



Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Dripping Springs City Hall

511 Mercer Street - Dripping Springs, Texas

Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 4:00 PM

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Commission Members

Charlie Busbey, Chair
Barney Austin
Lara Dudek
Zach West
Matthew Ordway

Staff, Consultants, & Appointed/Elected Officials

Utilities Operations Manager Gray Lahrman
Utilities Coordinator Micaela Betts
City Attorney Aniz Alani

PRESENTATION OF CITIZENS

A member of the public that wishes to address the Commission on any issue, regardless of whether it is posted on this agenda, may do so during Presentation of Citizens. It is the request of the Commission that individuals wishing to speak on agenda items with a public hearing hold their comments until the item is being considered. Individuals are allowed two (2) minutes each to speak regarding issues not on the agenda and two (2) minutes per item on the agenda and may not cede or pool time. Those requiring the assistance of a translator will be allowed additional time to speak. Individuals are not required to sign in; however, it is encouraged. Individuals that wish to share documents with the Commission must present the documents to the City Secretary or City Attorney providing at least six (6) copies; if six (6) copies are not provided, the Commission will receive the documents the following day. Audio Video presentations will not be accepted during Presentation of Citizens. By law no action shall be taken during Presentation of Citizens; however, the Chair may provide a statement of specific factual information, recitation of existing policy, or direction or referral to staff.

MINUTES

- 1. Consider approval of the February 19, 2026 Utility Commission regular meeting minutes.**

UTILITY REPORTS

Reports listed are on file and available for review upon request. The Commission may provide staff direction; however, no action shall be taken.

2. Water & Wastewater Facility Report

CLOSED SESSION

The Commission has the right to adjourn into closed session on any item on this agenda and at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matter as authorized by law or by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberation Regarding Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gifts), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), 551.0761 (Deliberation Regarding Critical Infrastructure Facility), and 551.087 (Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations), and 551.089 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits). Any final action or vote on any Closed Session item will be taken in Open Session.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Utility Commission Meetings

April 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

May 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

June 18, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

July 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

August 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

City Council Meetings

March 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

May 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

May 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF MEETING

*I certify that this public meeting is posted in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Open Meetings. This meeting agenda is posted on the bulletin board at the City of Dripping Springs City Hall, located at 511 Mercer Street, and on the City website at, www.cityofdrippingsprings.com, on **March 4, 2026 at 4:45 PM.***

Maverick D. Coleman, Deputy City Secretary

This facility is wheelchair accessible. Accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for auxiliary aids and services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting by calling (512) 858-4725.



Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Dripping Springs City Hall

511 Mercer Street - Dripping Springs, Texas

Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 PM

MINUTES **DRAFT**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

With a quorum of commissioners present, Chair Busbey called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Commission Members present:

Charlie Busbey, Chair

Barney Austin

Zach West

Commission Members absent:

Lara Dudek

Matthew Ordway

Staff, Consultants, & Appointed/Elected Officials

Utilities Operations Manager Gray Lahrman

Utilities Coordinator Micaela Betts

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No one spoke during Presentation of Citizens.

MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the December 18, 2025 Utility Commission regular meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner West and seconded by Commissioner Austin to approve the December 18, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously 3 to 0.

UTILITY REPORTS

Reports listed are on file and available for review upon request. The Commission may provide staff direction; however, no action shall be taken.

2. Water & Wastewater Facility Report

No action taken.

CLOSED SESSION

The Commission has the right to adjourn into closed session on any item on this agenda and at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matter as authorized by law or by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberation Regarding Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gifts), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), 551.0761 (Deliberation Regarding Critical Infrastructure Facility), and 551.087 (Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations), and 551.089 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits). Any final action or vote on any Closed Session item will be taken in Open Session.

The commission did not meet in Closed Session.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Utility Commission Meetings

March 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

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June 18, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

July 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

City Council Meetings

March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

March 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

May 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Chair Busbey adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.



City of Dripping Springs

Post Office Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

Staff Report from: Gray Lahrman

Commission Meeting Date:	03/12/2026
Item Wording:	Update on Utilities for the month of February, 2026
Agenda Item Requestor:	Utility Commission

Projects Under Construction:

Driftwood 150 TE and Sewer – Under Construction.

Heritage – Phase 4 homes on hold until discharge plant is operation.

Village Grove - Construction has started; pump and haul final startup 3/4/26. Expect to see flows soon.

Carter Ranch – Construction started; Utility is being installed.

Big Sky Ranch WWTP– TLAP Interim Phase III Accepted 54,300 gpd. New building permits have been released.

Howard Ranch Effluent – Halted due to design issues. Still moving forward. Waiting on contractual documentation from HOA.

Cannon Ranch Regional Lift Station/ Heritage Lift Station – Design and easements. This will divert flows to the East Interceptor. Plan is to build this during phase 2 of the new Discharge Plant. Easements needed for interim route.

Cannon Ranch – Phase 3 and 4 under review.

Anarene (Double L) – Phase 1 Construction has started. Discussion with Engineers being had on design of irrigation fields. This will be a 321 plant that converts to TLAP at certain LUE. No movement on WWTP plan acceptance. Lacking design criteria for engineering.

Wild Ridge (Cynosure) – Water and Wastewater plans under review. Site work has begun.

West Interceptor Segment 2 – Trenching has begun. Creek crossing design is still being finalized. On schedule.

Fellers – Tri point – New development with 18 homes. Requesting pump and haul permission. Will eventually be on West Interceptor line.

South Regional Water Reclamation Expansion Project Update:

Design of discharge plant is currently being finalized. Contract engineers have identified last design elements that need updating. We are in discussions about various methods of sludge processing and what storage tanks will be holding this sludge before it is dried or thickened. Pushed to end of April for final design. This will prevent the need for change orders.

Dripping Springs Retail Water Update:

Stage 1 watering restrictions are in place for all CODS water customers. Rate Study being performed to be proposed to City Council.

South Regional Water Reclamation Facility Operations Report.

The South Regional Water Reclamation Facility had violations for the month of February 2026. Average flow of 325,000 gpd. We lost solids due to hydraulic washout from high flows and may have over wasted creating young sludge conditions. Working to increase sludge age to solve issues.

Arrowhead Wastewater Plant Update:

GST is still under construction.

Arrowhead Treatment Facility had no violations for the month of February 2026. Average flow was 60,100 gpd.

Big Sky Wastewater Treatment Plant Update:

Big Sky Treatment Plant operated with violations for the month of February 2026. Average flow of 34,500 gpd. Plant is currently meeting permit.

Interim phase III drip field construction is complete. This permit to 54,300 gpd.

Update on Reclaimed Water:

71,200 gallons were hauled from the effluent fill station this month. Sports Park 1,226,810 gallons. Founders Park 314,500 gallons. Village Grove construction 209,000 gallons. Total 1,822,000 gallons in reclaimed water was used this month for irrigation and construction purposes.

Texas Water Development Board Funding

The City has submitted application to the board for additional funding request for \$53,000,000.

Since initial funding was received in 2019, construction costs have increased and the City will be building out the entire plant in phase 1 and 2. The city has also added additional infrastructure. Notification of this award is expected soon.

Dripping Springs Wastewater Plant Report

Month of February 2026

Regional	Combined Flow	Plant TLAP	Caliterra	210 Reuse	Cl2 residual	NTU	BOD	TSS	E-coli
Total	9111.4	2447	4842.19	1822.21	>1	<3	<5	<5	<20
Daily Average	325.00	87.00	173	65	6	16	4.4	1.3	0.26

Arrowhead	Flow	Cl2 residual	BOD	TSS	E-coli
Total	168.2	>1	<10	<15	<126
Daily Average	60.07	6.43	3	5.66	0.1

Flow x1000

Big Sky	Flow	Cl2 residual	BOD	TSS	E-coli
Total	966	>1	<20	<20	<126
Daily Average	34.5	6.675	8.66	25.666	N/A

210 Reuse	Fill Station	Sports Park	Founders Park	Village Grove Construction
Total	71.7	1227	315	209
Daily Average	2.56	43.81	11.23	7.47

Flow is in 1000's gallons

