



City of Wichita Falls City Council Meeting Minutes June 16, 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.

Mayor Short called the meeting to order at

Present: Mayor Tim Short
Councilor Austin Cobb
Councilor Whitney Flack
Councilor Jeff Browning
Councilor Mike Battaglini
Councilor Tom Taylor

Absent: Councilor Robert Brooks

2. Invocation

a) Major Roman Leal, The Salvation Army of Wichita Falls
Major Roman Leal, Salvation Army, gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Short led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Presentations

a) Proclamation — Juneteenth Celebration, Spirit of Excellence

Mayor Short read a proclamation proclaiming June 19, 2026, as Juneteenth Day in Wichita Falls, Texas.

b) Proclamation — National Homeownership Month, City of Wichita Falls
Neighborhood Resources Division

Mayor Short read a proclamation proclaiming June 2026 as National Homeownership Month in Wichita Falls, Texas.

- c) Proclamation — Housing Choice Voucher Awareness Day, City of Wichita Falls Housing Department

Mayor Short read a proclamation proclaiming June ____ as Housing Choice Voucher Awareness Day in Wichita Falls, Texas.

5. Citizen Comments

Ronnie Baker, 245 Fillmore, expressed concerns about recent safety issues on the Cyclone Circle Trail, including an incident involving a juvenile on a motorcycle that nearly collided with cyclists. He requested increased police patrols along the trail to improve public safety.

Stephen Garner recognized the North Texas Home Builders Association for hosting another successful Parade of Homes and commended the participating local builders. He also emphasized the need for affordable housing in Wichita Falls, highlighting new residential developments offering homes at more attainable price points for first-time and middle-income homebuyers.

Jon Bradley, Legislative Director for the Wichita Falls Professional Firefighters Association, thanked the City Council, City staff, and community members for their support and attendance at the recent park dedication and renaming ceremony honoring Kelly Crush, stating that the event was well attended and greatly appreciated.

Al Vitolo, President of the Wichita Falls Professional Firefighters Association (IAFF Local 432), discussed the Association's independence from the City and the Wichita Falls Fire Department in response to recent allegations of misconduct. He stated that the Association's communications and political activities are conducted independently and emphasized the importance of due process, factual investigations, transparency, and the First Amendment rights of firefighters and Association members.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Councilor Battaglino to approve Consent Agenda.

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) City Council, June 2, 2026

7. Receive Minutes

- a) Central Wichita Falls Neighborhood Revitalization Committee, March 3, 2026
- b) Wichita Falls - Wichita County Public Health Board, March 13, 2026
- c) Tax Increment Financing #3 Board, March 19, 2026
- d) Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee, April 14, 2026

8. Ordinances

- a) Ordinance canceling the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on July 7, 2026
- b) Ordinance making an appropriation to the Special Revenue Fund in the amount of \$195,281 for the Sexually Transmitted Disease/Human Immunodeficiency Virus Disease Intervention Specialists Contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services for Fiscal Years 2026 & 2027; authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all documents necessary to accept said funds
- c) Ordinance making an appropriation to the Special Revenue Fund in the amount of \$15,229.71 for grant revenue from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the Operation Slow Down 2026 Grant and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute all documents necessary to accept said funds

9. Resolutions

- a) Resolution authorizing award of 27 bids to various vendors for the City's annual supply of bulk chemicals for water and wastewater treatment in the amount of \$4,990,139.38
- b) Resolution authorizing award of bid to APSCO, Inc. in the amount of \$139,768.00 for the award of the City's estimated annual supply of water meter boxes and lids

- c) Resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to FEMA for the FY 2025 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant
- d) Resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to FEMA for the FY 2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant
- e) Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR) agreement with The Fain Group, LLC for the Falls Rehabilitation Project in the amount of 4% of actual construction costs
- f) Resolution reappointing Jeffery Jenkins to Place 3 on the Wichita County - City of Wichita Falls Hospital Board of Directors with a term to expire July 1, 2028
- g) Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for a Water Infrastructure and Supply Grant from the Texas Water Development Board in the amount of \$20,916,600

Regular Agenda

10. Resolutions

- a) Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Task Order with HDR Engineering, Inc. for engineering services related to flood mitigation alternatives in the amount of \$298,700.00

Moved before citizen comments.

Tyson Traw reviewed Wichita Falls' history of flooding, highlighted the community's long-term investments in flood mitigation, and explained that future projects will require state and federal funding partnerships. Mr. Traw stated the study will focus on the Wichita River and East Plum Creek

Emily Daniel, P.E., Certified Floodplain Manager, with HDR, outlined the firm's qualifications and summarized the proposed study. She explained that HDR will update the City's flood modeling using current technology, evaluate previous studies, and develop an implementation strategy that identifies funding opportunities for future flood mitigation projects.

Valerie Rhodes asked whether the proposed two-dimensional flood study would be limited to the Wichita River and East Plum Creek within the city limits, sought clarification regarding flooding in Wichita County and whether the County would be partnering with the City on the

project, and inquired about the areas expected to benefit from the proposed flood mitigation efforts..

Pete Bolf asked whether the proposed study and potential improvements to East Plum Creek could address flooding conditions affecting his property and inquired whether FEMA was involved in the project.

Ms. Daniel explained that the study will evaluate the interaction of East Plum Creek, the Wichita River, and Holliday Creek to identify potential flood mitigation solutions. Mr. Traw added that if a feasible mitigation project and funding partner are identified, the project could improve flooding conditions affecting Mr. Bolf's property.

Moved by Councilor Battaglino to approve Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Task Order with HDR Engineering, Inc. for engineering services related to flood mitigation alternatives in the amount of \$298,700.00.

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

- b) Resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the City of Wichita Falls and the Texas Department of State Health Services for mobile food inspection services; authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all necessary documents

Moved by Councilor Battaglino to approve Resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the City of Wichita Falls and the Texas Department of State Health Services for mobile food inspection services; authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all necessary documents.

Samantha Blair, Environmental Health Administrator, presented the proposed agreement with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to perform

mobile food vendor inspections under House Bill 2844. She explained that the legislation establishes a statewide licensing program, limits local regulatory authority, and allows DSHS to reimburse local jurisdictions for conducting inspections. Ms. Blair stated the agreement provides \$26,801 for inspections, highlighted the public health benefits of utilizing local inspectors familiar with area vendors, and outlined the City's outreach efforts to assist vendors with the transition to the new statewide licensing program, and noted the substantial increase in permitting fees.

Mr. Jenkins discussed how this is not an ideal situation and encouraged vendors to reach out to state legislators with concerns, and stated we are willing to work with state leaders to make this right.

Major Leal asked how this would affect non-profit organizations, and Ms. Blair stated that this topic is currently under review in Austin.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cobb and carried by the following vote:

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

11. Staff Reports

a) Staff Update - Neighborhood Enhancement Initiative

Fabian Medellin, Director of Development Services, presented the Code Compliance Division's Neighborhood Enhancement Initiative (NEI), a proactive, team-based approach to addressing high weeds and grass violations in targeted neighborhoods. He reported that the initial effort on the East Side, covering approximately 3,000 parcels, identified 141 additional violations. Mr. Medellin also noted ongoing efforts to maintain City-owned properties, expanded use of third-party mowing contractors to expedite abatements, plans to integrate code cases into the City's GIS mapping system, and the initiative's future expansion to other areas.

Councilors expressed support for the Neighborhood Enhancement Initiative and emphasized the importance of community involvement in maintaining neighborhoods.

Discussion included encouraging neighbors to assist one another, exploring public outreach and social media efforts to improve voluntary compliance, and engaging local landscaping businesses to help residents in need. Staff also clarified that adjacent property owners are responsible for maintaining the right-of-way between the curb and sidewalk.

Valerie Rhodes asked whether any of the newly identified high weeds and grass violations involved City-owned property. Staff responded that none were City-owned. Ms. Rhodes also encouraged residents to use the Access Wichita Falls app to report violations and suggested exploring volunteer or community partnerships to assist elderly and financially challenged residents with lawn maintenance.

Crystal Washington asked for clarification regarding the City's process for enforcing high weeds and grass violations, including notification requirements, repeat abatements, and the placement of liens on properties with recurring violations.

Rita Miller, Assistant Director of Development Services, explained that property owners receive notice and an opportunity to correct violations. If the violation is not remedied, the City uses a third-party contractor to mow the property and places a lien on the property for the associated costs. Repeat violations are also addressed, with additional charges and liens accruing until the property is sold or transferred.

Council Members asked additional questions regarding the timing of abatements, ongoing maintenance of repeat violation properties, and the use of third-party contractors. Ms. Miller confirmed that each violation is documented before abatement, properties are re-mowed as necessary when they return to violation status, and charges continue to accrue against the property.

- b) City Manager Update
 - 1) Police Chief Search Process
 - 2) Communications Award

Jeffery Jenkins, City Manager, provided an update on the Police Chief recruitment process, encouraging residents to participate in an upcoming FlashVote survey and noting that finalist interviews, including a public meet-and-greet, are planned before a selection is presented to the City Council for approval. He also recognized the Communications Department, congratulating Chris Horgen and Samantha Forester for

receiving an Award of Excellence from the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers for the City's social media campaign, noting that the honor was selected from more than 700 award applications submitted statewide.

12. 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 recognized Fire Chief Melton and the Fire Department for two recent successful cardiac arrest resuscitations and for their response to a structure fire that included the rescue of a family and their dog. He also encouraged residents to celebrate the Fourth of July safely and wished everyone a happy Independence Day.

Councilor Flack encouraged residents to stay engaged with the City by participating in FlashVote, using the Access Wichita Falls mobile app, attending the Citizens Academy, and applying to serve on City boards and commissions through the City's website. She also announced that she would host a District 1 Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday at Lamar Baptist Church and invited residents to attend.

Councilor Browning wished Councilor Cobb a belated happy birthday.

Councilor Taylor recognized resident Desi for his service to the community and his willingness to assist neighbors, commended City staff for the new City website and its improved accessibility, and announced that his District Town Hall would be held the following Monday. He noted that the event would begin with a presentation on bicycle and pedestrian safety, followed by the town hall meeting, and encouraged residents to attend to share their ideas, ask questions, and meet with City staff and officials.

Councilor Battaglino recognized the volunteers and organizations that supported Adrian Colbert's youth football camp, announced upcoming community events including the Juneteenth celebration, the Look Twice, Ride Smart, Save Lives bicycle safety event, the Fourth of July Parade and Fourth in the Falls celebration, wished everyone a happy Father's Day, and invited residents to attend his upcoming town hall meeting on July 20.

Mayor Short wished Stephen Calvert a happy birthday, recognized the Fire Department for two recent lifesaving responses, expressed appreciation for staff's work supporting mobile food vendors, and thanked Desi for being a good neighbor.

13. Executive Sessions

City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 9:51 a.m. in accordance with the Texas Government Code, with no comments from the public.

Mayor Short reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:56 a.m. and announced that no votes or polls were taken.

- a) Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code § 551.087, to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations and/or to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect.(including, but not limited to, Oklaunion Power Stations LLC)
- b) Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.071, consultation with attorney on matters in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

14. Pre- Budget Workshop

- a) Pre-Budget Workshop for Fiscal Year 2027 to confirm strategic priorities

Mr. Jenkins introduced the Fiscal Year 2027 pre-budget workshop, outlining the City's financial outlook, budget priorities, and timeline for budget development. Stephen Calvert, Chief Financial Officer, and Kaitlin LeVasseur, Budget Manager, presented an overview of the economic and financial conditions affecting the proposed budget, including the impact of House Bill 9 on property tax values, strong sales tax growth, inflationary pressures, and the City's continued focus on innovation and long-term fiscal sustainability. Staff reviewed the financial status and key priorities for the General Fund, Water and Sewer, Sanitation, Stormwater, and Hotel Occupancy Tax funds, including proposed investments in capital improvements, streets, utilities, public facilities, employee compensation, infrastructure, and long-term water supply. Staff also discussed the City's compensation strategy, employee benefits, revenue and pricing philosophy, and the proposed budget calendar. During Council discussion, members requested additional information regarding utility rate adjustments, property tax scenarios, and capital project priorities. Staff advised that final tax rate recommendations will be developed following receipt of certified property values and

reiterated its intent to reinvest growth-related revenues into one-time capital improvements while maintaining long-term financial stability.

15. Adjourn

Mayor Short adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of ____ ____.

Tim Short, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marie Balthrop, TRMC, MMC
City Clerk