



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30 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 14th day of September 2026, the City Council of the City of Port Lavaca, Texas, convened in a regular session at 6:30 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 6:30 p.m.
Luis De La Garza	Mayor
Daniel Aguirre	Councilman, District 1
Tim Dent	Councilman, District 2
Mary E. "Sissy" Rigby	Councilwoman, District 3
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:

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: Mayor De La Garza
- Invocation: Mayor De La Garza

III. MEETING SAFETY BRIEFING:

- **911** Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron
- **AED** Councilman District 6 Burke
- **EVAC** Meet at corner at stop sign of Mahan and Virginia.
- **CPR** Police Chief Bias
- **SAFETY** Councilman Aguirre, District 1, expressed concerns regarding the extremely dry conditions and the potential safety hazards posed by falling trees. Mayor De La Garza commented on the burn ban currently in effect.

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)**1. Employee Service Awards**

The City recognized the following employees for their years of dedicated service:

- Tracy Horejsi – 10 Years of Service, Animal Control
(Correction: The posted agenda incorrectly listed 15 years of service; the correct recognition is for 10 years of service.)
- Weston Burris – 5 Years of Service, Police Department
- Cindy Amejorado – 5 Years of Service, Utility Billing

2. City Manager's High Five Recognitions

The City Manager Weaver recognized the following employees for their outstanding service and contributions to the City:

- LeAnn Leal – Police Department
- Utility Maintenance Crew – Public Works Department

3. Presentation by the Police Chief

Police Chief Tobie Bias presented the new Police Department badges, highlighting the designs for the various ranks. Images of the badges were circulated among Council Members for their review.

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. CONSENT AGENDA - Council will consider/discuss the following items and take any action deemed necessary

A. Minutes of August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting

B. Minutes of August 17, 2026 Special Meeting and Workshop Session

C. Minutes of August 24, 2026 Workshop Session

D. Minutes of August 31, 2026 Workshop Session

E. Review of Credit Card Statement**F. Receive Monthly Financial Highlight Report****G. Receive Employee Training Review Acknowledgment report ending 07.31.2026****H. Receive Office of Court Administrators (OCA) Monthly report ending 07.31.2026****I. Receive Victoria Economic Development Corporation (VEDC) Monthly Report****J. Consider approval of a new lease agreement with Something More Media for Suite 4 at the Nautical Landings Building.****K. Consider request of Calhoun County Fair Association (CCFA) for a parade permit and traffic control assistance on Saturday, October 10, 2026 beginning at 10:00 a.m.; the parade route will be from Sandcrab Stadium, Sam Faubion, N. Virginia, Main streets and ending at the Bayfront Peninsula; and waiver of any fees associated with the event.**

Councilman Burke, District 6, initiated discussion regarding the training-related charges reflected on the credit card statement, noting that the individuals listed were not included in the Training Evaluation Review Acknowledgment Report. Finance Director Hogan clarified that the charges were for registrations for the upcoming Texas Municipal League (TML) Conference in November and, therefore, the training had not yet occurred.

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 recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves all consent agenda items, as listed.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 3 Rigby

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

VIII. 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**

Mayor De La Garza announced that the public hearing was now open at 6:48 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 6:49 p.m.

No action necessary and none taken.

City Attorney's Clarification: During the meeting, the City Attorney advised Council that, pursuant to new legislative requirements, the required tax impact statement must be included on the posted meeting agenda. Although the statement was provided in the agenda packet, it was not included on the posted agenda itself. Therefore, the City Attorney advised that the public hearing on the proposed FY 2026–2027 Budget would need to be conducted again following proper posting of the required statement on a subsequent meeting agenda.

2. **Conduct Public Hearing on the 2026 Tax Rate. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Mayor De La Garza announced that the public hearing was now open at 6:49 p.m.

Finance Director Brittney 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 2026 Tax Rate.

She stated that on August 17, 2026, City Council took a record vote to propose a tax rate of \$0.8800 per \$100 of taxable valuation, representing an increase from the previous year's tax rate. Because the proposed rate exceeded the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, it is considered a tax increase under state law, requiring a public hearing. Council subsequently scheduled the public hearing for September 14, 2026.

The public hearing provided taxpayers an opportunity to express their views regarding the proposed tax rate and satisfied the public hearing requirement prior to Council's consideration of the ordinance establishing the 2026 Tax Rate.

There being no public comments.

Mayor De La Garza announced that the first public hearing on the proposed 2026 Tax Rate was now closed at 6:50 p.m.

No action necessary and none taken.

3. **Consider Resolution No. R-091426-1 to adopt a five-year plan (2026-2031) for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in compliance with article 7.02(15) of the city's Home Rule Charter. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

WHEREAS the City Charter requires the City Manager to submit a plan for capital improvement covering the succeeding five years and proposed method of financing to the City Council prior to the beginning of each budget year; and,

WHEREAS the City Manager submitted a Five-Year Capital Program to the City Council on June 29, 2026 in compliance with the City Charter and,

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Five-Year Capital Program, found it to be in compliance with all City Charter and believes its approval by resolution is in the best interest of Port Lavaca residents.

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

THAT the Five-Year Capital Program (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2031), a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated in the Fiscal Year Budget 2026-2027, is hereby adopted in compliance with the City Charter.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

4. **Consider Resolution No. R-091426-2 for approval of an Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety for the processing and reporting of Municipal Court information. Presenter is Lorena Perez-Diaz**

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

WHEREAS, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, known as the Interlocal Cooperation Act, authorizes local governments to contract with other local governments and agencies of the State to perform governmental functions and services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Lavaca, by and through its Municipal Court, desires to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety for participation in the Texas Conviction Reporting (TXCR) system and the electronic reporting of applicable convictions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that entering into the Interlocal Cooperation Contract is in the best interest of the City and will facilitate the Municipal Court's reporting of applicable conviction information to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

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

THAT, the City Council hereby approves the Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the City of Port Lavaca, by and through its Municipal Court, and the Texas Department of Public Safety for participation in the Texas Conviction Reporting (TXCR) system, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein for all purposes; and

THAT, the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Interlocal Cooperation Contract and any related documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution on behalf of the City of Port Lavaca.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The City Council hereby finds and declares that written notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of the meeting at which this Resolution was adopted was posted and that such meeting was open to the public as required by law at all times during which this Resolution and the subject matter hereof were discussed, considered, and formally acted upon, all as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 3 Rigby

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

5. **Consider Resolution No. R-091426-3 adopting the City of Port Lavaca Parks Master Plan. Presenter is Jody Weaver**

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

WHEREAS, the City of Port Lavaca recognizes that parks, recreational facilities, trails, waterfront areas, and open spaces contribute significantly to the quality of life, health, economic vitality, and overall character of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City engaged LJA Planning & Landscape Architecture to assist in the preparation of a comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan to evaluate the City's existing parks and recreational facilities, identify community needs and opportunities, and establish a long-range vision for the future of parks and recreation in Port Lavaca; and

WHEREAS, development of the Master Plan began in early 2025 and included park and facility assessments, community engagement, coordination with the City's Comprehensive Plan, development and refinement of recommendations, and review by City leadership, staff, the Recreation and Parks Board, and the City Council; and

WHEREAS, residents were provided opportunities to participate in the planning process through public workshops and other community engagement activities, providing valuable input regarding recreational needs, priorities, and their vision for the future of parks and recreation in Port Lavaca; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Lavaca Recreation and Parks Board has reviewed the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and recommended its adoption by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the City of Port Lavaca Parks & Recreation Master Plan, prepared by LJA Planning & Landscape Architecture and dated September 2026, provides an appropriate framework to guide future planning, investment, maintenance, programming, partnerships, and development of the City's parks and recreational system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further recognizes that the Master Plan is intended to serve as a long-range planning and policy guide and that implementation of individual projects and recommendations will be subject to future City Council consideration, available funding, budgetary appropriations, grant opportunities, partnerships, and other applicable requirements.

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

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby adopts the City of Port Lavaca Parks & Recreation Master Plan, prepared by LJA Planning & Landscape Architecture, dated September 2026, as the City's official long-range planning guide for parks and recreation.

SECTION 2. The City Manager and City staff are authorized and encouraged to utilize the Master Plan in developing future capital improvement priorities, annual budgets, grant applications, partnerships, programs, and other initiatives related to parks and recreation.

SECTION 3. Adoption of the Master Plan does not constitute approval or authorization of any specific project, expenditure, contract, or funding commitment identified or contemplated within the Plan. Such matters shall remain subject to future consideration and approval by the City Council, as applicable.

SECTION 4. The Master Plan may be periodically reviewed and updated as community needs, priorities, funding opportunities, and conditions change.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

6. **Consider Second and Final reading of an Ordinance (G-9-26) of the City of Port Lavaca amending the Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Fees, Rates and Changes, Chapter 32 Parks and Recreation; Chapter 50, Sec. 50-67 Utilities - Water User Rates – GBRA, Residential and Commercial; and providing an effective date. Presenter is Jody Weaver**

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 the recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves Second and Final reading of an Ordinance (G-9-26) of the City of Port Lavaca amending the Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Fees, Rates and Changes, Chapter 32 Parks and Recreation; Chapter 50, Sec. 50-67 Utilities - Water User Rates – GBRA, Residential and Commercial; and providing an effective date.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

7. **Consider Second and Final reading of an Ordinance (G-10-26) of the City of Port Lavaca amending the ordinance Codified and Described in the City of Port Lavaca's Code of Ordinances as Chapter 50 – Article II – Water Division 2- Water Service, Section 50-49 Deposits, and adding Section 50-37 Definitions; Providing for purpose of Ordinance; providing penalties for violations; Providing for severability; Providing a repealing clause; and Providing an effective date. Presenter is Jody Weaver**

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

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

THAT, in accordance with the recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves the Second and Final reading of an Ordinance (G-10-26) of the City of Port Lavaca amending the ordinance Codified and Described in the City of Port Lavaca's Code of Ordinances as Chapter 50 – Article II – Water Division 2- Water Service, Section 50-49 Deposits, and adding Section 50-37 Definitions; Providing for purpose of Ordinance; providing penalties for violations; Providing for severability; Providing a repealing clause.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

8. **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 2 Dent

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 Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea Record Vote:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

City Attorney's Clarification: *The City Attorney advised Council that, due to the required tax impact statement not being included on the posted agenda for the FY 2026–2027 Budget Public Hearing, the public hearing would need to be conducted again in accordance with the new legislative requirements. Although the statement was included in the agenda packet, its omission from the posted agenda required corrective action prior to proceeding with the budget adoption process.*

The City Attorney further advised that the Ordinance would need to be brought back before Council following proper posting of the required information.

9. **Consider First reading of an Ordinance (S-6-26) fixing the Tax Rate and Tax Levy for the City of Port Lavaca, Texas for the year 2026. Presenter is Brittney Hogan**

Motion #1:

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

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

THAT, the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.8800, which is effectively a 10.44 percent increase in the tax rate; and

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 fixing the 2026 Tax Rate and Tax Levy Ordinance (S-6-26) on this its first reading.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea and Record Vote:

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

Voting Nay and Record Vote:

Councilwoman District 3 Rigby

Abstain: None

Motion #2:

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

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

THAT, City Council adopts a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.7791.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

Voting Nay: None

Motion #3:

Motion made by Councilman District 2 Dent

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

THAT, City Council adopts an Interest & Sinking rate of \$0.1009.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

Voting Nay: None

10. **Consider First reading of an Ordinance (G-11-26) of the City of Port Lavaca amending the Ordinance codified and described in the City of Port Lavaca's Code of Ordinances as Chapter 12 Buildings and Building Regulations, Article III Flood Damage Prevention; providing for purpose of ordinance, providing for severability; providing a repealing clause; and providing an effective date. Presenter is Jody Weaver**

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 the recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves the Second and Final reading of an Ordinance (G-11-26) of the City of Port Lavaca amending the Ordinance codified and described in the City of Port Lavaca's Code of Ordinances as Chapter 12 Buildings and Building Regulations, Article III Flood Damage Prevention; providing for purpose of ordinance, providing for severability; providing a repealing clause.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

11. **Consider approval of the proposed City Compensation Plan for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Presenter is Jody Weaver**

City Manager Weaver presented the proposed FY 2026–2027 Compensation Plan. She reminded Council that a third-party salary survey was completed in 2025, resulting in amendments to the Compensation Plan in April 2025 to implement the minimum recommended salaries. No additional changes were made to the salary schedule for FY 2025–2026.

She explained that an in-house salary survey was conducted this year using salary information obtained from various comparable entities. Based on the responses received, the City's current compensation was generally consistent with prevailing wages.

Weaver presented the following recommended adjustments to the FY 2026–2027 Compensation Plan:

- Reclassify the Municipal Court Clerk position from Salary Range 5 (\$37,924–\$51,197) to Salary Range 6 (\$39,820–\$53,757).
- Add the position of Assistant City Manager/Fire Chief at Salary Range 27, along with the proposed job description.
- Approve budgeted funds for employee merit increases equivalent to 3.5% of the total current salary figure.

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 recommendation of staff, Council hereby approves the proposed City Compensation plan for the 2026-2027 fiscal year as follows:

- 1) The City Council approves the Salary Structure entitled FY 2026-2027 as presented, which is unchanged from FY 2025-26 except for the following two changes:
 - Change the salary range for the Municipal Court Clerk from 5 to 6.
 - Add the Job Title Assistant City Manager/Fire Chief with a salary range of 27 and the job description presented.
- 2) The City Council approves providing budgeted funds for merit increases for all employees in an amount equal to 3.5% of the total current salary figure.
- 3) The City Council approves the City Headcount as follows: 97 full-time employees and 2.25 full-time equivalent part-time positions.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, and Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Nay:

Councilman District 6 Burke

12. Consider amendments to the City of Port Lavaca Human Resources and Workplace Policies. Presenter is Brittney Hogan

- **Chapter 2 Section 2.07 Nepotism**

Finance Director Brittney Hogan presented the proposed amendment to the City's nepotism policy. She explained that the current policy prohibits related employees from working within the same department, regardless of whether a supervisory relationship exists. The need to review the policy arose within the Police Department, where two brothers are interested in serving as police officers.

Director Hogan explained that staff believes the current restriction may be broader than necessary and that allowing relatives to work within the same department does not necessarily create a conflict of interest when neither employee has supervisory authority or influence over the other. The proposed amendment would allow related employees to work within the same department while prohibiting them from exercising authority or influence over one another in matters involving hiring, promotion, performance evaluations, compensation, discipline, termination, scheduling, leave approval, or other employment decisions.

Director Hogan stated that the proposed amendment would provide the City with greater flexibility in recruiting and retaining qualified employees while maintaining safeguards against nepotism, favoritism, and conflicts of interest.

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

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

THAT, the City Council hereby approves the amendments to Chapter 2, Section 2.07 – Nepotism, of the City of Port Lavaca Human Resources and Workplace Policies, as presented..

Seconded by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

13. Consider approval of the use of Court Security funds for the installation of a security door for the City Council Chambers/Courtroom. Presenter is Jody Weaver

City Manager Weaver presented information regarding the installation of a security door at the Municipal Court/Council Chambers. She explained that the security door was purchased and installed as part of the City's efforts to improve security and provide additional protection and controlled access to the facility. The security improvement is intended to enhance the safety of Municipal Court operations for court personnel, City employees, elected officials, defendants, witnesses, and members of the public.

City Manager Weaver stated that the City maintains a Municipal Court Security Fund for expenditures associated with providing security for the Municipal Court. Staff requested authorization to utilize available Court Security Fund monies to cover the approximately \$20,000 cost of the security door and installation. She noted that utilizing the Court Security Fund for this expenditure would reduce the amount of General Fund resources needed for the project.

Motion made by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

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

THAT, the City Council hereby approves the use of Municipal Court Security Fund, in an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00), to fund the purchase and installation of the security door at the Municipal Court/Council Chambers.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

Voting Nay:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre

14. Consider appointment of a representative to serve on the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) Economic Development Advisory Committee. Presenter is Jody Weaver

City Manager Jody Weaver presented the item regarding the opportunity to appoint a representative from the City of Port Lavaca to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee (REDAC). She explained that a position is available specifically for a City representative and that the committee meets at least twice annually, with an annual meeting required in September. City Manager Weaver stated that she felt it was important for the City of Port Lavaca to be represented on the committee and offered to serve if no member of the City Council wished to volunteer.

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 appoints City Manager Jody Weaver to serve as the City of Port Lavaca's representative on the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee (REDAC) for a two-year term.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

15. Consider awarding the construction contract for the City of Port Lavaca Harbor of Refuge Shoreline Restoration Project, GLO CDBG-MIT Contract No. 24-065-167-F082. Presenter is Jim Rudellat

City Manager Weaver presented information regarding the Harbor of Refuge Shoreline Improvements Project. She stated that the City of Port Lavaca was awarded funding through the GLO CDBG-MIT

Program, Contract No. 24-065-167-F082, for public infrastructure improvements and shoreline protection measures at the Harbor of Refuge.

City Manager Weaver explained that portions of the shoreline at the former landfill area have experienced significant erosion. The proposed improvements will be located along the west side of the entrance channel and are intended to stabilize the shoreline, reduce further erosion, and protect the surrounding public infrastructure.

The project generally consists of regrading and sloping the existing bay shoreline and installing erosion-control blankets and fabrics to provide shoreline stabilization and improve the long-term resiliency of the area. City Manager Weaver noted that the project is fully funded through grant funds and requires no matching funds from the City.

Motion made by Councilman District 6 Burke

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

THAT, the City Council hereby approves Staff's recommendation to award the construction contract to Rexco, Inc. in the amount of One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$145,241.00), for the Base Bid and Alternate Bid No. 1, with a contract time of thirty (30) calendar days.

Seconded by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

16. Consider approval of the Certificate of Completion and Release of Retainage to Taylor Marine Construction for the B1 MIP1 City of Port Lavaca Shoreline Cleanup Project No. 582-23-42179. Presenter is Jim Rudellat

City Manager Weaver provided an update regarding the vessel removal project. She reported that Taylor Marine Construction completed the removal of vessels from Site A and Site B during June and July 2026. The required Letter of Destruction was provided, confirming the destruction and appropriate disposal of the vessels and associated debris.

City Manager Weaver stated that the project is now complete and that all required closeout documentation has been submitted. She further noted that the project was fully funded through grant funds, with no City matching funds required.

Motion made by Councilwoman District 3 Rigby

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

THAT, the City Council hereby approves the recommendation of the Port Commission to accept the Certificate of Completion and authorize the release of retainage to Taylor Marine Construction for the B1 MIP1 City of Port Lavaca Shoreline Cleanup Project, Grant No. 582-23-42179.

Seconded by Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

17. Consider a commercial development project on property described as Port Lavaca Original Townsite, Block 41, Lots 7, 8, and 9, located at 120 S. San Antonio Street. Presenter is Derrick Smith

City Manager Weaver presented a request from Iliana Campos for approval of a conceptual plan to place two modular buildings at 120 S. San Antonio Street for use in conjunction with her massage business and nail salon.

Weaver explained that the City's regulations require Planning Commission approval prior to the construction of multifamily dwellings, townhouses, patio homes, or other commercial development projects, with certain exceptions for multifamily dwellings of four units or less on properly platted property.

Weaver stated that the proposed development complies with the City's Future Land Use Plan and that staff recommends approval of the conceptual plan.

Motion made by Councilman District 1 Aguirre

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

THAT, the City Council hereby approves the recommendation of the Planning Board to approve the conceptual plan for the proposed two modular buildings, with final approval subject to compliance with all applicable City requirements, including parking, setbacks, and water and sewer connections.

Seconded by Councilman District 6 Burke

Voting Yea:

Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

18. **Closed Session: As authorized by and subject to the applicable provisions of law, including but not limited to the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Open Meetings Act, the following topic(s) may be considered in Closed Session:**

- Section 551.071 Consultation with City Attorney
- Section 551.072 Real Property Transactions
- Section 551.074 Personnel Matters (City Manager)
- Section 551.087 Economic Development Negotiations

Mayor De La Garza announced that Council would retire into closed session at 7:45 p.m.

19. **Return to Open Session and take any action deemed necessary with regard to matters in closed session**

Mayor De La Garza announced that the City Council reconvened into open session at 7:51 p.m.

No action was taken following the Executive Session.

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

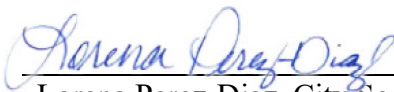
Voting Yea:

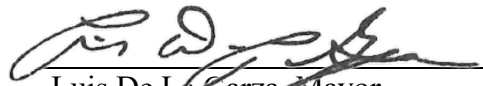
Councilman District 1 Aguirre, Councilman District 2 Dent, Councilwoman District 3 Rigby, Councilwoman District 4 (Mayor Pro Tem) Padron, Councilwoman District 5 Bland-Stewart, Councilman District 6 Burke

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

These minutes were approved on October 12, 2026.

ATTEST:


Lorena Perez-Diaz, City Secretary


Luis De La Garza, Mayor