



City of Wichita Falls City Council Meeting Minutes July 21, 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 2 Robert Brooks
Councilor District 3 Jeff Browning
Mayor Pro Tem/Councilor District 4 Mike Battaglino
Councilor District 5 Tom Taylor

Absent:

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

2. Invocation

- a) Dr. Samuel Abbott
Hospice of Wichita Falls

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Presentations

- a) Employee of the Month - Janice Bailey, Street Department
Mayor Short recognized Janice Bailey as Employee of the Month for July 2026 and shared a brief video. He congratulated Ms. Bailey and presented her with a plaque, a letter of appreciation, dinner for two, and a check, and thanked her for her service.
- b) Proclamation — National Parks and Recreation Month, City of Wichita Falls Parks and Recreation
Mayor Short read a proclamation proclaiming July as National Parks and Recreation Month in Wichita Falls, Texas.

5. Citizen Comments

Kevin Hunter read an anonymous letter containing allegations regarding City personnel and operations, which he forwarded to the City Manager. He emphasized that the

allegations were not his own and stated that he believed the matter warranted an independent third-party investigation.

Mavursinh Jodeja expressed concerns about aggressive door-to-door solicitors disregarding "No Soliciting" signs and urged the Council to strengthen enforcement and increase penalties for violations. He also thanked the Wichita Falls Police Department for its prompt and professional response to the incident.

Ms. Balthrop discussed legislative changes that prevent the city from requiring permits for any occupation licensed by the state, which includes companies that sell home security systems.

Stephen Garner commended the City's Finance Department and Chief Financial Officer Stephen Calvert for their fiscal stewardship, highlighting the savings achieved through the recent certificates of obligation. He also noted the City's increase in sales tax revenue and expressed support for proactively planning future capital projects.

John Richoux expressed concerns regarding the accuracy and transparency of public statements made by the City administration, citing examples involving the outdoor warning sirens and Tax Increment Financing Reinvestment Zone No. 3. He stated that public statements should accurately reflect the public record and encouraged the administration to improve transparency and accountability in its communications.

Cathy Dodson questioned the use of the consent agenda for items involving significant expenditures and requested an explanation of the proposed retention of outside legal counsel related to flooding and flood mitigation litigation. She asked that the purpose of the litigation be explained in terms the public could understand.

Deborah Clark expressed concerns regarding the proposed transfer of the Oklaunion Power Station water contract and the continued sale of Lake Kemp water for industrial use. She questioned the need for the Lake Ringgold Reservoir, noting that existing water supplies are being committed to industry, and encouraged the City to consider expanding desalination as a lower-cost alternative.

Russell Schreiber, Director of Public Works, clarified that the 20,000 acre-feet of water referenced has been under contract since the 1970s and that no additional water is being proposed under the Oklaunion Power Station agreement.

Crystal Washington expressed concerns about the consistency of Health Department code enforcement and alleged a rodent infestation at Booker T. Washington Elementary School. She requested that the Health Department inspect the school and questioned whether enforcement standards are consistently applied.

David Coleman congratulated the Parks Department on its recent recognition and thanked staff for their ongoing maintenance of the Circle Trail. He also invited the public to participate in a family bike ride on August 23 as part of the Hotter'N Hell Hundred

festivities, followed by a criterium race demonstration by the Midwestern State University cycling team.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Balthrop announced that Agenda Item 9f, regarding Resolution 70-2026 to award bid and contract for the 2026 Asphalt Rehabilitation Project, was withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, it is not included in the minutes below.

Moved by Councilor Battaglini to approve the Consent Agenda.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor.

John Richoux expressed concerns that the consent agenda included numerous significant contracts and expenditures that warranted individual discussion rather than collective approval. He also questioned whether the Council and the public were provided sufficient information to make informed decisions on those items.

Mr. Heggund explained that the proposed agreement with Jackson Walker would provide specialized legal assistance on an as-needed basis for flooding and flood mitigation matters due to current and anticipated staffing shortages within the City Attorney's Office. He noted that the authorization establishes a maximum amount not to exceed \$185,000 and would be funded through salary savings from vacant attorney positions.

Mr. Schreiber stated that the rates included in the agreement are the current rates established by the City's Fee Ordinance and adopted by the City Council.

Cathy Dodson asked whether the City had been sued regarding flooding issues, and staff responded that no lawsuit had been filed.

Mel Martinez requested clarification on the Council's public comment procedures and was advised by Mr. Heggund that responses are permitted during discussion of agenda items but not during the general public comment period. Mr. Martinez also stated that the consent agenda item for CDBG funding had undergone committee review and multiple Council presentations prior to being placed on the consent agenda.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) City Council, June 16, 2026

7. Receive Minutes

- a) Tax Increment Financing #4 (TIF) Board, November 24, 2020
- b) Water Resources Committee, September 8, 2025
- c) Library Advisory Board, March 17, 2026
- d) Construction Board of Adjustment Appeals, April 22, 2026
- e) Wichita Falls Park Board, April 30, 2026
- f) Board of Adjustment, May 20, 2026
- g) Wichita Falls - Wichita County Public Health Board, June 5, 2026

8. Ordinances

- a) Ordinance 30-2026 amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22, Article XII Existing Building Code, Section 22-711, 1401.2 Applicability to remove "Existing Prior to 1945" and Chapter 22, Article XII, Section 22-711, 1401.4 Investigation and Evaluation to remove "Registered Fire Protection Engineer" to replace with "qualified engineers and architects in preparation of a submission"
- b) Ordinance 31-2026 amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and authorizing a monthly lease of \$6,203.00 per month between the City of Wichita Falls and Mercury GSE Rentals, LLC to rent a Pushback Tractor for airplane movement at the Regional FBO Airport

9. Resolutions

- a) Resolution 65-2026 authorizing the City Manager to execute a potable water and wastewater services agreement with WinCo Trucking, LLC d/b/a Coastal Plains Trucking, LLC
- b) Resolution 66-2026 appointing Samuel Jones of the Animal Services Division of the Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District to act as the Local Rabies Control Authority for the City of Wichita Falls, Texas
- c) Resolution 67-2026 approving the City of Wichita Falls 2026 Annual Action Plan, to allocate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of \$1,225,910, reallocate \$100,000 in prior year CDBG funding and FY 2026 HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds in the amount of \$346,455 received as Entitlement Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and authorize the City Manager to submit the plans to HUD for review and approval and to execute HUD Grant Applications and Grant Agreement to implement the approved plans, to include any and all revisions approved by HUD

- d) Resolution 68-2026 approving a substantial amendment to the 2021 Annual Action Plan to reallocate \$94,490 in HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds and authorizing the City of Wichita Falls to make any necessary revisions to the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with the administration of the City's HOME-ARP allocation
- e) Resolution 69-2026 authorizing the City Manager to award bid and contract for the 2026 Seal Coat Project to Ronald R. Wagner & Co., LP in the amount of \$665,087.12
- f) Resolution 71-2026 rejecting submissions for Regional Airport Entry Vestibule Door Replacement Project
- g) Resolution 72-2026 authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with the Wichita Falls Independent School District for management and funding of the school crossing guard program
- h) Resolution 73-2026 authorizing the retention of Jackson Walker LLP as outside legal counsel, in an amount not to exceed \$185,000, to represent the City in legal matters regarding flooding, flood mitigation efforts, and associated state and federal legal issues

Regular Agenda

10. Public Hearing & Ordinance

- a) Conduct a public hearing and take action on an Ordinance annexing 8.32+/-acres of land out of the T. Curry Survey, Abstract 345, Wichita County, Texas; referenced as a portion of 2500 Bacon Switch Road and 0 Interstate 44, at the request of the property owner; accepting the 2500 Bacon Switch Road/0 Interstate 44 Bengal Pantego Plaza LLC. Municipal Services Annexation Plan Agreement for said tract under authority of Texas Local Government Code Chapter 43; Subchapter C-3, authority of municipalities to annex an area on request of owners; and designating the tract's zoning as General Commercial (GC) and Land Use Plan classification as Commercial (C)
 - I. Conduct Public Hearing
 - II. Take Action

Mayor Short opened the public hearing at 9:19 a.m.

Fabian Medellin, Director of Development Services, presented an ordinance to annex approximately 8.3 acres at the northeast corner of U.S. Highway 287 and Interstate 44 to facilitate development of a proposed convenience travel center. He noted that the request was initiated by the property owner, that all statutory annexation requirements had been completed, and that both staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the annexation, service agreement, and General

Commercial zoning designation.

Leilani Barnett asked for the definition of a convenience travel center and confirmation that this area would not be used as a man camp.

Mr. Medellin explained that the project consists of a convenience store with fuel, food, and beverages, and is a different zoning classification than a man camp.

Mayor Short closed the public hearing at 9:25 a.m.

Moved by Councilor Battaglino to approve an Ordinance 32-2026 annexing 8.32+/- acres of land out of the T. Curry Survey, Abstract 345, Wichita County, Texas; referenced as a portion of 2500 Bacon Switch Road and 0 Interstate 44, at the request of the property owner; accepting the 2500 Bacon Switch Road/0 Interstate 44 Bengal Pantego Plaza LLC. Municipal Services Annexation Plan Agreement for said tract under authority of Texas Local Government Code Chapter 43; Subchapter C-3, authority of municipalities to annex an area on request of owners; and designating the tract's zoning as General Commercial (GC) and Land Use Plan classification as Commercial (C)

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

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

11. Resolutions

- a) Resolution 74-2026 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Grant Program

Moved by Councilor Battaglino to approve Resolution 74-2026 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Grant Program.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cobb.

Kalee Robinson, Director of Parks and Recreation, discussed the proposed grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Grant Program to update Jalonick Park, including a fitness playground and restrooms. It was noted that the restrooms would also serve as tornado shelters for the community. Ms. Robinson noted that this is a very competitive grant with a fifty percent match.

Council expressed its appreciation to staff, and there was a brief discussion regarding the security of the proposed restrooms. Ms. Robinson discussed timed locks that would prevent misuse of the restrooms.

Crystal Washington expressed concern that the proposed fitness equipment might be similar to the adult-oriented equipment at O'Reilly Park, which she believes is too difficult for younger users. Ms. Robinson explained that the proposed equipment is designed as a fitness playground for youth ages 12 to 15, while the equipment at O'Reilly Park is intended for adults, and noted that additional improvements to O'Reilly Park are planned.

Mel Martinez asked how the timed restroom locks would function during severe weather events if the facilities were needed for shelter. Ms. Robinson stated that staff would develop a policy to ensure the restrooms could be accessed when needed.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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 stated that he regularly reviews agenda materials and communicates with City staff to ask questions about agenda items. He stated that the earlier remarks regarding airport and management staff were inappropriate, noting that they had inherited a difficult situation at the airport and that he was proud of their work and fully supported them. He also recognized reporter Dylan Jimenez for becoming part of the Wichita Falls community through his volunteer service, presented him with a City challenge coin in appreciation of his contributions, and wished him success in his new position in Abilene.

Councilor Brooks thanked everyone attending the meeting, both in person and online, and stated that "Satan is hard at work," noting that serving the community is difficult regardless of one's race, creed, or religion. He also extended his condolences to the family of Rahsaan Bell, a Wichita Falls native, Wichita Falls High School graduate, former Midwestern State University quarterback, and former Hirschi High School football coach, following his passing at 42.

Councilor Flack thanked those in attendance for participating in the meeting and encouraged residents to become involved by applying to serve on City boards and commissions or participating in the Citizens Academy. She also reminded everyone to stay safe during the hot weather.

Councilor Taylor thanked City staff for their hard work and stated that he did not agree with some of the earlier comments. He recognized the Parks Department for its efforts

to improve the community's quality of life over the past year. He encouraged residents to use the City's "Report a Concern" feature on the website to report concerns or share compliments, noting that it directs issues to the appropriate department and ensures a response. He also encouraged residents to contact the Police Department if they feel threatened by door-to-door solicitors and to notify the City Clerk's Office so complaints can be documented, noting that state law limits the City's authority over certain solicitors.

Councilor Battaglini thanked everyone who attended his recent town hall and announced that his next town hall would be held on October 19 at the Thomas Fowler American Legion Post 169. He also recognized the East Project Network Committee and volunteers for their continued work restoring East Lawn Cemetery, noting that the effort is now in its fourth year and inviting the community to participate. He concluded by honoring the three U.S. service members who were killed overseas over the weekend, encouraging everyone to remember their sacrifice, appreciate the freedoms they protect, and "live lives worthy of their sacrifice."

Mayor Short wished Dylan Jimenez well in his new position in Abilene. He reported that at least five Wichita Falls firefighters are deployed in Central Texas, assisting with emergency response and recovery efforts, and asked the community to keep the deployed firefighters and the Central Texas area in their prayers. He also shared that a recent visit to Niagara Falls made him look forward to The Falls reopening in 2028 and expressed hope of celebrating the occasion with officials from other Falls communities. He concluded by congratulating Employee of the Month Janice Bailey and thanking everyone for attending the meeting.

13. Staff Reports

- a) City Manager Update:
 - 1. Fire Department Wildfire Mitigation Work
 - 2. Police Chief Search
 - 3. MPEC: 4th in the Falls, Naming Rights and Conventions

Mr. Jenkins recognized the Fire Department's wildfire mitigation efforts in the Tanglewood area, provided an update on the Police Chief recruitment process and appointment timeline, explained the technical issues that affected the Fourth in the Falls drone show and announced that a free show will be provided next year, announced the issuance of an RFP for naming rights to the MPEC, and highlighted the continued growth in convention activity and its positive impact on the local economy.

14. Executive Sessions

- a) Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.071, consultation with attorney on matters involving pending or contemplated litigation or other 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 (including, but not limited to,

Savon Holmes litigation claim, Jonny Hia Phuoc Lam 7:26-cv-00074-0, flood zone and related state and federal legal issues, Burrus 7:25-cv-00111-0-bp).

- b) 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).
- c) Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code § 551.072, to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property interests due to the fact that deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third party (including, but not limited to Airport Hangar Leases).

Mayor Short adjourned into executive session at 9:56 a.m. under Texas Government Code §551.071, §551.087, and §551.072.

Councilor Brooks left the meeting at this time.

Mayor Short reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:40 a.m. and announced that no votes or polls were taken.

15. Adjourn

Mayor Short adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 4th day of August, 2026.



Tim Short, Mayor

ATTEST:



Marie Balthrop, TRMC, MMC
City Clerk