CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers | 202 N. Virginia Street, Port Lavaca TX 77979

MINUTES

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CALHOUN §
CITY OF PORT LAVACA §

On this the 21sr day of September 2026, the City Council of the City of Port Lavaca, Texas, convened in a Special meeting at 5:30 a.m. at the regular meeting place in Council Chambers at City Hall, 202 North Virginia Street, Port Lavaca, Texas, with the following members in attendance:

I. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER at 5:30 p.m.

Luis De La Garza	Mayor
Daniel Aguirre	Councilman, District 1
Tim Dent	Councilman, District 2
Rosie G. Padron	Councilwoman, District 4, Mayor Pro Tem
Justin Burke	Councilman, District 6

And with the following absent:

Mary E. "Sissy" Rigby	Councilwoman, District 3
Rose Bland-Stewart	Councilwoman, District 5

Constituting a quorum for the transaction of business, at which time the following business was transacted:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

- Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman District 1 Aguirre
- Invocation: Mayor De La Garza

III. MEETING SAFETY BRIEFING:

- **911** Councilman District 2 Dent
- **AED** Councilman District 6 Burke
- **EVAC** Meet at the corner of Mahan Street and Virginia Street, at the stop sign.
- **CPR** Police Chief Tobie Bias
- **SAFETY** Mayor De La Garza reminded everyone to remain alert and exercise caution due to recent snake activity in the area..

IV. REVIEW OF VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

- **OUR VISION:**
  The Mayor and the City Council envision a friendly town on Lavaca Bay where economic and recreational opportunities abound, providing for a wonderful quality of life for both citizens and tourists, rich in history and looking toward a vibrant future!

- **OUR MISSION:**
  Our mission is to make Port Lavaca a desirable place to live through high-quality services, responsible use of public resources, and a progressive approach to community development. With enthusiasm, integrity, and vision, we will maintain a safe environment and continually improve the quality of life for all citizens.

V. PRESENTATION(S) None

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - *Limited to 3 minutes per individual unless permission to speak longer is received in advance. You may make public comments as you would at a meeting on Zoom by logging on with your computer and/or smart phone as described in the zoom invitation below or on Facebook Live through the comment section, which will be monitored and answered. As appropriate.*

- Mayor De La Garza asked for comments from the public and there were none.

VII. ACTION ITEMS - (Council will consider/discuss the following items and take any action deemed necessary)

1. **Conduct Public Hearing on the 2026-2027 fiscal year Budget. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Mayor De La Garza announced that the public hearing was now open at 5:34 p.m.

Finance Director Hogan explained that, in accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code, the Comptroller's Truth-in-Taxation requirements, the Local Government Code, and the City Charter, the City is required to conduct a public hearing on the proposed FY 2026–2027 Budget.

She stated that City Council voted on August 17, 2026, to schedule the public hearing for September 14, 2026. Because the proposed tax rate exceeded the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, the required tax increase language was included in the public hearing notice. The City complied with all applicable publication requirements by posting the notice in the Port Lavaca Wave and on the City's website.

The public hearing provided taxpayers an opportunity to express their views regarding the proposed FY 2026–2027 Budget and satisfied the public hearing requirement prior to Council's consideration of the budget adoption ordinance.

There being no public comments, Mayor De La Garza announced that the first public hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget was now closed at 5:36 p.m.

No action necessary and none taken.

2. **Consider First reading of an Ordinance (S-5-26) approving the annual Budget for the City of Port Lavaca, Texas and adopting the budget document for the fiscal year October 01, 2026 thru September 30, 2027. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Annual Budget Ordinance (S-5-26), as presented by the City Manager, on this its first reading.

Seconded by Councilman District 2 Dent

Voting Yea Record Vote:
Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, and Councilman District 6 Burke

3. **Consider request of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church for a parade permit and traffic control assistance for the "Marian Rosary" procession parade on Sunday, October 11, 2026 beginning at 5:00 p.m. and also request waiver of any fees associated with the event. Presenter is Tobie Bias**

Police Chief Bias presented a request from Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church for a parade permit and traffic control assistance for the "Marian Rosary" procession scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 2026, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Chief Bias also presented the Church's request for a waiver of any fees associated with the event.

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with Staff's recommendation, the City Council hereby approves the request from Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church for a parade permit and traffic control assistance for the "Marian Rosary" procession scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 2026, beginning at 5:00 p.m., and further approves the waiver of all applicable City fees associated with the event.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron

Voting Yea:
Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, and Councilman District 6 Burke

4. **Consider acceptance of the Certificate of Final Completion and approval of the release of retainage in the amount of $12,079.44 for the Downtown Waterfront Public Improvements – Parking Lot & Sidewalk Improvements – 2024 Matagorda Bay Mitigation Grant Project No. 053. Presenter is Jody Weaver**

City Manager Jody Weaver presented information regarding the Downtown Waterfront Public Access Improvements – Parking Lot & Sidewalk Improvements Project, funded in part through the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust grant. She reported that Lester Contracting, Inc. completed the construction work in accordance with the project requirements and that the completed improvements successfully passed the required ADA inspection. All required project closeout documentation has been submitted.

City Manager Weaver stated that the project was budgeted and that the associated costs would be paid from the City's Ports & Harbors Fund. She further reported that the Port Commission reviewed the project documentation at its September 15, 2026 meeting and recommended that the City Council approve the Certificate of Completion and authorize the release of retainage in the amount of $12,079.44 to Lester Contracting, Inc., subject to all applicable closeout requirements.

Motion made by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with Staff's recommendation, the City Council hereby approves the Certificate of Completion and authorizes the release of retainage in the amount of Twelve Thousand Seventy-Nine Dollars and Forty-Four Cents ($12,079.44) to Lester Contracting, Inc. for the City of Port Lavaca Downtown Waterfront Public Access Improvements – Parking Lot & Sidewalk Improvements Project, subject to all applicable closeout requirements.

Seconded by Councilman District 6 Burke

Voting Yea:
Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilman District 6 Burke

5. **Consider acceptance of the project as complete and approval of the release of retainage in the amount of $12,554.69 to Lauger Companies, Inc. for the City Hall Master Plan Phase IV: Security Upgrades & Interior Renovation Project. Presenter is Jody Weaver**

City Manager Jody Weaver presented information regarding the City of Port Lavaca City Hall Master Plan Phase IV: Security Upgrades & Interior Renovation Project. She explained that the project was undertaken to improve the security, functionality, and interior conditions of City Hall and included approved security upgrades and interior improvements intended to provide a safer and more functional environment for City staff and the public.

City Manager Weaver reported that the contractor completed the required work in accordance with the project plans, specifications, and contract requirements. The project was inspected, and the completed work was determined to be satisfactory.

City Manager Weaver further stated that the project was budgeted and that the associated costs would be paid from the City's General Fund.

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with Staff's recommendation, the City Council hereby approves the Certificate of Completion and authorizes the release of retainage in the amount of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars and Sixty-Nine Cents ($12,554.69) for the City of Port Lavaca City Hall Master Plan Phase IV: Security Upgrades & Interior Renovation Project, subject to the receipt and verification of all required project closeout documentation.

Seconded by Councilman District 6 Burke

Voting Yea:
Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilman District 6 Burke

6. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to approve Change Order No. 2 to the construction contract for CDBG-MIT GLO Contract No. 22-087-001-D226 to provide for additional quantities of material necessary to complete the marsh area in accordance with the project design. Presenter is Jody Weaver**

City Manager Jody Weaver presented information regarding proposed Change Order No. 2 for the CDBG-MIT Coastal Resiliency Living Shoreline Project being constructed by Maverick Constructors. She explained that the project includes the creation of a marsh area behind the reef breakwater and that stockpiled dredge material from Smith Harbor was intended to provide the soil necessary to construct the marsh area.

City Manager Weaver reported that after all available suitable material from the Smith Harbor stockpile was transported to the project site, approximately 1,100 cubic yards of additional material was still needed to complete the marsh area as designed. Material previously removed from the Lighthouse Beach boat ramp channel was evaluated but determined to be unsuitable. Maverick Constructors worked with local contractors to identify an alternative source for the additional soil.

City Manager Weaver stated that the estimated cost to acquire and transport the additional material is $30,360, plus an allowable fifteen percent (15%) contractor markup of $4,554, for an estimated total change order of $34,914. Due to the time-sensitive nature of the project, Staff requested authorization for the City Manager to approve Change Order No. 2 in an amount not to exceed $40,000.

City Manager Weaver further stated that adequate grant funding is available to cover the additional cost and that no additional labor costs are included in the proposed change order, as the labor necessary to install the material is already included in the existing construction contract. She also noted that Change Order No. 1, in the amount of $11,100, was previously issued for additional bedding stone required for the reef breakwater.

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS:

THAT, in accordance with Staff's recommendation, the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve Change Order No. 2 for the CDBG-MIT Coastal Resiliency Living Shoreline Project, in an amount not to exceed Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000.00), for the acquisition and delivery of additional marsh-building material necessary to complete the marsh area as designed.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:
Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilman District 6 Burke

VIII. TAXPAYER IMPACT STATEMENT

(Required under Texas Government Code §551 as amended by HB 1522, effective September 1, 2025)

This notice informs taxpayers of the potential impact of the proposed budget and tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026-27, comparing what would be paid under the no-new revenue tax rate versus the proposed tax rate.

1. Average Taxable Homestead Value

Prior Year (FY 2025-2026)	$154,791.00
Current Year (FY 2026-2027)	$162,756.00

2. Tax Rates

No-New-Revenue Tax Rate (FY 2026-2027)	$0.7968 per $100 valuation
Proposed Tax Rate (FY 2026-2027)	$0.8800 per $100 valuation

3. Estimated Annual Tax Bill Comparison

Scenario	Tax Rate	Estimated Tax Bill	Difference from No-New-Revenue
Prior Year (FY 2025-2026)	$0.8000	$1,238	$59
No-New-Revenue Tax Rate (FY 2026-2027)	$0.7968	$1,297	$0
Proposed Tax Rate (FY 2026-2027)	$0.8800	$1,432	$135

Calculations

- Prior Year Tax Bill = ($154,791 ÷ 100) x $0.8000 = $1,238.33
- No-New-Revenue Tax Bill = ($162,756 ÷ 100) x $0.7968 = $1,296.84
- Proposed Tax Bill = ($162,756 ÷ 100) x $0.8800 = $1,432.26

Summary

If the City of Port Lavaca adopts the proposed tax rate of $0.8800 Per $100 valuation, the average homestead owner would pay approximately $135.42 more annually compared to the no-new-revenue tax rate. This increase supports continued city services and infrastructure investments.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY MANAGER

VIII. ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor De La Garza asked for motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron,

Seconded by Councilman District 2 Dent

Voting Yea:
Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilman District 6 Burke

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

These minutes were approved on October 12, 2026.

ATTEST:

Lorena Perez-Diaz, City Secretary

Luis De La Garza, Mayor