notice of Intention to Issue Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation for Public Safety and Park Projects
- c) Resolution 27-2026 authorizing a contract with Core Displays Group LLC to purchase and install a new 9MM Superior Resolution, 13'(tall) X 26'(long), Full Color, Double Sided, Outdoor Digital Billboard sign on I-44 through the TIPS Co-op Purchasing Program in the amount of \$249,454 to be paid through venue tax
- d) Resolution 28-2026 authorizing the purchase and installation of eight (8) metal bleacher shelters at the North Sports Complex, located at 1702 Sheppard Access Road, from PlayCore Wisconsin, Inc., DBA GameTime through an approved cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$248,454.80
- e) Resolution 29-2026 authorizing the City of Wichita Falls's continued membership in the Atmos Cities Steering Committee; and authorizing the payment of four cents per capita to the Atmos Cities Steering Committee to fund regulatory and legal proceedings and activities related to Atmos Energy Corporation
- f) Resolution 30-2026 approving the programs and expenditures of the Wichita Falls Type B Sales Tax Corporation (4B) by amending the budget to include funding in an amount not to exceed \$202,904 to the City of Wichita Falls to support the Art Walk event downtown

Regular Agenda

10. Public Hearing

- a) Public Hearing Amending the Speed Limit in the City View ISD School Zone Along City View Drive (25 MPH to 20 MPH)

Mayor Short opened the public hearing at 9:18 a.m.

Blake Jurecek, Assistant City Manager, stated that staff met with City View ISD representatives, including Principal Stone, to discuss traffic safety concerns on City View Drive. He noted that the current school zone speed limit is 25 miles per hour and that a request has been made to reduce it to 20 miles per hour. Mr. Jurecek outlined the required process, including a public hearing, traffic study, and Council action, with staff planning to present recommendations at the next meeting.

Principal Stone of City View ISD spoke in support of reducing the school zone speed limit, citing safety concerns stemming from increased traffic, nearby residential development, and students walking and biking to school. He noted existing safety measures and expressed appreciation to staff and Councilor Flack for their responsiveness.

Mayor Short closed the public hearing at 9:23 a.m.

11. Ordinances

- a) Ordinance authorizing an amendment to the Police FY 2026 Budget and authorization to contract with 21CP Solutions LLC for Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed \$273,913

Moved by Councilor Battaglino to approve Ordinance 12-2026 authorizing an amendment to the Police FY 2026 Budget and authorization to contract with 21CP Solutions LLC for Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed \$273,913.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Browning.

James McKechnie, Deputy City Manager, gave a presentation on the process and services provided by 21CP Solutions LLC.

A citizen asked if there would be community engagement, and Mr. McKechnie said there would.

John Richoux asked whether the 21CP review would focus on areas of greatest community need, such as locations with higher call volumes, and whether related studies and reports would be transparent and publicly available.

Mr. McKechnie confirmed that the process would include those elements and that final reports and deliverables would be publicly available.

Tanya Katongole asked whether the review would also include the Sheriff's Department and Adult Probation.

Mr. McKechnie clarified that the review applies only to the City police department and noted that the Sheriff's Department and Adult Probation are operated by the County. He advised that concerns regarding those entities should be directed to the County Judge or the County Commissioners.

Valerie Rhodes expressed concern that community stakeholder input is often limited to a small group and encouraged broader outreach to include a more diverse group, particularly those who regularly attend meetings and have direct experience.

James McKechnie agreed and stated that efforts would be made to ensure anyone who wishes to provide input to the 21CP team will have the opportunity.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Mayor Short, Councilor Cobb, Councilor Flack, Councilor Browning, Councilor Battaglino, Councilor Taylor
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

- b) Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and authorizing agreement between the City of Wichita Falls and Potencia Projects LLC to manage and operate ArtWalk

Moved by Councilor Battaglino to approve Ordinance 13-2026 amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and authorizing agreement between the City of Wichita Falls and Potencia Projects LLC to manage and operate ArtWalk.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cobb.

Mr. McKechnie discussed plans to partner with Potencia Projects to continue the ArtWalk.

Ish Duran, President of Potencia Projects, addressed the Council and provided an overview of the organization, its partners, and events, and discussed plans to address safety, funding, and improvements to support and continue the ArtWalk.

Council and management staff expressed appreciation to Potencia Projects and City staff for their work on the project.

Amy Walker asked about the possibility of holding the ArtWalk more than once a month. Mr. Duran noted that the ArtWalk had previously been extended from October through December.

Katherine Phillips expressed concern about maintaining the ArtWalk's culture and cautioned against changes that could be too restrictive for vendors, while acknowledging the importance of safety.

Christina Devore requested that pets not be allowed at the ArtWalk, noting that her service animal was attacked at a prior event.

Crystal Washington asked how vendors would be notified of new rules and whether the trolley would continue to be used.

Mr. Duran stated that multiple methods would be used to communicate with vendors and that there would be flexibility during implementation, with the goal of maintaining the spirit of the ArtWalk.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Short, Councilor Cobb, Councilor Flack, Councilor Browning, Councilor Battaglini, Councilor Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

12. Resolutions

- a) Resolution approving the programs and expenditures of the Wichita Falls Type B Sales Tax Corporation (4B) by approving funding to the City of Wichita Falls in support of the forthcoming issuance of certificates of obligation by the City, for a term not to exceed twenty (20) years and an annual amount not to exceed \$1,400,000, to assist with several planned capital improvement projects including, but not limited to, renovation of the former Kirby Middle School into the new Police Department Headquarters, The Falls renovation, and the Lake Wichita Section of the Circle Trail

Moved by Councilor Battaglini to approve Resolution 31-2026 approving the programs and expenditures of the Wichita Falls Type B Sales Tax Corporation (4B) by approving funding to the City of Wichita Falls in support of the forthcoming issuance of certificates of obligation by the City, for a term not to exceed twenty (20) years and an annual amount not to exceed \$1,400,000, to assist with several planned capital improvement projects including, but not limited to, renovation of the former Kirby Middle School into the new Police Department Headquarters, The Falls renovation, and the Lake Wichita Section of the Circle Trail.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cobb and, with no comments or questions from the public, carried by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Short, Councilor Cobb, Councilor Flack, Councilor Browning, Councilor Battaglini, Councilor Taylor

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

- b) Resolution accepting the annual financial audit for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025

Moved by Councilor Browning to approve Resolution 32-2026 accepting the annual financial audit for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cobb.

Paul Fleming with Edgin, Parkman, Fleming, and Fleming P.C. provided an overview of

the City audit, noted that it was a clean audit, and commended staff for their work.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Mayor Short, Councilor Cobb, Councilor Flack, Councilor Browning, Councilor Battaglino, Councilor Taylor
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

13. Other Council Matters

- a) Announcements concerning items of community interest from members of the City Council. No action will be taken or discussed.

Councilor Cobb expressed support for ongoing City projects, including the 21CP initiative, noting its role in improving transparency and helping identify areas for improvement. He also shared appreciation for local law enforcement, recognizing the challenges of the profession and their commitment to keeping the community safe, and encouraged community involvement and volunteerism.

Councilor Flack shared that it was a great day with many positive things happening in Wichita Falls and expressed excitement about being part of the team. She recognized the work of City staff and others behind the scenes, noting their efforts in budgeting, planning, and partnerships that make projects possible, and stated that the City could not do it without them. She also thanked city leadership for continuing to look for ways to improve and emphasized the importance of ongoing growth. Councilor Flack added that she is excited to see the new opportunities and developments coming to the community.

Councilor Browning echoed and agreed with Councilor Flack's comments.

Councilor Taylor expressed appreciation for the presentations and the City's progress over the past few years, noting he is proud of the Council and staff. He highlighted efforts such as the tiny homes initiative supporting veterans and recognized work in the parks department, noting visible improvements across the city. He also emphasized the importance of reviewing speed limits in residential areas, particularly near schools like City View Drive, and expressed support for the upcoming 21CP safety survey, encouraging inclusion of residents from all parts of the community. He added that he feels positive about the direction the City is heading.

Councilor Battaglino provided an update on the Rosemont Cemetery mausoleum, noting that staff have been out to assess the condition, that they are continuing to work with the family, and that the City is doing what it can to assist. He also shared that he recently spoke with members of the Wichita Falls Police Officers Association and described the conversation as productive. He emphasized support for law enforcement while also supporting accountability, and noted the 21CP review will provide third-party

transparency and help identify areas for improvement. Councilor Battaglino also highlighted several upcoming community events and opportunities to support local and veteran organizations, and encouraged the public to participate.

Mayor Short thanked Kenny Reynolds with Homes for Freedom and encouraged the community to support the organization at its upcoming fundraiser. He also invited residents to volunteer at a cleanup at East Lawn Cemetery and highlighted a street-naming ceremony for Francis B. Thompson Memorial Way at New Jerusalem Baptist Church, noting it would honor the Thompson family and celebrate the community. He shared that his granddaughter is celebrating her first birthday and noted that St. Patrick's Day has always been special to him, as it also marks the loss of his mother, making the day both meaningful and reflective. He encouraged residents to come out and take part in community events.

14. Executive Sessions

City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 10:39 a.m. in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.071 and 551.087.

Mayor Short reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:21 a.m. and announced that no votes or further action were taken, and reminded everyone that topics discussed in executive session are confidential and may not be discussed.

15. Adjourn

Mayor Short adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of April, 2026.



Tim Short, Mayor

ATTEST:



Erin Ham, TRMC
Deputy City Clerk