



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL/WORKSHOP MEETING

Monday, July 20, 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 20th day of July 2026, the City Council of the City of Port Lavaca, Texas, convened in a Special and Workshop session at 5:30 p.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 5:31 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
Rose Bland-Stewart	Councilwoman, District 5
Justin Burke	Councilman, District 6

And with the following absent:

Mary E. "Sissy" Rigby	Councilwoman, District 3
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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 Dent and City Manager Weaver
- Invocation: Councilwoman Bland-Stewart

III. MEETING SAFETY BRIEFING:

- **911** Councilman Dent
- **AED** Councilman Burke
- **EVAC** Police Chief Bias
- **CPR** Police Chief Bias
- **SAFETY** Mayor De La Garza, Beware of Heat, take breaks to cool off.

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 the following citizen(s) spoke:
 - Pedro Zendejas, 424 N. Virginia Street, Port Lavaca, TX, Market Manager for Painless Denistry, a new business coming to Port Lavaca on August 06, 2026.
 - Eric Stevenson, Victoria, Texas, supports Recycling.

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

1. **Consider approval of the rental of Areas 1 and 2 of Bayfront Peninsula Park and the extension of park hours until 12:00 midnight on Saturday, September 5, 2026, for an event hosted by DVR Productions and Scully's. Presenter Tania French**

Events Coordinator, Tania French, advised Council that DVR Productions and Sculley's have submitted a request to rent Areas 1 and 2 of Bayfront Peninsula Park for a ticketed event on Saturday, September 05, 2026.

In accordance with the City of Port Lavaca Code of Ordinances, City Council approval is required for this type of park rental. Per the city fee schedule, the rental rate will be \$500.00, along with the required \$500.00 security deposit. Regular park hours currently end at 11:00 p.m.; however, the applicant is also requesting an extension of park hours until midnight.

The event will be limited to Areas 1 and 2 of Bayfront Peninsula Park and will not interfere with public use of the remaining park areas, which will remain open and accessible during the event.

Should the request be approved, the following requirements and conditions will apply:

- The applicant must obtain an Alcohol in the Park Permit prior to the event.
- The applicant must provide proof of comprehensive general liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million naming the City of Port Lavaca as an additional insured.

- Security shall be provided at a minimum ratio of two law enforcement officers for every 200 attendees.
- No glass bottles will be permitted within the event area.
- Parking will be restricted to designated parking areas. No parking will be permitted on any grass areas.
- The applicant shall comply with all applicable City ordinances, permit requirements and event regulations.

Council is asked to consider approval of the rental of Areas 1 and 2 of Bayfront Peninsula Park and the extension of park hours until midnight for the event, subject to the conditions outlined above.

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

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

THAT, Council hereby approves the rental of Areas 1 and 2 of Bayfront Peninsula Park and the extension of park hours until 12:00 midnight on Saturday, September 05, 2026, for an event hosted by DVR Productions and Scully's, subject to the conditions outlined above.

Seconded by Councilman District 2 Dent

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

2. **Consider authorizing the submission of an application for federal assistance under the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program. Presenter Tobie Bias**

City Council received a PowerPoint presentation from Police Chief Bias. He shared that when he arrived at the Port Lavaca Police Department (PLPD) he found that the department is understaffed and does not provide the recommended sworn officer staffing positions. He calculated a basic staffing model that is obsolete and that model indicated that the Port Lavaca Police Department should have 25 sworn officer positions. PLPD currently has 21 sworn officer positions.

Additionally, the City contracted with the Texas Police Chief's Association for a complete comprehensive staffing study that will be completed in late August. This survey may indicate a higher number of suggested sworn officers than his additional estimate.

This grant application is time sensitive and must be approved for application before July 29, 2026. At this time we are suggesting the grant aid in hiring 2 additional sworn officers to prevent over burdening the city financially. Financial implications will be at or near \$100,000 annually for the next 3 budget cycles.

Recommendation is for council to approve the grant application through the Department of Justice for two (2) additional patrol officers under the Community Oriented Policing Grant.

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

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

THAT, Council hereby authorizes the submission of an application for federal assistance under the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program, for the hiring of two (2) additional patrol officers.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

VIII. ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor De La Garza announced adjournment of Special Meeting at 6:02 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

IX. CALL TO ORDER at 6:02 p.m.

- X. 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.

XI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – (Council will discuss the following items)

- 1. Receive a presentation from Republic Services regarding the implementation of citywide curbside recycling services. Presenter is Bob Bradley**

Council discussed this agenda item.

No action necessary and none taken.

- 2. Discuss proposed amendments to the Fee Rate Ordinance. Presenter Jody Weaver**
- **Permit up to two (2) 90-day extension requests to the minimum required stay for Hillside RV Park spaces.**
 - **Provide free admission to Lighthouse Beach Park for disabled veterans.**
 - **Establish a ten-dollar (\$10.00) replacement fee for Lighthouse Beach Park access cards.**
 - **Establish an Animal Control intake/surrender fee.**

Council discussed this agenda item.

No action necessary and none taken.

3. **Discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 operating budget submitted by Undine, LLC for the Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant. Presenter Jody Weaver**

Council discussed this agenda item.

No action necessary and none taken.

4. **Receive a presentation from Republic Services regarding the implementation of citywide curbside recycling services. Presenter is Bob Bradley**

Author's note: This agenda item was duplicated. It is the same as agenda #1 in the Workshop.

5. **Receive a presentation from NewGen and discuss proposed changes to the Water and Sewer Rate Schedule. Presenter Jody Weaver**

Council discussed this agenda item.

No action necessary and none taken.

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

XIII. ADJOURN WORKSHOP

Mayor De La Garza asked for motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

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, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

These minutes were approved on August 10, 2026.

ATTEST:



Mandy Grant, City Secretary


Luis De La Garza, Mayor