MINUTES
OF
CITY OF WHARTON
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Mayor Tim Barker declared a Regular Meeting duly open for the transaction of business at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall, 120 E. Caney Street, Wharton, TX. Councilmember Burnell Neal led the opening devotion, and Mayor Tim Barker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmembers present were:	Mayor Tim Barker, Councilmembers Amber Barbee, Terry Freese, Greg Hippel, Burnell Neal, and Larry Pittman.
Councilmember absent was:	Councilmember Russell Machann.
Staff members present were:	City Manager, Joseph R. Pace; City Attorney, Paul Webb; Finance Director, London Davis; City Secretary/Assistant City Manager, Paula Favors; Planning and Development Director, Gwyn Teves; Assistant to the City Manager, Brandi Jimenez; Building Official, Claudia Velasquez; Police Detective, Anthony Rome; and Airport Manager, Dwayne Pospisil.
Visitors present were:	Karen Smith, Executive Director of the Wharton Chamber of Commerce; Stephanie Konvicka; Amiela Cleveland; Traci Myers; Donna Wilson; Gary Wilson; and Colby Primeaux with the Wharton County Leader Journal.

Roll Call and Excused Absences.

After some discussion, Councilmember Terry Freese moved to excuse Councilmember Russell Machann. Councilmember Amber Barbee seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Public Comments.

Mayor Tim Barker called for Public Comments. No comments were made.

Wharton Moment.

Mayor Tim Barker called for the Wharton Moment. The following comments were given.

1. Councilmember Amber Barbee stated that she and Councilmember Greg Hippel were attending the Wharton Police Department's Citizen Police Academy with Lt. Ben Guanajuato, and it was a great experience.

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing: Proposed Budget for the City of Wharton, Texas, Fiscal Year October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027.

Mayor Tim Barker opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m. No comments were made.

Mayor Tim Barker closed the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Review and Consider:

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider the reading of the minutes from the regular meetings held on August 10, 2026, and August 24, 2026, and special meeting held on August 11, 2026. After some discussion, Councilmember Terry Freese moved to approve the reading of the minutes from the regular meetings held on August 10, 2026, and August 24, 2026, and special meeting held on August 11, 2026. Councilmember Amber Barbee seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The second item on the agenda was to review and consider a request from Ms. Amelia Dominguez Cleveland of Hesed House for the following for the Moonlight Market on November 21, 2026, at 421 West Colorado Street/ Dinosaur Park:

A. Waiver to allow alcohol on City property and allow alcohol consumption in the park.
B. Provide 5-7 trash containers and bags.
C. Assistance from the City Staff to move six tables and forty-eight chairs from the Chamber to the market and return.
D. Assistance from the City Staff to pick up and return light towers.

Ms. Amelia Dominguez Cleveland of Hesed House presented a copy of her request, which included the aforementioned items. After some discussion, Councilmember Terry Freese moved to approve the aforementioned items A. through D. Councilmember Amber Barbee seconded. All voted in favor.

The third item on the agenda was to review and consider the request from Ms. Traci Myers, Director of the WCJC Senior Citizens Program, to host a WCJC 5K Stride and Stroll on October 31, 2026, at the Riverfront Park Central Pavilion, and assistance with the following:

A. To post the event (WCJC 5K Stride and Stroll 2026) on the Digital Billboard on Highway 59 by La Casona/Walmart.
B. To have trash barrels and extra liners provided.
C. To waive all fees that may apply to this event.

Ms. Myers requested to host a WCJC 5K Stride and Stroll on October 31, 2026, at the Riverfront Park Central Pavilion and the aforementioned items A. through C. After some discussion, Councilmember Burnell Neal moved to approve the aforementioned items A. through C. Councilmember Larry Pittman seconded. All voted in favor.

The fourth item on the agenda was to review and consider a request from Adaris Serna of Civil-Surv Land Surveying on behalf of Wharton County for replat of 7.759 acres of land, being a replat of Lot 5, Out Lot 17, and Lots 1-14, Out Lot 18, Re-Plat City of Wharton a subdivision of record

in Volume 163, Page 3, of the Wharton County Plat Records, and a Replat of Lots 2-4, Partial Replat of Out Lots 17 and 18, City of Wharton, a Subdivision of Record in Volume 738, Page 733, of the Wharton County Plat Records, Located in the William Kincheloe Survey, Abstract-38, City of Wharton, Wharton County, Texas for reconstruction. Director of Planning & Development Gwyn Teves presented a copy of a request from Adaris Serna of Civil-Surv Land Surveying on behalf of Wharton County for replat of 7.759 acres of land, being a replat of Lot 5, Out Lot 17, and Lots 1-14, Out Lot 18, Re-Plat City of Wharton a subdivision of record in Volume 163, Page 3, of the Wharton County Plat Records, and a Replat of Lots 2-4, Partial Replat of Out Lots 17 and 18, City of Wharton, a Subdivision of Record in Volume 738, Page 733, of the Wharton County Plat Records, Located in the William Kincheloe Survey, Abstract-38, City of Wharton, Wharton County, Texas for reconstruction. Director Teves stated the Planning Commission met to discuss this item and recommended the City Council consider approval. After some discussion, Councilmember Greg Hippel moved to approve the request from Adaris Serna of Civil-Surv Land Surveying on behalf of Wharton County for replat of 7.759 acres of land, being a replat of Lot 5, Out Lot 17, and Lots 1-14, Out Lot 18, Re-Plat City of Wharton a subdivision of record in Volume 163, Page 3, of the Wharton County Plat Records, and a Replat of Lots 2-4, Partial Replat of Out Lots 17 and 18, City of Wharton, a Subdivision of Record in Volume 738, Page 733, of the Wharton County Plat Records, Located in the William Kincheloe Survey, Abstract-38, City of Wharton, Wharton County, Texas for reconstruction. Councilmember Amber Barbee seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fifth item on the agenda was to review and consider a request from Mr. Alejandro Vargas of 817 E. Milam St., Dickson Addition, Lots 21 & 22 for replat. Director of Planning and Development, Gwyn Teves, presented a copy of the request from Mr. Alejandro Vargas of 817 E. Milam St., Dickson Addition, Lots 21 & 22, for replat. Director Teves stated that the Planning Commission met to discuss this item and was recommending the City Council consider approving the request. After some discussion, Councilmember Burnell Neal moved to approve the request from Mr. Alejandro Vargas of 817 E. Milam St., Dickson Addition, Lots 21 & 22 for replat.

The sixth item on the agenda was to review and consider a request from Ms. Kim Jurek to address the City Council regarding questions about each patio home not connected requiring a fence on Mayfair Circle per the City's patio home ordinance. Mrs. Jurek was unable to attend the meeting; no discussion was held.

The seventh item on the agenda was to review and consider the City of Wharton Nuisance Abatement Services for Mowing:

A. Termination of the contract with Angels Lawn Care.
B. Approval to solicit for Request for Proposals for Nuisance Abatement Services.

Building Official Claudia Velasquez stated that the City's Code Enforcement Department had a contract with Angels Lawn Care to perform nuisance abatement services for properties that were in violation. Building Official Velasquez said the Code Enforcement Department was requesting

approval from City Council to terminate the City's contract with Angels Lawn Care for the following:

1. Failure to maintain required liability insurance.
2. Failure to perform required mowing services.
3. Failure to correct deficiencies.

Building Official Velasquez stated that if the termination of the contract was approved, the Code Enforcement Department requested to solicit a Request for Proposals from contractors to provide nuisance abatement services. She said seeking multiple proposals would allow the City to evaluate available contractors, pricing, qualifications, and services to determine the most appropriate option for the City's nuisance abatement needs and was necessary to assist the City in addressing properties that remained in violation of the City ordinances and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. After some discussion, Councilmember Terry Freese moved to approve the termination of the contract with Angels Lawn Care. Councilmember Amber Barbee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Councilmember Greg Hippel moved to approve the solicitation of a Request for Proposals for Nuisance Abatement Services. Councilmember Amber Barbee seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The eighth item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council approving an agreement between the City of Wharton and the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division for the Routine Airport Maintenance Program, TXDOT CSJ NO. M2713WHRT for the airport maintenance at the Wharton Regional Airport and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said contract. Airport Manager Dwayne Pospisil presented a copy of the Texas Department of Transportation Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) form for FY2027 – Project ID: M2713WHRT. He said this program allows the airport to be reimbursed for ninety percent (90%) of eligible project costs for this project, or $100,000.00, whichever is less, per fiscal year, subject to the availability of state appropriations. Airport Manager Pospisil said the airport had participated in this grant program for many years. After some discussion, Councilmember Terry Freese moved to approve the City of Wharton Resolution No. 2026-77, which read as follows:

CITY OF WHARTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-77

A RESOLUTION OF THE WHARTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WHARTON AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AVIATION DIVISION, FOR THE ROUTINE AIRPORT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, TXDOT CSJ NO. M2713WHRT FOR THE AIRPORT MAINTENANCE AT THE WHARTON REGIONAL AIRPORT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WHARTON TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SAID CONTRACT.

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to conduct maintenance at the Wharton Regional Airport under the 2027 Routine Airport Maintenance Program; and,

WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division and the City of Wharton wish to enter into an agreement under the 2027 Routine Airport Maintenance Program for airport maintenance at the Wharton Regional Airport; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS as follows:

Section I. That the Wharton City Council hereby approves a contract with the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division for the 2027 Routine Airport Maintenance Program.

Section. II. That the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division and the City of Wharton are hereby bound by the conditions as set forth in the agreement.

Section III. That the Wharton City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to the contract.

Section IV. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

Passed, Approved, and Adopted this 14th day of September 2026.

CITY OF WHARTON

By: _____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

Councilmember Greg Hippel seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The ninth item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council approving an agreement with Zencity to provide proprietary social media software to the City of Wharton and authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents related to said agreement. City

Manager Joseph R. Pace presented a copy of a memorandum regarding the agreement with Zencity to provide proprietary social media software for the City of Wharton. After some discussion, Councilmember Larry Pittman moved to approve City of Wharton Resolution No. 2026-78, which read as follows:

CITY OF WHARTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-78

A RESOLUTION OF THE WHARTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH ZENCITY TO PROVIDE PROPRIETARY SOCIAL MEDIA SOFTWARE TO THE CITY OF WHARTON AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SAID AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, The City of Wharton and Zencity wish to enter into an agreement for social media software for the City of Wharton; and,

WHEREAS, Zencity submitted a proposal for social media software services; and,

WHEREAS, Zencity is a sole source provider; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to approve an agreement between the City of Wharton and Zencity for social media software; and,

WHEREAS, The Wharton City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS:

SECTION I. The Wharton City Council hereby approves the agreement between the City of Wharton and Zencity for social media software for the City of Wharton.

SECTION II. The Wharton City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute all documents related to said agreement and application.

SECTION III. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 14th day of September 2026.

CITY OF WHARTON

_____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary

Councilmember Amber Barbee seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The tenth item on the agenda was to review and consider the official ballot for the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election. City Manager Joseph R. Pace presented a copy of the Official Ballot for the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election. City Manager Pace stated the officials listed on the ballot had been nominated to serve a six-year term. He said he recommended the City Council cast its vote for the following:

Place 1-J.W. "Buzz" Fullen-Incumbent
Place 2-Emily Crawford-Incumbent
Place 3-Alun Thomas
Place 4- Austin Bleess – Incumbent

After some discussion, Councilmember Terry Freese moved to approve casting the City's votes as recommended. Councilmember Amber Barbee seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The eleventh item on the agenda was to review and consider appointments, resignations, and vacancies to the City of Wharton Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

A. Resignations.
B. Appointments.
C. Vacancies.

After some discussion, no action was taken.

Adjournment.

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Greg Hippel moved to adjourn. All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By: _____
TIM BARKER
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS 1846

PAULA FAVORS
City Secretary